



About us

At LITTLE EDEN, we believe that no matter how profoundly disabled a person may be, he or she is still a whole complete being, with a body; a mind; a spirit and a soul.

Our special children may not experience the world in the same way that we do, but they have so much to teach us!

From them we learn about the power of the human spirit, the joy to be found in simple achievements, the satisfaction of caring for those who are weaker than ourselves, love that seeks no reward.

Mission

To care for, develop and enhance the quality of life, with love and understanding from a dedicated staff, of people with intellectual disabilities of all races and creeds entrusted to us – trusting in Divine Providence and co-operating with the parents, the community and the State, to provide the necessary nursing, therapy and stimulation services in an efficient and economic manner as possible.

LITTLE EDEN is a
registered non-
profit organisation
[001-827 NPO
and PBO
No.930/0000/03]

How we care



Although the average age of our residents is 20 years, the average intellectual age is that of a one-year-old. Some function at newborn level and have to be fed, carried, changed and bathed. Others are able to manage tasks like feeding themselves, brushing their teeth, dressing and using the toilet.

The children are grouped according to their abilities and behaviour. Many of our residents also suffer from mental illness, disturbed behaviour and multiple physical disabilities. They are cared for in specific groups where they feel comfortable and safe.

Therapy



Our children benefit from occupational, hydro-, physio- and music therapy, metamorphosis and reflexology. The Care and Stimulation Programme forms part of the daily activities at LITTLE EDEN.

The children also enjoy creative activities such as painting and singing, and playing with lego, puzzles and other educational toys. Horse-riding and other outdoor activities are part of life at Elvira Rota Village.

Who is eligible?



LITTLE EDEN caters for people with profound intellectual disability – those who are classified as uneducable – of all races and creeds. Priority is given to those who have been abandoned or abused, or who come from severely disadvantaged backgrounds.

Once accepted into the LITTLE EDEN family, they remain with us for life.

How much does it cost?



The subsidized cost of caring is R3200, the full cost before government subsidy is R6000 per month. This includes 24-hour nursing care, specialized therapy, medical, food and clothing. Any contribution towards this cost is greatly appreciated!

Our facilities

LITTLE EDEN has two residential homes where children and adults with profound intellectual disability enjoy a loving, permanent home for the rest of their lives.

The [original Home in Edenvale](#) accommodates 180 children, grouped together in seven different wings according to age and level of ability. The Home has a fully equipped therapy centre, which includes two Jacuzzis where children benefit from water therapy, as well as kitchen, laundry and admin offices.

[Elvira Rota Village](#), our second home, is a 43ha farm at Bapsfontein purchased with the intention of providing a more suitable long-term environment for the children as they grew to adulthood. However, several of the younger, more mobile children are better suited to life on the farm. The decision as to where an individual will be placed is made on the basis of what is best for him or her.

Both homes have chapels to ensure the spiritual aspect of the residents' lives is not neglected.

We also run two [second hand shops](#) which raise much needed funds to help care for our large family, as well as helping our less privileged neighbours buy household goods, clothing and furniture at affordable prices.

Our history

The story of LITTLE EDEN begins with an ordinary housewife and mother of six, who believed she should do something to help children with intellectual disability.

[Domitilla Rota Hyams](#) (1918-2011) knew nothing about social work. She had no money, no government backing and no influential contacts.

But what she lacked in resources and experience, she made up for with dogged determination and unshakable faith in God's divine purpose.

With the help of a group of friends, advice from experts in the field and a R10 donation, LITTLE EDEN opened its doors to the first three little girls in 1967. Initially, it was simply a day care facility, operating in the Edenvale Methodist church hall.



The first children at LITTLE EDEN

By the second year, there were 23 children and a nursing sister supervisor and LITTLE EDEN had taken occupation of an old house awaiting demolition in Kempton Park.

Then Domitilla promised the dying mother of one of the children that she would look after her child – and the need for permanent residential care was born.

By 1971 there were 18 children in the hostel and a further 30 attending during the day. The organisation was forced to move into the Hillbrow Clinic, where it occupied four different floors and the children sorely missed the freedom of a garden. Still the numbers grew - 100 children and 50 staff in 1973 – and LITTLE EDEN moved again, this time into three different houses in Edenvale.



An early picture of the farm at Bapsfontein

Here we fell foul of our neighbours, who complained that the value of their properties would be reduced by having intellectually disabled children living in the vicinity. The future of the organisation hung in the balance, until 1974 when we were finally able to start building the present permanent home on land donated by the municipality at the corner of Harris Avenue and Wagenaar Road in Edenglen.

In 1970, Domitilla insisted that land be purchased for future development to accommodate the children as they grew into adulthood.

A 43ha farm in Bapsfontein was acquired, but over a decade would pass before the *Elvira Rota Village* (named after Domitilla's mother) was finally built, owing to lack of funds.

Today, LITTLE EDEN is a benchmark non-profit organisation accommodating 300 children and adults with profound intellectual disability in two specialised residential care facilities.

We encourage the community to see our 'angels' through our eyes - to recognise each as a whole complete being created by God - with a mind, a body, a spirit and a soul - and the right to be treated with dignity, kindness.

Contact Us

Postal address:

P O Box 121
Edenvale
1610
South Africa

Edenvale Home:

Cnr Harris Ave & Wagenaar Rd
Edenglen
Edenvale
Gauteng
South Africa

[Click here for directions](#)

Elvira Rota Village:

Consolidated stand 115
Tweefontein 413JR
Bapsfontein
Gauteng
South Africa

[Click here for directions](#)

Telephone:

+27 11 609 7246

Fax:

+27 11 452 4560

Office hours:

Mon-Fri: 08h15 to 16h15

Email:

info@littleeden.org.za