

# Financial reward for iThemba centre

**T**he Benoni-based NPO, iThemba Rape and Trauma Support Centre, is one of 16 charities set to receive a financial donation to acknowledge its efforts during the 16 Days of Activism campaign, this month. This initiative is a joint effort between The Foschini Group and SAfm, in support of the campaign.

Kicking off on November 25, 20 non-profit organisations will receive a donation from The Foschini Group, and 16 of these will be interviewed on weekdays, until December 10, by presenter Nancy Richards on SAfm's "Otherwise" programme, from 1.15pm until 2pm.

The iThemba Rape and Trauma Support Centre provides medical, forensic and trauma support assistance to survivors of sexual violence and crime-related trauma.

Philip Stoneman, operational director of the centre, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity afforded us by The Foschini Group to make our voice heard during the 16 days of activism. Violence that is perpetrated against women and children breaks down two cornerstones essential to a healthy society: family and community. When violence is perpetrated against women and we are silent we take the side of the perpetrator. Our silence allows him to continue!

"By speaking out and taking a firm stand as a community against this violence, we take the side of the victim and give the survivors of this violence the confidence to ask for help.

"Thereafter, the process of healing and reconciliation can begin, because we, as a society, have offered safety and support. The 16 days of activism is our investment today, for a future South Africa characterised not by violence, but compassion and mercy."

Each year, South Africa joins the world in the United Nations campaign, the 16 Days of Activism: No Violence Against Women, that takes place annually between November 25 (International Day of No Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day).