



# Bethesda Newsletter



August 2015

## 2 men 2 worlds

## 1 wish 1 story

During the month of May 2015 we admitted two male patients to our Intermediate Care Facility (Hospice).....

These two men both came from terrible, painful backgrounds and they had no contact with their families for many, many years. Both of them were fathers of adult children with whom they haven't spoken to in years; they also didn't know where or how to find them.

In both cases these men spent the last few years on the streets or in the local shelters; and abusing alcohol.

They were both eventually admitted to the George Hospital and sadly both were diagnosed with cancer.....Still not knowing about each other at this point.

They were both very frail and neglected. The one was found in a dog kennel and the other was found by people in the street.

George Hospital referred them both to Bethesda and we admitted these two men. They still did not know about each other's circumstances.

During the first Social and Spiritual assessments, the Multi-Disciplinary Team became aware of the two gentleman's last wishes: To just see their long lost children once again (and for one of them also to eat a nice hamburger – which he did)

At Bethesda we believe in Holistic Care and improving the quality of life for all out patients.

Therefore our Multi-Disciplinary Team decide to do everything in their power to try and find the children of these two vulnerable men.

This mission started with letters to the press, radio broadcasts, posts on Facebook and various phone calls whilst the men received tender loving care in our Hospice.

The one man could at first not sleep in his bed and he used to sit in the corner as he was used to do in the dog kennel he lived in.

The vulnerability of both these men filled us with compassion and made us more determined to find their families.

Both their prognoses were poor thus giving us little, yet precious time, to successfully find their families.....



### .....**BUT WE DID**.....

We were able to reunite both families - The sons were the splitting images of their fathers and the resemblances were unquestionable the minute the children walked into the Hospice, after many years of separation.

Sadly weeks after on-going emotional and spiritual support to the families and the 2 patients, taking them through the process of forgiveness, they both passed away.



***This story is yet again a testimony to how Palliative Care become a reality for 2 vulnerable patients and how Bethesda was privileged to guide this process.***

### **OUR DETAILS**

Website: [www.bethesdageorge.org.za](http://www.bethesdageorge.org.za)

Facebook Page: Bethesda Medical and Relief Services NPC

Tel: 044-875 8088

Fax: 044-875 9963

E-mail: [ceo@bethesdageorge.org.za](mailto:ceo@bethesdageorge.org.za)

Address: 22 Beer Street, Rosemoor, George, 6529

P.O. Box 2586, George, 6530

**NEDBANK** (Branch Code: 109 114)

Acc Names: Bethesda Medical & Relief Services - **Hospice** (Acc No.: 1091 128 499) or  
Bethesda Medical & Relief Services - **Child & Youth Care Centre (CYCC)** (Acc No.: 1091 128 510)

This Newsletter was compiled by Mandy Lucas