



Bethesda



ISSUE 4

NEWSLETTER

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Nothing is impossible...

On 28-3-2014 we admitted a young woman who is HIV positive and had Tb meningitis. Her condition and health was very poor. **Let's call her Nina.....** Nina was a mother like all other, could previously hear and see, but because of her illness she became deaf and blind. She was depressed and could not communicate. During a family conference, her aunt and boyfriend were present and our Multi-Disciplinary Team heard a very sad story.... Both she and her child were in a motor car accident, leaving her child disabled and in the care of the aunt. She also has two other daughters one in school and the other one only four years old. As a child her own mother abused alcohol, and she too, as a child, was placed in the care of the aunt. She was always crying, it was sad to see her just sitting there not really knowing where she is. When her children visited she cried and our hearts went out to her.

Team effort

One day after much discussion we decide that there must be a way to help her. We put our trust in a team effort which included prayer and tender loving care to the whole family but more to Nina.

One morning one of the Health Care Workers called me and said that she had done a bit of research (google) about signwriting and found that you can communicate to her by writing with a blunt object on the inside of her hand. We put it to the test and she responded, it was a glorious day in the hospice. Her face lit up and for the first time in months we could "speak" to her. She asked so many questions with lots of tears; needless to say we all cried.

The depression was something of the past, and Nina's children visited more often. We then started to focus on getting her hearing and sight back. She was referred to a specialist at George hospital and we never lost faith that things can change for her and that God will heal in some way.

After some time another big surprise came..... Nina started to hear some sounds and she voiced this very loudly.

Today she has almost 80% of her hearing back and we discharged her into the care of her friend thus fulfilling another wish of hers. We did a home visit and our Home Based Care will continue to make regular home visits.

An inspiring story from a Pastoral point of view



Family from far

Bethesda now has a self-catering Family Unit on the premises. This Unit will be available for the family members of our clients to stay in if necessary. Our young clients admitted to the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) are often from areas surrounding George & the parents wish to come & spend time with their little ones. However the cost is too high to come through for just a day. With the Family Unit we will now be able to accommodate these families, at no cost, in order for them to spend some time with their loved ones. Various contributions were made to equip this Unit and we would like to thank Hyatt Regency Oubaii, Van Rensburgs Foods & Barkley Oats/Medi-Hire.



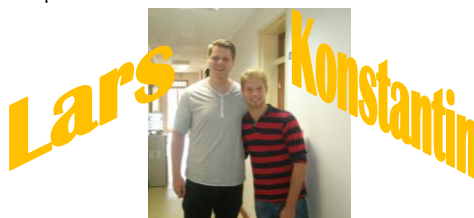
Annual General Meeting 2014

The AGM was held on 23 September 2014 & was well attended. The highlights of 2014 was presented by the CEO, Ms Meyer. Ds M Burger took us back 14 years in time explaining how Bethesda was established. Past. Rudi Steyn enlightened the meeting with a positive message enjoyed by all.



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

We welcome 2 volunteers all the way from Germany. Konstantin Ogilvie & Lars Gottmann. They will be with us for 6 months & they are assisting in the Projects division with various tasks.



HOME BASE CARERS GET KITS

Zurich Insurance kindly donated kits to our Carers. The kits consists of a backpack filled with sunscreen, a pair of scissors, nail clippers, wipes, a poncho & an umbrella. These items make the work of the Carers much easier out in the field.



BOARD MEMBERS

The Board Members of Bethesda are Volunteers. We want to thank them for their dedication & support. They play a big role in Bethesda & we are grateful to have them as part of the Bethesda team!!

NEW LOOK FOR THE KITCHEN

Upgrading of our Kitchen was a project we identified years ago. The Projects division actively started to try and locate funding to make it possible. We applied to the Rotary Club of Bolton (Canada) with the hope to make this dream come true. The process took about 2 years but eventually the good news came that funding was approved. Working close with the Rotary Club of George all the logistics were sorted out and the project started. During the process we were also blessed with extra funding from the Erasmus family; enabling us to ensure a state of the art upgrade & a brand new working space for our staff.



OPENING OF OUR THIRD FAMILY HOME – CHILD- AND YOUTH CARE CENTRE (CYCC)



We were very excited at the official opening of our 3rd Family House. The safety, privacy & self-confidence of our children are very important to us. With these 3 Family Houses we can now provide the children with more of a "home" and give them a great sense of belonging. The 3rd Family Home is occupied by 13 of our younger children ages 4-8.

They are very happy & proud of their new home.

The completion of this home was made possible by various kind-hearted donors, namely Philip & Leatitia Dysel, Built-it, Plumbblink, Chipbase, Coastal Tool Hire, Optimum Electrical, Doughie, Pieter Botha, Shofar Congregation & the Reformed Church George.



AVIS GEORGE

Avis donated new crockery & cutlery to the CYCC.



Going to the EXTREME

An Extreme Makeover of the Child-and Youth Care Centre was done by New Kidz on the Block, an organisation based in Cape Town. Engen South Africa contacted them asking them to identify a project. Bethesda were the lucky one & a group of volunteers from ETA & Engen, co-ordinated by New Kidz on the Block, made it all happen in a day.

The CYCC building is now a beautiful, clean & hygienic environment for our children.



Cheese Festival

The teen-age girls were all smiles when they received hairdryers, a straightener & a toiletry bag filled with toiletries



We received 5 vouchers as part of the Nelson Mandela 67min initiative.

The Reformed Church George

The ongoing support from this Church has made many projects possible. They ensured that all the CYCC children received a new pair of shoes & Pyjama's. Furthermore their funds were utilised for camps, sport, staff training, items for the new Family House, upgrading of the recreation room and brightening up the Social Worker's office making it a child friendly environment.

We are very grateful for their contributions!!

NGO Games sponsored by Rotary Club of George

It's time for fun & games again. Bethesda is hosting the 3rd NGO games on 18 October 2014 at the Van Kervel Sport Field. The main events are Netball, Touch Rugby & Tug-of-War. This year we are combining the games with the 85th Birthday celebration of our Child-and Youth Care Centre. There will be various kiddies' activities on the day.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Bethesda has a Christmas raffle to raise funds. Tickets @ R20.00. See prizes on right. Tickets available at Bethesda!!

1st Prize - Whole Sheep, R200 Spur Voucher, 2 Trays of Eggs, Ingredients for Christmas Pudding, 5 Bottles Appletizer

2nd Prize - 10kg Chicken Thighs/Drumsticks, R200 Nando's Voucher, Sweet Hamper, 5 Bottles Appletizer

3rd Prize - Food Hamper, R200 Panarrotis Voucher, Box Slab Chocolates

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OUR DETAILS

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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)

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