

A new beginning.... A place to call HOME

How this journey started.....Khaya was referred to Bethesda by our community partner, Ithemba Lobomi, and was admitted to our Intermediate Care Facility on 22/08/2016. The main focus of care for Khaya was rehabilitation due to a stroke which affected his right side as well the amputation of his left leg. His biggest challenge was finding his balance again as both his right and left sides were affected in different ways. After many hours, lots of hard work and dedication from both Khaya and the Interdisciplinary Team here at Bethesda, Khaya is now at a stage where he can do just about anything on his own. The purpose of rehabilitation here at Bethesda is to enable patients to become as functional as possible in order to re-integrate back into the community and home environment. In Khaya's case there was **good news** and **bad news**.....**GOOD NEWS** - Khaya was functional enough to go home and cope on his own....**BAD NEWS** – Khaya had no home to go to. The future of our patients are always an important factor to us and therefore our team intervened and contacted the Municipality asking assistance to provide Khaya with a new home. The Municipality responded positively and Khaya's house was completed and he moved in on Thursday, 25 May 2017.



So recently we had a little chat to Khaya about his journey.....

I asked Khaya how his stay was here at Bethesda and he shyly answers: *"In the beginning I thought that nobody likes me. But very soon I realized that this is not true and that everybody likes me and cares for me. At first I spoke to nobody but now I am friends with everyone."*

(Sr Louw, the Clinical Manager, later recounts that Khaya is like the "Chief" of the Ward and helps wherever he can. He is also very neat and tidy and ensures that as the patients come and go in the Ward they keep everything in place.)

My next question was how he feels Bethesda helped him to this point: *"Yoh Yoh Yoh",* he answered *"Bethesda has helped me a lot. Not only with my Rehabilitation but they also sent me to "School"* (Khaya joined Groups presented at Emmaüs – he calls it school). He gets a big smile on his face: *"At the "School" they gave me a tool* (in the picture, left) *which I can now use when I am home to make special things and earn a small income."* He shared with me that he is going to knit scarves and jerseys, once he is home and give it to the children in the Intermediate Care Facility as a gift back to Bethesda.



Lastly the big question: How does he feel about going home to his new house: *"I am very, very excited. I would probably never have got a house if it was not for Bethesda's help."* He stared into the distance and shared with me as we are talking he pictures about his house and everything he is going to do once home. He beamed with pride.

This story also portrays how important the Networking is between Organizations and the Community. Ithemba Lombomi for the referral, Emmaüs for presenting groups and the Municipality for providing housing.

If anyone would like to contribute something to make Khaya's house a HOME please contact: Mandy or Marzanne on 044 – 875 8088 for more information.

OUR DETAILS

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