



“

The best way to find yourself,  
is to lose yourself in the  
service of others

- Mahatma Gandhi



## *The driving forces behind the success of Bethesda*

Here at Bethesda, we trust, believe, and deliver our services with the belief that **God** is our Cornerstone and Source. He is the reason for our existence and purpose. It is His everlasting love and wisdom that guides us through a value system of compassion, respect, honesty, integrity, trust, transparency, and co-responsibility. Every day we are blessed with the necessary strength and abilities to do what we do best, and that is "to take care of others".

Back in 2000, God called **Three Men (Founders)**, the late Mr. Gordan Frazer, Reverend Michiel Burger and Reverend Johan van der Merwe, to form the organization, formerly known as Christian Medical and Relief Services. Without hesitation, these men answered the call and embarked on a Mission to make a distinctive difference in the lives of the sick, destitute, needy, homeless, orphaned and many others. They successfully engaged with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oudtshoorn, Bishop Adams, and acquired the St. Mary's complex from the Roman Catholic church. The two remaining founding members are still involved in the organization, in an advisory role.

Today, the organization is governed and led by a devoted and well experienced **Board of Directors**. These individuals volunteer their time, expert advice, comprehensive knowledge, and reliable information to achieve organizational objectives. They ensure that all necessary resources are available for effective service delivery at all times.

Bethesda's **Personnel** are truly God-given. They are on the front line, serving the surrounding

communities and its people. Each of them is in the right place, doing the right job, at the right time and they range from professionals like doctors to cleaning staff. The **CEO** (Madeleine Meyer) and her **Management Team** directs the day-to-day operations and activities, with the focus on delivering dignifying services to our beneficiaries.

We are grateful for dedicated **Partners and Funders** such as Department of Health, Department of Social Development, and Kindermission who support our Vision and Mission. Their assistance helps the organization to a great extent in providing medical and socio-economic services to its beneficiaries.

God has indeed blessed us with **Donors** who have hearts of gold. They drop in regularly with something for the patients and children or call in to collect. They donate clothes, toiletries, non-perishable food, cash, and so much more. The value of their kindness and regular outreach to us is immeasurable. We truly appreciate each of them from the bottom of our hearts.

The **Families** and **Community Members** of the Garden Route are instrumental in the success of Bethesda. They invest and exhibit so much trust in Bethesda, by placing their family members in our care, and "we truly feel honoured to be of service to you."

Bethesda is also a proud member hospice of the **Association of Palliative Care Centres**, who mentor us in terms of Palliative Care and quality management.

**"OUR VISION IS TO PROVIDE HOLISTIC, COMPASSIONATE AND SUSTAINABLE CARE THAT IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE."**





Bethesda's patients, children and staff were delightfully spoiled during this year's Easter season. Various groups, individuals, organizations, schools, businesses, and local government entities, bought into the organization's "Easter Drive" initiative and donated all kinds of Easter treats. It was a wonderful experience to see how people from different vicinities come together to put a smile on someone else's face. It shows once again that the torch of kindness, love and care burns very strong in the hearts of people.

Bethesda would like to thank each and every one who contributed to the success of the Easter Project. We also want to say to everyone who wanted to contribute, but couldn't, "don't worry, we'll do it again next year".



## THANK YOU MDS COLLIVERY.NET

The delivery company saw the good work we do on our website and immediately decided to donate R10 000 towards our vision. The words of Wilbur van Schalkwyk after they visited our organization.....  
"Keep up the good work you are doing."

**Mariena Brink, and a group of ladies who have a passion for children, visited the Milestone program, where they spoiled the children with goodies. They also gave each child in the program a beautiful and warm jersey. The visit was filled with so much love, and the little ones really enjoyed it. YOU ARE AMAZING LADIES!!!**



This kindhearted group of people, all the way from Sedgefield, reached out to our patients and children in April. They have donated beautiful, knitted blankets to keep our patients and children warm and snoozing this winter. The staff were also treated to home-baked scones.

The visitors were so interested in what we do here at Bethesda, so much so that the resource department gave them a detailed tour of the entire organization. They were very impressed with what they observed, and smilingly indicated that our paths would cross again in the near future.

We are very grateful to SASBO for sponsoring these beautiful shades for our children at the Child and Youth Care Centre. The facility truly needed it for the children, especially on hot days. It is the ideal space for the children to do their daily activities, homework, and special events during the warm months. However, tables and benches are needed to turn this idea into a reality....**DO YOU FEEL URGED TO HELP?** feel free to contact Wendell or Jonelle on 044 - 875 8088 or 073 8988 167. We patiently await your call.





# PERSONNEL

## WILL BE MISSED



Sadly, at the end of April 2024, we had to say goodbye to three stalwarts. Priscilla Mayoyo retired after 23 years of service, while Gillian Pikaan and Ashley-Kay Ruiters served for 17 and 3 years respectively. The positive impact these three ladies have made at Bethesda, is remarkable. We will miss their presence tremendously, but their history will live forever at Bethesda.

**LADIES, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.**

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



We are pleased to have Jennifer van Collar (right) as part of the Bethesda Team. She is a new appointment at the Child and Youth Care Centre. Phumela Hector (left) transferred from the Child and Youth Care Centre and is appointed at the in-house laundry. We know they will fit in well in their new work areas.

We wish them all the best in their new positions as Support Services Assistants.

**Congratulations you two!!!**



*"We know you work hard, but you make it look so effortless.  
Thank you for all that you do" - Parade*

## TRAINING



This is our very own Community Health Workers. They literally visit community members in their own homes to conduct health checks, to promote comprehensive health and wellness, and to cultivate a self-management attitude. They also help out at clinics and visit the crèches in all the applicable wards. You regularly see them at health campaigns and outreaches.

On days when they are not busy with fieldwork, you will find them engaged with training on the topic of community health promotion .....as can be seen!

**We are very proud of you**

## EVACUATION EXERCISE



The health and safety of our beneficiaries, personnel and everyone who enters our premises is of utmost importance. Bethesda is proud to announce that it successfully held an evacuation exercise, and the George Fire Department was present to observe it. The response from the staff was Tops. Be rest assured that we take great care of the health and safety of your loved ones.

**Well done to Team Bethesda!!!**



## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



## PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN THE COMMUNITY



## COMMUNICATING WITH THE COMMUNITY



Wendell Pietersen (Head of Support & Resources) was recently invited by Eden Fm for an interview, in which he gave the George community more background on Bethesda and its activities. In his own words..."At Bethesda, we believe that the meaning of community is to look out for the next person."



**NEW ADDITION TO FLEET:** The organization has grown significantly in its staff complement, following the allocation of additional Department of Health programs. As a result, the demand for transport has also increased and the organization has acquired this beautiful Kia Picanto, to accommodate the transport shortage.



Loadshedding has devastating effects on all facets of society. It is not only the socio-economic milieu that suffer from its negative impact, but also the emergency equipment provided by institutions like ours, where patients and children receive 24-hour care. The adverse effects of loadshedding took a toll on our previous generator, and it completely broke down. **However, we can proudly boast with the acquisition of this brand-new diesel generator. It is fully operational and we can assure you that your loved ones are not in the dark during load shedding.**



With the financial assistance of Sirago Underwriting Managers, we were able to equip our vehicle that transports wheelchair patients, with a ramp specially manufactured for this purpose.

**Thank you very much Sirago.**



### **NEIL DIAMOND DINNER AND CONCERT**

Knysna Hospice, in association with Bethesda, is hosting a Neil Diamond Tribute in August 2024, at the Hawthorn Boutique Hotel in George. The guest artist is Johan Liebenberg, and tickets are sold at R450 per person. Contact Karen or Hilary for more information on 044 – 384 0593 or send an email to [info@hospiceknysna.org.za](mailto:info@hospiceknysna.org.za). Alternatively, you can contact Madeleine Meyer on 044 – 875 8088. Make a note in your calendar, because it will be an event that will be remembered for a very long time. Also check our Facebook page for more updates.

### **HANDY HELPERS**

*Are you in need of an assistive device?  
Give Jonelle or Wendell a call on 044 – 875 8088  
to enquire.*



### **VENUE FOR HIRE**

*Are you looking for a venue to hire? Look no further.  
Contact Jonelle or Wendell on 044 – 875 8088  
For more info.*



### **WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE**

Bethesda Child and Youth Care Centre is collecting winter clothes for 24 children between the ages of 18 months and 18 years. We urge you to please donate any gently used or new winter clothing items. As part of the drive, we would also like to ask you to be so kind as **TO DONATE AS LITTLE AS R100 TOWARDS THIS CAUSE.** Please use the following bank details if you wish to make a donation-

**Account Name:** Bethesda Medical and Relief Services – Child and Youth Care Centre

**Bank:** Nedbank

**Account Number:** 1091 128 510

**Reference:** CYCC Drive



22 Beer Street – Rosemoor – George - 6529



044 – 875 8088



/Bethesda-medical-and-relief-services-npc



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