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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP :

CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:
 'St Francis Care Centre'

OR DIRECT TRANSFER INTO :

The Standard Bank of SA.
 Acc no : 22 0938,245
 Branch : 011- 842 BOKSBURG

please send us your contact details so we can thank you.

Services provided at St Francis Care Centre
 24 Hr Professional nursing
 Training in HIV/AIDS awareness
 Free counselling and testing
 Free Anti-retroviral drug therapy
 Home Based Care

Referrals

Patients are referred by doctors,
 hospital staff, social workers,
 employers, clergy, family or friends.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you
 The Lord make His face to shine upon you
 And be gracious unto you,
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
 And give you peace !

St Francis of Assisi

SPECIAL FRIENDS

In these very difficult times we are supremely grateful to all those who so generously remain supporters of our work .

ABERDARE CABLES

ABSA

AIRPORTS COMPANY S.A.

ATLAS COPCO

BARMHERTZIGHEIT

BKS

CLOVER

DHL

DISCOVERY

DORCAS AID

GROUP5

HIGHWAY TRADERS

IMPROCHEM

INTERFRUIT

JOHNSON MATTHEY

KLM – AIR FRANCE

NATIONAL LOTTERY

METSO MINERALS S.A
 MINING PRESSURE SYSTEMS PTY
 LTD MR AND MRS HAMMILL

MTN

RAND WATER

REVLON

ROTARY & LIONS CLUBS

S.A. DRIED FRUIT

S.A.C.B.C.

S.K.F.

OLON FOUNDATION

THE KNIGHTS OF DA GAMA, BOKS-
 BURG

WITFIELD PARK – Knitting Circle

WOOLWORTHS – Carnival + Sunward
 Park

ST FRANCIS CARE CENTRE

St Francis' Notes



SEPTEMBER 2009

Inside this issue:

Airports ..	2
Visitors	2
Bio Corner	2
Thinking.....	3
MTN calling	3
Talk with Ti...	3
All about us ' 4	4
Blessing	4
Special people	4



Special Events

We are having a Bingo Evening on 30th October please come - have fun and support us at the same time !
 Tickets available Cynthia 011 894 4151

Memorial Mass

There will be a special memorial Mass at 5.30pm on 4th October We welcome all who have lost loved ones. Please join us at this special time to pray for the souls of the departed and to remember them with love.
Fr Stan Brennan ofm

WEB PAGE— <http://www.stfranciscarecentre.co.za>

Please visit our web page and keep in touch with St Francis' happenings - we welcome any suggestions and invite donors who are interested in creating links to our web page to please contact us.

St Francis is Going Green !

The staff at St Francis Centre are just as aware of the need to conserve energy and decrease one's carbon footprint as anyone else in the world is so we are always keen to hear of ideas to assist in this matter . With the soaring cost of electricity our staff have all been thinking 'out of the box' as they say and lo - we thought our way *into* the box or rather 'boxes'. We are extremely proud to brag about the ' Hay boxes' that are currently being used to cook much of our food. As you can see, strictly speaking they are no longer HAY boxes but are rather insulated with polystyrene and blankets but the idea has been around for a long time. The food is brought up to whatever temperature is needed on the stove and then popped into the box, closed down and left until the food is needed - and there it is, all gently steaming ready for the plates. Some of our staff were very sceptical at first but they are all confirmed believers now. The idea is equally useful anywhere - when we have power cuts - rural areas with no electricity - a need to save money - maybe we all need some encouragement, no matter what drives us it is the right thing to do as well as being healthy for us AND for the planet !



Amazing isn't it ?

AIRPORTS COMPANY SA

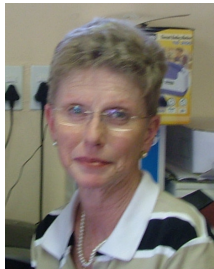


Sr Claretta, our matron, seen here delightedly receiving a wonderful donation of adult and children's

nappies and other patient consumables from AIRPORTS COMPANY SA. Donations of items such as these are invaluable in helping us to cut our costs so we are very happy to receive such support from these very old friends. Many thanks to you all at 'ACSA' *****

VISITORS FROM WITFIELD PARK : A group of wonderful ladies all members of the Witfield Park Knitting Circle, donated knitted blankets earlier this year, and they brought more on Thursday afternoon. After having their photo taken with the children in Rainbow Cottage, Sr.Casbeth arranged a sing-a-long with the little ones which brought tears to quite a few eyes. Two of the ladies asked for a brief tour of the adult unit and expressed their desire to do something for the adults, to bring comfort to those in need When they eventually left in the bus many words like 'Beanies or Bed Slippers ?' were being tossed around and we feel sure a new friendship was forged that afternoon. Our patients, both adults and children, are very grateful for all the support and practical assistance which they receive from the community .

This month in our Bio corner



Cynthia Dicks

This is our Fundraiser and Development Officer Cynthia who joined St Francis Care Centre us in 2008 .

Cynthia Dicks was educated at Assumption Convent Maryvale, met and married Lorrie, a Mechanical Engineer working in the mining industry, in 1977. They have one son Christopher, who is twenty-one and in his 3rd year of studies in Psychology at Wits. University. The Dicks family have lived in Sunward Park since 1981.

PARTNERSHIP AND TEAM BUILDING

Seen below is a tremendously enthusiastic group of forty 'DISCOVERY' employees from the Sandton offices who came here and dedicated a Friday to cleaning and painting the outside of our Nursery School. They all enjoyed a short tour of the facility before getting stuck in and then did a really good job

Later they contacted us to say that it had been a 'humbling experience for them all' and expressed their continuing support for our work. A great big 'Thank you' from us all here at St Francis' Centre to DISCOVERY, SANDTON for being prepared to get your hands dirty !



THINKING OUT- OF-THE- BOX !

A company called 'Improchem', specializing in water purification chemicals, has recently come on board to help St Francis in a novel and practical way. Two of their staff members, Lynda Macardo (seen right) and Delene Wright are running regular Beading Workshops for our patients.



The patients are really enjoying learning a new skill and it must be said that the work that is turned out during these workshops is really amazing. The creative ability of the individual never ceases to astound all concerned. The products produced at these sessions are then marketed. It is hoped that this venture will eventually become an income-generating tool for the Centre. Donations of beads etc are very welcome. Sincere gratitude to all involved.

MTN CALLING ?

After weeks of dry sunshine it was most unfortunate that the June day on which 50 MTN volunteers visited St Francis' was a very cold and wet day. This did not deter them as they set out to work in their bright yellow and black 'Busy-Bee' tracksuits. Gardening, painting, serving and feeding our patients, playing with the children and generally spreading joy during their visit. MTN also very kindly financed Paving under the Pergola in front of the Rainbow Cottage to keep the children's feet dry when summer comes. We have a Wish-list of much needed projects but with finances limited some things were out of the question. A big Thank You MTN for 50 fairy godmothers/fathers !!

Talk with Tilly our centre manager

Over the last few years we have all found so much encouragement in seeing how the children and adults that are infected with the HIV virus have benefited from antiretroviral treatment. The results have been amazing. In Rainbow Cottage, where we care for 30 children aged 0-7 years, the mortality rate has decreased over the last few years from an average of 35 - 40 children per annum to 1 child in 2008!

At our anti-retroviral clinics in Boksburg and Reiger Park 1200 people are receiving free anti-retrovirals (ARV's) each month. Most of these people are much better, many are now able to look after their children , whilst others

have even been able to take up employment again.

But our challenge certainly still lays in decreasing the infection and prevalence rates - sadly South Africa still does not show progress in this regard.

The Centre is very proud of their work with the young people, our preventive program is focussed strongly on the youth - they are the future.

Over the last two years we have presented some very successful holiday programs. During these many topics are discussed most of which are focused on human rights, heterosexual relationships, HIV and AIDS

education, lifeskills development and much more. During July we opened a 'drop-in' centre for 50 orphaned and vulnerable children from the Joe Slovo and Ramaphosa informal settlements. They receive a hot meal each day after school and are then assisted with their homework. Having established a supportive relationship with these children we are now offered an excellent opportunity to do good preventative work.

We are working very hard and hope that these efforts will pay dividends in the long run and contribute to a decline in HIV infections and prevalence in our country!