

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ST FRANCIS CARE CENTRE TO BE HELD
ON SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2010
CHAIRMANS OVERVIEW REPORT

St Francis Care Centre has once more done exceptionally good work amongst the sick and the poorest of the poor in our community. As with every passing year, we count the ever-increasing numbers - thousands of people who have been helped.

A number of significant events have occurred at the Centre since our last Annual General Meeting and it is my duty and pleasure to inform the members of the Association about some of the most important ones.

My management colleagues will provide you with more details about some of these in their reports. On behalf of the Board of Governors, Executive Committee and management, I shall attempt to summarise the achievements and difficulties faced by the Centre during the past year, I would like to focus on some that would be of interest to you. These include:-

- In the adult hospice we had 307 admissions and sadly 166 HIV/AIDS-related deaths
- In the Rainbow cottage for children there were 22 new admissions and thankfully only 1 death.
- Our out-reach programme provides education and awareness talks to approximately 5000 school pupils, awareness campaigns reached many other attendees and support groups that were established last year are running well.
- We are awaiting SETA accreditation. Good progress is being made with the nursing college and certificates will be awarded to those who have attended
- The fortnightly Finance/fundraising meeting is proving fruitful and we are attempting to find other sources of income.
- The Board and management are aware of the very serious worldwide financial crisis and the threat that it imposes on the ability of some sponsors and donors to continue supporting the Care Centre, new sources of funding are constantly being sought.
- The electricity expenses which were extremely high were investigated and it was ascertained that the centre was being charged an incorrect tariff. This matter, after numerous visits to the municipality, has finally been resolved, with the result that a substantial credit will be passed on to the centre.

- The Children's section, ARV clinics and Home Based Care are all still well funded by various generous sponsors and their current financial sustainability seems secure though some of the five-year commitments made on behalf of several donors are drawing to a close, we hope and pray however that they will be renewed for a further term.
- The Irish Ambassador and his wife visited Fr Stan and spent a lovely day at the Centre before relocating to Ireland. The new ambassador has been invited to visit St Francis and we hope that this will take place in the near future.
- We were honoured with a visit from Her Imperial Highness, Princess Takamado of Japan, together with the Japanese ambassador and his wife. The people of Japan are very supportive of our work and have kindly made several donations.
- The driveway at Gate 3, which was the final stage of the Atlas Copco Maintenance Project, was completed - for which we thank them most sincerely. Their very generous assistance with the maintenance made a big difference to the general upkeep of the Centre

Father Stan unfortunately fell seriously ill in June this year and had to spend a period in Hospital after emergency surgery, we are very happy that he is regaining his strength and is back with us at the Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work and the many Donors for their sponsorship and financial assistance. A big thank you to all the Board members for their support and dedication throughout the past year.

Thank you for the honour of allowing me to serve our community.

May God bless you all

Alberto Fogolin

Chairman