



ST FRANCIS CARE CENTRE



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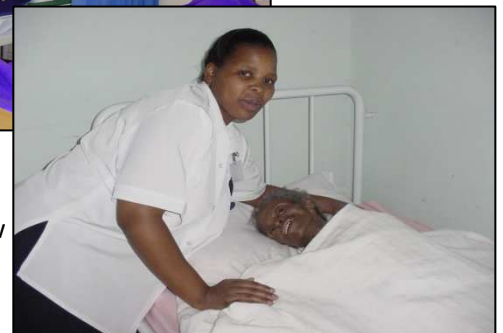
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REGISTRATION NO: 011-441 NPO

ANNUAL REPORT: 1ST APRIL 2011 – 31ST MARCH 2012

The St Francis Care Centre wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the donors who supported us both financially and in kind during the period 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012. The organisation relies heavily on financial support from the private and corporate sectors and would certainly not be able to render the services that we do without it. Our largest donor during the period under review was the **National Lottery** and we thank them most sincerely! The Centre does its utmost to raise funds on an ongoing basis and to not be solely dependant on the National Lottery but in the present economic climate the National Lottery has become our lifeline!! During the period under review the following services were rendered:

- **ADULT HOSPICE** - the hospice provides residential palliative care to 48 adult patients. During the period April 2011 – March 2012 504 patients were admitted to the hospice. Services are focussed on the poorest of the poor, most of the patients are from the surrounding informal settlements, unemployed, sick and unable to contribute financially. Sadly of these patients 367 died but we were able to strengthen 137 who were able to start on Antiretroviral treatment and to return to their families. During the period under review the Board of governors agreed that people suffering from other life threatening or life limiting illnesses can be admitted and that the Centre can also offer respite care at a nominal fee. Our gratitude to the **Department of Health** for their annual Subsidy – although small it does assist to meet some of the expenses. Gratitude too the **HPCA (Hospice Palliative Care Association)** for their financial support and guidance.



- RAINBOW COTTAGE – this is the children’s section that provides residential care to 30 children aged between 0-7years all of whom have been infected and or affected by HIV



and AIDS. The children are provided with food, accommodation, clothing, medical, educational and psychosocial care. Our Social Worker has worked tirelessly on the family re-unification and family preservation programs – the aim being to place these young children back into either their own families (often extended family) or host/foster families as soon as possible.

We believe that children belong in a

loving family environment and not in an institution! During the past year 117 children were cared for. Of these children, 25 were successfully reunited with their biological families whilst others were placed in foster care. Besides our corporate and individual donors we thank **the Department of Social Development** most sincerely for their financial and emotional support as well as their encouragement.



- HOME BASED CARE –more than 3000 families living in 4 informal settlements in Ekurhuleni have been assisted by 35 Home Based Care workers. Sick patients were nursed at home, people were motivated to test for TB and HIV and to start treatment where necessary, more than 350 people were assisted to apply for birth certificates and ID documents so that they can access social grants such as the child support grant and 2100 food parcels were distributed to those who are on antiretroviral treatment and who were awaiting the approval of their grants. This program also encouraged beneficiaries to cultivate vegetable gardens and to become economically independent – eg. Beneficiaries were taught to do bead work which can be sold. Our sincere gratitude to the **Department of Social Department** for their financial support and encouragement.



- ST FRANCIS ANTIRETROVIRAL CLINIC – during the period 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012



669 people received VCT (voluntary counselling and testing) for HIV and a total of 1450 people received free antiretroviral drugs from our 2 clinics situated in Boksburg and Reiger Park respectively. Clients have participated in support groups and there has been a 95% adherence rate to ARV's. Many of these clients arrived at our Clinics desperately ill and are today stable and able to play meaningful roles in their families.

We thank PEPFAR, the South African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) sincerely for their financial support, guidance and encouragement.



- ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC'S) - the Centre has provided 105 school going orphaned and vulnerable children aged between 7 yrs and 18 yrs with a meal after school and assisted them with their homework. For many of these children who come from 2 informal settlements this is their only meal of the day. Holiday programs have been conducted with 350 children and topics such as HIV, relationships, sexuality, peer pressure and decision making have been discussed together with some life skills training. This program resulted in the children having increased school attendance and improving their school performance overall. Our gratitude to **Dorcias Aid International** who financed this project during the past year.



- EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND TRAINING

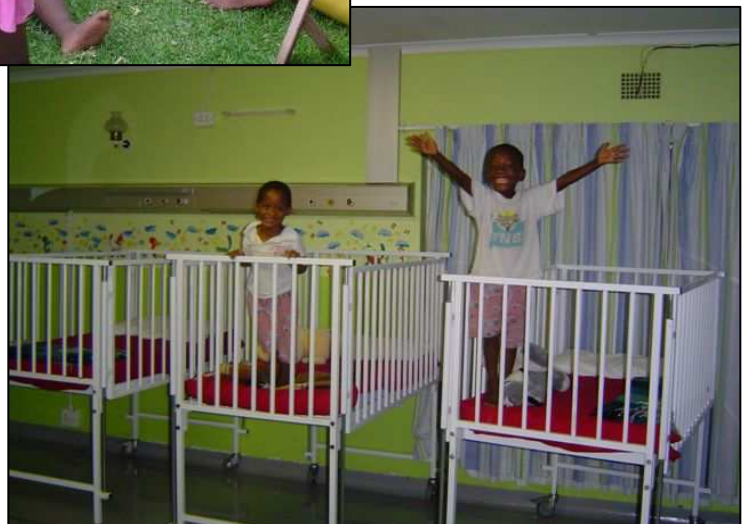
The St Francis Care Centre conducted workshops with schools, corporate and community groups in order to create an awareness of and educate people i.r.o HIV and AIDS. Testing is encouraged in order to 'KNOW YOUR STATUS'. A total of 452 people received voluntary counselling and testing during workshops that were conducted by our liaison officer. Keeping the Home Based Care workers and staff members informed and up to date is of vital importance and thus in-service training has been done on a regular basis as has debriefing.

Funding received from donors has assisted us greatly in this regard and many of our care helpers completed their ancilliary health training course during the past year.



CONCLUSION

The St Francis Care Centre thanks its donors most sincerely for the financial support that was received. This was truly a lifeline for our organisation as our beneficiaries are sick, poor and vulnerable and cannot contribute to the services that they receive. The monies received enabled us to reach out to more than 20,000 people on a preventative and treatment level and brought new hope to them. The children who are placed in our care look to us as their only hope of a brighter future and without the financial assistance of our donors we would fail dismally in our responsibility towards them. We trust that our donors will continue to support our organisation and that this partnership will grow in the interest of the many people who approach us for assistance. My sincere gratitude to our Board and members of staff who have worked hard and made our achievements possible!



TILLY BROUWER
CENTRE MANAGER
SEPTEMBER 2012

