



Hermanus Western Cape Red Cross 66th Annual Report 2023

16 May 2022 - 28 May 2023

Who are we?

Hermanus Red Cross has been in existence since 1957 within the aegis of Western Cape regional headquarters of the Provincial Red Cross headquarters in Wynberg, Cape Town. Volunteering is a potential activity. We may fundraise through use of publicity to describe our activities. Each Red Cross Branch or Station applies the International and National Organisation's Mission in a way that best suits its own situation on the ground,

Who do we serve?

The local community of Greater Hermanus

Our Provincial and National committees

Our donors and funders

Our staff

Where we work

Our facility is in 2a Aberdeen Street in Hermanus and the Medical Loans Depot and training venue is in this building. We are involved in Greater Hermanus however respond to Overstrand requests and needs. This building is shared with SANTA, with whom we share some of the costs.

What do we do?

1. Disaster Management allied to Overstrand Municipality
2. Medical Equipment Loans Depot
3. First Aid Training
4. Home-base Care Training
5. Welfare Relief
6. Food Insecurity
7. Funding of Projects- Special Need Requests

1. Disaster Management is allied to Overstrand Municipality.

We have responded to 5 families with food vouchers who had lost their homes by fire in Zwelihle:

2. Medical Equipment Loans Depot Managed by Molly Venter

Figures for visiting depot 2022-23: Average Foot Traffic: 53 persons per month, this includes equipment loans; people call in for a variety of reasons such as training information. Open 10- 12 md Monday – Friday

Medical equipment hire is on average 50 items per month, the repairs of equipment are done by **Grant Murdoch** who has also installed equipment hangers and a door bell. The front door has a security gate now.

Kitchen and lavatory areas reviewed and reorganised.

Outside space: progress made, trees planted and regular cleaning of surrounding parking. The depot area has had considerable rearrangement there is an information notice board. Equipment that was not utilized by Depot was donated to: the Provincial hospital in Worcester, the Old age home in Hawston and the Association of Disabilities in Hawston.

3. First Aid Training (Labour Registration No: CIBIG2-01: Proof Of Accreditation)

Denver Scheepers offered 1 course on 3 consecutive Saturdays and 4 people have attended and passed during the past year. Just Care were given a 3 hour course funded by our branch to assist 6 teachers with responses to children who receive after school care

4. Home-base Care Training (Labour Registration No: CIBIG2-01: Proof of Accreditation) is now managed by Desiree Banson. **Courses completed:** 3 groups consisting of 13 attendees. Desiree Banson runs the course theory and practice modules, Molly Venter has assisted with administration and documentation in collaboration with the training department. She teaches the communication module. Together they run the examinations for attendees.

The Manikin model was purchased to assist with training.

Training and Development

We have spent time with the provincial department discussing aspects of Home Based care training and forms are revised. We receive advice when requested. Certificates are delivered by courier.

5. Welfare and Food Relief: Soup dry ingredients are purchased by Red Cross and collected by **15 food /soup kitchens**. They are required to complete an application form and figures are recorded regarding collections and quantity thereof.

6. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING in 2022

Lombardi garden project: Elderly centre have partnered with 1 gardener to grow vegetables, garden tools and salary provided

Sluyter Foundation: School Holiday programme funded and Denver Scheepers gave a first aid course to the children.

2 food kitchens in Mount Pleasant (Food and Fuel costs monthly) approximately 1000 people weekly in each kitchen, Need requests to assist destitute families (transport and clothing) 4 children

St Vincent de Paul 25 blankets AND food ingredients to people in Zwelihle
Christmas Treats in Mt Pleasant and Hawston. (100 children in each neighbourhoods)

Hot Box Event. Celebrating use of this cooking item with 6 women in Zwelihle

First Aid equipment to supplement First Aid box for Just Care After school care.

Keeping kids of drugs: soccer equipment to team in Mt Pleasant.

Mentoring 2 students from Holland (Sluyter Foundation) **Desiree Banson** with Sluyter foundation has assisted mentoring 2 students from Holland in learning more about health care in Hermanus. They were enabled visits to a variety of health facilities, Students have given presentations to local schools regarding Tuberculosis.

Consultancy Work provided by Simon and Catherine Croxton. Simon has a three-decade career in international development, including disaster management. Catherine's background is education and publishing. She was also the co-founder of SHARP Digital, a non-profit organization based in Zwelihle, which worked with the Hermanus Red Cross on data collection during the COVID food distribution. Simon and Catherine facilitated and wrote up our post-COVID review exercise. This was followed by a presentation of options on the way forward and the development of the food insecurity project. They then helped with the launch of the project including presenting at a public participation event. They assisted in considering change and introducing initiatives to improving the work of Red Cross in Hermanus. They also set up plans for the food insecurity project

Psychological support to 3 abused children in Hawston (Trained therapist employed). This need was motivated by Whale Coast Conservation who teach school children

ORGANISATIONAL.

Theo de Meyer and Molly Venter as board members assist with our finances and give counsel as both have considerable experience in previous roles. Monies are documented in collaboration with Michael Clark who is our treasurer. Molly Venter has been on our board since October 2021 and has continued with governance issues thus maintained all files, introduced a variety of forms to record our activity, compliance and data collection working with ethos administration to adhere to the NPO principles.

FINANCES

However we have created a group within the committee to review our budget And reviewed our financial sub-headings. We have taken advice on this matter. We are considering a private audit of our annual finances. National audits have not been done for 3 years as chartered accountants are not affordable.

Our website continues to be updated and is active. Projects shown and published articles are on the website.

**The Future: Hermanus Red Cross – A review.
Options for the Future?**

**Meeting in the Clock Room Burgundy Restaurant
Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 10 am-12 pm**

Background

The above meeting was set up with invited participants. Angela described the circumstances that led to this review of the Hermanus Red Cross and its activities.

- South African Red Cross has had considerable upheaval during the past 13 years, this situation is still not resolved.
- When the COVID pandemic hit, the Hermanus Red Cross was tasked to manage food distribution in the local area. While much was achieved, it faced some challenges. The key lessons learned were:
 - There was a need for improved collaboration with the Overstrand Municipality and the many NPOs, restaurants and churches who assisted during this time.
 - Data collection was limited, and as a result, the real food insecurity situation was never fully described.
 - Managing a Business on Line account

The Meeting: The objective was to share ideas and to explore options for the future of the Hermanus Red Cross. The committee has invited new members who are keen to support the new direction of the organization thus to:

CREATE A NEW GENERATION COMMITTEE- Interested and dynamic LOCALS contributing skills and shared social responsibility from all neighbourhoods. Reviewing how core functions can be managed.

Following the discussions had at this meeting, the Hermanus Red Cross has decided to move forward on three of the initiatives presented at the meeting – see below.

3 planned initiatives:

- **Food Insecurity.**
- **Dementia Friendly Town: Hermanus.**
- **Support Children in the most vulnerable households**

Food Insecurity commenced: Consultant Cath Croxton with Chairperson organized a Mini Survey on Hunger in local neighborhoods. Articles published. Public Participation Event held with presentation on food insecurity facilitated by Simon and Cath Croxton to share the way forward.

Fact Finding commenced in Mt Pleasant and Zwelihle, Sharing of information with people expressing an interest in food insecurity through a WhatsApp. **Dee Wills** has joined the committee and is assisting with food insecurity plans and finances.

Dementia Friendly Town: Hermanus. A number of power point presentations given by Dr K Buley to the public through: Quest, U3A and Probus. Much interest was shown. Currently also learning from Carers about their experience is of nursing people with dementia. Further presentations next month.

- **Support Children in the most vulnerable households**
We have made a brief assessment of available resources and think that at this stage we are better placed to offer assistance to relevant role players at a future date.

Committee Members: A Heslop, T de Meyer, M Venter, D Scheepers
D Banson, G Murdoch, D. Wills. Associate member: Dr K Buley

Closure: The past year has and will continue to be challenging. We are energised by our new members. We particularly acknowledge the past 30 years work done by **Chris Paine** and wish her well in her retirement. Also Carol Barnard has needed to resign, we thank her for the past year's teaching in Home Based Care and welcome **Desiree Banson** who took her place.

Chairperson 2015- present: Angela Heslop

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