



*"Always Needed, Always There"*

# **Annual Report of the Red Cross Society, Hermanus**

*January 2025 - December 2025*

## **Introduction**

This annual report of Red Cross Hermanus presents a comprehensive overview of our activities, achievements, and challenges from **January to December 2025**. This period has been marked by significant milestones in our ongoing mission to alleviate human suffering and promote humanitarian values. Red Cross Hermanus is a vital branch of the Red Cross Society of the Western Province, dedicated to providing services to the local community.

## **Our programmes that support our mission are :**

1. Training in Home-Based Care Level 1,2, and 3 SETA-accredited, as well as First Aid, short courses and Level 1 SETA-accredited.
2. Provision of medical equipment
3. Food Insecurity
4. Disaster management
5. Dementia Awareness

## **1. Training and workshops overview.**

The Red Cross Hermanus branch has been instrumental in offering Home-Based Courses aimed at equipping students with vital skills for home-based care.

### **1.1 Home-Based Care Level 1 SETA Accredited**

The primary goal of the Home-Based Care Level 1 course is to equip students with the foundational skills needed to provide care and support to individuals in their homes.

### **1.2 Home Base Care Level 2 & 3 SETA Accredited.**

For the first time this year, the Home-Based Care Levels 2 and 3 courses were presented. Our students performed exceptionally well, thanks to the dedication of our trainer, who underwent further professional development to deliver these advanced classes effectively. The students also provided evidence of practical experience at registered institutions for the elderly, and feedback from these organisations indicated they were highly satisfied with the students' performance.

## 1.3 Course Structure and Content

The lectures of the course are structured to provide a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. The lectures involve the following key components:

- **Theoretical Instructions:** Students receive classroom-based education covering essential topics such as health and safety, patients' rights and care ethics.
- **Practical Training:** Hands-on training sessions enable students to practice and refine their caregiving skills in a controlled environment.
- **Clinical Placements:** Students undertake supervised visits to retirement homes, such as Huis Lettie Theron and SOFCA, as well as home settings, which allow them to learn and observe in actual environment scenarios.
- **Assessments:** Regular assessments, including written exams and practical evaluations, ensure students meet the required competencies.
- **Support and Mentoring:** Continuous support and mentoring from an experienced instructor, Sister Desiree Banson, who is a registered nurse, who helps students navigate the challenges of the course.
- **Lectures in Communication** by Molly Venter, lecturer and moderator of Communication. The students also discuss the importance of a contract.
- To further enhance the learning experience, students from Stellenbosch University, specialising in the dietary needs of the elderly and patients recovering from an operation or with health problems, regularly conduct workshops for each group of our enrolled students, accompanied by their lecturers. In addition, a local physiotherapist generously volunteers her time to present informative classes, ensuring our students gain valuable insights into physical rehabilitation and care.

## 1.4 Course Outcomes

The Home-Based Courses presented by Red Cross Hermanus aimed to provide comprehensive training in home-based care, including first aid, patient care and emergency response. The lectures were designed to ensure that students gained practical and theoretical knowledge essential for providing high-quality home care. Key outcomes of the courses included:

- **Enhanced Skills:** Students demonstrated significant improvement in their caregiving skills, including patient handling, wound care, and emergency procedures.
- **Certification:** Successful students received certification recognised by healthcare institutions, enhancing their employability.
- **Community Impact:** Graduates of the courses contributed positively to their communities by offering competent home-based care services.

## 1.5 Number of Successful Students

Over the past year,

- 8 classes were presented on Level 1. We had an 89% pass rate. Those who failed could repeat the class without having to pay again, and 2 unfortunately decided not to complete the course.
- Of the students who enrolled for Level 2 and Level 3, we achieved a 100% pass rate. Certificates were awarded on completion of the compulsory practical experience, ensuring that our graduates are actively contributing to the healthcare sector.

The success rate indicates the quality of training provided and the dedication of both the instructor and the students.

## **1.2 FIRST AID TRAINING**

Various courses were presented to cater to different needs and communities. The Level 1 SETA-accredited courses were held on three consecutive Saturdays, with students receiving certificates upon completion of written and practical exams.

In addition to the main training programmes, brief one-day Saturday courses were conducted at the Depot, as well as at Food kitchens for volunteers, Hermanus Learning Hub students, and local schools. Upon completion of these sessions, each participant received a personalised letter of attendance detailing the content covered during the single-day course.

### **1.2.1 Trainer**

The trainer, a fully trained Level 3 SETA-accredited professional, conducted the training during weekends, despite being employed full-time by another organisation.

Our HBC trainer also underwent additional first aid training for trainers, which she completed. She is now also the official trainer for First Aid and will be visiting schools and restaurants to present the courses for which we are qualified. Additionally, she aims to engage with schools in and around Hermanus, attending their open days to promote our training offerings.

### **1.2.2. Courses presented included:**

- Short courses on Saturdays, providing certificates of attendance upon completion.
- Level 1 SETA-accredited courses conducted over three consecutive Saturdays, resulting in certificates post exams.
- Short basic first aid courses held at schools for learners and staff.
- The courses attracted a diverse group of participants, including 150 primary and high school learners, 60 soup kitchen staff members, and 20 interested members of the public

## **2. Provision of Medical Equipment**

The ongoing demand for this service clearly highlights its essential role within our community. Over the past period, we have seen a significant rise in requests for equipment rentals, which has, in turn, increased the maintenance workload for our dedicated committee member. We take great pride in ensuring that every piece of equipment we rent out is thoroughly cleaned, and serviced, and in excellent working order. Our sincere appreciation goes to Grant Murdoch, whose commitment to maintaining and repairing the equipment ensures that we continue to meet these high standards for our clients.

## **3. Food Insecurity & Supporting various organisations during special events.**

The Red Cross continues to support community kitchens that serve food to people who are unemployed, the elderly, and children living in the area. We achieve this by supplying dry ingredients to 21 feeding hubs and soup kitchens monthly. We are also able to respond to extra needs requests as they arise and assist where we can.

In addition, we recognise the needs of the elderly in our community by regularly donating toiletries, eats, and snacks to their support groups. These gifts are especially appreciated during special occasions such as Christmas parties, where we make a concerted effort to ensure the elderly feel valued and included. Our ongoing commitment to supporting the elderly reflects our dedication to caring for all vulnerable members of our community.

## **4. Disaster management**

Throughout the year, we encountered various fires in Hermanus, challenging our community and emergency services. The Red Cross Hermanus promptly supported the firefighters by providing essential supplies such as water, food, and skin lotions. Several fires also devastated the Zwelihle and Mount Pleasant communities, where numerous individuals lost their homes and personal belongings. In response, Red Cross Hermanus donated building materials, food, and blankets to aid in the reconstruction efforts and provide immediate relief to those affected.

## **5. Dementia awareness**

Dr Kathie Buley and Angela Heslop initiated a programme to make Hermanus a Dementia friendly town by providing education and support for people suffering from dementia and those who care for them. There are workshops planned to work with various organisations and compile fliers where people can get the necessary support they need. A workshop was held on “Dementia Awareness” and lectures were presented by Dr Kathie Buley with the title “Demystifying Dementia” to various organisations. A day workshop was held in April, “Nurtured by Nature” at Fernkloof.

Dr Buley also presented a lecture to our HBC students. This was a valuable presentation as many students will have to care for patients with dementia.

## **6. Volunteers and Committee Members**

Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, contributing their time and skills to support various activities and initiatives. The branch has a dedicated committee of **9 members** that oversees operations, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. The collaboration and commitment of volunteers and committee members are essential to the success of Red Cross Hermanus’s mission.

We are actively advocating for more community members to become involved in the Red Cross and to volunteer permanently. By encouraging greater participation, we believe a wider range of skills and talents can be harnessed to assist and support the community in various situations of need. Every individual’s contribution strengthens our ability to respond effectively, deliver vital services, and make a lasting impact in Hermanus.

## **7. Open and World First Aid Day**

During September, we organised a Red Cross Open Day and World First Aid Day, with a special focus on climate change and its impact on communities in the Overstrand region. The event was officially opened by Executive Mayor, Cllr Archie Klaas, who shared insightful remarks on the critical role that the Red Cross plays in Hermanus and the broader community. In support of the occasion, we also invested in new marketing materials, which were warmly received by attendees and helped raise awareness about the organisation and its initiatives.

## **8. Fundraising and Financial Overview**

The financial management of Red Cross Hermanus ensures transparency and accountability in all monetary transactions. We have a Core team of Committee members that carefully allocate funds to various programmes and services, ensuring that resources are utilised effectively to benefit the community we serve. Detailed financial reports are prepared monthly to track expenditure and donations, and to maintain trust with donors and stakeholders.

## **9. Financial Overview (see financials for more detail)**

The financial health of Red Cross Hermanus remains strong, with prudent management and transparent reporting. Detailed financial statements, including income, expenditure, and budget allocation reports, are available at the office.

**9.1 Financial Policy.** A comprehensive financial policy for Red Cross Hermanus has been compiled, clearly outlining the procedures for sound financial management and the importance of accountability within all our financial systems. This policy ensures that all financial activities are conducted with transparency and integrity, and that proper records are maintained for auditing and reporting purposes. By adhering strictly to these guidelines, we aim to safeguard the organisation's resources, maintain donor trust, and uphold our commitment to responsible stewardship of all funds received.

## **10. Thanks to our Donors**

We have received donations from:

- Various Trust funds
- Community members donating towards specific projects.
- Businesses donate food and food parcels for specific events (Mandela Day).
- Churches donate various articles to our depot (adult nappies, toiletries, blankets).
- Members of the public donate medical equipment to our depot so that we can hire these articles out at a minimum cost to people needing these articles for short periods.
- Donating the refundable deposit when hiring medical equipment.

## **11. Challenges and Lessons Learned**

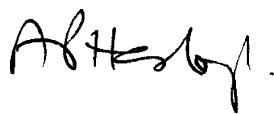
The year was not without its challenges. Natural disasters, economic instability, and logistical constraints tested our resilience. However, these challenges also provided valuable lessons that have strengthened our operations and strategic planning.

## 12. Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the upcoming year, our focus will remain on enhancing our emergency response capabilities, expanding health services, and deepening community engagement. Strategic partnerships and innovation will be key drivers in achieving our goals.

## 13. Conclusion

This annual report of Red Cross Hermanus is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our volunteers, staff, partners, and donors. Together, we have made a significant impact on the lives of those in need. We remain steadfast in our mission to support the most vulnerable and continue to uphold the values of the Red Cross.



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A. Heslop  
Chairperson



M. Venter  
Manager