



Nakekela Christian Community Centre Association

Greetings from everyone at Nakekela in our first newsletter of the year. All of the staff had a wonderful few weeks off in December to be refreshed and enjoy some time with their families. We find it very beneficial that our staff all have a break from their work, especially with the type of situations they are faced with every day.

We said good-bye to Sr. Ncane at our Staff Christmas outing at Madidaba Game Lodge. We all enjoyed a day of fun together before going on holidays. We could go on a game drive, swim in the pool and had a wonderful time. Earlier this year, one of our Home Base Care workers decided to move to another job opportunity. Therefore, this year, we had several postings for Nursing staff as well as a new Home Base Care worker. Interviews were held and these postings have been fulfilled. Take a look on page 2 for photos of all of our new faces!

We began on 2 & 3 January with cleaning and getting the hospice reading for patients. On the 6th January we admitted our first patients. Many of the patients are very ill. We are very excited with the opening of our new wards. This allows us to admit at least 8 more patients. Still, we have people on the waiting list dying before they could be admitted.

These first few months were a challenge for the staff. With the increase of admissions, the workload has become greater. There are more patients to bathe, feed and take care of. The increase of patients has also required more food and supplies to be purchased. Measures have been put in place to ensure our staff do not become quickly exhausted in their labours. Please pray with us as we adjust to this wonderful new development and that, as we face the challenges, we would bring more glory to God in every situation we are brought to.

2014

STATISTICS TO DATE:

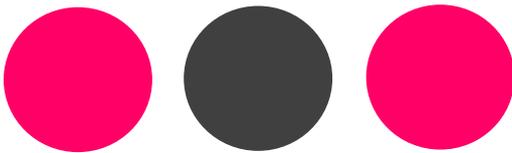
Admissions:	24
Current Patients:	13
Discharge to Home:	3
Deaths:	8
Waiting List	9
HBC Field Visits:	410



*Above: Staff pose in this year's first photo
Top Left: The Home Base Care Team
Bottom Left: In-house Staff received new uniforms this year*

“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1

Harry and Joke Lukens, with their children Anna and Timon, returned to the Netherlands. We would like to thank them for the many hours of hard work and contribution to the communities they served in. While they were here, many homes were built, pastors and individuals were trained by Harry in the Christian perspective on how to deal with those affected by HIV/AIDS. With Joke's nursing background, many in the neighbourhood would come and ask for help. Families were assisted in so many ways by this wonderful couple, and we wish the Lord's blessing on their future plans. We would like to thank them for being a light in this community. They are really missed and will remain in all of the hearts of those who they came in contact with.



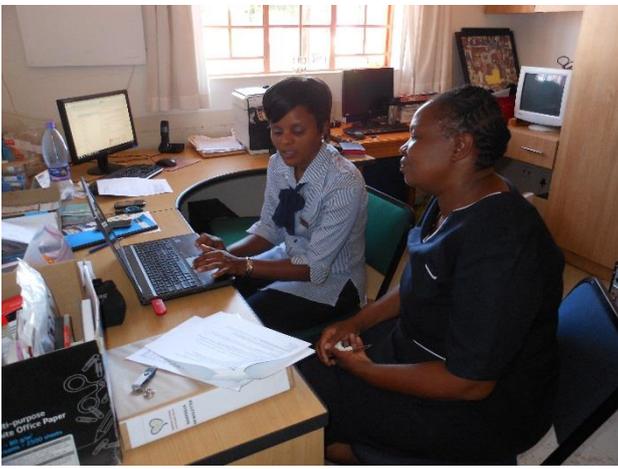
In February, we hired several new staff members. Letty Tjiane is training to work as our new administrative officer and assistant to Dorcas. She will also counsel patients as she was trained at Mukhanyo Theological College. We also have four new nurses. Sister Suzan Mahlangu has many years of serving as a nurse and works with us on Monday to Friday. Sister Norah Malebana, Sister Elizabeth Coshibe and Sister Beauty Khumalo come to us from the local government clinics and work on Saturday and Sunday. With these new members of our staff, we now ensure there is a nurse each day of the week.



Sr. Beauty, Sr. Norah, Sr. Suzan and Sr. Elizabeth



Letty Tjiane



Dorcas and Mirriam filling out annual reports for the donors.



Three little outpatients to visit Dr. Sonja

Report from Home Based Care

By Mirriam Rakwale

Over the holidays, one of our patients passed away because of lack of familial support. There was no one to give him food and care for him. We were very upset when we heard this news, because there was nothing we could do for him. His family refused to learn to properly care for him as we tried to teach them while he stayed at Nakekela. This happens very often when a family member becomes ill. We try our best to instruct the family, but they must decide to help. So far this year, we have found 30 new patients in the field. 10 of these patients were admitted to Nakekela. Since there is more room, we know we can help more people this year. We are also preparing to do more health talks at the local government clinics. The nurses invite our team to come on certain days to speak to the people who attend the clinics, and we speak on various health and social topics that are prevalent in this area.

In February, we held two support groups at Nakekela. It's our duty to contact the ex-patients to invite them to attend. About 20 ex-patients came and listened to talks and also motivated the current patients at the centre, giving themselves as examples.

One of our field patients was hit by a car in December and lost her 6 year old daughter. She was counselled at Nakekela and assisted by one of the home base care workers. She managed to apply and get her a wheelchair and nappies from the hospital.



A patient playing a game called Diketo, while another watches.



A patient with her visitors

"Striving to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the community"



SUPPORT GROUPS

Constance and Madira have been holding regular support group meetings. In February, we held two support groups for current and ex-patients in the new lounge at Nakekela. There were about 15-20 people at each meeting! These people share their stories and encourage others along the way, so that those who are currently at Nakekela will keep on fighting to get healthy. Also at each meeting, the attendees receive a meal and also a bag of instant porridge to take home with them. Each person can also have a checkup with Dr. Sonja if he/she needs it.



One man in our neighbourhood found an innovative way to control the cost of petrol for his vehicle. He brought an out-patient to see Dr. Sonja in his 2-horse (donkey) powered vehicle.

NAKEKELA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION



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Dorcas and Lettie attended the SALT meetings in Ladysmith, Kwa-Zulu Natal in February. There they met up with members of other organizations and spent a week in training and consultation with each other.

