



Incorporating the Missionvale Care Centre Trust

PO Box 11053
Algoa Park
6005
Republic of South Africa

Tel: +27-41-811-7525/6
Fax: +27-86-529-3349

Email Address:
info@missionvale.org.za

Website:
www.missionvale.co.za
www.facebook.com/missionvale

Attention: Missionvale Australia
By Email: beckan@optusnet.com.au

15 March 2021

Dear, dear friends

REPORT TO MISSIONVALE AUSTRALIA: January 2020 – February 2021

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we are writing to thank you for the enormous successes that have been made possible because of YOU, our wonderful friends and supporters across the water in Australia.

We are still somewhat in shock over Australian funding that has been generated throughout this pandemic. We have never needed it more, and locally it has become almost impossible to fundraise as our economy has taken such a massive knock. We know Australia has not been spared, which is why we are in such awe about what has been made possible. We are deeply overwhelmed by the goodness of people, the trust in our operations, the incredible support that has been given, and the miracles that happened because of it. Here in South Africa, the most obvious consequence of the pandemic, was the heartbreaking increase in hunger. The scenes of children running behind our van, begging for bread will haunt us forever. Being able to alleviate that huge need ... has been indescribable. **You** have made that possible through the facilitation of lifegiving funds. **THANK YOU.**

EDUCATION

It has, understandably, been a tremendously challenging year for students and teachers. I am so proud of the way they have handled new normal realities!

While state schools closed completely, we found ways to keep teaching going during various levels of lockdown. Under level 5 teachers delivered work to pupil's homes. As levels eased, parents collected work, handed in previous week's assignments until we could eventually return pupils to school. Pupils still attend school on alternate days due to maximum 50% capacity.



Grade 4's robotics classes have resumed. Unfortunately, all other extra murals for 2020 were cancelled to allow more academic time. We started extra mathematics classes as this subject many children struggle with. Sadly 7 of our 28 Grade 7 students did not graduate to high school, but we are still proud as the majority of our learners have little or no support with schoolwork at home.



Our Youth Development Team changed strategy completely. Instead of children coming to the Centre after school, our team went to various high schools they attend and presented life skills workshops as and when lockdown allowed. Children have shown big improvements in literacy skills and overall academic results. The psychosocial team Unit dealt with 107 cases in 2020, 33 cases closed, 74 ongoing.

Board of Trustees: Sr Ethel Normoyle (Founder), Tom Tagg (Chairman), Dave Coffey, Margo de Kooker, Andrew Jensen, Chuma Myoli, Frans Prinsloo, Alice Selokoma, Samantha Streak, Derrick Swartz

Trust Registration Number: TM3518 **Non-Profit Organisation Registration Number:** 035-983-NPO

Public Benefit Organisation Registration Number: 930005824

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Gardens

We had a wonderful harvest of beans, cauliflower and broccoli distributed right before lockdown.

We appointed a new gardens supervisor, Elvin, proving to be a great asset. It is encouraging to see young girls joining the team and taking their skills back home!



We are pleased to report that our gardeners attended additional training which focused on benefits of home gardening. Our team, together with Youth Dev Team, went into the township and more than 30 families signed up for a home garden! They have been given seeds, basic training and our team does regular check-ins to see how they are doing.

At Christmas we were able to give lovely food parcels, which included beautiful fresh spinach.

Crafts

As the pandemic hit, our ladies in the Crafters Unit did not waste a moment, and proactively began making and selling masks. News of this spread and orders came flooding in! Support came from local companies, individuals, even a police station and a mutually beneficial collaboration between us and another non-profit organisation! Incredibly, it has been the most financially successful year to date for this unit which serves as both a skills development initiative, and an income generating project.



HEALTH CARE



Our volunteer doctor became gravely ill and had to retire. This has left a huge void! Our nurse and caregivers did what they could, and we referred many cases to state clinics and hospitals. We made sure patients still received medicine, did telephone consultations where possible, even “no touch” consultations at people’s homes – sometimes talking through windows! The good news is that we now have 2 doctors each volunteering one morning a week.

The clinic also did family planning and papsmears for staff of a local fabric manufacturer and occupational medical examinations of 88 factory workers. These we do in exchange for a donation from the company – the funds are then used to help subsidise costs in the clinic so we are able to continue rendering a free service to the poor.

ONGOING IMPACT OF COVID

Covid has certainly impacted on our activities, though we are thrilled that we were able to continue rendering our services, albeit differently. We miss being able to give hugs and being in close proximity to our beneficiaries. We wish we could have the entire school back again to hear lovely voices of children echoing throughout. But it will return again, and through your contributions, health, education and skills development are still happening. These are more critical than ever before.

While our infection numbers have spiked exponentially, the biggest impact has not been the virus, but the devastating effect the hard lockdown had, (and will continue to have), on our economy. There have been huge job losses causing people who were not previously reliant on our services, now unable to provide for themselves and looking to us for help. Sadly, the need far outweighs our resources.



These consequences will be here for years to come and families are struggling. People walk for kilometres to seek help, food being the most desperate need. Unemployment is sky high and will likely worsen. Covid has made the divide in education standards between rich and poor so much worse. We are worried that the widening gap between the “have” and “have nots” will never be bridged and it will condemn the majority of our population to perpetual poverty. That is why we are so passionate about our school – it provides some hope!

NEW ACTIVITIES AND FEEDBACK FROM BENEFICIARIES

At the end of February 2020 we introduced awareness campaigns around washing of hands, wearing masks, symptom checks etc. Many of our existing activities were restructured so we could keep serving our beneficiaries while keeping everyone safe.

Many have commented that the Centre has been their only hope during this time. Everywhere we went, we were greeted with warm grateful smiles and good wishes.

As the desperation grew, many areas saw shops being looted during lockdown levels 4 and 5. Despite being one of the poorest areas, we did not experience any looting. We cannot say for sure, but possibly it was because people were being cared for when they needed it most.

Throughout lockdown, kids were forced to stay home and we needed ways to keep them entertained. We began collecting bottle tops and all sorts of materials to make basic children’s games. These have been turned into milk carton cars, and even board games! We had a few competitions and it was delightful to see children participating.



Joyce, one of our crafters, is a delightful 82 year old. Due to lockdown, deteriorating health and age, she was unable to come to the Centre. She does not like sitting still! One of her many gifts is knitting, and we got wool and knitting needles to her. She is raising her grandchildren and is now reliant on us for food. Recently, she remarked how grateful she is and does not know how they would have survived without us.

Fungai’s company let all their staff go, with no payment at all to cushion the blow of sudden unemployment. Fungai’s family have been receiving a food parcel and wrote this “We were struggling with food and money for rent but Missionvale Care Centre helped us a lot. We were in dire pain. Thank you, we appreciate very much your kindness.”

SUCCESSSES

- One of our biggest successes has been mask manufacturing. Besides life giving income it provides to women in the sewing unit, for every mask sold, a portion is allocated to a special fund to manufacture and distribute free masks for people who cannot afford to buy them.
- As part of our Youth Development program, we identified a large percentage of youngsters without matric (our high school senior certificate), a minimum requirement for most jobs. While there are some opportunities to go back to school, there are very few who are able to earn a living or even enrol into courses. A local man, Mr Speelman, a qualified technician offered to do free training for youth interested in learning to fix household appliances. Although the course does not have any accreditation, it is practical in nature and will equip participants with a skill they can use to earn an income. He had 9 enthusiastic learners, and they have all successfully completed the course. We hope to continue running this program into the future.
- Another incredible success has been the Missionvale Australia online fundraising campaign. We know and understand that all around the world, people have less to give, yet somehow you were able to send us much needed emergency funding that has carried us through this crisis!
- Our school continuing teaching has been one of our proudest accomplishments. Where other schools closed completely, our teachers ensured that pupils were not forgotten, they could have access to their work and caregivers made sure they had something to eat.
- We will always remember 2020 as a year of miracles and one of the biggest was being able to have our Christmas distributions for the children! It looked a little different with all the PPE and social distancing, but it was possible to reach over 3000 children with a small present from Santa!



CHALLENGES

- Our bread supplier had to close for two weeks when unable to deliver due to looting in his area. However, the extra funding from Australia allowed us to buy bread and porridge from supermarkets during this critical time. If we did not have this funding, we would not have been able to buy the bread at a higher price, and people would have gone hungry.
- Our biggest challenge continues to be relentless hunger. It is noticeable everywhere. More people on the streets, an increase in people searching through garbage for something to eat, more beggars at traffic lights. In Missionvale it is especially dire. We are therefore so grateful that we are able to alleviate some of this need through Missionvale Australia and GDG (*Missionvale is a partner for project J1028N with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO*).
- Tight lockdown regulations meant we were unable to purchase vegetable seedlings for many months. To make matters worse, our communal vegetable garden took a knock with the ongoing drought. Even after the sale of seedlings became permissible, we could not get any as suppliers had huge backlogs. Eventually all was restored back to normal and the gardens are thankfully looking lovely again and producing much needed food!
- In November and December, Missionvale experienced a sharp spike in Covid infections. The second wave somehow appeared to be deadlier than the first and two of our staff members lost husbands to the disease – Bonita who heads up our crafters unit, and Sharon who works in our pharmacy. A month after losing her husband, Bonita's brother also passed away. Two of our school children lost fathers. During one 4 week period we were confronted with death all the time. It was heart breaking and terribly difficult. Due to exposure, we had to quarantine 15 staff members, 3 tested positive themselves. It is a time we will never forget.
- We had a big water project planned – building a reservoir for the vegetable garden to see us through the dry months. The entire project was delayed because of Covid. Happily we have been able to slowly get back on track and hope to complete it by June 2021. It will bring significant relief to our gardeners battling the drought.

Below I have added a few statistics for 2020 and some figures showing how your wonderful donations are helping, we are still speechless that we managed so much thanks to your help during the most impossible of circumstances.

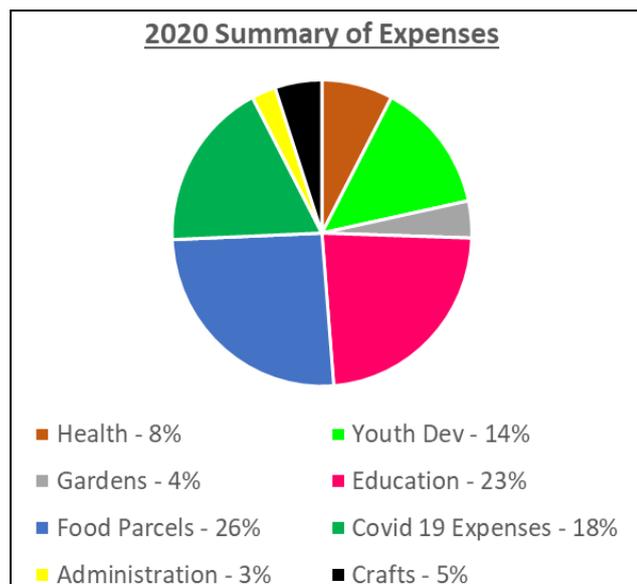
Thank you again and again for this year Missionvale Australia – I so wish we could have all of you here so we could show you the magnitude of the impact your donations have made!!!

Love and eternal gratitude from all of us in the Vale
Linda van Oudheusden,
Marketing Manager

STATISTICS 1 JANUARY 2020 — 31 DECEMBER 2020

879	Clothing parcels distributed
127776	Families received Bread and Soup
26571	Weekly food parcels were distributed
8256	Additional Covid Support food parcels were distributed
936	Home Based Care visits were done
169	Families received Social Services support
1140	Patients were treated in the clinic
348	Pets were seen at the animal clinic
107	Youth received psychosocial support
3026	Children received a Christmas present

2020 Summary of Expenses



HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE HELPING

- \$30 provides a month's patient visits and medication for a seriously ill person
- \$40 provides a family with food parcels, bread and soup powder for a month
- \$50 provides a vegetable gardener with seedlings, fertilizer and tools for a month
- \$80 educates a child for a month, includes food and extra mural activities
- \$100 provides a crafter with fabric and haberdashery items for a month