



**Golder Trust
for Orphans**



SNAPSHOT

Name of the Project:

St. Joseph's

Type of Project:

Investment Grant Project

Location:

Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa

Number of Orphans Being Supported:

200+

Overview

St. Joseph's Care Centre is a fully-fledged care facility which aims to improve the quality of life of the terminally ill in the end stage of life and the prevention and/or relief of their pain, suffering and anguish, so as to afford its patients the opportunity of dying with dignity and in a caring, compassionate environment. The St. Joseph's Orphan Care Program is designed to support orphans in the community via feeding programs and educational support.

St. Joseph's Care Centre Facility

The St. Joseph's Care Centre facility is able to accommodate 16 adults and four children at any one time, and no fewer than 500 individual patients are cared for during the course of any one year. The majority of our patients are female (65%) and the average age of death is 34 years. In its first year of operation, the hospice admitted 79 patients and had an occupancy rate of 72%. In 2009, the centre cared for 427 patients.

The hospice also has two consulting and counselling rooms as well as a doctor's room for medical examinations. A fully equipped kitchen with dedicated staff ensures the preparation of three healthy, well-balanced meals for all patients on a daily basis.

St. Joseph's continues to receive numerous requests for admission to the hospice on a daily basis, not only because the need for such a service is great and St. Joseph's is the only facility of its kind in the district, but also because of the quality of care.

In addition to providing 24-hour palliative care to patients and addressing their psychological and spiritual needs through counselling and other support services, St. Joseph's assists their family members to come to terms with the condition of their loved ones and also see to their spiritual and emotional well-being.

The specific objectives of St. Joseph's Care Centre are to:

- › To provide support for patient's family members coming to terms with the condition of the patient.
- › To provide a 24 hour care and support to 500 patients at the end stage of their lives and their families.
- › To provide psycho-social support to staff members and volunteers in order to ameliorate burnout.
- › To provide ongoing counselling service for patients and family members.
- › To provide for the spiritual and emotional needs of patients.
- › To comfort patients and alleviate their pain and suffering.
- › To provide on-site medical examinations.

St. Joseph's Orphan Care Program

The Orphan Care Program provides economic and psycho-social support to families and orphans infected with, or affected by, HIV / AIDS. It was initiated by seven women, who started a feeding scheme in August 2001 for 30 children in Mpumalanga. They came to St Joseph's Care centre at Sizanani Village for help, as they were not able to cope with the demand on their own.

At about the same time, the Gauteng Department of Social Services and Population Development approached St Joseph's Care Centre to start an orphan care program in the Pretoria Region of that province.

The growing number of orphans and vulnerable children is such that St. Joseph's needs to network with other organisations to cope with the demand. Some of the children are referred to other NGOs in the area and the NGO's forum has been established in order to make the referral system easy.

How We Helped this Project

In 2006, the Trust purchased computers and software for St. Joseph's. We contributed \$10,000 in 2007 and 2008 to help support the development of St. Joseph's outreach feeding program. Trust funds were used to provide the monies necessary to feed hundreds of children in multiple rural communities.

The Trust for Orphans has also donated \$80,000 since 2008 to help St. Joseph's develop a 5 ha garden to help them grow their own food supply and teach local residents how to farm in a sustainable way.

Several teams of Golder employees from the Midrand office have also spent time volunteering at St. Joseph's, building a playground and helping determine water levels near the farm land.

Where to Find More Information

www.sizanani.org

Recent Photos from St. Joseph's:



Clockwise from top left: Children at one of the feeding stations, Entrance to St. Joseph's, Children at the after school care centre, Computers purchased by the Trust in 2006, Children enjoying lunch, St. Joseph's volunteers.

See more photos from this project on flickr!
http://www.flickr.com/photos/golder_trust_for_orphans