



21 YEARS ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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Our Organisation



Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) is a multifaceted, holistic HIV/AIDS project that responds to the pandemic from several different angles. The organisation was founded in 1990 as a ministry of the Hillcrest Methodist Church in response to the emerging crisis in the region.

Situated in the accessible town of Hillcrest, roughly half way between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the Centre serves several impoverished communities in the Valley of 1000 Hills region – one of the epicentres of the world's HIV pandemic, with HIV-infection rates of up to 40-60% of the population in some communities.

MISSION

To provide unconditional love to all infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in a practical, sustainable way.

VISION

To see the elimination of HIV-related stigma, new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths in our region.

OBJECTIVES

- To comprehensively assess the health status and social situation of everyone who approaches us for help
- To provide holistic, individualised care for people living with HIV/AIDS including HIV testing, CD4 counts, general health checks, home-based care, ARV readiness training and inpatient respite and palliative care
- To address poverty and HIV/AIDS simultaneously by empowering people to become financially self-sustaining through income-generation and poverty-alleviation initiatives
- To provide education and training on HIV/AIDS to help prevent new infections and keep people healthy for as long as possible
- To create awareness of the effect HIV/AIDS is having on our local community, to give a voice to people living with HIV/AIDS, and to break down barriers, such as stigma, denial and prejudice, that prevent the curbing of the disease
- To continually refine and adapt our programmes to move with the ever-changing face of HIV/AIDS

OUR IMPACT IN 2012

- 650 HIV tests per month
- 38 patients admitted to the Respite Unit per month, of which roughly 60% recover and are discharged, and 40% pass away with dignity and respect
- 20 Home Based Carers providing care to 460 patients in their homes
- 81 people trained to be HIV counsellors
- 96 people trained to be home-based carers
- Over 1000 school students reached per month with HIV education programmes
- 42 families receiving food parcels every two weeks
- 300 crafters received an income for the production of arts and crafts for the Woza Moya craft store
- 20 women creating an income each month for themselves by selling donated clothing
- 1500 grannies involved in 31 granny support groups, many of which have started income generation projects such as sewing initiatives, vegetable gardens and chicken farming
- 60 staff members employed, most of whom come from the communities we serve



OUR PROGRAMMES

PREVENTION

- Peer Education programme in high schools
- Life Skills Education programme in primary schools
- Corporate and community HIV/AIDS education workshops

CARE

- 24-bed Respite Unit
- HIV counselling and testing onsite, in workplaces and in communities
- Outpatient Clinic staffed by nurses
- ARV readiness training
- Home-based care programme servicing several communities
- Home-based care and HIV counselling training

INCOME GENERATION

- Woza Moya ('come holy spirit') Craft Store
- Izingadi Zethemba ('Gardens of Hope') plant nursery
- Second hand bookstore
- White Elephant second hand goods store
- Recycling project creating bags and accessories from waste products

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

- Community vegetable gardens
- Chicken and egg project
- Feeding scheme
- Clothing scheme
- Granny support groups
- School fee fund

Report from the Board of Trustees

Along with my favourite saint, St Francis of Assisi, I am always and in every way reminded of the Greatness of our God and the role that we have been asked to play in God's creation. The Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust has evolved from humble beginnings into a formidable tool for the work of God. The Centre is, and always will be, a place of HOPE; renewing people's faith in God through LOVE.

This LOVE is expressed through the activities of the Centre – educating and counselling people about HIV/AIDS; bringing comfort and encouragement in the saddest of circumstances; feeding those who cannot feed themselves; equipping people to grow food; training people to take care of sick loved ones; integrating people into income generating activities; empowering the grandmothers in the community to nurture and educate their orphaned grandchildren; providing a safe place in the Respite Unit to heal or die with dignity surrounded by love.

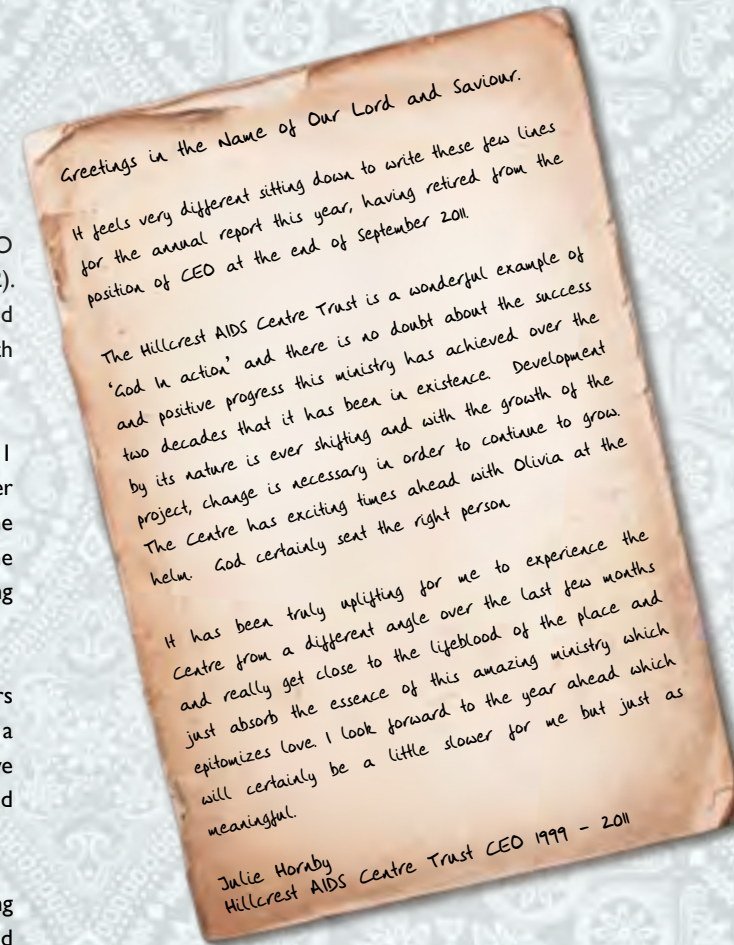
During my 21 years association with the Centre, I have had the privilege of being first a worker, then the Chief Executive Officer and now a Trustee of the Board. Old ways give way for new ideas and growth, as God's plan is ever evolving. This has been evident in the gentle transition of leadership from Julie to Olivia, taking the Centre forward to a new era, while holding on to the core of the Centre - unconditional love.

This year we welcomed two new Trustees: Olivia Myeza (CEO from Oct 2011) and Dr Stephen Carpenter (from April 2012). We bid farewell to Dr Janet Giddy (resigned January 2012) and Revd Dr Daryl Hackland (resigned October 2011) who both relocated out of KwaZulu Natal.

Julie Hornby stepped down at the end of September 2011 after leading the Centre for the past 15 years. With prayer and strategic intent, Olivia Myeza was appointed as CEO of the Centre on 1 October 2011. Julie continues to serve on the Board and is seen regularly at the Centre bringing her nursing expertise to the patients of the Respite Unit.

The Board acknowledges and thanks Julie, Olivia, the managers and staff for their commitment and hard work in ensuring a smooth transitional phase. To our donors and those we serve in the community, thank you for supporting the process and for your faith in us.

I am grateful to still be in God's plan for the Centre, watching it grow to its full potential of being a beacon of Faith, Hope and Love in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and the world. On behalf of the Board, I thank God for the true servants whom God has sent to fulfil the numerous roles at the Centre – our staff and their families, our donors and all our friends. Thank you for your commitment to serve and reach out to the precious people in our community infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.



Linda Mary Knox on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Dr S Carpenter
JA Hornby
MW Mkhize
DJ Neville - Smyly
Rev GA Thompson
Bishop M Vorster

CA Goschen
LM Knox
OH Myeza
Rev RA Robinson
MN van den Berg

Report of the CEO



Stepping into my new role as CEO was a daunting task and the only thing that kept my knees from shaking on that first day back in October 2011 was a deep conviction that God would provide me with the wisdom, vision and strength to lead this phenomenal organisation. The journey so far has been amazing and I am truly excited about the future.

The first time I attended our weekly devotions and heard the beautiful voices of our staff singing Zulu worship songs, I knew I was exactly where I was supposed to be. Whilst far from my original home of Melbourne, Australia, somehow coming to the Centre felt like coming home.

My seven year love affair with South Africa has always been based around the visually stunning but poverty-torn Valley of 1000 Hills region, and it brings joy to my soul to serve these communities under the HACT banner.

I am humbled and inspired by our team. Never before have I witnessed care-givers who are so passionate about their work, who show love and acceptance to every patient, who go so far out of their call of duty to ensure every patient feels respected and at peace. It is clear that caring for the sick is their calling and reason for being on this earth.

The same applies to our counsellors, educators, nurses, craft workers, garden staff, cooks, drivers, cleaners, volunteers, admin staff – we are all called here for a purpose, having walked different paths to get here, but now serving together for one shared mission: providing unconditional love to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

I am inspired by the stories from the Centre's history, that point so clearly to the fact that God's hand has always been upon this place and that its growth over the past 21 years has been to God's glory – not to one person or group of people. Here's to the next 21 years, in God's hands, serving the communities and playing a key role in the fight against HIV/AIDS in this region. To God be the glory.

Olivia Myeza
Chief Executive Officer



HIV/AIDS Education and Training

School Outreach

The aim of the education programme in schools is to give learners the tools to make healthy decisions regarding safe sex in order to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

- Over 800 primary school learners exposed to the life skills programme
- 87 learners trained as Peer Educators in High Schools

Life Skills Programme – working with over 800 learners, aged 9 to 16 years, from our four target schools in Molweni, Inchanga, Kwa Nyuswa and Cliffdale, our educators covered issues such as peer pressure, bullying, self-esteem, substance abuse, healthy living, HIV/AIDS – the myths and the facts – and sexually transmitted diseases. A relationship of trust is built up over the year as the learners get to see the educators twice a month for the duration of the year.

Lively class room debates, role playing, poetry and drama encourage learner participation, attention and retention of information. Principals at the schools are very positive about the impact of the Life Skills Programme, saying that the teachers have seen an improvement in general behaviour since our intervention at the schools. In a recent lesson we covered the topic of different forms of abuse with the learners and a 12



year old girl approached us after the session. She shared that she was living with her aunt and was being sexually abused by her cousin. The girl was counselled and referred to the local social welfare department and the matter was handed over to the police. As a result of this, she now lives with a new family who give her a secure, loving home and the abuser has been arrested.

HIV/AIDS Awareness through Peer Educators - trained peer educators in grades 8 to 12 from six target schools successfully organised community events to highlight social issues facing the community. Through drama, dance, music and poetry the learners shared what they had learnt about issues, including HIV/AIDS. It was encouraging to see good support from parents, teachers and some of the community leaders.

The peer educators attended a Medical Research Council workshop on reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Philangathemba Trust and eThekweni FET College hosted a careers guidance event which our peer educators attended and shared HIV/AIDS information and encouraged participants to know their HIV status. A Cultural Day Competition took place in Molweni which was well attended by the Molweni parents, community members and neighbouring schools. The program is very much appreciated by the 2 new schools (Mthombomuhle and Empilweni); they have informed us how their learners' behaviours are changing since our intervention.



Work Place Outreach

The aim of the education programme in the private sector is to give employers and employees information about HIV/AIDS, where to access help and how best to deal with HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

- 36 workshops conducted at businesses
- 3 590 people attended the workshops

HIV/AIDS Education in the Private Sector – we conducted 36 workshops to a total audience of 3 590 people, both in English and in Zulu. In most cases, the workshops also offered the opportunity for people attending to test for HIV. Employees welcomed the chance to know their status although in some organisations there was fear of stigma and, at worst, fear of losing one's job due to being HIV positive.

We have learnt that is best to make sure that the employer is aware of the rights of employees before we conduct an HIV/AIDS education workshop so that employers do not ask us to divulge the status of employees.

We plan to extend our programme into the private sector as it has the potential to generate an income, enabling us to further deepen our impact in the poorer communities and schools.

Thank you to Oxfam Australia for funding this project.

Zandile Shange
Education Manager

Nursing and Home-Based Care

Our outpatient clinic is staffed by three nurses and provides free primary health services to the community. We have 20 home-based carers who work in their communities, providing care to patients in their homes.

Yet another year has flown by and although we always have our patients in our thoughts, annual report time always brings deeper reflection and a reminder of the special people we meet on our journey with HIV/AIDS. We consider ourselves privileged to be able to serve our communities in whichever way we can.

Through the year, the clinic nurses attended to a steady stream of patients, conducting CD4 counts, delivering ARVT literacy training, conducting general health and TB checks and seeing our own staff members for regular check-ups.

• 300 new outpatient consultations

• 1045 repeat consultations

• 379 CD4 blood tests

• 119 patients referred to ARV treatment

• 64 outpatients diagnosed through x-rays

• 460 patients cared for at home

• 20 690 home visits to patients by home-based carers

• 83 home visits by nurses



We worked hard to get all clients who tested HIV positive to do a CD4 count and complete the required ARVT literacy training, to prepare them to start taking ARV medication. The ARVT literacy module training sessions are conducted in small groups on a Wednesday morning. These are followed up by a consultation with a nurse to direct patients in the next step in managing their life living with HIV/AIDS.

The Home-Based Care Programme, funded by NACOSA, continues to run smoothly. The care givers see their patients on a weekly basis, reporting back to nursing staff. Spot checks are conducted by the clinic nurses who also offer support and medical intervention when required.

The Home-Based Care Programme provides a good conduit between the community and our on-site Respite Unit, ensuring that very ill patients are admitted to the Respite Unit, and providing a follow-up for patients who are discharged from the unit.

The clinic nurses have 'adopted' a local community - Mholokohlo in the Summerveld area. Each Friday morning one of the nurses, accompanied by another staff member or volunteer, visits the community, to bring food and offer nursing assistance. Together with Rotary Club of Hillcrest we have attempted to establish a vegetable garden for the community, and a large area has been prepared and fenced off. Ground has also been prepared to erect a structure which the community can use as a crèche facility and as a multi-function hall.

Mette Dowdall
Clinic Nurse

If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
Isaiah 58:10



Othandweni Respite Unit

Our onsite 24-bed respite unit provides respite, palliative and recovery care to people with advanced AIDS and other terminal illnesses.

453 patients admitted	69% discharged, 31% died
	56% female, 44% male
109 inpatient CD4 tests conducted	
207 patients x-rayed	
72 patients referred for ARV treatment	
219 home visits to Respite Unit patients	
96 people trained in home-based health care, with the practical component taking place in the Respite Unit	

The tears ... streamed down, and I let them flow as freely as they would, making of them a pillow for my heart. On them it rested.
Augustine Confessions I X,12

Tears are the words of the soul, the sorrow we feel at the loss of so many young lives during this year. Prejudice and stigma destroy more lives than AIDS. Stigma comes in two forms: internal stigma (believing we deserve to be treated badly or differently because we feel that what we are facing is somehow our fault) and external stigma (being judged or discriminated against by others).

We admitted many patients during the year who denied knowledge of their status on admission or had not disclosed their status to anyone.

Stigma is so bad for an HIV positive person – it causes loss of self-esteem, loss of hope, it causes fear and loss of desire to seek help. Jesus touched the lepers in his community and we would like to know what he wrote in the sand about the woman caught in adultery, whom he just loved and forgave.

When a young woman or a young man, a six month old baby or a 91 year old gogo die in your arms, you understand Jesus’ cry on the cross, ‘my god, my god, why have you forsaken me?’ Jesus allowed himself to be pushed out of the world onto a cross and into our humanity.



We believe Jesus weeps with us.

We celebrate the hope and healing that more and more patients experience as treatment becomes increasingly accessible and effective.

The Respite Unit would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers who have worked with us this year: drivers, nurses, doctors, priests, memory book makers, fund raisers and the friends who come to sit beside patients and touch their lives with sisterhood.

We salute you all and thank you with enormous gratitude.

Mary-Ann Carpenter
Respite Unit Nurse

HIV Counselling and Testing

The counselling team conduct HIV testing at various locations, including our onsite clinic, our respite unit, out in the community and in workplaces.

7 782 HIV tests	15% positive, 85% negative
	61% female, 39% male
256 people underwent compulsory training for initiating ARV treatment	
63 HIV and AIDS Counsellors successfully trained	

This was the year of mobilisation – getting people to test and know their HIV status. Our focus was on encouraging and empowering people to take responsibility for their status, with those who are positive taking steps to ensure they get onto treatment, live healthily and don't infect others and those who are negative taking steps to remain negative. This year we tested over 7700 people – all of whom now know their status and are equipped to deal with their situation and move forward with confidence.



Our HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign, funded by the Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA), is delivered in partnership with community structures and other stakeholders such as local clinics, tertiary education centres, churches and businesses. We focus on holistic wellness – checking weight, blood sugar levels and blood pressure as well as conducting HIV counselling and testing. This approach encourages more people to come forward for testing, as the HIV test is just one of several health tests being conducted, so stigma and fear are minimized.

This year we were able to conduct HCT campaigns in some rural communities that are seriously underserved, having limited access to health services, relying only on mobile government clinics that visit once a month. We found that the majority of residents had never had an HIV test. The campaign revealed an alarmingly high HIV rate, and we are now working with those who tested positive to ensure they have CD4 counts conducted and get onto treatment.



We were invited by both private and public businesses and organisations to conduct onsite wellness campaigns, offering our services to their staff members. Those who tested positive were encouraged to disclose their status to their employers, as many employers now have support programmes in place for HIV positive staff members, with some larger companies having staff who are specifically trained in HIV support and counselling. We are encouraged to see this progress in the way employers are responding to HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

We supported the nationwide 'First Things First' campaign which called for all first year tertiary level students to get tested. It was encouraging to see the enthusiastic response of the students who came for testing in large numbers, all keen to know their status.

Overall it has been an encouraging year, in which we have seen positive change in terms of the stigma and mind-sets around HIV/AIDS. People are no longer waiting until they are ill to test for HIV – they are coming forward when they are in full health, keen to know their status, and aware of the importance of testing early. We believe that together we have the power to change the course of HIV/AIDS in our area.

Rita Shange
Counselling Manager



Ma 'S'
Recently a long-standing crafter brought in a desperately thin and weak mother with a very healthy fat baby. We learnt that the crafter has been helping this mother who is a neighbour. She says the mother only has enough food for the baby and that is why the baby is fat and she is thin. We have seen this sacrifice over and over with the crafters, where their family is everything and they are always last in line.

With the help of the counselling department the young mother was given a food parcel and put onto the income generation project and received her first order for some Little Travellers. Just this glimmer of hope gave this woman the strength to carry on. And we too are strengthened and inspired to carry on counselling.

Woza Moya Income Generation

"I pointed to the stars, the moon, and all you saw was my finger tip" – Tanzanian proverb

After Woza Moya's very difficult year in 2010, perhaps we at Woza Moya had got into a bad habit of looking at the fingertip - the mundane - rather than the moon - the awesome! We had been so focused on day to day challenges that we had forgotten to recognise the day to day miracles. Right here at Woza Moya, in a place where you least expect them, we are surrounded by miracles every day. We confront the realness and beauty of humanity daily. Most of the crafters we work with are desperately poor and struggling to put food on the table for themselves.

It is always great fun to look back at the highlights of the year and this one is no exception: we made the beaded panels of Princess Charlene of Monaco's reception dress with Terrence Bray; we constructed the Green Suit, sponsored by Green Office, which was the international COP17 mascot; our Beaded AIDS Curtain is travelling the world as part of the ART Show – its' next stop is the Smithsonian in

Washington, DC; we were one of six groups in South Africa chosen to decorate bowls to highlight issues facing women which was held at Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town, with two of our staff being flown down to represent our contribution; working with artists Hannelie Coetzee and Usha Seejarim, who commissioned Woza Moya crafters to create 90 beaded panels that made up an animation sponsored by the Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA).

We also had the opportunity to set up two pop up shops - one at Windermere Centre for nine months when they had a vacant shop and one on the beach front as part of Cop17 - a VANSA and Oxfam partnership. We thank Sihle who ran the shops beautifully.

A German Fair Trade organisation placed a huge "sample" order of 5000 Little Travellers for their 650 shops in Germany! This saw our little friends getting a German passport - thanks to our volunteer Inge who did the translation for us. From that order, Terrible Twins of Sweden placed a large order, too. So Little Travellers continue to migrate, emigrate and colonise the globe. We will only rest when we have world domination and all the crafters in the Valley of 1000 Hills have a constant order of Little Travellers!



Matthew Willman
Photographer

We made use of our prize for winning the Most Beautiful Object in South Africa competition at last year's Design Indaba - a free stand at the 2012 Design Indaba in Cape Town. Our friends and supporters contributed to our "Woza Style" by sponsoring outfits, the stand design and banners, and Churchills Couriers transported all our goods to Cape Town.



Although we had a really exciting and eventful year, I think top of the pops was the visit on World AIDS Day by our Minister of Arts and Culture, Paul Mashitile and his team. Having heard about the Centre, he wanted to come and see our organisation in person. All the bead-workers were here and he held our hands, spoke to every crafter and, in his humility and dignity, made each one of us feel special and important. He congratulated Woza Moya for our incredible work and promised that the Department of Arts and Culture would assist us in every-way possible to ensure the growth and development of Woza Moya. We all remained dignified until his car left the Centre and then all of us let out a universal whoop of joy!

The Chair continues to travel and inspire dreaming, from St Stithians School to Unilever, Rotary, The International Methodist Conference and a small school on the Cape Flats, where all dreaming had been extinguished, the chair kindles the spirit of "I Can" instead of "I Can't", and reminds us that the world is full of miracles.

If you are feeling dry and cracked please pop into the Centre; not only will you find the most beautiful beadwork, you may also find that the world is indeed all miracles and, instead of a fingertip, you may just see the moon.

Paula Thomson
Income Generation Manager

Gogo '2'

Today is a very exciting day as we are taking the Dream Chair to be photographed at Gogo 2's house. We have been excited about this journey for weeks now. We arrive and Gogo greets us and places a grass mat on the red gravel for our Chair. I see in her face that she is not herself, I say Gogs what's the matter? She says my son passed away today.

We say we will go and come back another day but she holds my hand and says she wants to do this. I see in her eyes that on most days there is hardship to be borne, that life has to be lived, pain has to be carried. I ask myself where this strength to endure comes from.

When I look at that picture now I see courage and strength; the indomitable Zulu spirit of generations. It is this spirit of incredible strength that guides us and earns our respect. The photo hangs above my bed it helps me remember to never give up.



Providing food security by establishing vegetable gardens and poultry projects for families affected by HIV/AIDS.

This past year has seen us continue with our services of providing unconditional love to our clients. All of the projects in the horticulture programme have grown in leaps and bounds. Most of the feeding scheme families are now part of the horticulture project – our aim is to ensure that every family on the feeding scheme has a garden, so that in time they can be food secure and can move off the feeding scheme to make room for new needy families.

While we faced challenges with sustaining some of the gardens, mainly due to families moving house or the person maintaining the garden falling ill, we did our best to equip each family with the resources and skills to keep the gardens going through the seasons of the year.

Our involvement with the Granny Group Project was rewarding and inspiring. The women are enthusiastic about gardening and have embraced new projects such as raising chickens for the pot and keeping egg laying hens.

The groups enable the women to work together, creating larger community gardens as well as having their own gardens at home. It is common to see four or five grannies tending one garden and sharing both the tasks and the rewards of a successful crop of vegetables. We have 13 granny group gardens at the time of writing, with four granny groups running poultry projects. More granny groups are keen to get involved in gardens and poultry projects in the year to come.

School vegetable gardens are gaining momentum as the learners and teachers see the benefit of having vegetables to help feed learners. Most of the schools use the vegetables to make soup to hand out to those pupils who come to school on an empty stomach – and this increases the pupils' ability to concentrate and absorb information.

One challenge we have faced with the school gardens is the theft of implements and fencing. We are working with the schools to try to ensure adequate security throughout the week and over the weekend to deter thieves.



A major success, thanks to the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund, is the acquisition of a new vehicle – a real workhorse! It has eased the frustration of working with our unreliable, old truck and enabled the horticulture team to carry out our duties effectively and on time.

PLANT NURSERY

Our onsite nursery, called Izingadi Zethemba ('Gardens of Hope') sells mainly indigenous plants, and is used as an income generation initiative to help fund the horticulture project.

Come and see for yourself! The plant nursery is thriving – and the beauty of the nursery plants spills out into the Centre gardens and along the road front. We continue to focus on water wise, indigenous plants to encourage our buyers to 'keep it local' and make their gardens a haven for birds, insects and creation's smaller creatures. Best sellers are aloes from our extensive aloe collection and our economical, organic compost.

Our nursery team has an excellent knowledge of plants and volunteer John Lund is on hand to do landscaping work off site. Early in 2012 we hosted two volunteers from the Oxfam Australia/Monash University partnership.

Danielle and Helen spent much of their time assisting the nursery with marketing initiatives, such as creating a Facebook page for the nursery, designing a brochure and planning an advertising campaign to get word out about the nursery. We have started to see sales pick up in response to these advertising initiatives.

To our loyal nursery volunteers - Ros, Debbie and Brenda – thank you for arriving every Thursday to knock us into shape, get your hands dirty, bring fresh ideas into the nursery and loyally encourage people to support the Centre.

Thokozani Yika
Horticulture Manager

Granny Group Project

We have 31 granny support groups across five different communities, of which roughly 1500 grandmothers affected by HIV/AIDS are members.

When you start a project, you always have fears and doubts about its future and whether or not it will be successful. We are very grateful and thank God that we have seen this project grow so rapidly and attract the attention of people both locally and abroad.

We started with just two groups in August 2006, and today we are working with 31 groups comprised of over 1500 grannies from the Valley of 1000 Hills. It is incredible to see people's lives change as a result of this programme. To see the transformation from being hopeless to becoming strong women who face the future with hope, strength, and determination is truly awe-inspiring. It is encouraging to see women who thought they were nobody, now fighting for recognition and for their voice to be heard in their communities. We are seeing people develop and take leadership roles in their communities.

One of the highlights for the year was the grannies' involvement in sports and their successful enrolment in the KZN Sports & Recreation Association.

The second annual Gogolympics took place in Kwa Nyuswa in March 2012, attracting over 1 000 participants and spectators. We are amazed at the commitment to sports displayed by the grannies and the enthusiastic response of the media, both local and international.

The fruits of the projects are evident during every visit to the granny groups – the sound of sewing machines; the clicking of knitting needles; the flourishing vegetable gardens alongside the meeting places; the books and educational toys stacked in the corner waiting for the after school care programme to begin later in the day; the committee members taking notes of group activities and giving the grannies updates on the group's finances; a discussion about how best to deal with an issue in the community; songs of praise and prayers for God's provision and protection; sharing ideas on raising chickens or how to get more eggs from the hens; the laughter and sometimes the tears of shared grief.

This year we were able to provide two of our dedicated Granny Group volunteers, Nomusa and Adelaide, with small stipends to assist with their transport and air-time costs.



These two amazing women are working with the Granny Groups in the communities, helping them access training and find ways to create incomes for their families.

We are hugely indebted to our funders who support this programme, especially The Stephen Lewis Foundation. Thank you so much to Canadian volunteer Carolyn Nixon who visits each year to work with this programme.

We are grateful to American volunteer Hannah Smith for her tireless work helping us document, evaluate and improve the programme through her recommendations.

Thank you to Embo Craft, Pinetown Methodist Church, Kloof Baptist Church, the Department of Sports and Recreation Nyuswa Hub and Light Providers for working hand in hand with us in order to help ensure the success of this programme.

"Seeing the grandmothers come together to support each other, seeing women making crafts and earning incomes to support their families, to send their children to school, to caring for others in their communities – these efforts and work never fail to take our breath away." –The Stephen Lewis Foundation

Feeding Scheme

We provide food parcels twice per month to 40 families who have no form of income and no way of accessing food.

This year we were challenged by the increasing number of people wanting to join the feeding scheme. Each of these families are in a dire situation with at least one family member living with HIV and needing to take their ARV medication with food twice daily. However, we realise that we cannot help everyone, and that we must be satisfied knowing that our food parcels are helping 40 of the most needy families in our communities.

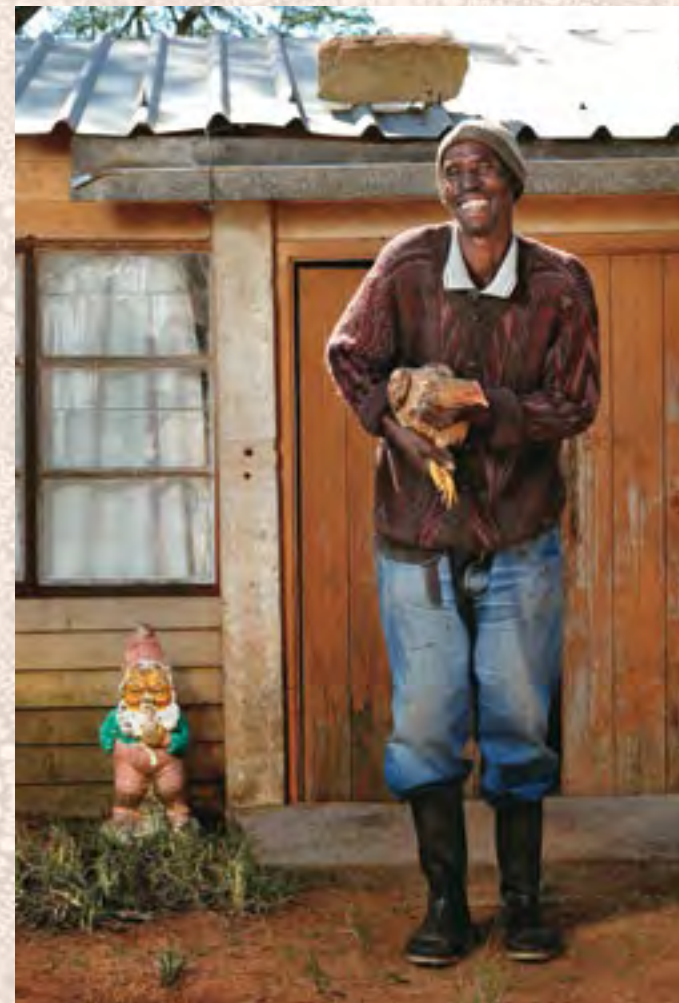
Throughout the year we regularly assess each family on the scheme. Those who need to remain on the scheme remain; those who are successful in a grant application or have found employment are moved off the scheme so that a new destitute family can be given the spot. Whilst we try to find a longer-term, sustainable solution for each family on the feeding scheme, this does not always happen easily. Jobs are hard to come by, not everyone is eligible for a government grant, and some families don't have space for a vegetable garden.

One such person was in such a desperate situation that we arranged for him to help out at the Centre on a part-time basis. With the small income for this work, he is now able to buy his own food and we can provide a new family with food parcels.

We know that our food parcels are like a drop in the ocean but to a hungry person they make the world of difference. This was evident one day when car troubles delayed our routine arrival at the home of one of our families. Late in the afternoon we found the 12 year old son sitting on the door step in tears. When he heard our approaching car, he ran towards the car, arms outstretched and, tears forgotten, delved into the box of food and took an enormous bite out of a loaf of bread – his first food of the day.

All this is made possible by an amazing group of volunteers who source and pack the food each week – thanks to Fiona, Vern, Penny, and your team. Rainbow, The Unlimited, Woolworths, East Coast Radio, Imana Foods, SAPY and many other organisations supported us through the year – thank you!

Rita Shange
Counselling Manager

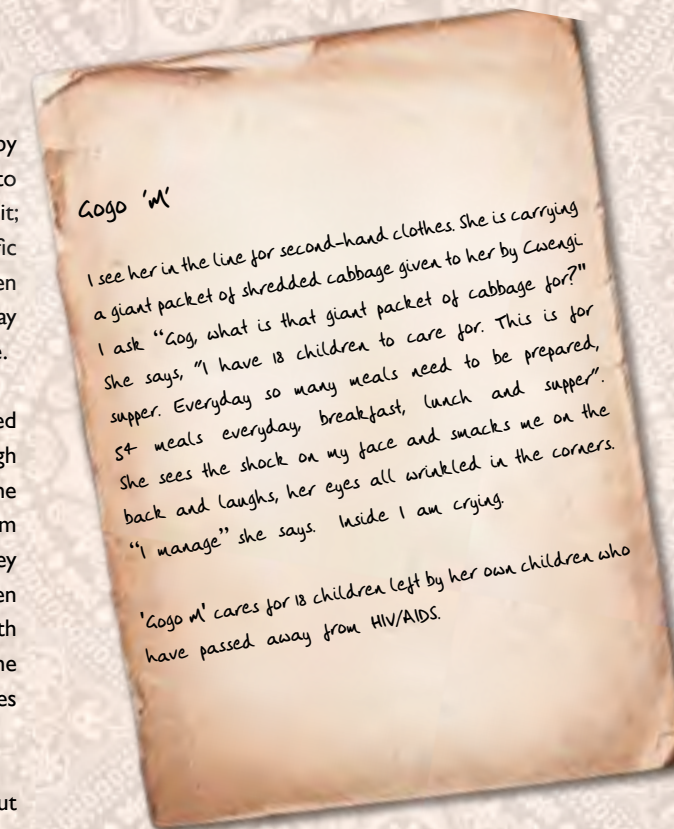


Clothing Scheme

Donations of new and second hand clothing are received by the Centre throughout the year. The clothes are sorted into categories – clothes suitable for patients in the Respite Unit; baby clothes for our most needy mothers; clothes for a specific person or project; and clothes put into bags for the 20 women on our Clothing Scheme. The women collect them each Friday and sell them in their communities, providing a small income.

All of the women on the clothing scheme are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and many have come through our other programmes such as our HIV care programme or our Granny Support Group programme. Many of them are currently waiting to receive foster care grant, as they are caring for their grandchildren, having lost their children to HIV/AIDS. We provide the first bag for free, with subsequent bags costing R15. We believe that asking the women for a small contribution towards the bags encourages 'buy-in' and works against a hand-out mentality.

We see these women not as recipients of a hand-out, but rather as entrepreneurs who invest R15 each week in a bag of clothes. This year we found that the women were able to make an average of R300 per bag – providing a small but significant income for each woman. We would like to thank the people who donated clothes to us throughout the year – you make a big difference to these 20 women by enabling them to bring in an income for their families.

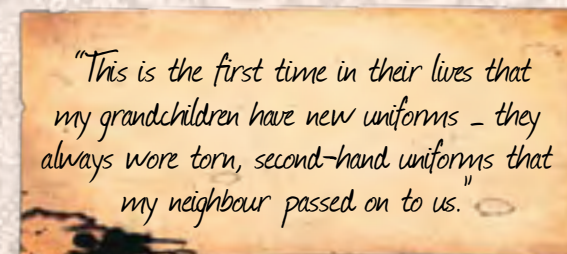


School Fee Fund

We provide school uniforms and cover school fees for children who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and are living under poverty.

The number of school fees that we paid this year decreased because most of the schools in our target communities are now exempt from school fees, due to changes in government regulations. We welcome these changes, as they have relieved the financial pressure on many parents who have no income. Instead we focused on providing school uniforms to orphaned and vulnerable children. We provided uniforms to 170 learners, many of whom used to go to school barefoot and with no jersey.

Two such children had been chased away from school by the teachers as the school has a strict uniform code. In desperation the grandmother came to the Centre to ask for help as the children had missed an entire week of school. We purchased new uniforms for both children who were ecstatic and wore their new uniforms so proudly.



It is humbling to be able to help in a small, but impactful way. We would like to thank Margaret Turnbull and her team for contributing towards this fund and showing a deeply personal interest in the education of our youngsters.

Financial Report

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2012 were prepared and presented by the auditors, Marwick & Company Inc, and approved and signed off by DJ Neville-Smyly, O Myeza and Rev RA Robinson on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The Financial Statements report an overall Accumulated Surplus of R 7 781 663 for the year ended 31 March 2012. This is represented by the assets of the Trust. The only assets that have been capitalized and shown on the Trust Balance Sheet are the Land and Buildings acquired and built by the Trust, which was funded by the donations received. This accounts for R2 832 834 of the Accumulated Surplus. Furthermore, we have stock to the value of R 933 211 excluding trade receivables.

A major contributing factor to such a large Accumulated Surplus is the cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of the financial year totaling R 3 855 624. Many of our grants are paid to us in advance for the specified contract period with the funds coming in during the first three months of the calendar year for roll out during the remainder of the year. This boosts the cash and cash on hand figure, which is equivalent to approximately five month's running costs of the Centre.

Presented here is a summary of the Annual Financial Statements. A copy of the full Annual Financial Statements is available on request.

Angelique York
Financial Manager

Balance Sheet

	2012	2011
	R (Rands)	R (Rands)
Assets		
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2 832 834	2 832 834
Current Assets		
Inventories	933 211	901 992
Trade and other receivables	419 005	438 761
Cash and cash equivalents	3 855 624	4 134 592
	5 207 840	5 475 344
Total Assets	8 040 674	8 308 178
Equity		
Trust capital	100	100
Accumulated surplus - Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust	5 823 423	6 110 329
Accumulated surplus – NACOSA	92 873	101 151
Accumulated surplus – German Agro Action Fund	(33 927)	(32 413)
Accumulated surplus – Respite Unit	1 188 197	1 141 746
Accumulated surplus – Woza Moya	710 997	540 125
	7 781 663	7 861 039
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	259 011	447 140
Total Equity and Liabilities	8 040 674	8 303 178

Consolidated Income Statement

	2012	2011
	R (Rands)	R (Rands)
Donations	2 740 605	2 203 399
Grants	3 477 488	2 547 847
Revenue	3 170 105	3 791 097
Administrative	182 313	198 142
Counselling	7 031	10 000
Education	8 653	8 496
Feeding Scheme	7 509	12 919
Funeral Scheme	-	-
Home-Based Care	24 637	25 307
Horticulture and Nursery	191 319	333 248
Income Generation	2 619 755	3 099 917
Medication	23 810	17 984
Respite Unit	79 141	76 459
School Fee Scheme	25 937	8 624
Total income	9 388 198	8 542 343

	2012	2011
	R (Rands)	R (Rands)
Cost of Sales		
Income Generation	1 756 010	2 069 934
Expenses	7 711 562	6 147 020
Administrative (net of sundry income)	1 549 317	1 086 546
Counselling (net of sundry income)	855 942	384 012
Education	212 955	163 902
Feeding Scheme	55 238	60 251
Funeral Scheme	1 900	-
Home Based Care	1 031 681	824 878
Horticulture and Nursery	527 164	608 054
Income Generation	1 323 633	1 208 146
Medication	74 636	66 676
Respite Unit	2 048 564	1 716 396
School Fee Scheme	30 532	26 345
Training	-	1 815
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(79 374)	325 389

List of Donors and Friends

3I Club
A Austin
AE Murray
AE Theron
Africa X-ray Industrial & Medical (Pty) Ltd
Amanda Laird Cherry
Ann Edwards
Anna Dorte Petersen
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HACT UK (various donors)
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Harmony Egby
Highway Bakkie Hire
Hillcrest Methodist Church
Hillcrest Methodist WA
Hillcrest Primary School
Hillcrest Trading & Electrical
Hornby Smyly Glavovic Inc
Ian and Karen Kerr
Imana Foods (SA)
Inanda United Methodist Church
J Reith
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Jelena Ulmer
Jenny Bulstrode
Jenny Du Plooy
Jes Foord Foundation
Johan and Belinda du Preez
Julie Hornby
K Meyer
Kathleen Hastie Charitable Trust
Kathy Wesley
Kerryn Sidea
Key Truck Centre Pinetown
Kloof Rotary Anns
Kloof Rotary Club
L Cockroft
Larry Cohen

Les and Ingrid Johnson
Little Travellers Canada
Little Travellers Korea
Lois Edwards
Lutheran Church Missionaries
Marriannridge Methodist Church
Marriott
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Maytime KwikSpar
Meermens
Meridian Street United Methodist Church
Merrimack College
Meryl's School of Cooking
MHP Geomatics Inc
MHP Geospace Eastern Cape
MHP Geospace KZN
MHP Incorporated
Mr and Mrs D Hunter
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Multilayer Trading
Myeni Family
Nampak Flexibles KZN
Natal Scale Company
National Edging KZN
National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA)
Norvo Construction
Oasys
Optima Management Services
Outland Films
Oxfam Australia
PA Hutton
Parish of Fleet
Paul and Elmine Baumann
PerryHill International (Pty) Ltd

PO Silicas
Probus 24
Profile Creations (Pty) Ltd
R Paget Will Trust
Rainbow
Rentokil
Richard Beith
Richdens Superspar
Riek and Annemarie
Rik Seely
Rio Clothing
Rioma Cominelli
Rob and Gill Clarke
Ronald Ingle
Roseway Waldorf School
Rotary Club of Hillcrest
Rubro Building Ltd
Sandra de Vries and friends
Sapuma Eggs
SASOL Social and Community Trust
School for International Training
SE Walker
Shezi Industrial Holdings (Pty) Ltd
Siphiwe Mchunu
Smiths Plastics Ltd
Solon Foundation
South African Polypropylene Yarns (Pty) Ltd
SP Smith
Spar Group Ltd
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Spring Lights Gas (Pty) Ltd
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Steve and Louise Beghin
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The Albert and Molly Baumann Trust
The late Olive Yates
The Stephen Lewis Foundation
The Thatcher School
The Timber Haulage Trust WFE
The Unlimited
Thomas More College
Thousand Hills Clothing
Tony and Lana Stewart
U-Care
Unilever SA (Pty) Ltd
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Waterfall Methodist Church
Waterfield Farm
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Wayne Hutcheon
WB Albrecht
Wereldwinkel Oost-Souburg
William Horsefield
Willy Miller
Woolworths Delcainr Centre
Youth Connected
Zoë-Life

Engage With Us

How to help

There are many ways of joining us as we reach out to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in our community.

Corporate Social Investment

We welcome mutually beneficial Corporate Social Investment Partnerships with both private and public organisations. Through these partnerships companies are able to get marketing exposure, a tax break and BEE scorecard points from CSI spend.

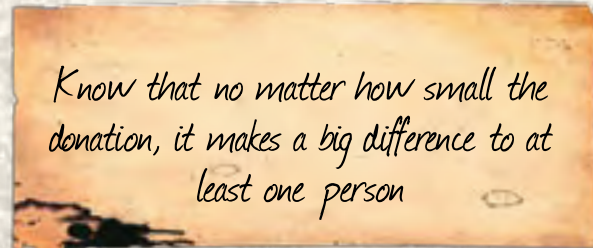
Make a difference

- Shop at the Woza Moya craft shop here at the Centre or through our online catalogue
- Commission artworks and major installations
- Order branded or themed gifts for your wedding or conference
- Buy plants, compost, garden pots and vegetable seedlings from the plant nursery
- Volunteer your time and skills
- Invite our team to conduct HIV/AIDS workshops in your place of work or worship
- Know your HIV status and test regularly at the Centre
- Join our Facebook page and get to know us and 'like' us
- Make a tax-deductable financial donation

Contribute towards our on-going wish list:

- Clothing
- Household items
- Non-perishable food
- Adult nappies
- Toiletries
- Toilet paper

Pray for everyone involved with Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust and pray that we would see an end to HIV/AIDS in our lifetime.



Adopt a Bed in the Othandweni Respite Unit



Bring hope and comfort to our patients by adopting a bed in the Respite Unit. You may adopt a full bed at R 5000 (€500) per month or partially adopt a bed through a monthly commitment that best suits you. The Respite Unit relies fully on external funding as patients do not pay for their stay with us and we do not receive government funding. The Respite Unit is the only facility in this region to offer palliative and respite care to those who have nowhere else to turn to. Here, hope and dignity is restored and for many patients the Respite Unit provides a loving environment for healing and a fresh start.

Banking Details

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

ABSA Bank

Hillcrest Branch 631126

Account number 4045374149

Swift code ABSAZAJJ

Contact Olivia Myeza or Louise Beghin to discuss ways of engaging with us or supporting our programmes and outreach initiatives: +27 (0)31 765 5866 or info@hillaims.org.za





Acknowledgements

Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust would like to thank the following friends for the tremendous work in compiling our 2012 Annual Report.

Design by



Printing by



Photography by
Xavier Vahed



Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust

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KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

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Extended Nursery & Woza Moya shop hours: Saturdays 8:00 - 12:00

Telephone: 031 765 5866

Fax: 031 765 8781

Email: info@hillaims.org.za

www.hillaims.org.za www.littletraveller.org.za

Registered Non-Profit Organisation 005-800 NPO

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