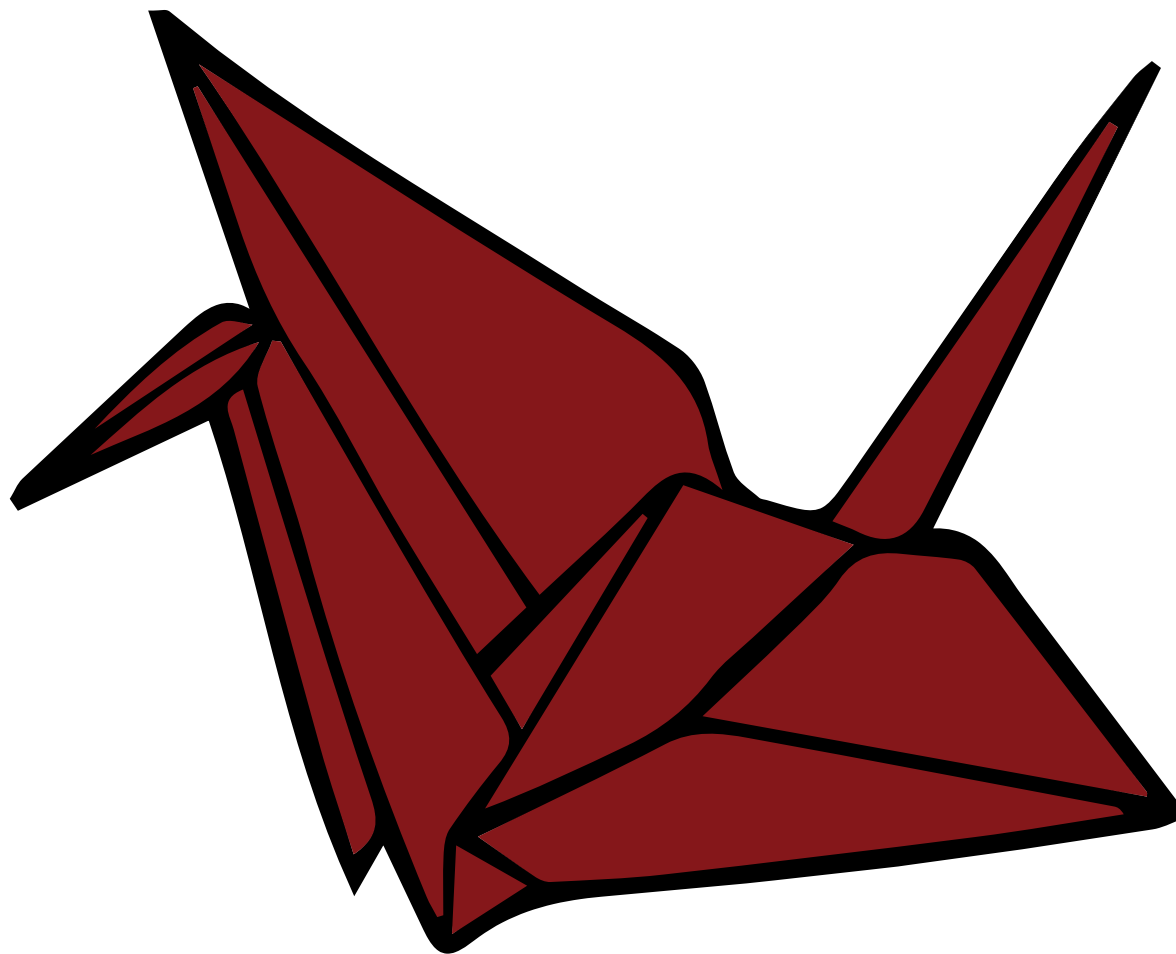


HILLCREST AIDS



CENTRE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT
April 2013 – March 2014



[kreyn] noun

1. A large water-loving bird that is a symbol of monogamy, life-partnership, love and commitment
2. A symbol for world peace and our symbol for World AIDS Day 2013

"At peace with my status"

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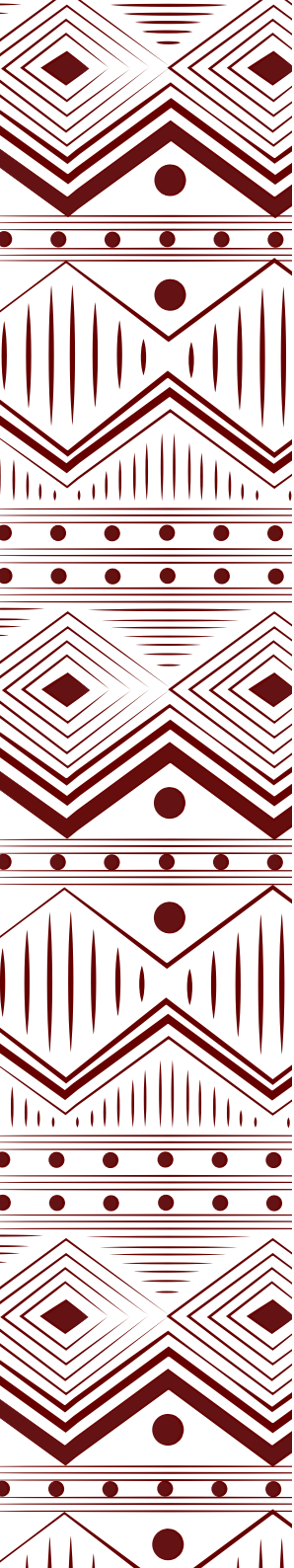
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OUR ORGANISATION: WHO WE ARE

“ If you want a pragmatic, intuitive and productive project to work with, you need not look further than HACT. I have always been so impressed by their multifaceted approach to the work they are doing, and how in everything they do is always in pursuit of a common goal - to help their community. Their endless achievements are testament to their success in doing that. ”

– Charlie Homer, Director of Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK

The Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) is a non-profit, faith-based organisation that responds to the HIV/AIDS pandemic from several different angles, including prevention, care, community outreach and income generation.

Our mission is to serve all those impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing unconditional love and hope in a practical, sustainable way. We dream of a world that is free from AIDS and it is our prayer that we might see that day in our lifetime.

HACT was founded in 1990 as a ministry of the Hillcrest Methodist Church. The organisation has evolved over the past 24 years in response to the changing HIV/AIDS pandemic, with projects starting, adapting or completing as the needs on the ground change.

Our projects are delivered by a team of 68 staff members, 34 community field officers and home based carers, and 30 loyal volunteers. Collectively, alongside our donors and partners, we respond to the crisis that is HIV/AIDS – a crisis that has led to nearly one in three people in KwaZulu Natal being HIV positive, and every family being impacted in one way or another.

Situated in the accessible and central town of Hillcrest, roughly half way between Durban and Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, HACT serves several impoverished communities in the Valley of 1,000 Hills region – one of the epicentres of the world's HIV pandemic with estimated HIV-infection rates of up to 40-50% of the population in some communities.

Our values:

Passion: to serve with passion, energy and commitment, always acknowledging the privilege it is to be helping others.

Faith: seeking to do as Jesus would do: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13: 34-35 (NIV).

Integrity: the message and the messenger must be the same, we must practice what we preach and be honest in all things.

‘Ubuntu: ‘I am because you are’ – being community-driven and constantly aware that our actions impact on those around us, and that the sum is always better than the parts.

Empowerment: helping people to take ownership of their lives.



“

The Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust is one of our longstanding anchor mission partners, and it is absolutely so heart-warming to be able to partner with such an incredible and transformational ministry. Since the first day when Pastor Deryck Stone introduced us to the life-changing work of HACT, we knew we were called to partner with you! The individuals and teams we have brought to serve with you have had their lives changed whether ministering to the Gogos, serving in the Respite Unit or shopping and meeting the wonderful artisans. Thank you for the privilege and blessing to be part of the HACT family! ”

Mary-Floye Federer, Director of Global Missions, First Presbyterian Church, Houston



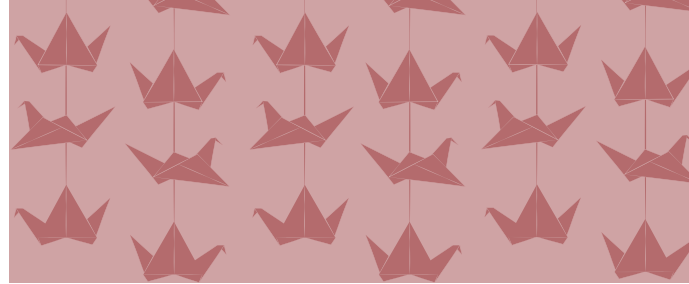
Sbu Mthethwa
Education Manager

Sbu is a truly motivational leader. His role is to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and encourage young people to lead positive lifestyles. Sbu's team runs a life skills programme in primary schools and a peer education programme in high schools using materials he has developed. The highlight of Sbu's day is to stand in front of an entire class and capture their attention fully; to see them laughing and enjoying his teaching.



Angelique York
Finance Manager

Angelique is responsible for Human Resources, payroll, insurance, vehicles, and day-to-day finance and reporting. An avid learner, Angelique loves the fact that her role is constantly evolving and changing.



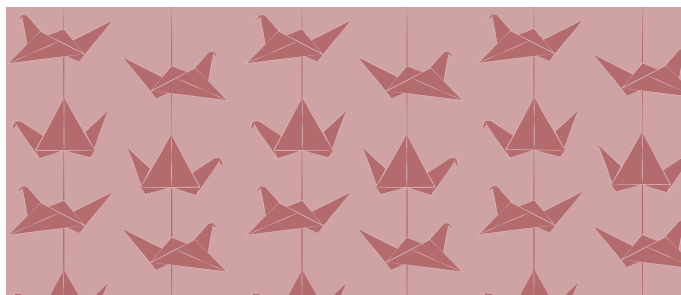
MEET OUR MANAGERS



Olivia Myeza

CEO

Steering the HACT team of staff and volunteers towards a united future vision, and supporting the success and happiness of her staff are key aspects of Olivia's role. Her focus is long-term sustainability – maintaining and identifying new sources of funding and ensuring that the projects have the resources they need to be able to impact lives – both currently and into the future. Olivia's vision is to see the HIV crisis eradicated during her lifetime. To be part of this fight inspires her, and fills her with hope every day.



Sister Cwengi Myeni
Granny Support Group Manager

Sister Cwengi is a trained nurse and a grandmother herself, and is passionate about empowering women in rural communities. She is responsible for training the Field Officers who assist the Granny Support Groups, and she organises a range of skills trainings for the grannies within the groups - from leadership and literacy to dressmaking and gardening. Cwengi's vision is to see similar programmes working to support grandmothers adopted by organisations across South Africa and the world.



Paula Thomson
Woza Moya and
Income Generation Manager

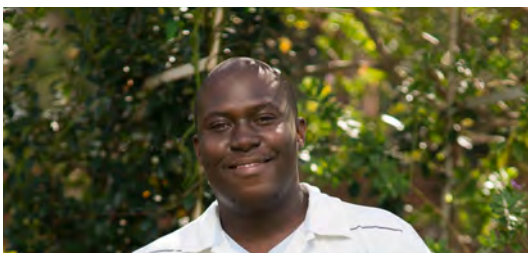
Paula works on craft designs and manages marketing, material sourcing, shop displays, and running the Second Hand Book and White Elephant Stores. Paula finds inspiration in the intense creativity of the Woza Moya crafters and the unique, astounding art they create - she feels honoured to be part of this process.



Sister Sara Brown

Children's Programme and Home-Based Care Manager

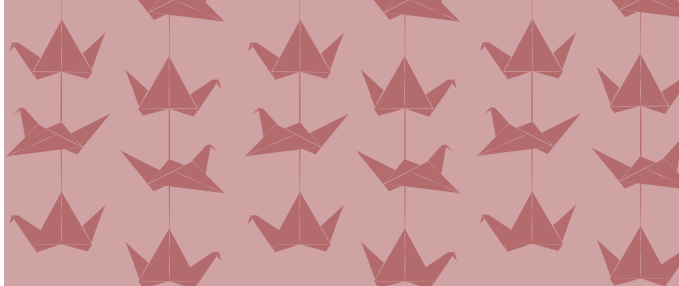
Sara oversees 30 home-based carers who care for more than 600 people living with HIV and 422 orphaned and vulnerable children. Her role involves managing medical care, HIV testing, and psycho-social support groups. For Sara, the most inspiring part of her day is the children she works with. Her vision is to share HACT's experience with the rest of the world.



Thokozani Yika

Horticulture Manager

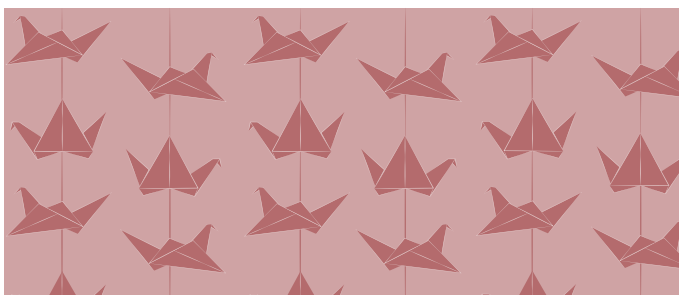
Thokozani enables families, community groups and schools in need of food security and an income to create vegetable gardens. He is also responsible for running Gardens of Hope, an income- and employment-generating plant nursery open to the public. Thokozani's dream is to see people take complete ownership of their gardens so they become truly self-governing and sustainable.



Sister Queen Zulu

Nursing Services Manager

Sister Queen, a Registered Nurse, manages the Respite Unit and the Out-Patients Clinic – at HACT. She oversees a team of 18 home based carers, 12 volunteer carers, two cooks, five cleaners, two staff nurse, two drivers and several professional volunteers including doctors, physiotherapists and Ministers. Collectively this team provide love, medical care and food to 24 patients with advanced stages of AIDS or other terminal illnesses, while the Clinic provides basic health checks. Queen is inspired by the miracles she sees around her - people getting better because of what her team is doing.



Rita Shange

Counselling Manager

Rita works with a team of four Counsellors to carry out HIV counselling and testing, wellness campaigns and corporate education programmes, fighting hard to reduce stigma around HIV/AIDS. Rita additionally manages the Feeding Scheme, Clothing Scheme, and the School Support Fund. Rita is inspired by the transformation she sees to those who come to HACT when very ill, as they become healthier through improved nutrition, care and treatment.



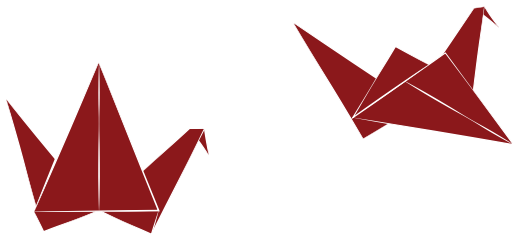
Laurel Oettle

Marketing and Fundraising Manager

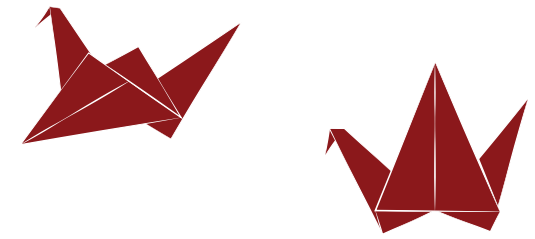
Laurel's myriad of responsibilities include HACT's social media presence, compiling Quarterly and Annual reports, sourcing donor funding, organising site visits and events, and managing the crucial volunteer workforce. Laurel's favourite thing about working here is the passion and love of her colleagues, and their dedication to the amazing work they do.

WHAT WE DO



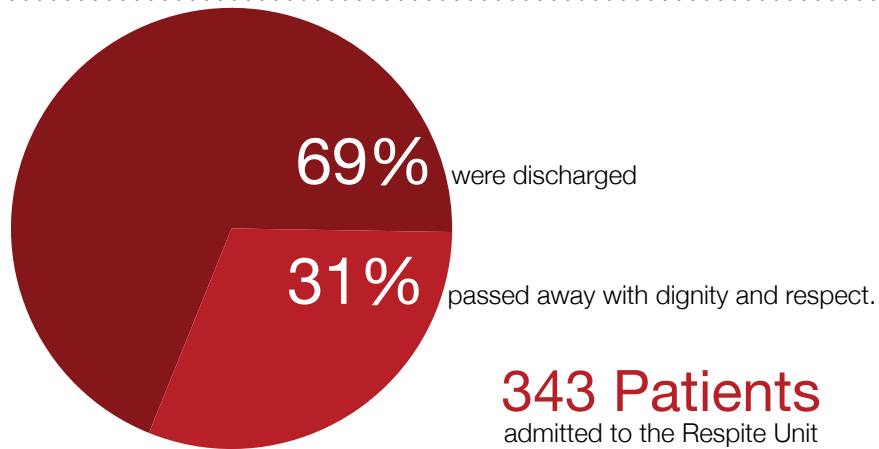


IMPACT this YEAR



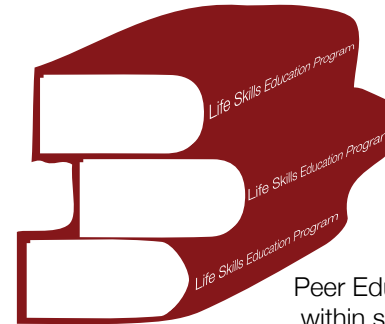
"Hope really exists, and I witness many examples at the Respite Unit. Patients come in on the verge of death, but over a matter of time I see an incredible change take place before my eyes. The caregivers devote their attention to each patient's needs, while treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve during their stay."

– Jimmy Kane, Respite Unit Volunteer



343 Patients
admitted to the Respite Unit

767 Primary School Students within four school reached through the Life Skills Education Program

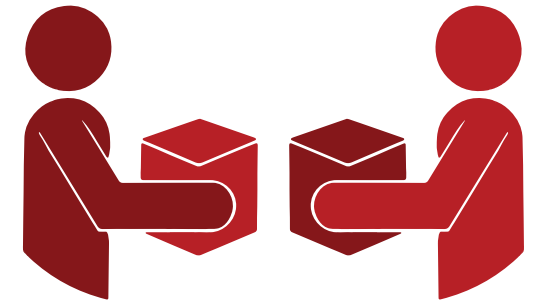


60

Peer Educators trained within six high schools

41 Families

receiving food parcels every two weeks.



7039 HIV tests conducted.



41
people trained to be HIV Counsellors.



20 Home-Based Carers providing care to 600 adult patients in their homes.



10 Child Home-Based Carers providing care to 422 orphaned and vulnerable children, who receive psycho-social support and participate in support groups each week.

1 Which means an average of 1 Home-Based Carer to 30 patients in their homes

81

people trained to be Home-Based Carers.

Over **300**

Crafters received an income from the production of arts and crafts for the Woza Moya craft store.

22 Women

created an income for themselves and their families by selling donated clothing.

2,000 Grandmothers

involved in 36 Granny Support Groups, many of which have started income generation projects such as sewing initiatives, vegetable gardens and chicken farming.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Unconditional Love is the guiding principle of the Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust. It glows through the wonderful work of the organisation as set out in the Annual Report that follows.

Although we are a faith based mission, unconditional love and the services rendered by the Trust, by definition, extends to all peoples regardless of their faith. It seems to me that unconditional love also extends to all things god given and so as St Francis wrote in his Canticle to Brother Sun:

Be praised, my Lord with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun who is daylight and by
him you shed light on us. And he is beautiful and
radiant with great splendour. Of you, Most High,
he is a symbol

And St Francis sang:

Be praised my Lord for Sister Moon and the
stars. In heaven you have formed them clear
and bright and fair. Be praised my Lord for Sister
Water for she is very useful, humble, precious
and pure.

And St Francis goes on to praise the Lord for
“Brother Fire” and “Sister Mother Earth who
sustains and rules us and who produces varied
fruits with many coloured flowers...”

Whilst this past year we seem to have gained a new moral compass amongst world leaders with the elevation of Pope Francis we have also lost the moral compass amongst our national leaders with the passing of Nelson Mandela.

We give praise and thanks for the life of this man whose dignified and selfless struggle made such a difference to the lives of people of South Africa and indeed the world.

Great leaders, such as St Francis, Pope Francis and Nelson Mandela are very important but without the individual contributions of the many who go unheralded we would be as nothing: praise then and bless our staff at the Aids Centre who give with such generosity and for no recognition unconditional love to our community each and every day. I am so proud, and indeed blessed, to be associated with these wonderful people.

Last but not least praise and blessings should be given to our donors: from the smallest unconditional gift to the largest and most complex donation, all of our donors make a very real difference to the community we work in. The full list of donors can be seen on page 31. Please read that and support them in their work where you can.

Dave Neville-Smyly

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr Stephen Carpenter
Julie Hornby
Linda Knox
John Lund
Michael Mkhize
Sbusisiwe Myeni
Olivia Myeza (CEO)
David Neville-Smyly (Chairman)
Dr Mackie Nyamazana
Rev Andrew Robinson
Rev Gary Thompson
Mark Van Den Berg
Bishop Michael Vorster

WORDS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As I reflect on the great work that has been completed by each department this past year, I feel a strong sense of hope over the thousands of lives that have been changed or even saved by the efforts of our amazing team. What is clear from this report is that this past year has been one in which many lives have been impacted, great progress has been made, and many dreams have been reached.

However, I'm also critically aware at this time that the fight against HIV/AIDS is far from over. The National HIV Prevalence, Incidents and Behaviour Survey Report for 2012, which is the most recent survey conducted by the Human Science Research Institute across South Africa, has revealed that KwaZulu Natal has the highest percentage of HIV prevalence in the country: 27.6%.

HIV infection was highest in women between the ages of 30-34 years old (36.8%), and in men between the ages of 35-39 years old (24.3%). The study also reported a decrease in use of condoms, an earlier age of first sex amongst youth, an increase in

the number of people having multiple partners, and a decrease in correct HIV knowledge.

What this tells us is that our work is not nearly over. Whilst many international donor bodies have 'moved on from AIDS', the reality is that for the people of KwaZulu Natal, HIV/AIDS is still an issue impacting everybody, every day. The contributions of organisations like the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust are needed more than ever before and the time for the fight against HIV/AIDS is right now.

15 years from now South Africa will look back on this era and know that we either won or lost the battle against HIV/AIDS. We sincerely hope that our country will beat this pandemic and that in time a vaccine against HIV will be developed, ARVs will be available at earlier stages to more people, behaviours will change resulting in a decline in the number of new HIV infections, and the country will rise further out of poverty, enabling more people who are living with HIV to eat well and regularly and therefore to stay alive for longer.

We dream of the day when HIV/AIDS in South Africa will be a similar to in America or Australia – where less than one per cent of the population is HIV positive and treatment keeps people alive for decades.

But for now this dream remains just that – a dream – and we must continue responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic from every angle possible and with as much energy as possible. I feel very proud of the team of staff, volunteers, trustees, donors and supporters who have worked so hard over this past year to do just that. And though at times our contribution can feel like just a drop in the ocean when staring in the face of these scary statistics, we must remember that a great big ocean was only ever made up of little drops of water, so each and every drop is significant.

This report is a celebration of all the little drops that we have made over the past year. We are proud of each of them and we know that each one creates a ripple effect of change around it. We look forward to seeing the complete ocean one day in the future.



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS

Expansion Project

One of the biggest developments this year was the commencement of the long-dreamed-of Expansion Project. In 2006 HACT purchased the property of 26 Old Main Road Hillcrest, thanks to the contributions of many donors. The central Hillcrest location was ideal, and accessible to donors, volunteers, and the communities we serve. The property was a private family home consisting of a house and several garages as the family collected old cars. Although the existing buildings weren't ideal as the base for an NGO, we made the best of the spaces and funding we had available.

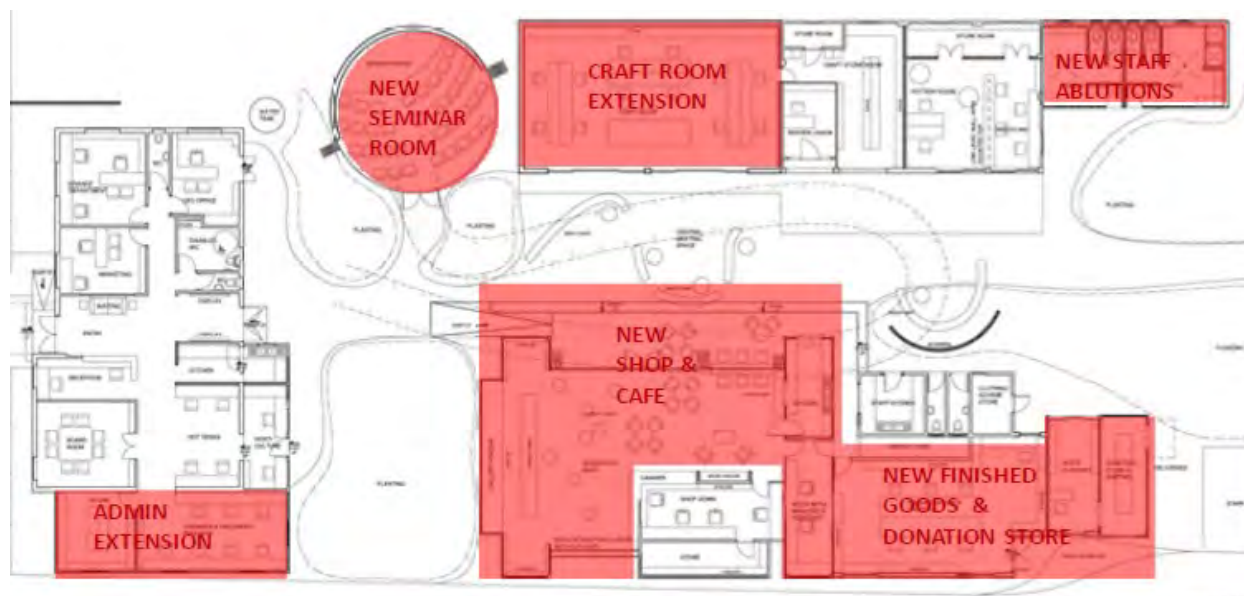
In the eight years since then we have grown considerably both in terms of staff numbers and project output. In 2006 we had 9 staff members and in 2014 we have 67 staff members plus 35 home based carers and field officers who receive a monthly stipend. These figures don't include the many unpaid volunteers who have always been a part of the success of this organisation.

For years we had been dreaming of an expansion project that would create a proper shop for Woza Moya complete with display windows and ample space; another craft workshop that would enable us to double the number of crafters who are trained and able to generate an income; an admin building that would accommodate more team members and volunteers as we grow into the future; a training room in which to run various trainings, and a property that best enables our work.

For us the expansion project represents the amazing growth we have undergone in the past 24 years, and the future growth that we dream of. Though we have made great strides over the history of our existence, there are greater strides still to make in the future, and having a space that will accommodate more team members and beneficiaries is crucial to that. We look forward with great anticipation to the continuation and completion of the expansion project in the next year or two.

Jimmy introduced us to Container Conversions, who then donated us one container to use as part of the shop expansion, and two containers to use as bathrooms.. Pail Pac also donated a container to use as the home of the recycling project – one of our newer projects which is growing at a rapid pace. We have also completed upgrades to the existing craft workshop and the counselling offices. The expansion plans will be before the Municipality for approval in the near future, and as soon as they are approved we will commence the building of the new craft workshop and thereafter the new shop. We have put word out there about our expansion dreams and would like to recognise the following donors who have already come on board to support this project: The Grace Alice Baumann Trust, First Presbyterian Church Houston and Zulu Aid.

For us the expansion project represents the amazing growth we have undergone in the past 24 years, and the future growth that we dream of. Though we have made great strides over the history of our existence, there are greater strides still to make in the future, and having a space that will accommodate more team members and beneficiaries is crucial to that. We look forward with great anticipation to the continuation and completion of the expansion project in the next year or two.



The expansion project plans: white structures are existing buildings, and coloured one are proposed new structures.



Annual Update

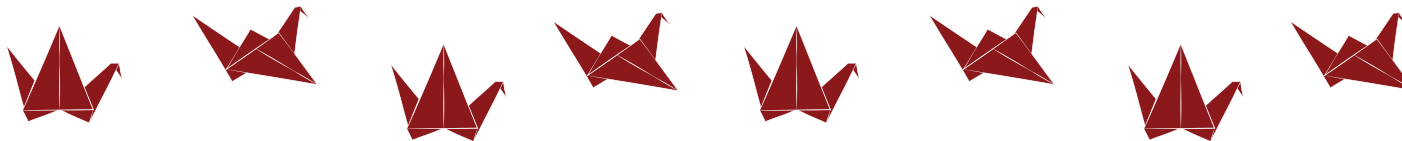
On 29 September 2013 we held our inaugural Annual Update. A jazzed-up version of an Annual General Meeting, this event brought together staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, patients, donors, supporters and representatives from partner non-profit and community organisations. It was a powerful and anointed gathering. We had a long-term patient from the Respite Unit walk with a walking frame to the front of the stage and testify about how she had been crippled and unable to walk when she arrived at the Unit. We had groups of youth from our Children's Programme, Life Skills Programme and Peer Education Programme performing plays, poems and dances that communicated messages about HIV/AIDS and other issues facing their communities. The Gogo of the Year spoke about the impact of the granny support group project and the craft project. Each manager gave an overview of the successes and challenges of their work in the past year and we introduced the audience to HACT's new mission, vision and values. We look forward to repeating this event annually.



Olivia, Sbu and the Zulu Aid team in The Netherlands

The Netherlands

In September 2013 CEO Olivia Myeza and Education Manager Sbu Mthethwa spent ten days in The Netherlands on a fundraising, networking and advocacy tour organised by our Dutch partners, Stichting Zulu Aid. The packed schedule saw them visit five cities and towns across the country, speaking at six primary schools, two fundraising dinners, three churches, attending meetings with global development funders Stop AIDS Now, ICCO and Impulsis, and meeting with a team of 27 Dutch volunteers who will serve at HACT for two weeks in July 2014. They also attended Market Day, a huge market run by a church in De Bilt that had HACT as the beneficiary. At each event the Zulu Aid team sold Woza Moya jewellery. The trip was very worthwhile, raising over R280,000.00 and establishing a partnership with SRC – a Dutch tourism company who have since agreed to donate 2 Euro to HACT for every passenger that travels with them. The trip also helped to further cement the already strong partnership between HACT and Zulu Aid.



“ The vibrant visit of Olivia and Sbu has given our work an enormous stimulus and boost. The Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust was wonderfully represented by them and they left behind a trail of deep impressions with many people and organisations we visited. Well done Olivia and Sbu! You are great ambassadors for your great organisation. ”

- Stichting Zulu Aid

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Feeding Scheme



Our Feeding Scheme is a short-term, targeted intervention designed to meet the immediate crisis of hunger. The Scheme supported 41 families each month who have no other form of income and no way of accessing food. Regular and nutritious food is a crucial part of living with HIV – especially when taking Antiretroviral (ARV) medication, which must be taken with food, as it can otherwise lead to debilitating side-effects.

We work closely with all the families on our Feeding Scheme to find a longer-term solution to meet their needs. Most families are ready to move off the Scheme after about six months; however, there are some families who remain on for longer because they do not have any short-term prospects of being self-sustaining. These families include many child-headed households, where the parents have died and the household is made up of only school-going children. Our Counselling team, who are at the forefront of working with communities and identifying those individuals and families most direly in need, continue to implement the Scheme effectively. They work in partnership with our long-standing, dedicated Feeding Scheme volunteers, who come in regularly to pack nutritionally-balanced food parcels, ensuring they are ready to go out for delivery each Tuesday. We couldn't do it without this wonderful team!

During the course of the year we saw some encouraging developments, with 33 families starting to receive social grants, thus allowing them to move off the Scheme and enabling 33 new families to move up from the waiting list. We also witnessed great improvements in the health and wellbeing of families once they had joined the Scheme. Sadly, however, each year seems to bring an ever-greater increase in the number of people who are in desperate need of our assistance, and so the list of families waiting to access the Scheme remains long. We also had a number of clients on the Scheme admitted to hospital or our Respite Unit when their health deteriorated. Sadly, one of our male clients passed away, leaving behind two sons who had been abandoned by their mother and had been cared for by him, may his soul rest in peace.

Fortunately, the boys' stepmother is caring for them, and they are in good hands. During the school holidays the Counsellors visited our Feeding Scheme families, conducting Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing (VCT) with both adults and children at their homes. Some of the children staying with their grandmothers had never previously known their HIV status because of the high costs involved in transporting all the children to the local Clinic for testing. Furthermore, after evaluating how we can further support our Feeding Scheme families, we started distributing condoms in the food parcels to increase condom usage and reduce re-infection. This has been welcomed by our Feeding Scheme families. During December we were able to deliver special festive food parcels to all the families on the Scheme, as well as provide a Christmas gift for every child within these families. It was particularly heart-warming to see the many families in tears - parents who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford the Christmas groceries, and children who received a toy for the first time. We know that our food parcels are like a drop in the ocean, particularly to big families, but it makes a dramatic difference to their lives.

We would like to express grateful thanks to all those who made the Christmas hampers possible, and those who supported the Feeding Scheme. Toyz Auto, Woolworths, East Coast Radio, SAPY, St Vincent de Paul, SP Smith, Imana Foods, Clover, Westmead Cash and Carry, Glodina, Willowton Group, Tiger Brands, Dalton Sugar, Key Truck New Germany and Masterbake, and many other organisations and individuals, supported us through the year

– thank you all!

clothing scheme



The Clothing Scheme has continued to enable 22 women to generate income for their households by selling second-hand clothes. These women are impacted by HIV/AIDS, and many of them have been referred to the clothing scheme through our other programmes, such as the Granny Support Groups, where we often find one grandmother caring for many grandchildren after having lost her own children to the HIV pandemic.

Each week we receive donations of clothes and shoes from individuals in the Hillcrest and Upper Highway area, visitors from overseas and local companies. Each of our Clothing Scheme women is provided with one large bag of these clothes to sell each week. The first bag is provided free of charge, but subsequent bags are purchased for R15 to avoid a disempowering 'hand-out' mentality.

The women report that they each earned between R150 and R400 from selling the clothes each week over the past year. This makes a very large impact in their lives, enabling them to provide food and clothing for their families.

So many people, especially those who live in the Upper Highway area, have donated their clothes to us throughout the year. We would like to send out a special thank you to each and every one of you. Without your support, these women would not have been able to generate a steady income for their families each week. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Durban Youth Council, who collected a large amount of clothes at a time when we had almost run out – you came to the rescue at just the right time!

In many of the local schools uniforms are compulsory and children can be suspended from school for not wearing one. Our school support fund provides needy children with uniforms, thereby enabling them to remain in school and have a brighter future.

We were able to assist 77 children with school uniform vouchers at the beginning of the new school year in January 2014. These children are part of our Feeding and Clothing Scheme families, or live with grandmothers who are part of our Granny Support Groups, and have extremely limited resources.

One beneficiary shared that her family had no form of income at all since her government disability grant was discontinued. She could no longer afford uniforms for her three children, and they had to stay at home for three weeks because the school wouldn't allow them to attend in casual clothes.

School Support Fund

Thanks to a referral by a Community Health Worker, they came to HACT and her children were put onto the school support fund. They each received a uniform and were able to return to school. Sadly the mother was later diagnosed with TB and had to spend several months in hospital. During that time her children were able to remain in school thanks to the uniforms granted through this scheme.

To our great joy, three of the 77 children for whom we provided uniform vouchers received bursaries for 2015 from Elangeni College, and one child has had assistance to register at the Durban Institute of Technology and access a student loan. This is exciting news in the face of the many challenges facing school graduates in our communities. We are very grateful to those who support this fund, and would like to say a special thank you to Margaret Turnbull and her team for maintaining such a deeply personal interest in the education of our youngsters.



Granny Support Groups

Over the past exciting and productive year, we worked with over 2,000 grandmothers in 36 Granny (Gogo) Support Groups across five communities, and conducted 547 visits to support groups. It was wonderful to see how the project changed lives and raise women's self-esteem. The support groups have gone from strength to strength, and we are always inspired by the determination of the grandmothers who come together to create these support structures to face the challenges in their lives.

The project's first field officer was appointed in 2012, and in 2013 this grew to three field officers, while a fourth joined the team in 2014. These dedicated women, based within their communities, have made the project more efficient by enabling smoother communication and increased support. As the project continues its rapid growth, they have become essential contributors to its success.

The hugely successful fourth annual Gogolympics ("Granny Olympics") was held in March 2014, and had an extra edge of excitement due to the participation of 22 Canadian grandmothers from the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers campaign. The event was started in 2011 in order to emphasise the importance of physical activity and active healthy living, and involves sports such as netball, soccer and skipping. It drew together nearly 1,200 people from very different walks of life, and saw important stakeholders working as a team, including main event sponsor the Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust, eThekweni Municipality, the Department of Health, the KZN Department of Sports and Recreation, and the Halley Stott Clinic. A wonderful and diverse team of volunteers helped make it all possible, and event co-founder Carolyn Nixon came over from Canada once again to provide enormous support. The second annual Imbokodo of 1,000 Hills event was held in November 2013, where the Granny of the Year, Granny Support Group of the year, and best vegetable garden of the year are chosen.

Each support group chose one granny to represent them, and dressed her according to their choice as a group. 24 grannies entered the competition, and the winner was Mrs Greta Majola. There were prizes given to the three best gardens of the year, which saw Qalokwakhe group take the winning spot. The best group of the year was Mgoqozi 2, who were chosen due to their hard work after they built five concrete houses through their block-making project. This event brought a friendly, competitive spirit into the community as we celebrated the successes of the grandmothers.

Seven grannies from different support groups that completed a quilting training course during 2013 produced amazing work following their training, and opened the Quality Training School in KwaNyuswa to pass on their skills to others in their community. This has increased the number of training schools within the Valley of 1,000 Hills to three.

The KwaNyuswa Dress-Making School, the first of these community-based training schools to open, was started in 2012 in order to train members of the Granny Support Groups. One of the aims of the course is to raise the graduates' self-esteem; it also helps them form bonds and share ideas on how to use their skills to earn an income or start a business. It continued to run smoothly, and towards the end of May 2013 30 grannies held the first annual graduation ceremony! There was great excitement not only amongst the proud graduates, who made their beautiful graduation gowns themselves, but within the community, and amongst the graduate's grandchildren, who were surprised and proud to see how much their grandmothers had achieved.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to our sponsors, partner organisations, and the volunteers who commit and dedicate themselves to this project, with particular thanks to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust. You have all helped us to make it the rapidly-growing success it is today.



Mrs Busi Nxumalo, the Mayor's Wife, handing over a trophy to the Gogo of the Year 2013, Greta Majola

Life Skills Education Programme



Number of leaners reached by the programme: 767 (393 males and 374 females)

Number of schools: Four primary schools



Our Life Skills Programme continued to work effectively in under-resourced primary schools to educate and motivate towards a HIV-free generation. The Programme works with grades five to seven, which includes children between the ages of nine and 15.

We held our second annual Life Skills event in 2014, with the theme of 'Positive Lifestyles'. This hugely successful event involved all four of the primary schools we work with, and promoted a healthy and positive lifestyle. The learners showcased their talents in a range of categories including Ingoma and Umshado (both traditional Zulu dances), Amahubo (poetry), Gospel Music, and Gumboot dancing, with each performance communicating powerful message about HIV/AIDS and other issues facing the youth and their communities. It was a wonderful testament to the power of creativity in bringing communities together, and conveying powerful messages in a dynamic and engaging way.

We believe in the power of partnership to increase our combined capacity to have a tangible impact within schools. We formed a partnership with Gcinamasiko Art and Heritage Trust which, under the leadership of Trust founder Dr Gcinamhlophe, aims to improve literacy in schools within the Valley of 1,000 Hills. In January 2014 the Trust sponsored books for the children at Ukusakwabasha Primary School, and we are excited to continue forging strong bonds with this great organisation.

We introduced a new aspect to the programme in 2013, running spelling competitions in all four of the primary schools we work with. After holding the initial rounds within the schools, 15 learners from each school were selected to compete against each other in the final competition, and the winning pupils received dictionaries and trophies to celebrate their success. This was so fruitful that we will continue to run these in the coming year.



Khanyakhwezi learners performing a Gospel song at the Life Skills Event.

Peer Education Programme



Number of Peer Educators trained: 60 (30 males and 30 females)

Number of schools: six secondary schools



During this year our Peer Education Programme trained 60 young people from grades eight to ten, across six secondary schools, to become agents for change. These natural leaders have lead HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns within their schools, using performance art to convey messages around preventing infections, drug abuse, and other related challenges. Two awareness events were run each quarter, following each Peer Educator training course, and around 700 learners and 30 educators attended each of these events.

In support of our mission to encourage positive lifestyles, we distributed bursary forms and hosted Career Orientation sessions in six high schools. The aim of these sessions is to empower young people to realise their full potential and dream about their future, which in turn will encourage them to live their lives free from HIV/AIDS. In December 2013, we held a three-day Peer Education Camp for all of the Peer Educators at the Mercury Hibberdene Children's Holiday Home.

The objective of this camp was to have fun in a safe environment whilst receiving training regarding not only HIV/AIDS, but various aspects of life, and living in a positive, empowered way. There were also challenging activities to reinforce the young people's understanding of different roles of leadership in diverse environments.

In partnership with the Jes Foord Foundation, an organisation based in Hillcrest that supports rape survivors, we provided Rape Awareness workshops to the grade 12 learners within three high schools. These learners can now lead awareness programmes within their schools to fight against the abuse of woman and children, using different mediums such as poetry, drama and singing, while also providing support to fellow learners who are rape survivors.

Peer Educators play a crucial role within not only their schools, but also their families, wider peer group, and the community. They set positive examples, role model exemplary behaviour, share empowering messages, and lead the fight against HIV with determination and creativity.

We are grateful to the main funders of the Education Programme – the Gift of Hope, Oxfam Australia, and Key Trucks Pinetown. Thank you for your belief in the future of our youth, and our dream that they can pave the way to a generation free of HIV.

“I am so impressed with the work of Ncam and Sbu, the dedicated Education Team at HACT. They are bold, energetic and take their work as part of their daily prayer – to have an impact on children in the community and assist them to realise their potential.”

- Benson Muvovori, Monash-Oxfam South Africa Student Placement Programme



Get To Know the HACT Employee of the Year 2013!

Education Manager Sbu Mthethwa

“When you motivate someone it becomes possible for that person to live up to their highest level in life”

Sibusiso “Sbu” Mthethwa developed a love of working with youth early on and, having been raised and schooled in Umlazi, he learned to be a motivational leader through his work with the youth charity Love Life. This work experience nurtured and further developed his inherent enthusiasm and vibrancy, which are his most effective tools for communicating with children.

Sbu’s job, as Education Manager at HACT, is to deliver positive messages to students in schools in the Valley of 1,000 Hills, teaching them to lead positive lifestyles and addressing the challenges surrounding HIV/AIDS and its impact. He achieves this by running a life skills programme in primary schools and a peer education programme for high schools, both of which follow a curriculum written and designed by Sbu and other HACT staff and volunteers. Both programmes focus on helping youth to have a vision for their future and to understand that decisions made today impact on that future vision. HIV/AIDS education is a big part of this, as Sbu tries to help the youth to understand that they need to protect themselves in order to live out their future dreams.

The programmes are highly successful, with many impact stories from students and also teachers and parents about improved behavior and better decision making.

“It’s difficult to teach a person who is hungry, a person who has no uniform and no education materials”

There are, of course, many challenges that come with Sbu’s job. Considering the weight of the messages he is trying to convey, it is vital the students are fully attentive during class. The children who come from very destitute homes are the ones that have difficulty maintaining their focus, and the Education Team has worked with teachers within the schools, as well as other HACT departments, to tackle this challenge. For example, Sbu identified children coming to class without food, and then engaged with the Horticulture Team to build vegetable gardens in the homes of those families. Oxfam also provided funding for a prize system, rewarding students who answered questions in class with the education materials they needed - from pens to exercise books.

The best part of Sbu’s job is successfully engaging children. To stand in front of an entire class and capture their attention fully; to see them laughing and enjoying his programme, is the highlight of his day.

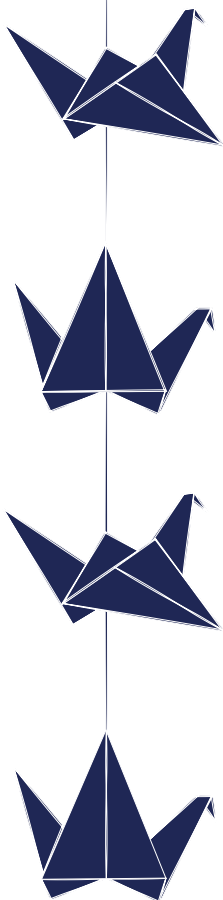
“There is love all over us”

Sbu has many ideas for the future of his team, and for HACT. He believes there is a gap in educational facilities for students who have finished school, and he would like to see ongoing support for the students as they reach adulthood. For Sbu, the best thing about working at HACT is the people he works with. He notes that everybody brings different energies and backgrounds but ultimately, they share the same goals and a vision to make sure that the people in their community are being served.

Sbu is engaged to be married and is in the process of paying lobola to his fiancée’s family. His personal vision includes getting married and having children.



“Sbu is always the first in the office in the morning and the last to leave in the afternoon. His work with the children and the schools is his passion, and that is so evident when you see him work. He goes so far above and beyond the demands of his job because he so genuinely cares about the children he is serving. You see in him hope for the children’s’ futures. He is also a great role model for young African men – he has strong values and a vision for his future, and he encourages the youth he works with to have the same. When he is in front of a class he comes alive with energy and passion.” -Olivia Myeza, HACT CEO



HIV CARE

HIV Counselling And Testing

The Counselling Department has been reflecting back on the successes in the past year, and the steps that have been taken towards realising our dream of a country in which HIV tests are a regular part of people's lives. One of the most significant of these steps is the shift the Counsellors are seeing in the mind-set of those coming to them for HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT). While there are still many challenges, people are coming more openly and willingly for testing, partly because there is a growing understanding of the importance of testing, and starting Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) as soon as their CD4 count is low enough if they test positive. It has also been very rewarding to see the lifespan of HIV positive people increasing due to the increasing accessibility and effectiveness of ART, and the positive change that is visible in many people's attitude and behaviour through the counselling and information they receive from our team.

Our HCT campaigns are delivered in partnership with community institutions and other stakeholders such as local clinics, tertiary education centres, churches and businesses as well as the Municipality, hostels, tribal leaders, and the Medical Research Council. We focus on holistic wellness and check weight, blood sugar levels and blood pressure as well as conducting HCT. This approach encourages more people to come forward for testing, and has a broader positive impact on the health of our communities.

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 as students came forward for testing in large numbers, all keen to know their status. We have seen a positive change in relation to the stigma around HIV/AIDS, especially amongst young people. We encourage them to test routinely, and when they are in full health, rather than waiting until they become ill.

We were excited to work with the Education Department on a campaign within schools aiming to encourage parents to understand the importance of testing. In one school in Molweni, one third of the children obtained parental consent and got to know their HIV status for the first time. Sadly, one little girl tested positive, but fortunately our counsellors were on hand to offer support and information not only to the girl herself, but also to the grandmother who cared for her.

41 HIV Counsellors, aged between 20 and 55, were training during the year on our HIV counselling courses, and were awarded with certificates upon completion. Whilst many of our trainees were unemployed prior to the course, some of them were employed and were sent by their companies to be able to offer support within their workplaces. It is encouraging to see businesses ensuring that their staff have access to HIV information and support.

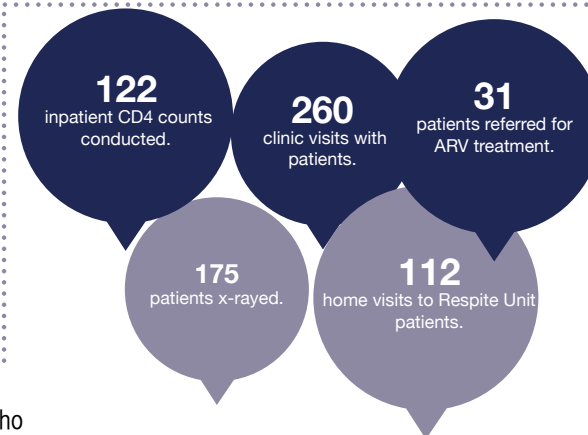
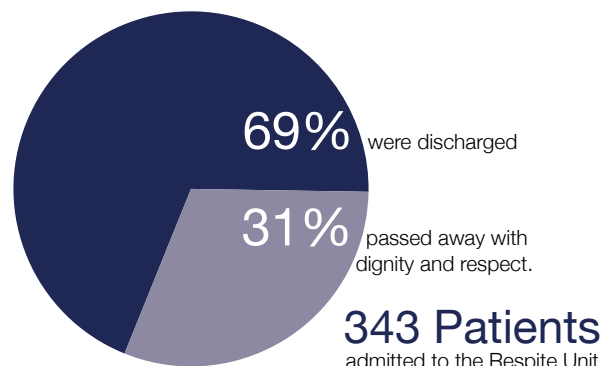
We conducted 20 educational talks in both Zulu and English within businesses, reaching over 2,000 people. Business have a wide range of concerns regarding HIV/AIDS, including absenteeism and death of staff members. We have been increasingly trying to support companies to understand the importance of having a HIV policy in place that enables staff to access testing and treatment in order to support their health.

We are grateful to the Solon Foundation for their long-standing support for our department, and to the Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA) who have continued fund our HCT campaigns.



Othandweni 'Place of Love' Respite Unit

"The first thing that I noticed was the smiling faces of the staff and their kindness – I felt at home! They treated me with great patience. There was such an atmosphere of love, hope and encouragement – they had time for us." -Nicholas, Respite Unit Patient



We have continued to maintain a safe haven for our Respite Unit patients during this year, providing excellent care in a loving and homely environment whilst adapting to change and responding to new needs.

It was with sadness that we announced in January 2014 that head nurse Mary-Ann Carpenter resigned due to family commitments. She is still greatly missed, but we are so grateful to Mary-Ann for making the Respite Unit a place for love and caring.

"Mary-Ann's commitment to people (especially those marginalised by disease or circumstance) is unfaltering, and her no-holds-barred approach to the pursuit of good quality patient care for her charges is obvious to all who have had the pleasure of working with her. Mary-Ann's compassion is infectious and she has been an incredible role model to all who have been taught by her. This special lady is one of the most remarkable human beings I have ever had the privilege of calling my friend."

- Julie Hornby, HACT Trustee and previous CEO

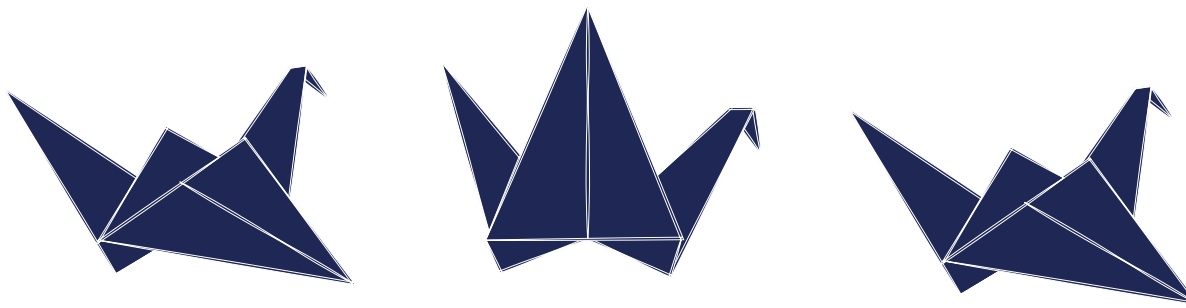
The Unit is now in the fine hands of Sister Queen Zulu, who has been the Nursing Services Manager at HACT since April 2013. She is supported by Staff Nurses Ncamu and Sphe, and other home-based carers who have been trained to be supervisors.

We are absolutely delighted that our home-based carer, Sphe Gumede, passed her nursing exams with Honours after two years of study. This means so much to her – she never thought she would have the opportunity to get a tertiary education and to become a 'professional'. She is now back in the Respite Unit full time as a supervisor, and we have two other carers currently enrolled for nursing training – Phili and Nokuphila. Sphe wrote in a letter to the donors that supported her studies, "Your generosity has inspired me to help others, and give back to the community and my second home (the Respite Unit). I hope that one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals, just as you have helped me. I express my sincere gratitude to you. May God bless you all."

It is amazing to be up-skilling our own staff who have served in the Respite Unit for years and have demonstrated great passion and aptitude for patient care.

We are deeply appreciative of the donors who are enabling this empowerment: Nurses for Nurses, The Betty Lawes Foundation, Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK, and the US Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Community Grants.

We would like to convey our heart-felt gratitude to our committed team of home-based carers, cooks, cleaners, drivers, and all our wonderful volunteers. Thank you for making our Respite Unit a place of love for every patient who comes through our door. We would also like to thank the many dedicated and caring people who supported the Unit throughout the year. From our grant partners, including Discovery Fund, Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust, and Stichting Zulu Aid, to our loyal Adopt-A-Bed donors who each cover the running costs of one or more of the 24 beds in the Unit, and everyone else who contributed in any way - without your support we would not be able to offer the love, care and service we do. Siyabonga (we thank you).



Nursing Services

The outpatient Clinic has continued to serve patients, staff and communities with professionalism and warmth throughout the year, and has worked closely alongside our Respite Unit. The nurses' activities differ from day to day, but they say that all the work they do is fulfilling because, as Sister Queen Zulu articulates, "it serves to benefit our patients. One of the most fulfilling aspects of our job is seeing a patient leave the clinic informed and willing to participate in their plan of care."

Clients and staff members who have minor ailments are treated on site, and the clinic offers a wellness programme for staff which includes the checking of weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar levels, as well as an annual flu vaccination.

The nurses have reported extremely positive outcomes arising from working together with the Counselling team on community outreach during the weekends. This has involved the nurses conducting Wellness Campaigns, which include checking blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight, while the Counsellors offer voluntary HIV counselling and testing (VCT) at the same venue. The outcomes of this initiative include a higher level of HIV education within the community, community members accessing the clinic more rapidly when they become sick, and clients being referred to clinics and hospitals for abnormal blood pressure and blood sugar levels, of which they had been previously unaware. We are grateful to be able to ensure that these conditions could be monitored and treated as early as possible, and to be able to reach clients directly within numerous communities.

CD4 cell counts are conducted on-site on our mobile CD4 count machine for newly seropositive clients, as well as part of our on-going assessment of existing clients. During a session with a new client, the nurses will screen them for pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) by taking their medical history, collecting a sputum sample and having a chest x-ray conducted if it is needed.

The Down Referral project, which enables patients who are stable to be referred from Don McKenzie Hospital to HACT, is running smoothly. These patients, some of whom are our own staff, visit the Clinic monthly for monitoring and to collect their antiretroviral (ARV) medication. This has many benefits for the patients on the project, including less time off work and reduced transport costs. Our patient attendance is excellent, with 100% adherence to treatment.

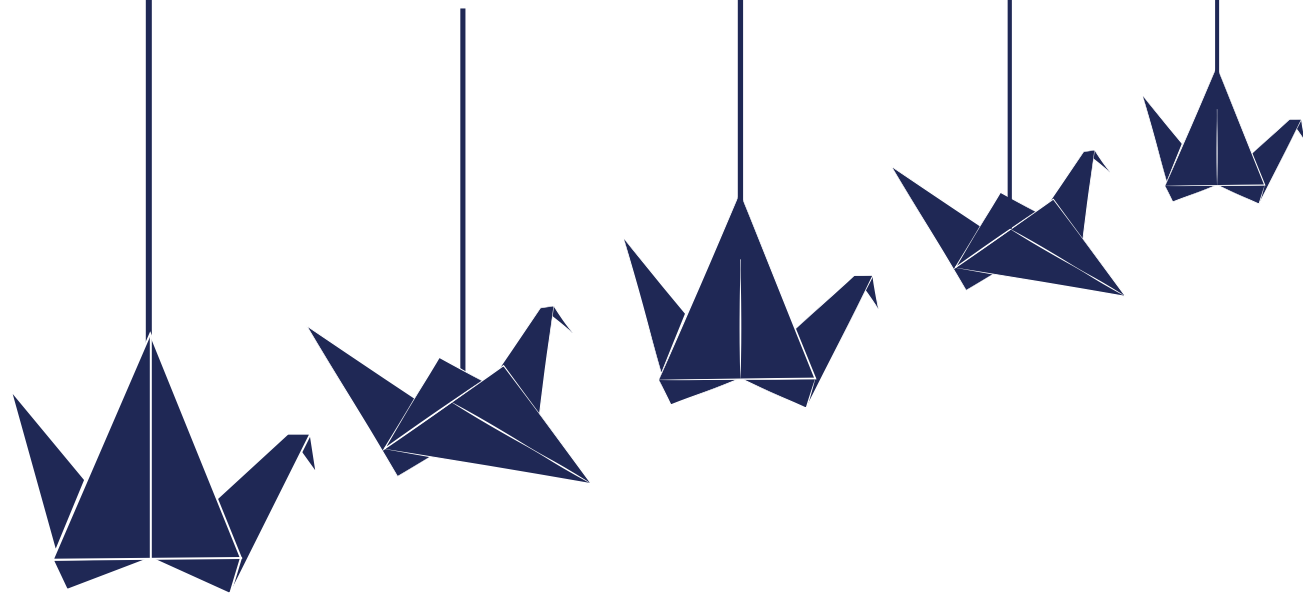




Home-Based Care

The Home-Based Care (HBC) Programme, which is funded by the Networking HIV, AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA), has increased its reach from serving 460 clients to more than 600 clients across five areas: Embo, Inchanga, KwaNyuswa, Molweni and Kwangcolosi. On a daily basis, twenty carers go on foot through their communities and provide a range of services to HIV positive clients. These services include counselling, basic health care, assistance with bed baths and other household duties, Anti-Retroviral (ARV) and Tuberculosis (TB) medication adherence support and TB screening, emergency food parcels, and support with grant applications.

Our services were further improved during the past year by researching, designing and implementing a new HBC model – known as the Patient Advocate (PA) model. A six month pilot project was conducted with five carers serving 150 clients within the community of Inchanga. The new model will bring greater benefits to the community through a more sustainable approach focusing on giving the patients tools and resources to help themselves after the programme is finished. The team has ensured that this new project has been carefully designed with key aims and expected outcomes, including an improved adherence to medication, increased attendance at clinic appointments, and therefore decreased viral loads and increased CD4 counts.



The carers continue to work closely with the Respite Unit, where sick patients are provided on-site care when needed. Over the past year many clients have been referred into the Unit by the carers, and have also been cared for at home after being discharged from the Unit. The carers also continue to work alongside local clinics so as to assist their communities to improve their overall health.

Some carers have attended ARV education training, which has assisted the team in ensuring that they continue to provide clients with up-to-date ARV education and support. We are hoping that the next financial year will allow us to offer further training opportunities to carers. The training improves the carers' self-confidence as well as the level of service that they provide to clients.

It has been a year full of positive change and streamlining systems, and we are excited about the improved services we are now offering to a greater number of clients.



children's Programme

The Children's Programme has grown and flourished tremendously over the past year. It now serves 422 orphaned or vulnerable children across five areas, and is run by 14 staff members, each of whom has a deep passion for serving children.

The year began with the launch of a six-month pilot project in Mlambo, KwaNyuswa, where 60 children were initially cared for by one Home-Based Carer (HBC), Nontobeko Nkala. Nontobeko implemented and managed the project largely herself, following a sustainable model, providing the children with two support groups each week – one for younger children aged 4 to 11, and one for teenagers aged 12 to 18.

Due to the success of the pilot project, planning for an expanded programme got underway in earnest. Community meetings were held at four new sites – Moonlight, Embo, Inchanga, and Molweni – to provide a platform for community stakeholders to discuss the project and give their input. A support group curriculum was designed which included educational information about topics such as HIV/AIDS, TB, drugs, alcohol, sex, and goal setting. The five Children's Programme HBCs went on an HIV counselling and testing course and were taught facilitation skills to enable them to lead their own support groups, and three carers commenced Child and Youth Care training hosted by the National Association of Child and Youth Care workers. In October 2013, along with the hiring of an additional five HBCs to enable the carers to work in pairs at each site, each of the four new sites was launched at a Wellness Day which was held at a community venue such as a church, school or community hall. These events provided an overview of the programme to children and their care-givers, as well as an opportunity for HIV testing.

All five sites continue to thrive and run numerous projects, as well as offer a variety of services to the children in addition to the support groups – home and school visits, homework assistance, grant application assistance, nutritional advice, medical care, school uniform assistance to 100 children, and career and individual counselling.

A gospel choir and a drama group were established at two of our sites, and these children have already displayed their talents at the HACT Christmas Market and Life Skills event. One site is establishing a vegetable garden as part of a mini pilot project to not only provide food, but to look at the skills that can be taught to children regarding horticulture, and another has been testing a solar oven which they use to cook meals for the children. Five of the HBCs offer mobile HIV testing to all children and their families, and we are delighted that the moment we have an estimated HIV positive rate of less than 1% in our children. Those that tested positive were provided with CD4 counts using the mobile CD4 count machine in our Clinic, which assisted us in speeding up the children's initiation onto ARVs.

Other events held included youth camps, craft programmes, and Christmas parties where each child received a Christmas present – thank you to all those around the world who helped make this possible!

We would like to extend a special thank you to the funders who made the success and expansion of the Children's Programme possible, including the Gift of Hope, an anonymous Austrian donor and the Networking HIV, AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA). We are deeply grateful for your passion for making a difference in the lives of so many children in the Valley of 1,000 Hills.



INCOME GENERATION

WOZA MOYA

The Glue that keeps us together

“Super glue - Very strong bond”

Woza Moya continues to grow with great success, and this is the second year we have shown positive growth in our turnover and pay-outs to crafters. This report is dedicated to the crafters who I call the glue of Woza Moya; not only are they the glue that binds Woza Moya together, but their strength is the glue that keeps the lowest income families above the breadline, and keeps our country going. I worry that the economic forces, increasing taxi fares and rising food prices are weathering these great matriarchs and making it more and more difficult to keep things glued together.

“Contact Adhesive- Bonding dissimilar Materials- Sticks almost anything”

There are a number of factors that have been of major concern to us during the past year. Firstly, most of the crafters are the sole breadwinners and support families with about seven to ten dependants. Therefore, the pressure on them is extreme. There is also apathy amongst the dependants that are not working. Our challenge this year is to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship in all family members. It is important for the Woza Moya crafters to assist in empowering their families, as we have seen the shock to a crafter's family when that single breadwinner passes away unexpectedly and the family finds itself truly destitute with no skills. As the majority of the crafters are single parents the pressure on them is even greater.

Many of the mothers have teenage boys who are attracted to negative elements in their communities, and teenage girls who are at risk of becoming sexually active early, leading to yet another grandchild to care for. On a Friday, many of the crafters sit together and listen to one another's news and act as a support group. I consider this friendship another type of glue – I call it “contact adhesive”.

“Wood glue –

slow to set but physically interlocks materials”

The wishes and dreams of most of the crafters are to have education for their children, sustainable work and job security. Many of the crafters struggle to access tertiary education for their children, due to a lack of both financial resources and knowledge of the academic application systems. Although we try hard to provide steady work throughout the year, some of the most talented crafters seek minimal wage work just so that they are assured of a salary at the end of the month. They thereby earn a quarter of what they earn at Woza Moya. In addition, for many women being self-employed is a relatively new concept, and beadwork is not seen as a “proper job”. One of our key worries is that if a crafter gets sick then no money flows into the household. We continue to search for solutions to this problem and hope to one day set up a worker's fund for every crafter at Woza Moya.

“Polyurethane- Bonds many substrates”

You can easily be swept away in the tide of excitement when working at Woza Moya - from Jess attending the New York Gift Fair and being lovingly hosted by ex-volunteer Tierney Norris and her family, to putting on an amazing group exhibition entitled “Spring” at the KZNSA gallery that highlighted the work done by some of our long standing and most talented artists - Nkululeko, Sphamandla, Tholakele, Frank, Lindiwe, Nomcedo and Nokuthula. We also made the most beautiful paper crane installation that involved the community and all the crafters. Together they folded over 8,000 paper cranes that represented the number of HIV tests that the Counselling Department conducted that year.

We also worked with talented Bollywood designer Alpa Reena, who used our beadwork in a fashion extravaganza held at the International Convention Centre. Our Little Travellers made many friends in Germany with over 12,000 emigrating. We held a photo competition and now have wonderful photos of Little Travellers getting up to mischief around Europe. Our Contigo partners compiled a beautiful book documenting their travels around Europe.



The Dream Chair travelled to the Netherlands and Germany where it raised funds and awareness. Our yarn-bombed tree inspired a tree in Staffordshire, England – Goodwill and Growth for Africa (GAGA) UK bought 1,000 crochet squares from us and yarn-bombed a tree, which raised money for their projects in Africa.

We created a 3.5m beaded map of South Africa for SA Home Loans' new head office in Umhlanga. We were part of the Durban Fashion Fest, supplying accessories to much-loved local designer Karen Monk Klijnstra. The Windermere shop hosted many artists who did creative window displays every month. We also had an amazing Design Indaba and went straight from there to SARCD – a buyer's show - in our bid to expand markets and create more work. Our Canadian partners Erin and Joanne continue to grow their Fashioning for Change business.

Stichting Zulu Aid continues to sell jewellery throughout the Netherlands, and we have heard of one particular village in which every person wears Woza Moya jewellery.

Perhaps our greatest highlight was the honour of making 20,000 bangles for the reed dance as part of the ZAZI campaign – which aims to raise girls' self-image. We managed to make these in just one week! Whilst we initially thought the task was beyond us, we were able to accomplish this almost impossible feat with a little inspiration from a Zulu princess. One of the key crafters, Nokuphiwe, had a little baby at the end of the order and we collectively named him ZAZI. The success of this project is down to Zandile, who kept assuring me that the bangles would come in – and come in they did; thanks to her faith our crafters benefitted.

Our Recycling Department had the amazing support of Pailpac, who sponsored a beautiful converted container which has given this department the space to grow.

So, all in all, it has been a very exciting, diverse and happy year.

Whilst we unfortunately lost two beadworkers, Ntombi and Gloria, we also celebrated the birth of Hle Kwela's special little boy Jabulani. We continue to celebrate every small step because, looking back over 12 years, those small steps turn into a giant leap forward. We give thanks to Woza Moya's dedicated staff and volunteers, and all those who made every step forward possible. Nginyabonga – we continue, because we stick together.

Paula Thomson
Income Generation Manager

HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Department runs two separate but interconnected projects. The Izingadi Zethemba (Gardens of Hope) plant nursery is an income generation project which aims to fund the other aspect of the Horticulture Department: the creation of vegetable gardens and chicken projects within communities to alleviate poverty and enhance food security.

As the team has grown, team communication has been improved through holding regular meetings with all the Horticulture staff. Staff development continued to be a focus area, and the team of eight gardeners visited other nurseries to see how they are run, and to identify areas in which our own Nursery could improve. In November six staff members attended a stimulating training course at Silverglen Nursery where they learnt about plants, the environment and vegetable gardens. The Nursery staff have experimented with different ways of nurturing our plants, and are now using a fertiliser that has boosted our plants' health as it releases nutrients slowly each time the plants are watered. The plant and decorative pots the Nursery team produce have been selling well, and we hope to further expand in this area.

We have worked extensively with a growing number of Granny Support Groups, and have found these to be some of the most successful community projects as the grannies work hard in their gardens, and many families benefit from each garden.

During the year we fenced four large granny group vegetable gardens, each of which received hand hoes, steel rakes, watering cans, seeds, seedlings and compost. We also ran training workshops with some of the groups at Inchanga and KwaNyuswa on how to grow Moringa trees, with the assistance of Brian and Jenny Scott from the Moringa 5,000 ministry. The grannies will be able to sell the harvested Moringa leaves to generate an income for their families.

Our chicken projects enable families in the community to access fresh eggs and meat, as well as generating income for the granny groups from the sale of these products. Two new layer hen projects were started during the year, and these – along with three existing granny group layer hen projects - were supplied with layer mash, sawdust, and ten hens per group.

We continued our work with schools, and fenced three new school vegetable gardens during the year for Ntebeni and KwaDinabakubo High Schools, and St Leo Primary School. All three schools received tools, seedlings and compost for their gardens, and training days were held to educate both pupils and teachers on caring for their gardens. Four small vegetable gardens were also created for the families of underprivileged children attending these schools. We have also continued our partnership with Libby Weir, an aid worker from Australia, maintaining 15 family vegetable gardens in KwaXimba by providing seeds, seedlings and compost every three months.

In addition, our team of staff are often called on by other departments to help with building, painting, lifting, cleaning gutters, clearing blocked pipes, distributing food parcels to families on the feeding scheme – and much more. We consider ourselves all-rounders and it's great to be able to serve across several departments.

Thank you to all the supporters who shop at our Nursery, our volunteers Ros, Brenda and Debbie without whom we don't know what we'd do, and our donors, including the Afrisun KZN Community Development Trust and Oxfam Australia. You have helped us empower families, community groups and schools to improve their health, generate income, and become more food secure.





Izingadi Zethemba
Plant Nursery

MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING

Within the Marketing and Fundraising Department, which has grown from just one person into a team with a steady flow of long- and short-term volunteers and interns, we are the gatherers and sharers of stories. Stories of friendship, loss, beauty, illness, hardship, and infinite hope. Stories that touch each of our hearts deeply before we share them with you, hoping we have captured enough of their essence to reach your heart, too.

“Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger.”

□ Ben Okri

Our organisation touches thousands of lives each month, with greater impact than we often realise. Yet to grasp that whole picture, I find I sometimes need to pause, and shift my focus back down to the smaller parts: to the sweet child that smiles at me because I am fortunate enough to be able to take her the doll she has longed for and someone has brought in to our Respite Unit for her, to the Gogo who gives me a hug full of joy after a day of celebration, leaving her heavy burdens of loss and anxiety behind for a few hours. They are why our work is so crucial, and why we strive to provide care, hope and love wherever we can.

In the age of digital media, we have more – and more dynamic and creative – ways of sharing our stories than ever before. We are now on Twitter and LinkedIn, and our HACT facebook page has grown from 309 likes on the 1st April 2013 to 677 on the 31st March 2014 – and has continued to grow even more rapidly since then. Our Plant Nursery facebook page grew from 83 likes to 379 during the same period. Of course, we have to ask ourselves, ‘What does that really mean?’ It means that more and more people are hearing about and connecting with our staff, our beneficiaries, and our partners. Some of our posts have had a reach of over 7,000 people in less than 24 hours. It means we have a direct and instant way of sharing not only news, but urgent needs (which, amazingly, are often responded to and met within a few hours of us posting) and upcoming events. Every time you hit a ‘like’ button on facebook, you make one of us smile, because we know you’ve enjoyed something we’ve hoped would educate or engage you.

I am not on the front line of service delivery, but on the softer side of mobilising resources, sharing news, and attending celebrations. I serve by enabling others to do so. To be able to serve here each day; to channel my passion into an organisation that brings tangible change and empowers so many to retain or regain their dignity, is a true honour.

Here, there are endless opportunities to care, and touch just a few lives, wherever we can. Thank you to each and every one of you that have been a part of our journey during this past year, from the volunteers and interns who have brought unique skills and endless enthusiasm, to our media friends who have shared so many positive stories about the Centre, visitors who have stopped in for a tour or to shop at the Plant Nursery or Woza Moya Craft Shop, and of course our donors and partners who make it all possible. Thank you all for being part of our story.





ABOVE LEFT:Gogolympics ABOVE RIGHT: HACT Annual Update BELOW LEFT: World Aids Day and Christmas Market BELOW RIGHT: Mandela Day



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Report

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 were prepared and presented by the auditors, Marwick & Company Inc, and approved and signed off by DJ Neville-Smyly, O Myeza and M van den Berg on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The Financial Statements report an overall Accumulated Surplus of R 8 312 028.00 for the year ended 31 March 2014. 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 R 2 832 834 of the Accumulated Surplus. Furthermore, we have stock to the value of R 746 884.00 excluding trade receivables.

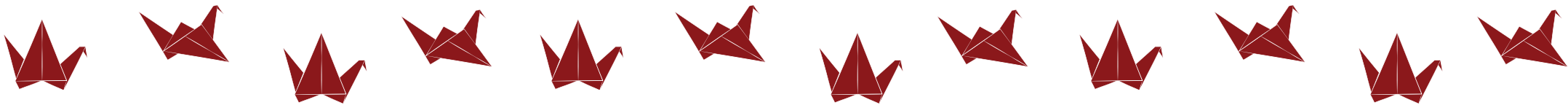
A major contributing factor to such a large Accumulated Surplus is the cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of the financial year totalling R 4 652 007. Many of our grants are paid to us in advance for the specified contract period with the funds coming in during the first three months of the 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.



Balance Sheet

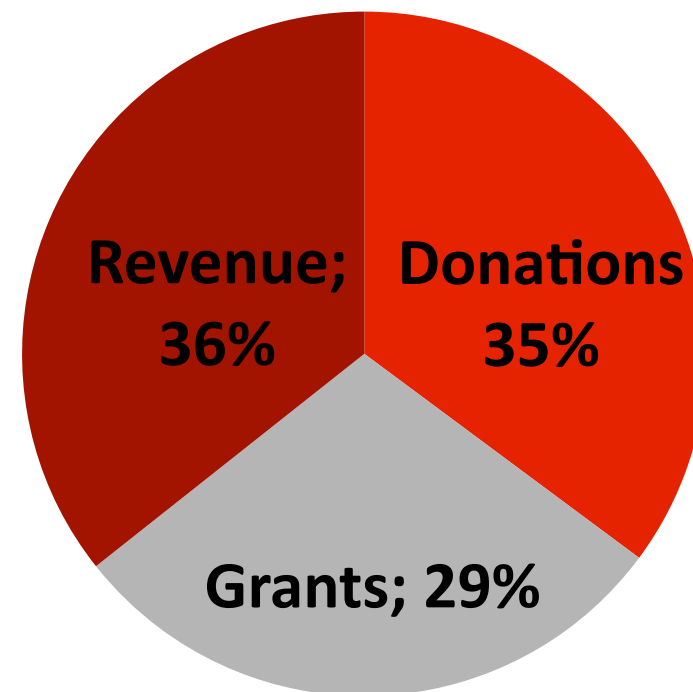
	2014		2013	
Assets				
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	R	2 832 834	R	2 832 834
Current Assets				
Inventories	R	746 884	R	951 898
Trade and other receivables	R	416 309	R	355 369
Cash and cash equivalents	R	4 652 007	R	4 233 732
	R	5 815 200	R	5 540 998
Total Assets	R	8 648 034	R	8 373 832
Equity				
Trust capital	R	100	R	100
Accumulated surplus - HACT	R	7 424 382	R	7 275 355
Accumulated surplus - Nacosa	R	202 693	R	-147 152
Accumulated deficit - Gift of Hope	R	-46 903	R	-
Accumulated deficit – Respite Unit	R	-175 790	R	183 365
Accumulated deficit – Woza Moya	R	907 545	R	808 423
	R	8 312 028	R	8 120 091
Current Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	R	336 006	R	253 741
Total Equity and Liabilities	R	8 648 035	R	8 373 832



Consolidated Income Statement

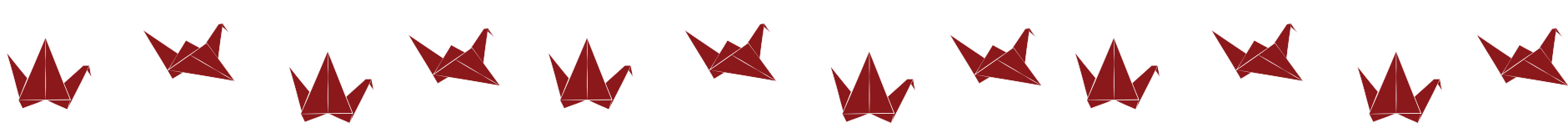
Income

	2014	2013
Donations	R 4 638 675	R 3 843 060
Grants	R 3 848 669	R 4 193 139
Revenue	R 4 703 674	R 3 496 918
Administrative	R 279 199	R 157 261
Counselling	R 10 185	R 9 123
Education	R 13 343	R 8 200
Feeding Scheme	R 3 261	R 9 137
Home Based Care	R 11 403	R 19 489
Horticulture and Nursery	R 319 812	R 293 202
Income Generation	R 4 004 282	R 2 864 357
Medication	R 37 667	R 40 301
Respite Unit	R 845	R 89 376
School Support Fund	R 23 677	R 6 471
Total Income	R 13 191 018	R 11 533 117



Financial statements continued

	2014	2013
Cost of sales		
Income Generation	R 2 808 160	R 2 245 181
Expenses	R 10 190 922	R 8 949 509
Administrative	R 3 540 326	R 1 454 439
Counselling	R 318 596	R 1 023 852
Education	R 523 247	R 321 640
Feeding Scheme	R 78 214	R 78 445
Granny Support Groups	R 255 884	R -
Home Based Care	R 165 327	R 1 140 672
Horticulture and Nursery	R 675 667	R 602 828
Income Generation	R 1 666 457	R 1 359 684
Medication	R 99 819	R 81 062
Respite Unit	R 2 759 730	R 2 852 425
School Support Fund	R 29 008	R 34 447
Training	R 78 647	R 16
Surplus for the year	R 191 937	R 338 428

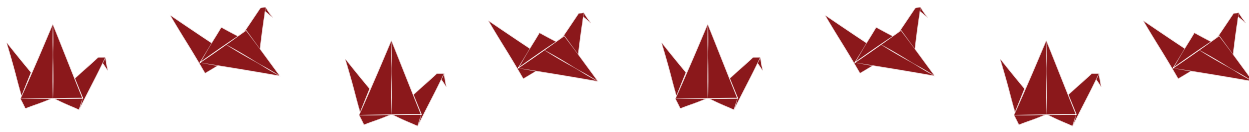


GRANT-GIVERS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



Solon Foundation

Without the support of our partner organisations, our work would not be possible. Siyabonga kakhulu!
(we thank you very much)



THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND FRIENDS

You are the wind beneath our wings

A Murray
A Wearne
All Life
Andrew Young
Anglican Women's Fellowship
Annette Smit
AWF Natal
Betty Lawes Foundation
BG Muller
Blanc Clothing
Blue Diamond SA cc
Blue Roof Clinic
Boom Box
Brenda Ilbury
Bridget Young
Buds Garden Club
C -Drive
C18
Carecard
Carmen Morck
Carol Constable
Cellulology SA
Charities Aid Foundation
Charlotte da Silva
Chris Osborne
Christine Parry
Churchills Couriers
Claremont Graduate University
Cleaveland Clinic Nurses for Nurses
CLG
Clover
Club Leisure Group
CM Daniel
Container Conversions
CP Todd-Ngubane
Crucial Trade
Cwengi Myeni
Dalton Sugar
Derek Roberts

Diaconal Tour Group
Dial-A-Diaper
Diane Gething
Elin Lorimer
Erica Verbaan
Fairways Drakensberg Gardens
Fishwicks
FOIL UK
G.F.C. Missions
Gasa HBC Lab.
Gemelli Group
GeoChem
GES Myeni
Gill Browne
Gill Dearman
Glodina
Goodwill & Growth for Africa UK
HACT UK - Various donors
Heavyweight group
Helen Swanepoel
Helen Beach
Hewitt Velissariou Architecture
Highbury School
Hillcrest Kwikspar
Hillcrest Methodist Church
Hillcrest Methodist Youth Group
Hillcrest Olive Tree Church
Home Concept
Honourable Mr. Justice Malcolm J.D Wallace
Hornby Smyly Glavovic Inc
Hospital Foundation Holland
Imana Foods
In Memory of Thomas Makin
Irene Naidoo
J du Preez
J Reith
Jackie Thomson
Janet Reid
Jeanie Pryce

Katie Blundy
Kay Harvey
Kelvin McCormack
Kerryn Sidea McIntosh
Key Trucks New Germany
Kloof Methodist Church
Kloof Women's Auxillary
Kusa Kwabasha
KZN Weddings & Functions
L. W. Moore
Laurel Heights United Methodist
Lauren and Garry Cohen
Libby Weir
Linda Locke
Little Travellers Canada
Little Travellers Korea
M Van Berg
M Naiker
Margaret Turnbull
Margie Gallagher
Mariannridge Methodist Church
Mark Joint
Mark, David and Ross Butterfield
MarkITSolutions
Markus Eksteen
Marriott
Masscash Pty (Ltd) t/a Westmead Cash
and Carry
Masterbake
Medpak t/a Carter Medical Supplies
Memeen Robson
Meridian Street Methodist Church
Meryl's School of Cooking
MHP Geospace Eastern
Mr R Gyapersad
Mrs Anita Witney
Mrs H. M. Walker
Mrs S Mc Adam
Mrs Thomas

Multilayer Trading
Natal Scale Company
National Edging (KwaZulu Natal)
New Horizons Metal
Nina Michaelis
Optima Management Services
Pailpac
Parish of Fleet
Patricia Hutton
PerryHill International
Peter Ikin & Isabel Blackett
Pharmed Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd
Raddan Family Trust
Rainbow
Rentokil Initial
Richdens SuperSpar
Rio Clothing
Rioma Cominelli
Rob and Gill Clark
Ronald Ingle
RP Miller
Santova financial services
Sarah Burns
Setuani
Shezi Industrial Holdings t/a Neptun Boot
Shoprite Community Network
Sign City
Sihle Nyoka
SiVest SA
Smith & Nephew
Smiths Plastics (Pty) Ltd
Soro
SORO Life-Art
"South African Polypropylene
Yarns (SAPY)"
SP Smith
Spar Group
Spirit of Africa
SRC-Cultuurvakanties

St Agnes Church
St Vincent de Paul
Stichting Rotterdam
Sue Naidoo
Suzanne Hofmeyr
Sylvia Henderson
Synergy Worldwide Logistics
Tata Chemicals SA
Taylor & Krissi Reid
Terrible Twins
The Baumann Trust
The Department of Trade & Industry
The Drake Clothing Company
The Fish Box
The Gordges
The Spirit of Africa
The Timber Haulage Trust
The Wright Family
Thistledown Properties
Thomas More
Tierney Norris
Tiger Brands
Toni Schumann
Top International
Toyz Auto
Vanessa Cooper
Villanova Nursing
Village Publications
Waterfall Methodist Church
Wave Paper
Wellness Foundation
Westfield Farming Estate
Willowton Group
Willy Miller
Witkoppen QJK 90
Wonder Market
Woolworths - Delcain Centre, Kloof
Youth Connected
Zimbali in memory of Sandile

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Would you like to help?

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

Corporate Social Investment (CSI)

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

You CAN Make a Difference!

- Become an ambassador for HACT and share our story.
- Shop at the Woza Moya craft shop, either here at the Centre or via our online catalogue.
- Volunteer your time and expertise.
- Invite our team to conduct HIV/AIDS workshops in your place of work or worship.
- Buy plants, pots, compost and vegetable seedling from the plant nursery.
- Commission artworks and major installations from Woza Moya.
- Know your HIV status and test regularly at the Centre.
- Join us on Facebook and Twitter and keep up-to-date with our news.
- Order branded or themed gifts for your wedding or conference.
- Make a tax-deductible financial donation.
- Donate clothing, household items, non-perishable food and toiletries.
- Pray for everyone involved with the 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, dignity and comfort to our patients by adopting one of the 24 beds in our Respite Unit, either as a business, church or an individual. You may adopt a full bed for R5,500 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 HIV positive patients who have nowhere else to turn to, and it 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

Please get in touch!

We love hosting visitors to the Centre, and being able to share our news and introduce visitors to our staff. Contact Olivia Myeza or Laurel Oettle to arrange a tour, or to discuss ways of supporting our programmes and outreach initiatives:



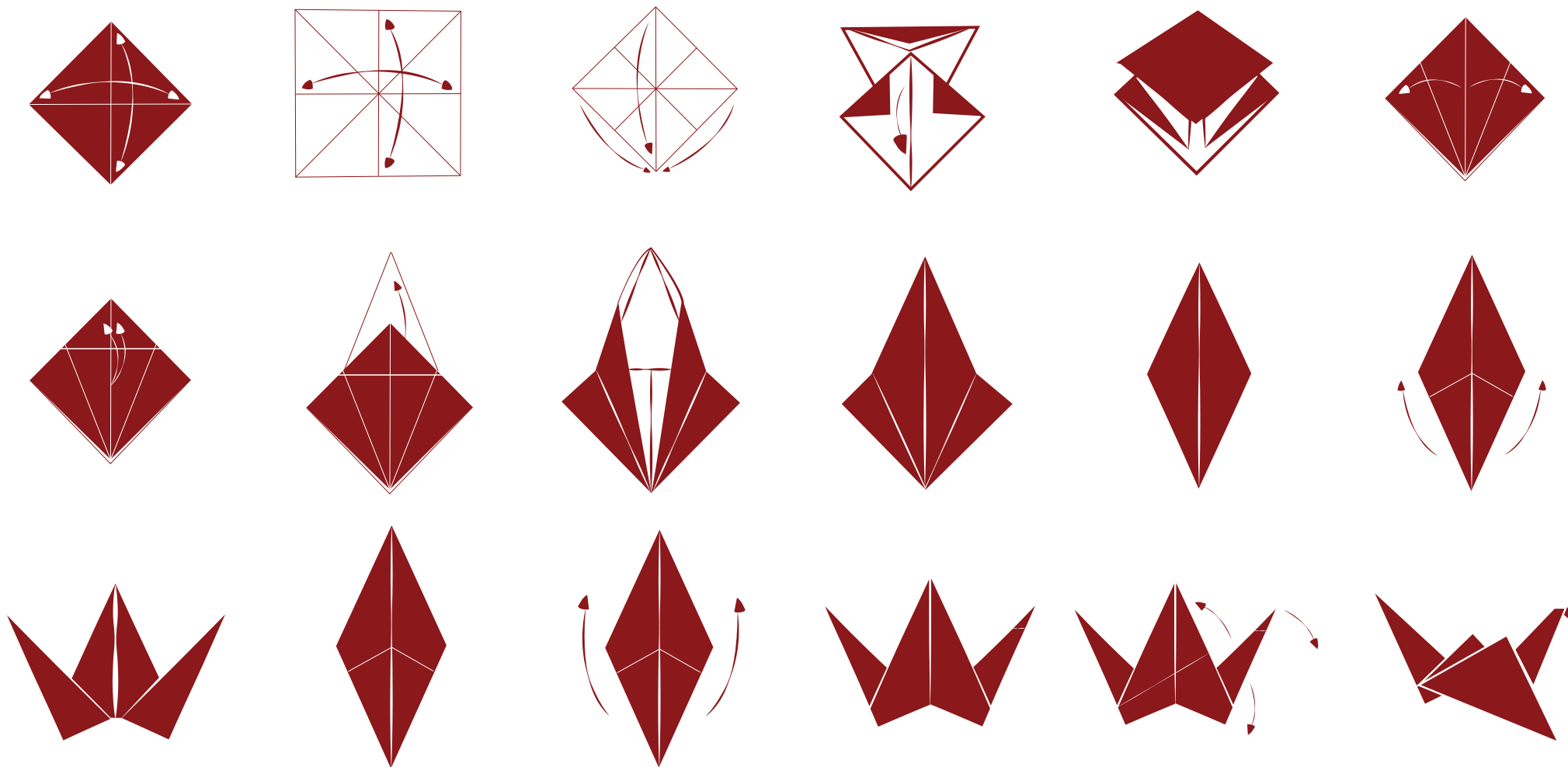
+27(0)31 765 5866



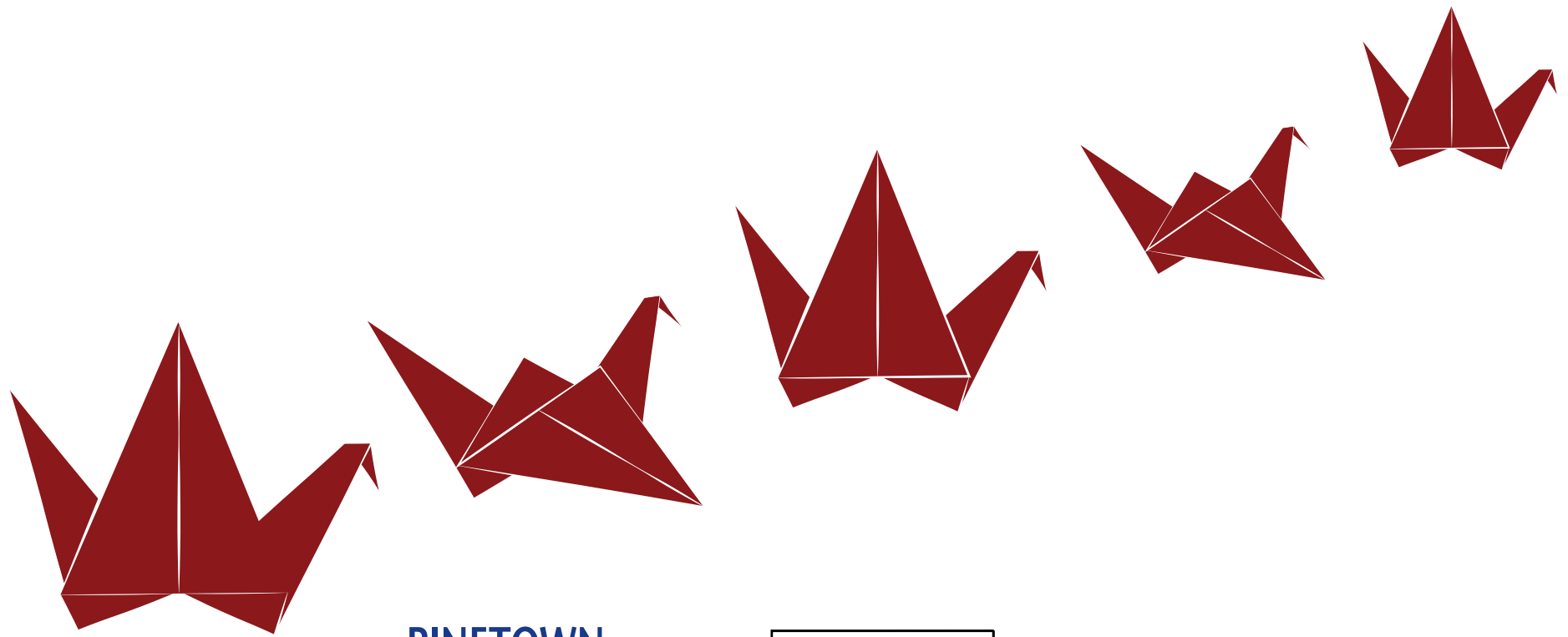
info@hillaims.org.za.



MAKE A CRANE







Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust would like to thank the following friends for their tremendous work in compiling this Annual Report:

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Photography by Xavier Vahed

HILLCREST AIDS



CENTRE TRUST

Get in touch: Like us on **Facebook**, Follow us on **Twitter**, come in and say, **hello!**

Contact us on:

 031 765 5866
 031 765 8781
 info@hillcraids.org.za
 @ www.hillcrestaids.org.za

Registered Non-Profit Organisation 005-800 NPO

Where we are:



26 Old Main Road, Hillcrest, 3610
P.O. Box 2474, Hillcrest 3650
Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa

Socialize with us:

 hillcrest.aids.centre.trust
 Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust
 @Hillcrest_AIDS