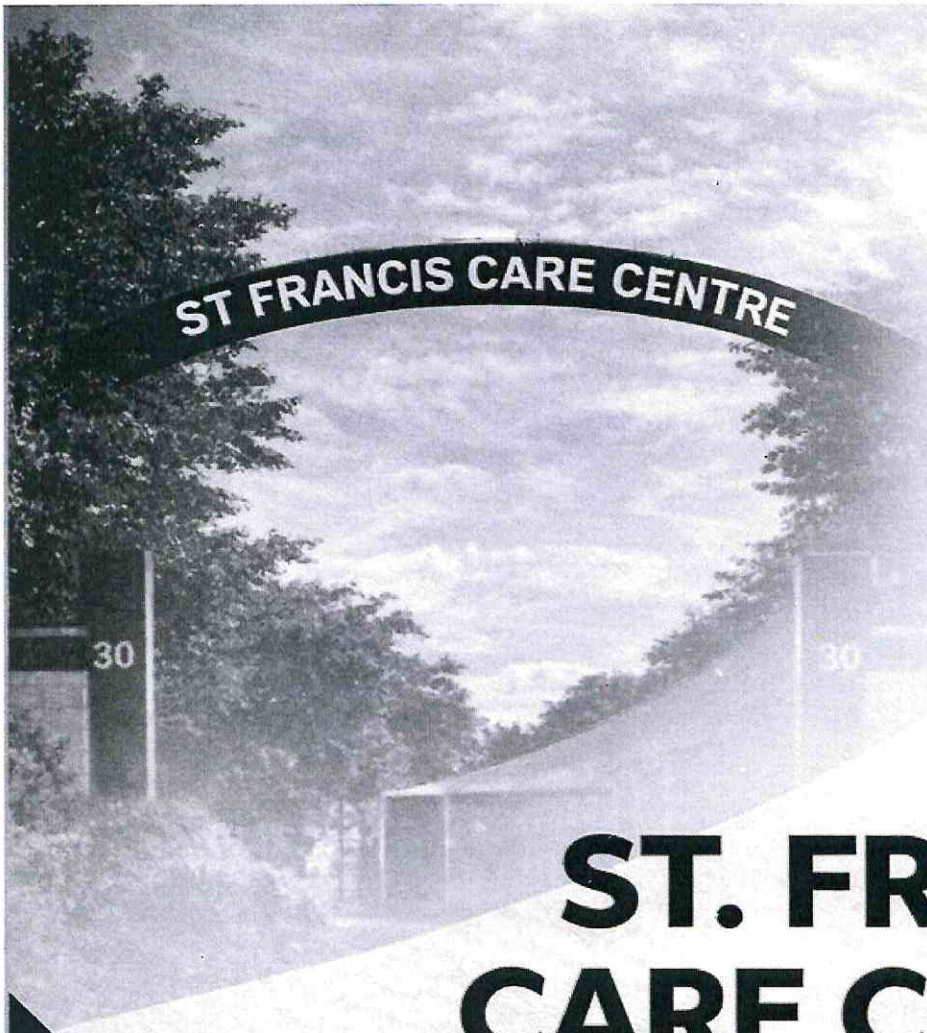


St Francis
CARE CENTRE
Dedicated to comfort, care & compassion

ST. FRANCIS CARE CENTRE

DEDICATED TO COMFORT, CARE & COMPASSION

2026

BACKGROUND HISTORY
OF ST FRANCIS CARE CENTRE

St Francis Care Centre was founded in 1992 by Father Stan Brennan , OFM , a Francisan priest who was deeply moved by the suffering he witnessed during the 1980's. At the height of the HIV / AIDS crisis , he encountered countless men and women who were neglected , ostracised , and left to die alone and destitute , abandoned by family and friends . Out of this compassion , he established a haven where those affected could receive care delivered with love , warmth , and dignity .

Father Stan was also profoundly touched by the plight of mothers who were dying from AIDS-related illnesses , leaving behind very young children - many of whom were abandoned in hospitals immedistely after birth . In response , he opened the children's section of the Centre , affectionately known as " The Raibow Cottage , " to provide safety , nurturing , and hope for these vulnerable little ones .

While advances in treatment have meant that HIV / AIDS is no longer the death sentence it once was , the need of compassionate care remains . Today , St Francis Care Centre continues Father Stan's legacy by providing specialised palliative care to adults facing life-limiting and life-threatening illness such as cancer , cardiac diseases , dabetes , HIV , dementa / and Alzheimer's disease .

OUR MISSION

PALLIATIVE & SUPPORTIVE CARE

Specialised care for adults living with serious ilnesses such as cancer, cardiac disease, diabetes, HIV, dementia, and Alzheimer's

RESIDENTIAL CHILD & YOUTH CARE

A loving home for vulnerable, abandoned, and affected children under the Child Care Act No. 38 of 2005

DIGNITY, COMFORT & COMPASSION

Restoring hope and enhancing quality of life with unwavering love and respect

OUR PROGRAMMES

St Francis Care Centre has expanded Significantly since 1992 and offers 4 programmes:

- Adult Hospice and Palliative Care Centre
- The Rainbow Cottage
- Home Based Care
- Social Mobilisation services (HIV testing and TB screening.)

1. ADULT HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE CENTRE

The hospice accommodated 30 adult patients living with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses such as HIV / AIDS , cancer , tuberculosis , diabetes with complications (including amputations) , cardiac failure , brain aneurysms , as well as early dementia and Alzheimer's disease .

Comprehensive palliative care is provided by a dedicated multidisciplinary team consisting of a medical doctor , professional nurses , social workers , care assistants , and religious counsellors . Our services remain focused on the sick , poor , and vulnerable , the majority of whom are unable to contribute financially toward their care . For those who qualify , our social worker assists with applications for disability grants to provide some measure of support .

Many of our patients arrive at the hospice in a very weakend state-malnourished , frail , and often suffering from severe bedsores that require urgent and intensive care . Through compassionate , professional intervention , we strive to restore comfort , dignity , and quality of life during their most difficult journey .







Some of our patients in the in-patient unit at the moment

2. CHILDREN'S SECTION KNOWN AS "THE RAINBOW COTTAGE"



St Francis Care Cenre provides resedential care for 35 children between birth and six years of age. These children are placed with us by the court in terms of the Child Care Act no. 38 of 2005 , as they were found to be living in environments that were unsafe and detrimental to their well-being . Some have been orphaned due to HIV / AIDS pandemic , others abandoned at birth , and many severely neglected or abused .

On arrival , most children are malnourished and developmentally delayed due to a lack of nutrition, stimulation , and proper care . To address this , a dedicated professional team - including a doctor , professionel nurses , carers , teachers , and a social worker - ensures each child's immediate well-being and supports their holistic development.

Once the children are placed in our care , we focus on :

- Comprehensive medical assessments and stabilisation
- Specialist therapies (physiotherapy , occupational therapy , and speech therapy) to address developmental delays
- Dietician support for nutritional rehabilitation and weight monitoring
- Pre-school education (nursery school) for children aged 3-6 years
- Exploring possibilities for family reunification
- Identifying suitable host , foster , or adoptive families

Our responsibility goes beyond providing shelter-we attend to each child's medical, psycho-social , and spiritual needs while working to create a brighter future . We collaborate closely with community social workers to support family reunification when possible , or to facilitate placement with loving host , foster , or adoptive families .

At St Francis Care Centre , we hold firmly to the belief that every child belongs in a family , not an institution. For this reason , we do everything possible to reintegrate each child into a safe , nurturing , and permanent family enviroment .





Some of the young children that are in our care currently





EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Many of the children at the Centre experience developmental delays . To address this , we have a qualified nursery school teacher who spends quality time with them , helping to close developmental gaps and preparing the for formal schooling at the age of six - a critical milestone in their growth and education .

Our nursery school operates from Monday to Friday , 08:00 - 13:00 . Children aged 3 - 4 years paricipate in an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme under the guidance of an assistant teacher , while children aged 4 - 6 years follow a structured school readiness programme led by the quilified nursery school teacher .

For children with more significant develepmental challenges , we work closely with local hospitals and their departments of occupational therapy , pysiotherapy , and speech therapy . These specialists design idividualised programes for each child , which we then implement consistently at the Centre . This collaborative approach ensues that every child receives the support they need to progress and 'catch up' as quickly as possible .



3. HOME BASED CARE

St. Francis Care Centre's Home Based Care Programme is dedicated to extending our compassionate care beyond our Centre's walls to patients in their own homes , focusing particularly on those living with debilitating , life-threatening , or life-limiting illnesses such as HIV/AIDS , tuberculosis , cancer , and cardiac conditions .

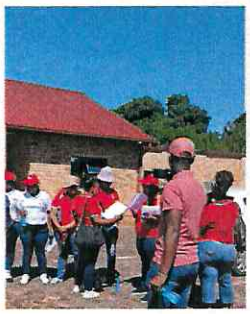
Our key services include :

- Home Visits : Professional nurses and caregivers provide essentia medical care , wound management , ad medication monitorng for patients in their home .
- Nursing Support : We administer ongoing palliative care , offer pain management , and educate patients and their families on disease management and medication adherence .
- Daily Living Assistance : We assist with tasks such as bathing , feeding , and changing of dressings to help maintain patients' dignity and comfort as they cope with their illnesses .
- Emotional and Spiritual Support : Social workers offer counselling and emotional support to both patients and their families , addressing the psychological challenges of dealing with serious illness .

Through the Home Based Care Programme , we provide not only medical and practical assistance but also emotional and spiritual , ensuring that patients and their families feel suppported and care for during some life's most challenging times .







4. HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS) AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION

HIV testing services (HTS) include the actual HIV test along with pre- and post- test counselling , linkage to care , prevention services , and other support to provide comprehensive treatment , confidential , and quality-assured HIV care . We have a team of Lay Counsellors , Coordinators , Linkage Officers and a Project Manager who goes into communities on a daily basis to provide a comprehensive package that includes :

- Counselling : Provides information before the test (pre-test) and support after the test (post-test) to help people understand results and options .
- Confidentiality : Protects the client's personal information and ensures their privacy .
- Consent : Ensures clients agree to be tested and understand what it involves .
- Correct Results : Guarantees that the testing methods and processes are accurate and reliable .
- Connection to Care : Links clients to prevention , treatment and other support services , whether their result is positive or negative .





HTS team providing comprehensive health screening services in the community .

HOW ARE WE FUNDED ?

St. Francis Care Centre is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) , and our work is sustained largely through the generosity of the public , corporates , trusts , and foundations . As the majority of our patients and beneficiaries are indigent and unable to contribute financially towards the services they receive , the Centre is heavily reliant on donor support to continue providing the highest quality of care to both adults and children .

While we do receive subsidies from the department of Social Development (for the children's section) and from the Department of Health (for the adult section) , these contributions account for less than 40% of our annual expenditure . This leaves a significant shortfall , which must be met through ongoing fundraising efforts and the kindness of our donors .

Supporting St. Francis Care Centre also carries important benefits for donors :

- As a registered Pubic Benefit Organisation (PBO) , we may issue Section 18A certiicates for bona fide donations , allowing up to 10% of taxable income to be deducted in terms of the Act .
- Companies can also earn B-BBEE points , as 98% of our beneficiaries are from previously disadvantaged groups .
- St. Francis Care Centre is a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor and can issue an official certificate to this effect .

health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

social development
Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Your financial support is not only a contribution towards sustaining our work but also a meaningful investment in restoring dignity , hope , and quality of life to those who need it most

OUR NEEDS

With the above programmes there are projects which can be identified and require urgent funding .
Examples of these are as follows :

PROJECT 1 : THE ANGEL OF LOVE



This presents a win-win stuation for both the Centre as well as the donor . The Centre benefits financially an can provide the care and future planning that the child requires whilst the donation is tax deductible for the donor . The donor becomes an "Angel of Love" by pledging a fixed amount to the Rainbow Cottage (children's section) on a monthly basis e.g.

R1 000 per month (R12 000 per annum) will provide a child with residential care , food , formula , medication and psycho-social care . In addition , it will assist the process of reuniting the child with family of their own (whether it be their own biological family or a foster famiy) .

PROJECT 2 : SPONSORSHIP OF A 2-BEDDED WARD FOR ADULT PATIENTS

The hospice has 10x2-bedded wards with a bathroom/shower . St Francis Care Centre has focusd on the poorest of the poor and very few of our adult patients , if any , can afford to contribute anything towards their stay at the Centr . No person suffering from a terminal illness and who requires medical and palliative care is refused admission .



According to our cost analysis , it costs us R350.00 per day to provide care to an adult patient . The total cost of keeping a ward operational fo 20 patients is R2,555,000.00 per annum . This includes medical care,medicatio , accomodation , meals , counselling and family support . The children's section (The Rainbow Cottage) has 5 wrds with Child beds/Cots which also requires sponsorship .

We are inviting donors to sponsor a ward for a period of 1 year . In return for this investments , we offer the following :

- Full naming rights of the ward for the period of investment
- Acknowledgement on our donor board and web page
- Regular progress reports as and when required by the donor
- Media recognition if at all possible and if desired
- Support services to employees and / or immediate family members if and when required
- Educational / awareness talks at the company if and when required
- Free HTS (HIV Testing Services) service on / off site to empoyees if required

PROJECT 3 : NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMME



Nutrition plays a vital roll in the recovery and well-being of patients . Every effort is made to provide our adults and children with nutritional meals which will assist with their physical well-being . Some clients arriving at our hospice are so weak they chould not walk and admit to not having had anything to eat for 3 days or more !

We invite donors to asist us by sponsoring the following :

- Meat (R10 000 per month - R120 000 per annum)
- Groceries (R8 000 per month - R96 000 per annum)

PROJECT 4 : FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The St. Francis Care Centre is dependent on financial support from donors to continue rendering its services to adults and children infected ad affected by HIV / AIDS and all other life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses . Any financial support will be welcome , will be officially acknowledged and a Section 18(a) certificate issued for tax deduction (A win-win situation .)



Our banking details are as follows :

BANK	STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA
BRANCH	K90 CENTRE - BOKSBURG , GAUTENG
BRANCH CODE	011842
NAME OF ACCOUNT	ST FRANCIS CARE CENTRE
ACCOUNT NO	220938245

PROJECT 5 : MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

One of our greatest current needs is a safe , reliable minibus to transport our children !

This vehicle will be used for :

- Taking children to hospitals and clinics for regular medical check-ups
- Tansporting children to schools , educational activities , and outings
- Allowing participation in swimming and sports activities , which are vital for health and social development



At present , we face great difficulty without such a vehicle , as alternative transport is costly and unreliable . **A minibus will ensure that our children can travel safely , comfortable and regularly for their essential needs** . We are open to purchasing a second-hand minibus in good condition here in South-Africa , as importing one would involve high duties and legal restrictions .

Why support St. Francis Care Centre ?

- **Proven Track Record** : Over 30 years of service to vulnerable communities
- **Transparency** : Open accountability for all donations , and access to financial records
- **Direct Impact** : Contributions directly improve to daily lives of children and sick adults
- **Sustainability** : Your support helps us continue our long-standig mission of love and care

CONCLUSION

for more than 30 years , St. Francis Care Centre has been a place of refuge , compassion , and healing for thousads of adults , children and families in desperate need . With strong infrastructure , proven credibility , and a longstanding commitment to service , the Centre has become a leade in HIV care , palliative care , and child care within Ekurhuleni . Recently , it has also been accredited to provide quality palliative care to all persons face life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses , including cancer , diabetes , and hypertension .

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors across the pivate , corporate , and public sectors . Their unwavering commitment continues to sustain the work of the Centre and brings hope , dignity and comfort to those we serve .

By making a financial investment in St. Francis Care Centre , you are not only helping us continue our vital servics - you are also investing in the future of ur country and its people .

With heartfelt gratitide , I thank you in anticipation of your support .

St Francis CARE CENTRE

APCC ASSOCIATION OF PALLIATIVE CARE CENTRES

VALIDATED ORGANIZATION CAF GROUP