



ST. FRANCIS CARE CENTRE



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The Profile of St Francis Care Centre.

1. Background:

St. Francis Care Centre (SFCC) was established in 1992 to provide hospice and palliative care to persons suffering from life threatening and/or life limiting conditions where they will be cared for in a professional and comfortable environment whilst their physical, spiritual, emotional and social needs are catered for with care and dedication.

2. What do we do?.

St. Francis Care Centre have expanded significantly since 1992 and now offers four (4) programmes.

Adult Hospice.

The hospice can accommodate on average, 35 adult patients suffering from illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, neuropathy, hypertension, Hiv/Aids etc. These patients are cared for by a professional medical staff and also have the benefit of a comprehensive counselling service for themselves and their families.

Children's Section.

The Rainbow Cottage for children was established in 1996 and provides residential care to thirty five (35) abandoned or orphaned children from birth to seven (7) years old. A professional team of medical staff, teachers and a social worker takes care of the children to ensure their wellbeing and the development of their full potential. The children aged between 3-7 years attend a nursery school on our premises. Children are referred to us by hospitals, other NGO's, and home based care workers. Most of these children referred to us are very ill on arrival, malnourished and developmentally delayed.

Once the children are with us we aim to do the following.

- Proper medical assessment.
- Stabilize the children medically.
- Provide therapy to address development delays.
- Explore family reunification possibilities.
- Find suitable host/foster/adoptive parents for the children.

Home Based Care.

The Centre has an active team of 9 Care Givers, 2 Coordinators, 2 Social Auxiliary Workers and 1 Social Worker providing home based care to persons living with life threatening and/ life limiting conditions in extremely impoverished informal settlement namely the Volsloorus Community. Many of the clients visited by the home based care workers are referred to local clinics for TB testing and are assisted with applications for ID documents, birth certificates and social grants. In addition, all members of these households are encouraged to receive voluntary testing and counselling (VCT) in order to “know their status”. In addition, our OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) program provides psycho-social support to over 120 Children.

Health Screening and Testing (HTS).

Three (3) teams consisting of a coordinator and 3 lay counsellors each mobilise communities on a daily basis to test for HIV so that they can know their status and establish their general wellbeing by testing their BP and Blood Sugar. People who are tested positive or are found to have a BP or Blood Sugar problem are referred to their local clinics for further medical management.

3. Staff Component.

St. Francis Care Centre currently has a staff complement of 82 people. This interdisciplinary team consists of professional social workers, professional nurses, care helpers, auxiliary social workers, lay counsellors, home based care workers, gardeners, cooks, laundry staff, driver, maintenance and a medical doctor who visits once a day.

4. Board of Governors and Office Bearers.

In order to ensure a strong organizational governance to help us to meet our goals and to provide guidance and direction for our future, the Centre currently has 13 elected board members whose primary role is to provide strategic planning and oversight into the work and operations of the Centre. Mr. Themba Ntshalintshali is the current Chairperson of the board of governors.

5. Financial Accountability and Compliance.

St. Francis Care Centre have appointed Nwanda Incorporated Chartered Accounts (SA) to assist us with scrutinizing our financial accounting records and the preparation of the annual financial reports in line with relevant accounting standards and legislation.

6. Conclusion.

St. Francis Care Centre is a well-established organization with a strong infrastructure and a record of accomplishment and credibility. For the past 27 years of our existence and guided by our three cardinal ethos: compassion, love and care, our Centre has established itself as a leader in field of palliative care, HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and treatment and child care in the Greater Ekurhuleni area. The Centre has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many adults and children as well as families who are in need of care and to invest in the future of our country and its people.