



Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Annual Report 2011

Newsletter No. 31 2012

Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
P O Box 440 · Mandeni 4490 · South Africa
Phone: +27 (0)32 4562743
Fax: +27 (0)32 4567962
E-mail: info@bbg.org.za
Homepage: www.bbg.org.za

The **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** is an Association of the Roman Catholic Church, a South African Public Benefit Organisation and the Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta in South Africa.



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

is a "Non-profit Organisation" (Registration No. 080-935-NPO) and a "Public Benefit Organisation" [SARS Ref. No. PBO 18/11/13/2777, VAT No. 447 0252 182] founded and owned by the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

It provides a comprehensive system of holistic care in the wider Mandeni area where a quarter of a million people are estimated to live.

A large number of these have to live in poverty.

All its services are rendered free of charge.

Caring without borders!



Our **mission** is to further the glory of God and strive with a common effort to foster a more perfect life of our members by devoting ourselves to the apostolate of the Church in works of charity to serve "the poor of our Lord Jesus Christ" extending God's loving care to them under the motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" (Protection of faith and service to the poor).

"Vision"

May the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in adopting it's patron's charisma continue the ancient spiritual tradition of its roots to humbly serve the hungry and thirsty, estranged and naked, sick and imprisoned Lord and thus become a sign of Christian faith, cheerful hope and apostolic love to the people.

We care in any case!



We are ...

- a group of more than 2500 **idealists** with the aim to enable and empower people to help themselves and to provide direct aid in cases of emergency and immediate need.
- the South African **relief organisation** of the Order of Malta. The latter was founded as a nursing brotherhood by Blessed Gérard more than 900 years ago.
- a **faith based organisation** (FBO) putting into action what our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" means: "Protection of faith and service to the needy".
- a "**Private Association of Christ's Faithful**" in the Roman Catholic Church, open to members from all different faiths and cultural backgrounds.
- a **community based** (CBO) **non governmental organisation** (NGO).
- a "**public benefit organisation**" (PBO) operated **not for profit** (NPO) and dedicated to the welfare of all people.
- a **non-discriminating** and **non-exclusive** organisation, which serves the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, political affiliation, sexual orientation or social status.
- a **charity** which helps within its own capability according to the identified needs of the people.

We run ...

a **Hospice** (the one with the largest inpatient unit in South Africa), an **HIV/AIDS Education Programme**, an **AIDS treatment (HAART) Programme**, a **Malnutrition Clinic**, a **Poor-Sick Fund**, a **Relief Fund**, a **Children's Home**, a **Pre-Primary School & Crèche**, a **Social Club for the Elderly**, a **First Aid Service**, a **Bursary Fund** and a **Disaster Relief Project**.

In 2011 we celebrated:



15 years of service of Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project

We provide disaster relief being ready to give medical assistance and care as a relief organisation in case of a disaster.



and 15 years of service of the first project of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre being Blessed Gérard's Hospice

- We render a health care service to poor and needy persons by providing
- hospice palliative care and counselling of terminally ill persons and the counselling of their families in this regard,
 - hospice palliative care, counselling and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) of persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS, including the care or counselling of their families and dependants in this regard
 - primary health care education through training, home care, day care, outpatient and inpatient care.

This Annual Report and Newsletter is also published online at
<http://bbg.org.za/pr/newsletters/31/index.htm>

Building Mandela's New South Africa



In a world of poverty, violence, and AIDS, children face unthinkable obstacles- they grow up too fast, and they end up scarred. But at Blessed Gerard's Children's Home, they are free

to be children. What an extraordinary miracle that is.

They are protected from casual violence and parental abuse; they are given proper medical care and healthy meals. They are enrolled in great schools and suffer no barriers to daily attendance. They live with their best friends, and constantly learn from and support one another. They don't have to suffer the presence or negative effects of drugs or alcohol. They are blessed with caregivers who consider them their "angels." I quickly came to understand that



sentiment - when one of the children, Adrian, wrote me a card that said "Thank you Mum" I was touched by his gratitude. They are angels.

To see a child being a child is a beautiful thing. Sometimes it looks like an impromptu soccer game in the backyard (with caregivers playing as goalies!), other times it's a group of boys huddled at a table drawing their favourite cartoon characters, and then it's all the little ones practicing a traditional Zulu dance with Sr. Edith in preparation for the Feast of Blessed Gerard. It sounds like excited voices singing "Happy Birthday" or reciting their bedtime prayers together with Sister Thecla. It feels like a bunch of children clambering over you in anticipation of a photo opportunity or the weight of a cheerful baby Charles in your arms. It tastes like the fresh magwenya pastry the older girls helped cook one Friday afternoon or my first time chomping on sugarcane - at which time my inexperience and awkwardness gave rise to much laughter! But deep down, what it really feels like, is the presence of God.

I will always remember the receiving extended hugs goodnight, playing races where you had to imitate an animal, reading stories before bed, learning how to speak some Zulu from the children, and dancing to music wherever it came from- commercials on TV, from the caregivers singing, or from Sister Edith's makeshift drum. I especially loved riding along to pick them up



from school—whether with art project and assignment book in hand or sporting a cross-country uniform, they were so proud to show me where they went to school and how well they were doing. I was presented with many a report on South Africa and their kids' national pride, evident in their habit of spontaneously belting out the South African national anthem, was inspiring. That glimpse into their lives brought me back to my own school days- in those moments, I could see my own childish enthusiasm for learning in all of their faces and it made me so excited for them! They attend one of the best schools in Mandeni, and I am excited for what it will mean for their futures.

The children at Blessed Gerard's Care Centre are safe, they are healthy, and they are happy. One of the older children, Gerard,

told me once that America sounds "cool," but that Mandeni is "a great place to live." They are clearly blessed.

But there is something else- a sort of "accidental blessing" that I only realized after returning home at the end of my eight weeks there. Whether or not they realize it, the children at the Care Centre are creating a future that is less segregated - a future where Zulus, Coloureds, Indians, and Whites can come from the same place, speak the same languages and understand one another in the most fundamental of ways. All the children- whether Zulu, Coloured, or Indian, were excited to learn and perform the traditional Zulu dance. They were all comfortable speaking different languages. They even arranged rugby matches with their Afrikaaner neighbours who they also went to school with. This diversity and integration was such a part of their life they rarely noticed. The Children's Home gave them the opportunity to start anew, without confronting, or worse, passing on the prejudices or harsh memories of the past. Where else does a brighter future start than in the hearts and minds and habits of children?

In Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech in 1994, he voiced his dream for a "rainbow nation at peace with itself." At Blessed Gerard's Children's Home, they are building Mandela's new South Africa. While I was there, they taught me what, according to their heroic president, it should mean to be South African.

It is easily said that the child who grows up in a Children's Home is set back because of

his or her past. But God works in ways that elude us, and even though those children certainly haven't lived "charmed" or easy lives, they have opportunities and support that a child living in a rural or informal settlement hardly dares dream about. I became just one member of the team of caregivers, administrators and other adults in the Care Centre who are dedicated to those children and their well-being. They are extraordinary adults and freely give their hearts to those children.

No child falls through the cracks there- not the quiet ones, not the less intellectually



gifted, not the non-Catholics, and certainly not the mentally and physically handicapped. It is as if Christ is there, holding out his indiscriminate hand to each child and offering help.

The ten oldest children manage something incredible. Living separate from the General Children's Home, they are a fully functional family. With Sister Edith at the helm, they cook dinner for themselves every night,

they determine their own homework schedules, they do their own laundry, and live together in harmony (though not without all the normal ups and downs of close-knit family life!). I may be at university, but Hloni, one of the older girls, was teaching me how to cook delicious curry and "shakalaka" by Day 3. In their free time, Megan and Cameron write poetry and song lyrics, Evander works on electronics, Phiwa practices dancing, Thuli reads books, Cebo explores Mandeni. Gerard even goes looking for ways to help around the Care Centre. Hloni sews and does beading, and Jade can usually be found outside leading games with the younger children. In fact, all ten of the oldest children will head downstairs to spend time with the younger children— who are in some cases, their siblings and in all cases, look up to them.

On Saturday evenings, they all gather in Fr. Gerard's flat for mass in his private chapel and a delicious meal cooked by Father and the two lucky ones whose turn it was to accompany him to the grocery store. Those nights are some of my best memories- constant laughs, talk about music, wise words from Father, and the animated exchange of stories and adventures to be heard in a home-grown mix of Zulu and English. From the very first day they welcomed me into their special family tradition, and I will never forget that their hilarious first question to me was "Do you carry a radio on your shoulder and do graffiti?" I had no idea that was the American stereotype! The children and I asked questions with unending curiosity to each other, and I dispelled quite a few myths about America while they told me all about their lives in Mandeni.

„You are my friend“

The most shocking thing I learned, and in all honesty, is that a 15 year old at Blessed Gerard's Care Centre has more independence, responsibility, and life skills than the average American 18 year old. Needless to say, I was impressed.

They, along with the younger children, have been inspired by their caregivers' examples of selflessness, hard work, and love; they have developed the ability to accommodate the strengths, weaknesses, and quirks of their peers; they have had an intensely human experience. When they enter the tough world that is waiting for them outside the Care Centre's doors, they will be ready. With the eternal support of their unique, and very large, family bolstering them from behind, their natural instincts will lead them in the direction of a better South Africa and a better world.

It is extraordinary when one remembers the



horrific circumstances from which those children have come. How obvious it is what a positive difference the Children's Home makes in their lives.

By Iona Hughan



Midway through my time at the Care Centre, I switched from working at the Children's Home to the Hospice. It was a different world. By the end of Day 1,

Fanele, one of the caregivers, had taught me many things. The first thing she told me was that I should treat every woman in the St. Toscana ward as my own "gogo" or grandmother. Second, she said that everything I do, even the smallest actions, should be done "whole-heartedly," with patience and focus and loving care. In a sense, that is all she needed to teach me, because that is what the Hospice is. It is a place where you are welcomed into Blessed Gerard's Care Centre and treated like family. I learned quickly that apart from taking vital signs and helping bathe and feed patients, my more important job was to be true to that mission and make each person in the Hospice feel like family. This is so important because outside the Care Centre, sick people are being neglected by their relatives and abandoned because of the stigma of illness. Father Gerard told me stories of the early years when the ambulance would literally pick up people that had been left beside

the road to die. Even now, the severe pressure sores on many patients' bodies tell a sad story of neglect. Even if their relatives do try to care for them, many people who are terminally ill end up feeling like a bur-



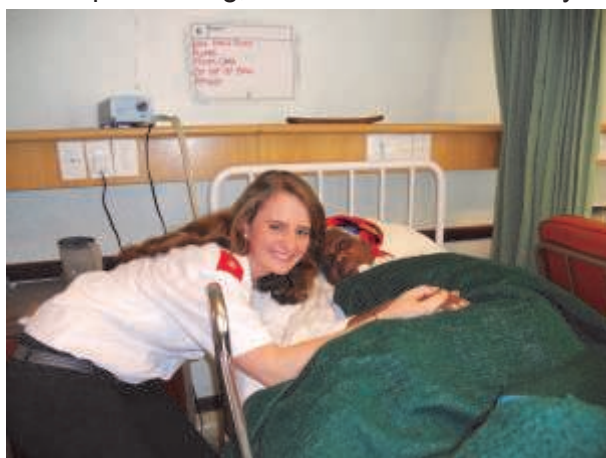
den. At the Hospice, however, one doesn't get that feeling at all. One might ask, "How does that blessing happen?" For me, it happened first through music. Fanele, the caregiver I mentioned earlier, proved by example that the surest way to get all the "gogos" smiling was to sing traditional Zulu songs. The women that were able to would invariably sing along, and all at once the generation barrier and the difference in health evaporated. Youthful Fanele would dance and sing, and one of the women, Melta, would keep the rhythm by drumming on her chest. In those moments everyone was uplifted and I had a glimpse of the vibrancy of the Zulu culture that produced such powerful music. In those moments the women were transformed into proud matriarchs with a story to

tell and I was in awe. Despite being in some cases bed-ridden, unable to eat by themselves, or even half-paralyzed, those women were strong and very much alive- it is the power of the Hospice and it's caregivers that they are able to feel that way.

Music was one of the first ways I learned to communicate with the women. After that, I learned that so much can be said by bathing someone patiently and respectfully, and exactly like Father said, even more by simply holding someone's hand. I knew only a few Zulu words, but the fact that I made the effort to learn spoke volumes to them. My awkward "Sawubona" always earned me a response and provoked a little laughter as well! Occasionally we spoke in English- the first time I fed one of the Gogos- and probably very clumsily- she said to me "Thank you, baby."

Because of how much that simple gratitude meant to me, I realized that I needed to be welcomed into the family of the Hospice just as much as the patients did. This is the magic of the Hospice. No one comes to do their work and leave. When Jabulani was able to take several steps around the ward, we all got excited and happy for his progress. Each person genuinely cares! Even though it is a Hospice and no patient expects to be cured, there is a lot of healing that happens in the wards. The patients come to feel more respected and cared for, and the caregivers are helped by learning patience and doing good works for Christ. I found that there is great healing to be found in both doing and receiving good deeds.

I did not fully understand the importance of the Hospice until I saw someone die. One of the men in the ward where I had been working woke up with severe health complications one morning. His problem was unfixable and so we bathed him, put on clean sheets, and did all we could to make him comfortable. His blood pressure registered at an unbelievable 14. I sat with him for the two hours leading up to his death, and watched his chest rise and fill, listening to his heavy breaths and wiping his feverish forehead. I couldn't leave his side. When he did stop breathing, Sister Tecla came to say



prayers over his body, asking God that his final rest be peaceful. Unsure what to do and full of emotion, I wandered out onto the balcony. One of the boys in the Children's Home that I knew very well was running by and he stopped to say hello. From behind the gate he asked me, "Do you like your patients?" - to which I answered, "Of course." Satisfied with that answer, he then asked, "Which ones are yours?" How simply he understood the Hospice! Of course it was important that I liked

all of them, and I truly did feel responsible for the patients I worked with. In some sense, they were "mine" - the patients were all "ours," they had been entrusted to the Care Centre and they belonged there with us. We did more than like them- we loved them as Christ loves, unconditionally, with the feeling that they were our brothers and sisters, and with wide open hearts. To think, the questions that mattered to a nine year old boy were those that are essential to the mission of the Hospice. To answer "yes" to both of his questions, to pass his test, one had to be personally invested in the work of the Hospice—serving "whole-heartedly," as Fanele said on Day 1. Maybe he understood because the work that the caregivers do in the Children's Home is, at a basic level, the same. It is the work of everyone who is part of the Care Centre's work, from the nurses to the board members.

I then went to see Melta for a while in order to lift my heavy heart. I held her hand tight, but really, she was holding mine. I borrowed a little of her strength. Finally, I returned to my ward and sat with the man who had died until we took his body to the mortuary. Very respectfully, we recorded his name and prepared his body. Nothing was hurried, and there was no clumsiness, only reverence. I was surprised to find that I felt in some way protective over him, attached to and invested in the entire process, even though it was new to me and pained my heart. I really cared about him, and so did everyone around me. I wouldn't have done anything differently for my own brother.

I hope you can see and understand a little

better. This is what death looks like in the Hospice. There is dignity in this kind of death, a dignity that does not exist when one is left alone in a dark corner of a hut, in severe pain, or cast out of society.

The man who I sat with that day talked to himself and wrote incomprehensible things on napkins and scraps of paper. It would be easy to say he was crazy, and lost in a world of his own. But we did not feel that way. He was human, and that means more than anything else. He was a part of our world, and deserved a gentle death and loving care leading up to that moment of death. Blessed Gerard's Care Centre gave that to him.

A day spent working in the wards is exhausting. It involves many trips to the laundry room, bracing heavy patients as you bathe them, making beds, helping those who cannot lift their necks eat meals, changing gloves dozens of times, dusting and cleaning, pushing patients in wheelchairs to Mass, and dealing with unex-



pected problems. But all those things just happen. The Hospice is really for the in-between moments of joy. At Blessed Gerard's Care Centre there are many moments of joy—more than I ever dared expect.



Near the end of my time at the Care Centre, I went out with the ambulance. On those trips I saw horrible living situations, crowded waiting rooms, and, at the nearest government clinic, a receptionist surrounded by literally thousands of charts. We waited thirty minutes for her to find the chart we were looking for and another twenty for the medication we needed. Outside the Care Centre's walls, providing health care is complicated, rushed, and sometimes ineffective. After those trips, I understood why the patients and their families are so grateful for what the Brotherhood of Blessed Gerard does for the Mandeni area. Dr. Khaya personally visits each patient several times a week, and caregivers are always present. More than that, everyone is always good natured.

Even though I only worked in the Hospice

for four short weeks, I was blessed to see and understand its remarkable effects. In one sense it is impossible to describe in words, but in another sense, I can say it simply - the doctor, nurses, caregivers, administrators, kitchen staff, and patients, they are all a family. One can hear it in Fanele's voice when she sings, see it in the way that Nomvula remembers how every single patient likes their tea, and feel it when Melta, one of the patients, learned enough English to say "You are my friend."



The Hospice is a haven, especially when you realize what kind of situation the average patient has left behind. In most cases, the patients carry the weight of very much spiritual, emotional and physical pain, but the Hospice starts to heal that pain, it really does. I was blessed to be a part of that family, to see Christ's love in action, and to understand why it is so important to care.

By Iona Hughan

The world belongs to those who can see its potential



Most of the time, we try to get through travel as quickly as possible. We are tired of accounting for our cell phones and tickets, bored with waiting, and disoriented by time changes and lack of sleep. That was me on my way home to America from the eight weeks I spent living at Blessed Gerard's Care Centre. But fourteen hours into my trip and boarding my third plane, something stopped me in my tracks.

An HSBC Bank billboard on the wall read: "The world belongs to those who can see its potential."

And then I realized - Fr. Gerard and all the rest of the people who come to work and volunteer at the Care Centre are people like that. They choose, every single day, to accept the responsibility that comes with seeing a better future. They create a better future.

In 1992, after having lived in South Africa and worked as a missionary priest for six years, a young Father Gerard saw that the community he called home was being crippled by abuse, disease and neglect.



He saw an empty plot of land on Anderson Road. More importantly though, he also saw in his mind's eye and in his heart the potential for a better Mandeni, for a better South Africa — he saw the possibility of a Hospice.

According to that HSBC billboard I saw, because he saw such potential, the world belongs to him. But what does that mean?

Personally, I would propose that the billboard I read was only half complete. It lacks any mention of the responsibility that comes with the ability to see brighter frontiers. To see the world as an idealist is a blessing, but it also comes with a challenge to make your dreams for the future come alive.

I would say that the world is instead entrusted to those who can see its potential and that those people are then called to help selflessly in whatever way they can. The world "belongs" to no one. It is, however, *entrusted* to those with vision and optimism, just as patients are *entrusted* into the care of Blessed Gerard's Hospice.

It is an extraordinary thing to spend time with people who were the inspiration and driving force behind a project, especially an organisation as successful, human, and uplifting as Blessed Gerard's Care Centre. In talking with Mrs Renaud, Father Gerard, Mrs Thabethe, and many other members who have been present and active since very early years when the Care Centre was just a dream, I was blessed to do just that. They told me about the process of forming the Brotherhood, which has grown from just five original members to now over 2,500 - a number they hardly dared to imagine! They shared stories about the many times they cried together, meals spent in cheerful laughter, the very first Holy Masses they celebrated together, and long days of exhausting, but still thrilling, work. They are heroes, and the walls of the Care Centre grew up around their collective enthusiasm,

faith, and dedication to Christ's example of abundant love.



And how those walls have grown! The last 15 years have brought more than 3000 Hospice patients through the Care Centre's welcoming doors, and trained 998 people in home care to support to live its mission of care from the outside. 86 employees and more than a thousand volunteers have worked under the Care Centre's roof. It's incredible to really try to imagine those numbers.

As humans, we all hope that things will get better. Maybe we will find a cure for AIDS. Maybe one day no one will bear the chains of poverty. Maybe at some point the hate and violence of racism won't plague our communities. But those people who can look beyond the problems and see solutions, those are the heroic leaders we need to support.

For instance, imagine that someone, after watching the news, thinks about the reality of life in South Africa and hopes for an end to poverty, violence, and the AIDS crisis. This is a natural human reaction. Now recall that when Father Gerard pondered the same situation while looking out on Anderson Road, he envisioned a Hospice. This is

a natural leader's reaction. There is a key difference. What Father did was not abstract, it was concrete - he saw a tangible and viable solution.

In the same way, there is a key difference between a) reading this newsletter and musing that the Brotherhood of Blessed Gerard accomplishes great things, and b) reading this newsletter and deciding to help by donating money or saying prayers on behalf of its work. The second is concrete, it is heroic, and it is helpful.



In July, I watched Dr. Khaya Nzimande make the promise to become a Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood. His humility and dedication are inspiring to me, and even more than that, he is always smiling! As one of the pillars of the Care Centre, he has provided the vision and driving force behind the new HAART Programme in the past years. In some way, the world, through his many patients, has been entrusted to him - he has answered that call. 1049 people have been able to receive HIV treatment because of his efforts. Something tangible we can do is to make sure his shelves are stocked with the medications he needs.



On Saturdays, I worked at the Malnutrition Clinic with Mrs Thabethe. She and her husband, another of the founding members, saw that beyond the Care Centre's walls, desperate mothers with sick infants needed help. For many years now, the Malnutrition Clinic has produced positive results and improved the lives of numerous infants and their mothers. Every other week, she weighs and evaluates the twenty or so infants who are brought to her, helping the mothers keep their babies on the track to good health. She fights illness by preventing it, and her work is essential. We can assist by making sure there is enough nutritious milk powder and protein-enriched porridge of the highest quality for her to give to those struggling mothers who travel many miles expecting and in need of help.

During the weeks I spent in the Children's Home, I learned that its administrators have worked hard to find specialty schools for those children who cannot thrive in a traditional environment. Children come to the Care Centre from all different environments



with diverse capabilities and challenges. With attentive care and through careful research, the administrators have found a solution. Three of the children attend a school in Durban that provides them the individual attention they need to succeed and learn. They have developed a diverse set of artistic and athletic talents as well as a real sense of pride in their endeavours. It makes a world of difference for them to have those opportunities. We can help make this possible by ensuring that their school fees, which are higher and not covered by the government, can be paid.

In my final week at the Care Centre, I went out into the community with Wiseman Zulu. He is one of the Care Centre's Therapeutic Counsellors and he visits hundreds of patients every month to monitor their response to HIV/AIDS treatment and check on their quality of life. When I went out with him in the Blessed Gerard vehicle, people were constantly waving to us and greeting Wiseman- they are clearly so grateful for all he has personally done for them. While telling me stories about growing up in the area and all of the work he does with the patients, he



told me that he has a vision. He sees the potential for AIDS patients to gain a sense of purpose and independence through a community garden. Our vital role in this vision is supplying and maintaining a functional four-wheel-drive vehicle that is able to reach the most remote rural areas and people, along with the money to make the necessary first investment in a project like a garden until it can sustain itself.

The men and women who organize these projects are visionaries. They cannot however, work with nothing. They have offered their two hands, their bright smiles, and all the time they have to give. Still, they need supplies, they need money, and they need our prayers. We can assist them!

Can you be a visionary yourself? See and create potential ways to help the Brotherhood of Blessed Gerard. Organize a collection at your parish or in your neighbourhood, spread the word about its work to your friends, ask your Church community

for prayers on behalf of the Brotherhood, or make the sacrifice to donate yourself. This is your opportunity to take care of the world -empower yourself to do so.

You have been blessed, and in those abundant blessings, you have been called by Christ to help those among his people who have less. There are people at Blessed Gerard's Care Centre who have concrete ideas about ways to better serve their community. All they need to make their visions come alive is your help. They have been called by Christ to be present in South Africa and to serve with open hearts and capable hands. Christ is calling you to support their selfless work. This is your chance - please answer His call.

By Iona Hughan



Annual Report 2011

The activities of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and the Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in the year 2011, like in the year before, were concentrating on maintaining momentum in our existing projects:

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre provides a comprehensive and holistic system of care by running:

Blessed Gérard's Hospice and HAART Programme: We render a health care service to **poor and needy** persons by providing

- hospice palliative care and counselling of **terminally ill** persons and the counselling of their families in this regard,
- hospice palliative care, counselling and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) of **persons afflicted with HIV/AIDS**, including the care or counselling of their families and dependants in this regard
- primary health care education

through training, home care, day care, outpatient and inpatient care.

Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:

We look after counsel and give a home to **sick, neglected, abused, malnourished, abandoned, homeless and orphaned children.**

Blessed Gérard's Friendship Club:

We organise meetings to enable the **elderly** to get out of their isolation and socialise with others.

Blessed Gérard's HIV/AIDS-Education Programme: We distribute information to the **public** relating to HIV and AIDS, namely how to avoid HIV infection and how to live positively with AIDS. This includes information about antiretroviral treatment.

Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche: We provide "educare" and an early childhood development service for **underprivileged pre-school children.**

Blessed Gérard's First Aid and Emergency Service: We provide rescue and care of persons in distress by offering First Aid and assisting **people in emergencies.**

Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic:

We provide a health care service to poor and needy persons by running a clinic, where we examine, treat and feed **malnourished infants** and teach their parent/carer in proper baby care and nutrition.

Blessed Gérard's Poor-Sick-Fund:

We provide poverty relief by helping **sick** people from our local community, if they cannot afford urgently needed medical treatment.

Blessed Gérard's Bursary Fund:

We provide poverty relief by giving bursaries to poor pupils and students of our local community.

Blessed Gérard's Relief Fund:

We provide poverty relief by helping people in our local community in genuine cases of **immediate need** (like hunger, lack of clothing, .destruction of their home).

Blessed Gérard's Disaster Control & Civil Protection:

We provide disaster relief being ready to give medical assistance and care as a relief organisation in case of a **disaster.**

The outstanding events of 2011 were:

A vital challenge to our AIDS treatment programme

On 18th January 2011 we received an alarming letter from the AIDS Office of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, stating "The contract regarding the PEPFAR-funded treatment project between your site and the SACBC AIDS Office will end in May 2011. This serves to inform you that the contract will not be renewed in the new financial year from June 2011. We regret this move, but are not in a financial position to continue with this programme."

That meant that we would have to bridge a financial gap of 3,007,497.00 Rand (418,035.52 USD / 260,166.07 GBP) per annum. The grant of the SACBC was an equivalent of 25.83 Rand (3.59 USD / 2.23 GBP) per patient per day in the last year (2010). Even that grant-in-aid would only cover part of the cost of the treatment programme and a considerable amount had to be raised by ourselves even up to now. We started a major fundraising drive trying to bridge the gap, but could only raise a small fraction of the monies needed, which helped to cover a good amount of our own contribution to the programme, but not all of that and most donations received in that fundraising drive were once-off donations and therefore we were and are left with a considerable financial responsibility on our own shoulders. Parallel to our fundraising

efforts there were also high level talks between the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Provincial (KZN) Department of Health. By the end of the reporting period 2011 these efforts only looked promising and a memorandum of understanding was drafted, agreed upon and signed by one party, but the second signature was still missing and the implementation as well. The aim is to partner with the Department of Health and get their support for the programme. We are most grateful to the SACBC AIDS office that they continued with their funding in spite of their initial threat to stop funding the programme. Otherwise we would not have been able to continue with the AIDS treatment of hundreds of patients, whose life depends on the treatment.

Our efforts to get five-star **accreditation by the Council for Health Services Accreditation of South Africa (COHSASA)** through the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA) reaped the first benefits in the reporting year of 2011, when we were accredited with the first star in March 2011 and the second star on 6th December 2011. We hope to finalise the five-star accreditation within this or the next year.

The most outstanding event of the year was on 24th July 2011, when **Dr. Khaya Nzimande was invested as a Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.** (See the article further down in this newsletter.)

On 16th October 2011 we celebrated the **Feast of Blessed Gérard.** The President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for 2011 was awarded on this day to Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B. in gratitude and acknowledgement of his invaluable support to provide continued governance for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, his leadership role as a Member of our Board of Auditors, his recommendation and praise for our work and his faithful ser-

vice as a Spiritual Supporter Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. (See the article further down in this newsletter.)

1 December 2011: We celebrated **World AIDS Day again as a "Feast of Life"** inviting all our patients on AIDS treatment to join us in celebrating our life.

Audit:

The Financial Audit of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for 2010 on 1st March 2011 yielded impeccable results which we are absolutely proud of. A special vote of thanks to our Financial Officer Mr. Thamsanqa Gumedel!

Personnel:

Employees

Our General Manager, Mr. Anderson, reported: "Blessed Gerard's Care Centre once again had a wonderful year with regards to its employed staff. No new positions were created in 2011. The Gatekeeping Dept. did however become redundant and the staff was moved to the maintenance department. 2011 was a year for consolidation at Blessed Gerard's Care centre in that several departments were taken through a streamlining process where employees that left the organisation were not replaced and restructuring rather took place. With regards to senior management no major staff movement occurred with all senior staff remaining in their positions."

When Sr. Biyela, **our nursing tutor, resigned** on 30th June 2011, we decided to discontinue our home care training for the time being until we can offer professional training for enrolled nursing assistants.

Visitors

7 January - 3 February 2011:

Our Dedicated member Deacon Thomas and Mrs. Angelika Müller came to visit us again.

16th June – 5th August 2011:

Iona Hughan, a student from the U.S.A., came and became a most loved and helpful volunteer.

12th August – 9th September 2011:

Elisabeth Hirmer, Fr. Gérard's niece, came to visit her uncle and us and got a deep insight into our country, culture and the work of our Care Centre.

2 November 2011 - 22 February 2012:

Ralph Thielemann, a paramedic from Malteser Hilfsdienst Konstanz / Germany, volunteered in our various projects and helped us to improve many procedures through his vast experience.

Public Relations:

Apart from our website and our publications in Social Media (Facebook, Google+, KathSpace, LinkedIn, MeinVZ, Twitter and XING)

There were three occasions when we featured in (German) **Television:**

1. 26th March 2011: **Oberpfalz TV:** Unbekannt - Hand in Hand - Ist doch Ehrensache
2. 25 May 2011: **intv:** Thema: Pater Gerhard - Hilfe für AIDS-Kranke
3. 16th December 2011: **Sternstunden Appeal on Bavarian TV:** Palliativpflege für Kinder in Südafrika

We also featured in quite a few (German) **Radio** transmissions:

1. „Einsatz für die Ärmsten Südafrikas“: 13.8.2011 - Radio Maria Österreich
2. „Kampf gegen Aids“: 27.7.2011 - Radio Stephansdom
3. „Die Bruderschaft des sel. Gerard“: 2.6.2011 - Radio Maria Österreich
4. „Interview mit Pater Gerhard“: 26.5.2011 - Radio Ramasuri
5. „Kulturschock der Liebe“: 18.5.2011 - SWR
6. „Hilfe für die AIDS-Hauptstadt der Welt“: 15.5.2011 - Radio Charivari, Radio Ramasuri, Radio Trausnitz, Radio AWN
7. „Pater Gerhard Missionar, Mönch, Malteser Glaube und Krankheit“: 1.5.2011 - SWR
8. „Pater Gerhard“: 20.4.2011 - Radio Maria Südtirol
9. „AIDS-Behandlung in Südafrika“: 5.4.2011 - Radio IN
10. „Mission in Südafrika und der Kampf gegen das HIV Virus“: 29.3.2011 - Radio Horeb
11. „Unter dem Kreuz des Südens“: 16.3.2011 - Radio Gloria
12. „Eine unvergängliche Bruderschaft“: 3.2.2011 - Radio Gloria
13. „Zieh in das Land, das ich Dir zeigen werde!“: 13.1.2011 - Radio Gloria

Anniversaries:



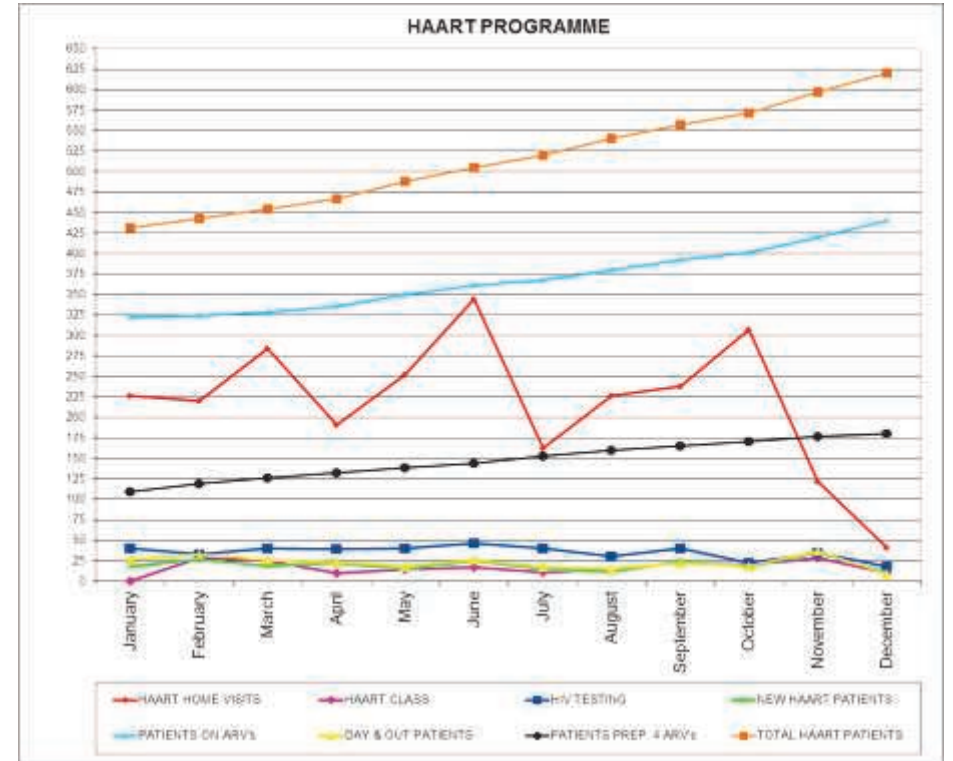
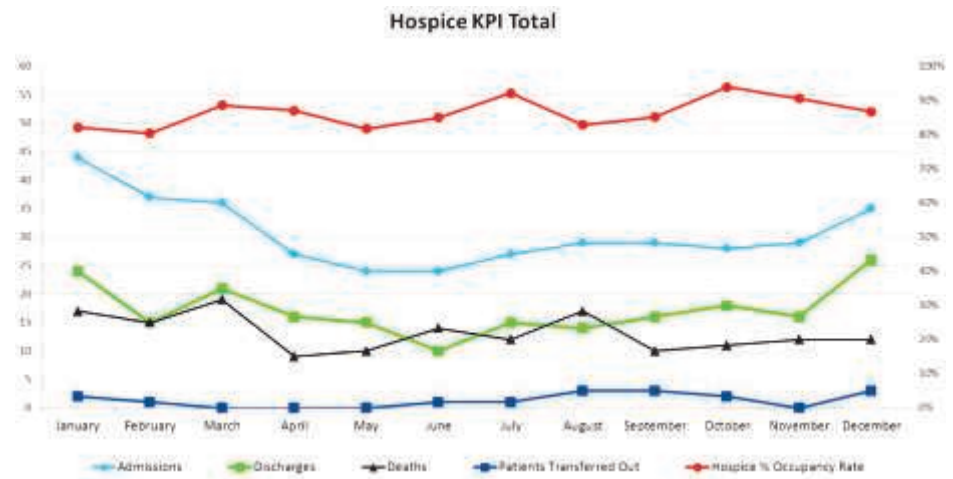
26th January 1996: **Blessed Gérard's Disaster Relief Project** performed its first operation when the Tugela River was in flood.

3rd September 1996: **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** was blessed and opened.

Membership statistics

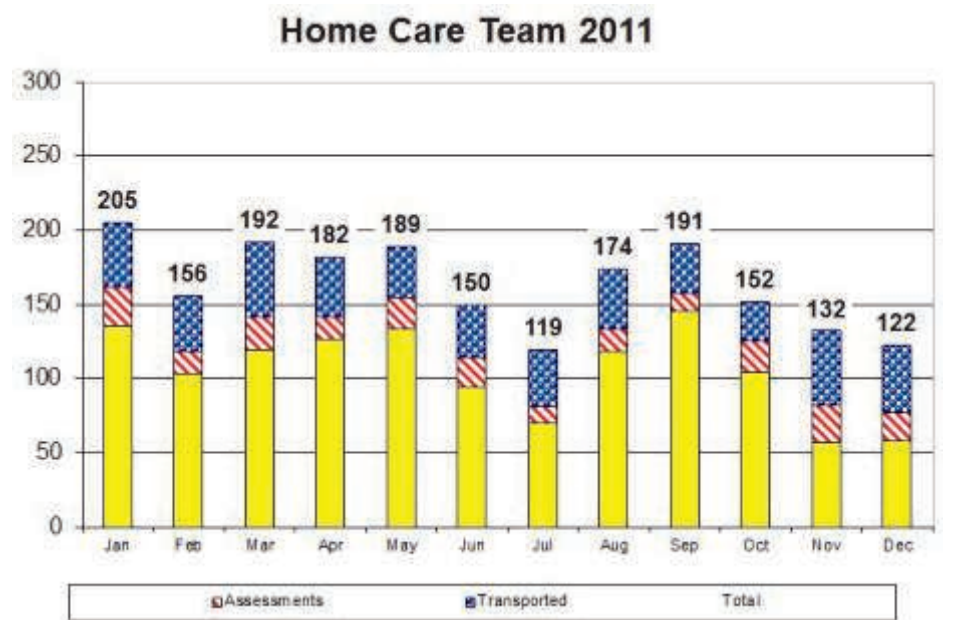
(as on 31 December 2011)

	Increase/decrease 2011	
1380 active members	+54	+4 %
0586 financial supporters	+32	+6 %
0366 spiritual supporters	-4	-1 %
2332 members in total	+82	+4 %

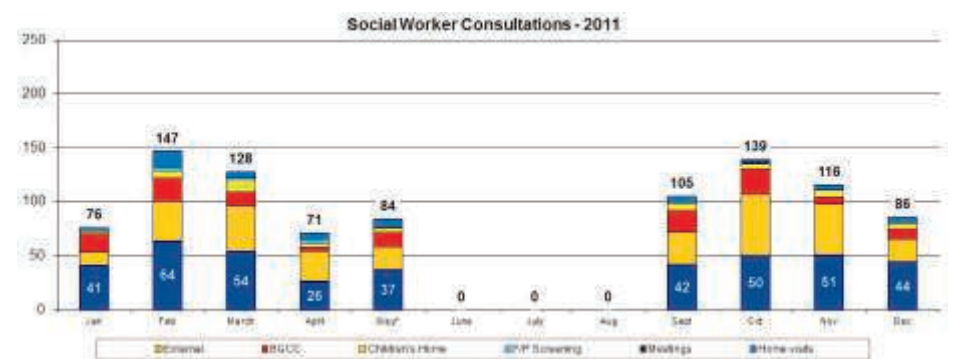


The decrease in home visits in December is due to the holiday time, as many patients go away to visit their relatives at home. Our therapeutic counsellors then also get a chance to take leave.

Statistics by Key Performance Indicators 2011	
Hospice average occupancy rate	83%
Bursaries awarded in 2010	14
Children in Children's home	37
Children who joined our Pre-Primary School and Crèche	58
Patients who passed away in our hospice	157
HAART: HIV positive patients who do not need ARVs yet	180
AIDS patients attended HAART readiness course	200
Patients admitted to hospice	366
HAART: VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) done	423
HAART: Patients receiving ARVs by December 2011	440
Consultations done by our social worker	952
Home visits by Home care team	1262
Home visits by HAART therapeutic counsellors	2480



Not every "visit" is the same. There are just visits to supervise the home-based-care provided by the family and there are visits to assess and then transfer a patient to our hospice, a clinic or hospital (including transport by our ambulance).



Our Social Worker, Miss Hlengiwe Dube, is involved primarily in our Hospice and Children's Home, but is also involved in our Malnutrition Clinic, Relief Fund, Bursary Fund and Poor-Sick-Fund. She was on maternity leave from June to August 2011 and her work partly taken over by our nurses and partly by our therapeutic counsellors.

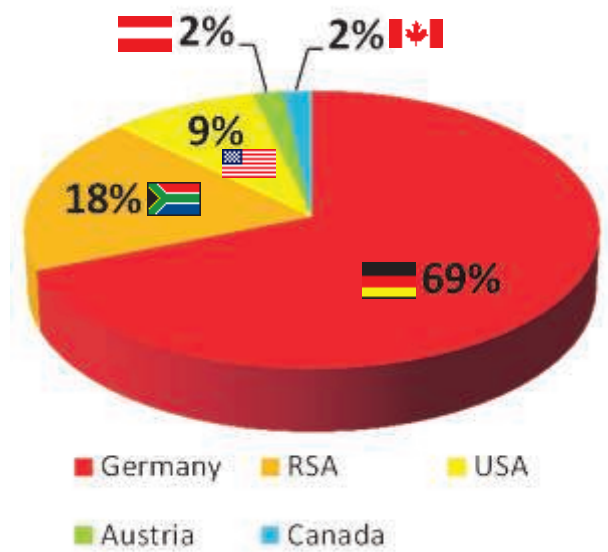
2011	Accumulated Statistic	1992-2011	Increase
11	New paediatric patients (Hospice)	494	2,3%
16	Patients transferred (Hospice)	680	2,4%
225	New home care patients (Hospice)	3309	7,3%
366	New patients admitted to Hospice	3379	12,1%
220	Patients counselled (Hospice)	1748	14,4%
477	Patients transported by ambulance (Hospice)	3383	16,4%
194	Home carers trained (Hospice)	1133	20,7%
271	Outpatients and daypatients (Hospice)	1400	24,0%
239	New HAART patients	1155	25,0%
930	Sozialfälle (Care-Zentrum)	1711	119,1%

Our 2011 top donors' charts

We thank all our donors and mention our 25 most generous benefactors:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V. - Neuburg (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account). 2. South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (AIDS Office). 3. Benedictine Mission House - Schuyler, Nebraska (and all their and our benefactors who sent their donations for us to them). 4. Missionsprokura - St. Ottilien (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account). 5. Röchling Stiftung - Mannheim 6. Malteser Hilfsdienst DGS - München 7. Order of Malta (Canadian Association) (and the benefactor who sent his donation for us through them). 8. Initiative gegen Armut (INGEAR) - Zeilarn 9. Pfarrei St. Peter - Manching 10. Nampak - Johannesburg 11. SAPPI - Mandeni 12. Viktor Baillou - Salzburg 13. Kloster - Mallersdorf | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa 15. Dr. Wolfgang Sedlmayr - München 16. Päpstliches Missionswerk der Kinder (Aktion Dreikönigssingen) - Aachen 17. Vilseck gibt Hoffnung e.V. - Vilseck 18. St. Georgenberg Abbey - Fiecht (and all our benefactors who made their donations to us through their account). 19. Malteser Hilfsdienst DGS - Regensburg 20. Andreas Schmeller Gymnasium - Nabburg 21. Networking HIV/AIDS Community (NACOSA) 22. Mr. Victor Claudius - Durban 23. Mr. Johannes Lagleder - Neuburg 24. Abtei - Münsterschwarzach 25. Caritasverband - Waldkirchen |
|---|--|

Where our donations came from in 2011:

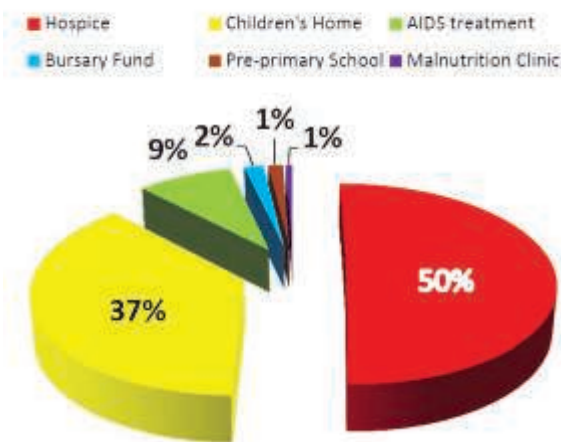


The **percentage of local donations** from South Africa (18%) is quite respectable compared with other mission entities in our region, but ought to be considerably increased to safeguard long-term sustainability of our services.

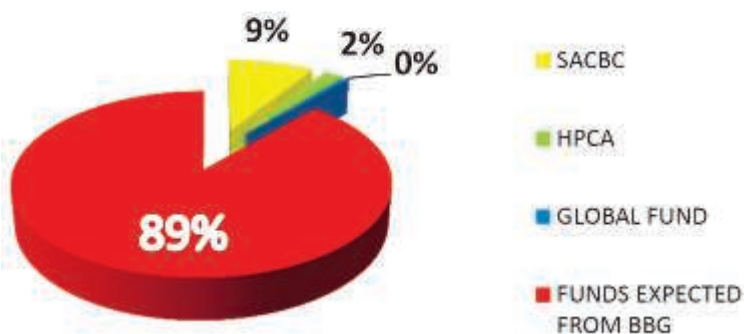
We are wholeheartedly grateful to all our donors and sponsors!

What we need to finance our services in 2012

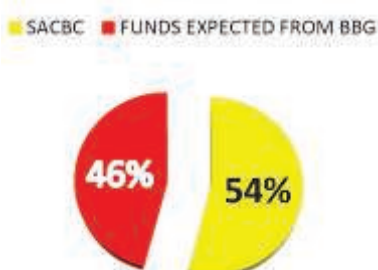
Expected Expenditure 2012



Contributions toward our total expenditure for 2012



Funding for AIDS treatment in 2012



Funding for Hospice in 2012



Mastering one of the greatest challenges we ever faced

It was on 18 January 2011 that we received a letter from the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) that stated:

„The contract regarding the PEPFAR-funded treatment project between your site and the SACBC AIDS Office will end in May 2011. This serves to inform you that the contract will not be renewed in the new financial year from June 2011. We regret this move, but are not in a financial position to continue with this programme.“

This sounded like pulling the plug from the life saving equipment and we were equally shocked as determined to do whatever was needed to carry on saving the lives of hundreds of our AIDS patients (more than 430 at that stage) who's survival depends on the uninterrupted and continued supply with antiretroviral medication.

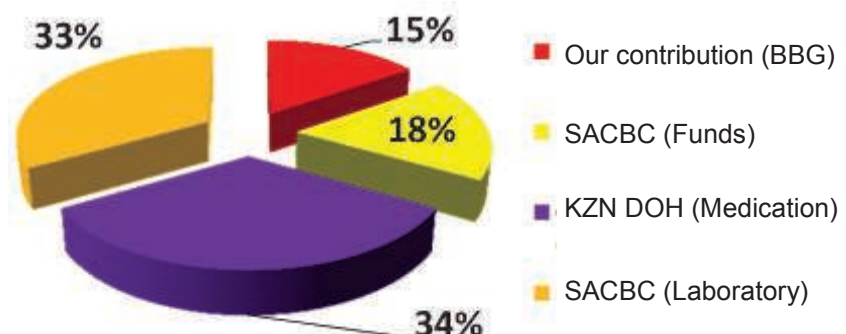
We did our utmost in **fund-raising**. A number of individuals and institutions "adopted" an AIDS-Patient, i.e. they pledged to donate to us every year the equivalent of the total treatment cost of one or several patients.

At the same time we entered into **fierce negotiations** with the outcome that SACBC was prepared to bridge the gap until an arrangement with the KZN Department of Health (DOH) could be made to take over their portion of the total treatment cost.

- We are very proud and glad to inform you, that more than a year of negotiations finally yielded the success that the **KZN DOH will start supplying us with the antiretroviral medication** for our AIDS-patients from 1 April 2012, which covers approximately 34% of the total cost.
- SACBC was prepared (for the time being) to continue paying for our laboratory costs (~33% of the total cost) and to give us a grant (for operational costs) amounting to about 18% of the total treatment cost.

That leaves us with the necessity to contribute an amount of "only" R886.280.00 for the year 2012, to cover all the cost of the programme.

We are most grateful to all our donors, especially those who "adopted" one or more AIDS-patients. They help us in this way to raise the funds needed to cover our contribution. Thanks!





Hospice



AIDS-treatment



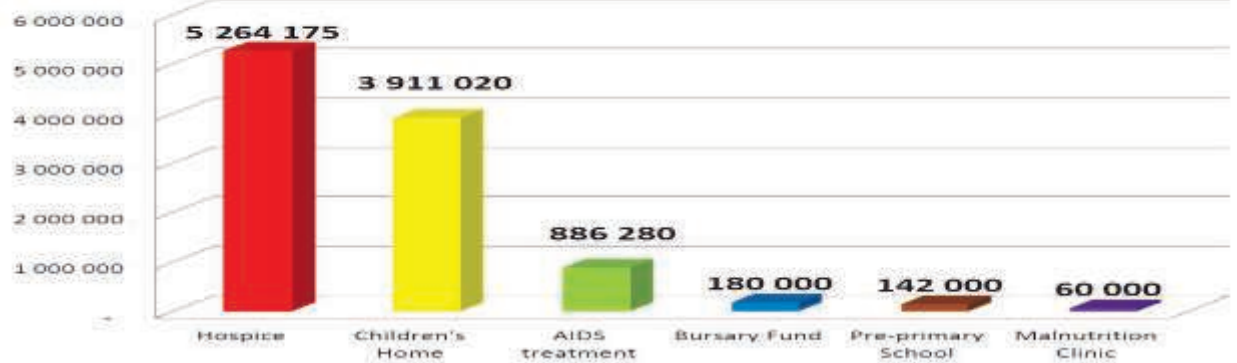
Pre-Primary School

What we need to cover the running cost of our programmes in 2012

Hospice	5 264 175
Children's Home	3 911 020
AIDS treatment	886 280
Bursary Fund	180 000
Pre-primary School	142 000
Malnutrition Clinic	60 000
Total	10 443 474

Amounts in Rand (ZAR)

Donations required for 2012
(in Rand / ZAR)



Children's Home



Bursary Fund



Malnutrition Clinic

Additional Budget for 2012

Over and above the „normal“ running cost of our projects there are additional needs, which we will only be able to realise, if we can raise the additional funds:

Extension to Children's Home



When we extended our Children's Home in 2007/2008 this further expansion was already planned, but could not yet be put into action. We would like to do this now to give our children better accommodation. Currently there are up to four children in our Children's Home sharing a relatively small bedroom without space for a table or desks and chairs and the rooms are more a dormitory than a living room which a child could enjoy spending daytime in, playing and studying. Therefore we want to create bigger rooms with less children in and outside windows in every room. We would like to use the old bedrooms as playrooms, create a staff room, that we never had before, and sufficient store rooms for clothing, toys etc.

	Children's Home	Pre-Primary School	Hospice	Total
Extension to Children's Home	R 940 600.52			R 940 600.52
Repairs / Renovations	R 395 779.77		R 237 146.45	R 632 926.22
Double Pre-Primary School		R 535 147.72		R 535 147.72
new Parking area	R 122 781.24		R 122 781.24	R 245 562.47
Soccer field	R 196 000.47			R 196 000.47
Extend dining room & lounge			R 156 040.00	R 156 040.00
alter Paving hospice			R 32 428.89	R 32 428.89
Total	R 1 655 162.00	R 535 147.72	R 548 396.58	R 2 738 706.29

Repairs / Renovations of the existing Children's Home and Hospice
We recently went through the entire building and checked every room and the outside for damages and faults and made a voluminous list with all the necessary repairs and renovations to be done. To maintain safety and security and the high hygienic and environmental standard of our building we ought to do all of these repairs and renovations.

Double Pre-Primary School

Our Pre-Primary School and Crèche in oWhebede has been open since 1995. It had been built to provide space for 30 children but for many years already it is occupied by nearly double the number of children it had been built for. It had been designed and positioned on the plot in a way that it could just be "mirrored" to double its space. This has been overdue for quite some time, and we feel that we should get going now to improve the facilities for these children.

New Parking Area

The parking space inside the fence of our Care Centre is quite limited and there have been many times when we struggled to maintain an open pathway for our ambulance and the other patient care vehicles and where some of our staff

just had to park their vehicles outside on the pavement. Therefore we would like to establish a paved parking area outside our fence, to reserve the parking inside for our own vehicles and provide parking space for our staff and visitors outside.

Soccer field



The children of our Children's Home are growing up and need adequate space to play. When the older ones play soccer at the playground of the smaller children behind St. Anthony's Church, there is quite a danger of injuries and the number of window panes we had to replace at the church is huge. Therefore we would like to create a soccer field next to our premises and we got permission from the Municipality to use their ground for that.

The investiture of Dr. Khaya Nzimande as a Dedicated Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and the celebration of "15 years of care" through Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

on Sunday, 24th July 2011, at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

The statutes of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard read in No. 5.1.1.: „The Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood devote themselves with all their heart, with all their soul and with all their strength (cf. Dtn 6.5) to Jesus Christ and his body, the church (cf. 1 Cor 12.27), by striving to be the yeast (cf. Gal 5.9) of God's love in their entire life as members of their family, community, at their work and in their leisure time. Over and above this, their special task is to initiate, facilitate, guide, support and bear responsibility for the activities of the Brotherhood. For the Dedicated Membership only baptised and confirmed members of the Roman Catholic Church qualify, who are known for their outstanding character, loyalty to the Church and good Christian life.“

Dr. Khaya Nzimande joined the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on 10th March 2008 as an active member and worked as Medical Practitioner in Blessed Gérard's Care Centre ever since. His great leadership qualities soon led to his appointment as the manager of Blessed Gérard's Hospice and during a vacancy of this position he was even Acting General Manager. He is the archetype of a "good doctor" having profound and specialised medical knowledge and a caring and empathic demeanour towards all patients – he loves his patients and they love him. He is grounded in a deep faith not in an ostentatious, but in a faithful and pragmatic way. All these qualities and commitment predestined him to be invited to join us as a Dedicated Member.



Our Bishop Xolelo Thaddeus Kumalo of Eshowe was the main celebrant and preacher at the ceremony. After the sermon Dr. Nzimande made this private promise:

*“Lord Jesus Christ!
In your Grace you have called me to serve you in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.
I ask you at the intercession of our patron saints Mary, the Blessed Virgin and Mother of God, St. John the Baptist and the founder of the Order of St. John, Blessed Gérard Tonque: Give me the courage, to live the faith in you as a convincing example and to meet our neighbour in charity,*

especially the needy, aged, disabled, sick and injured. Give me the needed strength, to live as an upright Christian selflessly in the spirit of your Gospel according to this resolution, to the honour of God, for the peace in the world and the welfare of our society.

I hereby promise to protect the faith and to serve the poor of our Lord Jesus Christ by devoting myself to the apostolate of the Catholic Church in Works of Charity as a Dedicated member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

I devote myself with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my strength to Jesus Christ and his body, the Church.

I will strive to be the yeast of God's love in my entire life as a member of my family, at my work and in my leisure time. May God help me, guide me and strengthen me to fulfil what he has called me to. Amen.”



He signed the promise at the altar



and was then invested with cape of the Dedicated Members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

A special blessing by the Bishop concluded the rite of investiture.



Afterwards the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard were solemnly received.



Father Bishop blessed the members' medals which were conferred to them thereafter.



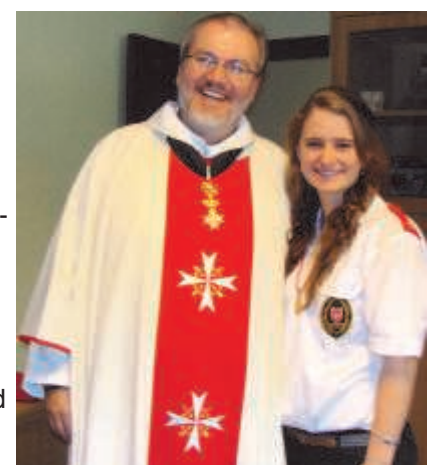
Finally the new members received a blessing by the Bishop:
“Send down your blessings + on these your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. When they are called on in times of need, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbour. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The celebration continued with Holy Mass and



was concluded with the Bishops final blessing.

One of the new members is Iona Hughsan, a most wonderful volunteer from the U.S.A., whose father, Wade Hughsan, the regent of the American Sub-Priory of the Order of Malta, had donated the vestment to us, that Fr. Gérard is wearing.





15 years Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

were commemorated
in the festive function after-
wards.

Father Gérard said in his speech:

"The idea behind the institution of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre was the past experience of seeing people dying from neglect. The Care Centre very soon developed into a hospice and now comprises all our activities in and around Mandeni:

Statistics are a bad reflection of reality, but a good indication of the magnitude of our work: In these 15 years of care we have helped countless patients and children and trained close to 1000 people in home care.

We had up to 86 employees. In our South African context one breadwinner feeds an average of 10 mouths, and provides clothing, shelter and schooling for them. Therefore close to 1000 people's livelihood is continuously provided through our Care Centre.

More than 1000 volunteers - most of them unemployed - were given a rewarding task to do, a good training, a purpose in life and status and our travel allowance is higher than the income many unskilled labourers would earn elsewhere. Figures say little, it is the way of care, the sincerity of love, the empathy and dedication which really count - and these are statistically not measurable.

I want to thank each and every one who has contributed that 15 years of care through Blessed Gérard's Care Centre became an experience of God's grace and loving care: Our "boards", all

employees, including management and heads of department, all volunteers in all our projects, all donors who contributed cash or goods, all fundraisers and last but not least all people who have prayed for us and with us."



A special Thank you was due to Mr. Victor Claudius, who as a pensioner has dedicated his entire life to fundraising for charity and has chosen us as „his favourite charity“. He has contributed tremendous amounts and time and effort and yielded a very rich harvest that he passes on to us year after year.

Father Gérard welcomed Miss Nontobeko Ndwande as member No. 2500 of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.



Children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home provided the entertainment,



singing and dancing wonderfully with a good sense of rhythm and strong voices to everybody's delight.



We thank each and everybody who made the tremendous success of the service of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre possible.

The Celebration of the Feast of Blessed Gérard

on Sunday, 16th October 2011



The main celebrant and guest of honour was Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B., who is a member of our board of auditors and the monastic superior of Father Gérard.



Although they had joined the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard already some time ago it had been their first chance to attend one of our feasts.

Therefore Sr. Agnes Grasböck and Mr. Michael Stevens were solemnly received as members and conferred their membership medal.

In the function following the festive Holy Mass



Father Gérard conferred the President's Award of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard for 2011 to Father Abbot Godfrey „in gratitude and acknowledgement of his invaluable support to provide continued governance for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, his leadership role as a Member of our Board of Auditors, his recommendation and praise for our work and his faithful service as a Spiritual Supporter Member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.“



Father Gérard gave special gifts of gratitude to the three sisters that form Blessed Gérard's Convent, Sr. Thecla, Sr. Edith and Sr. Conradine, a community of Benedictine Sisters of Twasana in our Care Centre, for their valuable contribution to our work.



Dr. Nzimande chaired the Associated Members Meeting ("AGM"). According to our statutes "These meetings serve the purpose of spiritual guidance and encouragement to

become involved in the activities of the Brotherhood, training for the charitable tasks of the Brotherhood, cultural education and brotherly getting together. The Associate Members are to be informed about the progress of the Brotherhood's activities in general.

Their suggestions are to be passed on to the Executive Council who has to discuss them."



The children of Blessed Gérard's Children's Home express our gratitude on behalf of the several thousands of people, who we were privileged to help, care for and look after, for all your benevolence and support.

How You can help us to help:

By joining us

- as an **Active Member** if you are able and prepared to help in our projects to serve the poor as a volunteer and agree with our principles. In this case, please call us for an interview.
- as a **Donor member** if you want to support our service financially on a regular basis.
- as a **Spiritual Supporter** if you want to help us through your prayers regularly.

By a donation towards our charity work. Financial contributions are most needed. If you want to donate goods, kindly contact us beforehand to make sure that the donation will be really useful.

By making us a beneficiary in your Last Will and Testament.

By your prayers that God may bless our service and those we serve.

The **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** Annual Report / Newsletter is the official mouthpiece of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.

Address: P O Box 440
Mandeni 4490
Republic of South Africa
Phone +27 32 456 2743
Fax +27 32 456 7962
E-mail info@bbg.org.za
URL <http://bbg.org.za/>

We thank Mr. Haresh Ouderajh, Stanger Weekly and Africa Web Press wholeheartedly for printing this newsletter free of charge again!

Making a donation

If you live in **South Africa:**

Blessed Gerard's Care Centre, being a public benefit organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act, has also been approved on 2 July 2003 by the South African Revenue Services (SARS) for purposes of section 18A(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, i.e. donations to Blessed Gerard's Care Centre are tax deductible.

[Reference 18/11/13/2777]

This means that now we can issue South African donors with tax receipts for their donations, which they can use for tax deduction from the SARS. If you are a taxpayer in South Africa and want to utilise this facility, make sure, that you make your donation to **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**. (not to the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard!**) For donations of R500.00 and above we will issue such a receipt automatically.

You may make a donation directly into our banking account:

Name of Account: **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**
Type of account: Current Account
Bank: First National Bank
Account number: 529 4004 0349
Branch: Mandini
Branch code: 220 429

Please ensure that you put your personal details on the deposit or send the information directly to us, so that we can acknowledge and assign your donation properly.

The most convenient solution for both parties would be if you organised a stop order on your account, if you want to donate regularly.

If you live in **Canada:**

Make out a check to the „Order of Malta“, mark it for the „Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard“.

and send it to: **Order of Malta**
1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa ON K1H 6K9

You will receive a Canadian tax receipt

If you live in the **U.S.A.:**

Thanks to the generosity of the Benedictine Mission House in Schuyler, Nebraska, we can offer you a convenient way of making donations towards our work, inside the United States, with the possibility of declaring your donation on your tax return.

Cheques should be made out to „Benedictine Mission House“ with a remark „Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. (Please do not forget this!)

These should then be sent to:

Benedictine Mission House

P. O. Box 528 · Schuyler, Nebraska 68661

People who have made a donation of more than \$200 will receive a tax certificate immediately from the Mission House and donors of smaller amounts would receive one at the end of the tax year, if they want to declare their donations on their tax returns.

If you live in **Great Britain / United Kingdom:**

1. You may send a cheque:
Please make the cheque out to “BASMOM Foreign Aid Service”, attach a note, that the donation is meant to support the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and send it to:
The Hospitaller BASMOM

Mr Tim Orchard · Layer Breton Lodge
Layer Breton · Colchester CO2 0PP

2. You may deposit your donation directly into the banking account of the BASMOM and mark it for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard:

Name of Account:
BASMOM Foreign Aid Service
Bank: HSBC Bank plc, Pall Mall, London
Account number: 61260561
Sort/branch code: 40 05 20

3. In any case, please make a Gift Aid Declaration. You will find a form on-line at <http://bbg.org.za/finance/giftaid.pdf>

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