



Newsletter 2014

Annual Report 2013



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

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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.

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

Imprint:

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

This Newsletter and Annual Report is also published online at <http://bbg.org.za/pr/newsletters/33/index.htm>



We are ...

- a group of nearly 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.



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.

Encounters of Tender Loving Care

by Maresi Rehder

Sicelo

Maresi Rehder, a visiting member of our organization, wrote in her diary: "During my three-week stay in the Care Centre of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni, I met Sicelo for the first time in Holy Mass, sitting in a wheelchair with a smile on his whole face.



He was lean and his body was drawn from AIDS. His legs and feet were so swollen he could not walk. Nevertheless, every morning he asked the nurse to take him from ward 7 to church because he loved the singing and praying. He spoke a little bit of English and so it wasn't long before we began to talk. He wanted to know how life is where I come from and I asked him if he would tell me his story. He laughed and replied that nobody would be interested in the life of a poor black African. Sicelo is twenty-six. He lives in one of the informal settlements around Mandeni. He never finished school as work was more important; everybody was needed to feed the family. Sicelo has worked in a lot of jobs, selling fruit on the roadside or working on a building site, whatever work was available.

Today he lives together with his girlfriend and they have two children. When he became ill and was diagnosed with AIDS, he lost his job in road construction. The family didn't even have the money to see a doctor. He stayed at home, weak and unable to look after his children. When he couldn't walk any more, friends called the ambulance of the Care Centre and he was

brought to the hospice. He felt lucky when he was taken into the HAART program of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. He knows it will take some time to regain the strength to go back home and back to work, but the life-saving AIDS medicine given to him for free by the Brotherhood gives him the chance to lead a normal life for many years and to see his children grow. Shortly before he was discharged from the hospice, Sicelo allowed me to take a photo of him. He wanted to show how happy he felt to go home."

Busisiwe

Busisiwe is in her early seventies and lives in a hut far out in the informal settlement of Sundumbili. In her hut you will find no piece of furniture only grass mats on the floor to sleep on and clotheslines to hang a few shirts and a few other things she and her husband need for their daily life.

Her husband is very old and walks very badly and Busisiwe is paralyzed. She can't walk at all. Being very poor, there is no chance to get a wheelchair and if she had one, she couldn't use it. Where she lives there is no street or path, just a hilly, bumpy terrain. Where ever she wants to go, she slides on her bottom.

Normally, she spends her day sitting outside her house next to her a plastic bag with a little bit of bread and a long stick to chase dogs and other animals away. At nightfall, she crawls back into her house.



Neighbours take care of this old couple; they bring food and they help when needed.

But Busisiwe and her husband have no chance to reach medical help. They have no chance to reach a doctor or a hospital. Where they live public transport does not exist.

Driving a cross-country vehicle, our home care team is able to see Busisiwe and her family regularly. We care for her medicine supply and if necessary we take her to a doctor or to the hospital."

Phumulani

Phumulani, a thirteen year old boy, was brought to us by his neighbours. His parents had died and he had lived with this extended family for some years. He then developed an inoperable brain tumour and getting the necessary medical care became too difficult and too expensive for the poor family.

Unfortunately, the superstition that illnesses are caused by evil spirits is far too common among Zulu and therefore everybody keeps away from a sick person.



This is the sad reason why a small boy lay dying in our hospice, without any visit from friends or relatives.

Phumulani had already gone blind and suffered from severe pains when he came to us. We were grateful that we could soothe his pains with the professional palliative care that we render. To accompany this dying boy lovingly was just as important to us as the medical care. Often a caregiver sat at his bed and simply held his hand. It was that touch which he loved so much and which calmed him.

We are glad that in this way we could make the last weeks of his life an experience of tender loving care until the good Lord took over to care for him forever.

Malnutrition Clinic

Our Blessed Gérard's Malnutrition Clinic for is open for consultations every second Saturday. Our founder member, the medical practitioner Dr. Thabethe from Sundumbili and his wife Nokuthula, a qualified nursing sister, initiated this project in which we take care of under- and mal-nourished children. Up to fifty young mothers with their babies meet in the assembly hall of a Catholic Church community. Mrs Thabethe warmly welcomes every single one of them. Then she explains the significance of a good diet for the development of babies and small children; she also gives advice on questions of hygiene. It is a vicious cycle for these young girls. Being HIV positive and not being in AIDS treatment means you can't breastfeed your child. Also being very poor means you can't afford good infant formula. And sometimes they just don't know how to feed a child healthily.



Mrs. Thabethe asks every mother or child caregiver who is there for the first time for a one-to-one conversation, trying to learn everything about personal difficulties that could prevent this young girl from caring for her child properly. Then she and two of her volunteer helpers examine the children, weigh them and keep exact records of their progress. Where poverty is the reason of malnutrition, we provide them with milk, baby food and protein enriched porridge free of charge. If necessary, the children are referred to our own social worker or to hospital. There have been several cases where we admitted badly malnourished children for a few weeks to our own children's home for what we call "power-feeding", i.e. giving them the ideal curative diet to combat their malnutrition in controlled doses and in a healthy environment.

Blessed Gerard's Pre-primary School and Crèche

is located in oWhebede, a few miles outside of Mandeni.

The majority of the people in this area live in very poor conditions. Most men have to travel far to find work, as far as Johannesburg or even further.

Mothers have to raise their children alone and very often fathers don't even send money home.

This need was the reason why we opened our crèche in 1995. It offers mothers the chance to go to work and be sure that their children are well cared for.

We have been running the crèche very successfully since 1995 and the number of children keeps on growing. Our building was intended for 30 children but soon we were caring for approximately 60 children.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to extend our nursery school last year. We now have 82 children in our care.

They get a warm meal each day, which isn't normal for many of these children, and they enjoy a good pre-school education.

Snapshots of charity

Our Social Worker Nomfundo Myeza reports

Baby Sandile - also known as Baby Moses

This little boy, whom we assumed to be seven or eight months old, was abandoned in the bush near kwaSithebe, a suburb of Mandeni.

His mother or caregiver, who abandoned him, had obviously made a log bed for him, as he was found lying on a log bed in the morning with a blanket and a plastic bag and a bottle of baby food.

The government social workers called him "Baby Moses" because of the way he was found. Moses was found by people who were about to clean that bush. They called the police and the case was reported to the social workers of the Welfare Department, who later requested our assistance to place the baby in our Children's Home.

We gladly welcomed him and gave him the love and security that he needed. We named him "Sandile" which means "we are growing".

Our caregivers and children were happy to be a part of his short-lived life. He was just adorable. He loved to play and laugh. He enjoyed being carried and played with.

The Welfare social worker later removed him in order to place him into the care of adoptive parents.

A few weeks later, the social worker informed us that baby Sandile passed on because he was dehydrated. They suspected he was teething.

We were saddened by the news because he was a part of our lives too. We were glad nevertheless that we were able to love him during that time.



Our children learn social, cognitive, motor and language skills that are necessary for their successful start in school.

Access to education is the best foreign aid you can give to South Africa and it starts with free education for the smallest.

"Lord have mercy on us!"

When I came home to Germany from Mandeni, I was asked to give a little lecture in our parish about the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and their work. I showed photos of the Home Care, the Hospice, the Children's Home and the Crèche. I explained the numbers of patients, visits, consultations etc. At the end of my speech, when I was asking for questions, a man got up and asked me what I thought was the most important experience for me. I

didn't have to think long about the answer. The experience that left the deepest impression on me was the daily Holy Mass in the



Every morning at half past seven we gathered in the small church. Christians and non-Christians, employees, volunteer helpers and guests, the healthy and the sick, all were invited to join in the prayer. We sat in a circle round the altar. There was neither front nor rear, neither first nor last. Watching these people praying fervently, Lord have mercy on us, I was deeply moved. Here I understood the full significance of the request: and give us today our daily bread. It is the support they need to do their work, not only the spiritual but also the financial help. All their efforts are in vain when we, who have the money, don't share. The Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and all the volunteer helpers work hard for the people in need; they work with great confidence in God that He will give his blessing and that there will always be people who are willing to support them."

Gogo's Family

Gogo is a single mother of five children and a grandmother to five grandchildren.



She is diabetic and blind. She lost her vision because of her diabetic condition. Two of her children have temporary jobs. They try to support the family. Gogo's pension grant is another source of income that assists the family.

Indodakazi, her daughter, is unemployed and has four children. Two of them do not have a birth certificate. Therefore she only receives child support grants for two of her children. Indodakazi is at home to assist Gogo and to take care of her own children. Unfortunately, she can hardly cope with her domestic duties. Indodakazi's brother ends up supporting their mother Gogo and Indodakazi's children as well.



This family lives in a two-room mud house which is falling apart. They use only one room to sleep in, although the roof there is leaking.

The family has contacted the local councillor and municipality now to inform them about their home circumstances and they promised to help.

We as Blessed Gérard's Care Centre assist this family with food parcels, clothing and blankets and our Home

Care Team visits them regularly to check Gogo's medical condition and to follow up with her children to ensure that she will be able to visit the clinic on a regular basis.



We have also liaised with the relevant people at the Municipality and continue to follow up with them to make sure that the family will be given a proper and safe house for them to live in. We have also linked Indodakazi with the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Social Development so that she may get birth certificates for her two young children to enable her to apply for child support grants for them.



We care in any case



Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Annual Report 2013

The activities of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** and of **Blessed Gérard's Care Centre** in the year 2013, as 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 - amongst others:

- 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

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

Blessed Gérard's Children's Home:

We look after, counsel and give a home to **orphans and vulnerable children**.

Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School & Crèche:

We provide "educare" and an early childhood development service for **underprivileged pre-school children**.

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.

Special events in the year 2013:

The development of our AIDS treatment programme

The number of treated AIDS patients is respectably high, i.e. there are now 790 patients in our care, of which 723 are in the (lifelong) treatment phase. After lengthy and difficult negotiations, we have reached an agreement that the South African government now contributes nearly half of the cost, not as a monetary contribution but by supplying drugs and rendering laboratory services free of charge. The remaining half we need to raise ourselves. In plain English, this means that we need to raise 3 million Rand of donations every year to secure the funding of our AIDS treatment program in future. Even a single human life is worth that effort - and 790 lives all the more. Without treatment the patients would die very soon, with the treatment they can live in good health up to 30 or 35 years, go back to work, raise their children and live a happy and healthy life.

Our Children's Home

was opened in 2000. The first new building was blessed and opened in 2002 and the first extension in 2008.

A second extension and a soccer field and a parking area extension were completed in the reporting year of 2013.

The extension was financed by "Sternstunden e.V." facilitated by Malteser Hilfsdienst Munich. We are wholeheartedly grateful for that.

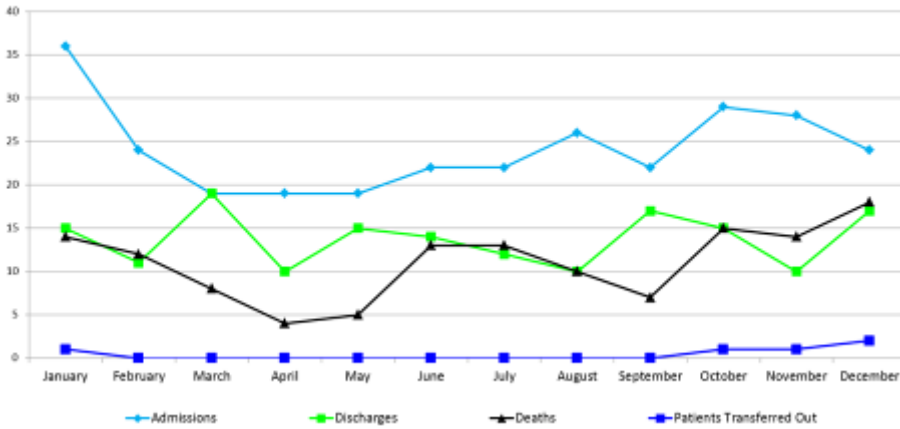
The older wings of the building were in urgent need of being repaired and renovated and we started renovating in 2013. We owe great gratitude to the Secretariat General of Malteser Hilfsdienst for their negotiations and to the Regine Sixt Stiftung for their donations to pay for the cost of the repairs and renovations.



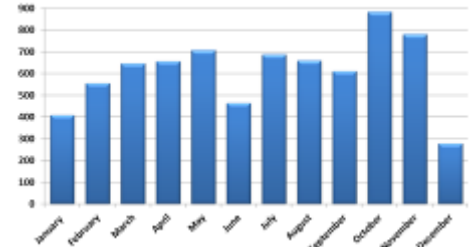
Activity Report 2013

Statistics: Graphs

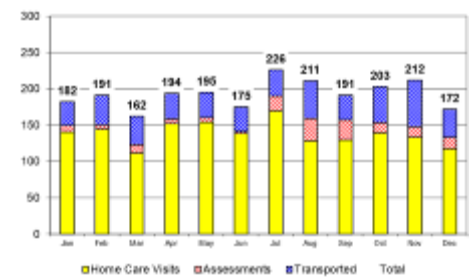
Hospice Statistics 2013



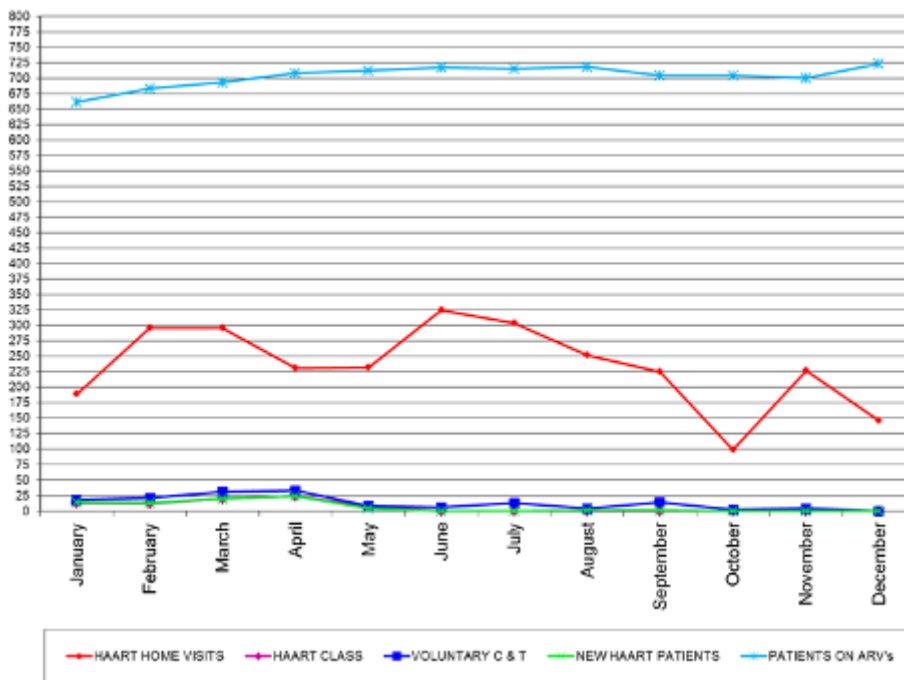
Total Outpatient Consultations 2013



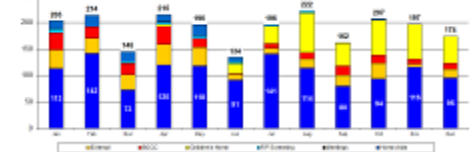
Home Care Team 2013



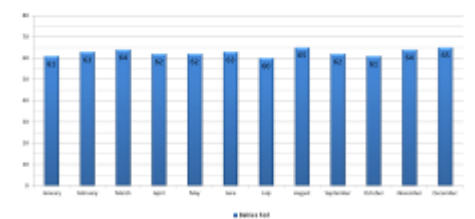
HAART PROGRAMME 2013



Social Worker Consultations - 2013



Malnutrition Clinic Statistics 2013



Statistics: Numbers

Children in Children's Home	28	2013	Accumulated Statistics	1992-2013	increase
Bursaries awarded	30				
Children in our Pre-Primary School and Crèche	82	17	Social cases (Relief Fund)	1760	1%
Patients who passed away in our hospice	133	77	New HAART patients (Hospice)	1501	5.4%
HAART: VCT (Voluntary Counselling and HIV testing) done	154	290	Inpatient admissions (Hospice)	4078	7.7%
Patients admitted to our hospice (inpatients)	290	137	New outpatients (Hospice)	1853	8%
HAART: Patients in the AIDS treatment programme	698	421	New Home Care Patients (Hospice)	4094	11.4%
Home Care Patients	1100	494	Patients transported by ambulance (Hospice)	4474	12.4%
Consultations (Malnutrition Clinic)	1504	290	Patients counselled (Hospice)	2387	13.8%
Home visits by Home Care Team	1654				
Consultations done by our social worker	2265				
Home visits by HAART therapeutic counsellors	2822				
Outpatient consultations	7334				

Financial Audit:

The Financial Audit of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for 2013 in April 2014 yielded impeccable results again which we are absolutely proud of.

Personnel:

Membership Statistics

As on: 31 December 2013		development 2013	
1413	Active members	+21	+1,5%
614	Financial supporters	+22	+3,7%
366	Spiritual supporters	-1	-0,3%
2393	Members in total	+42	+1,8%

Employees

Four employees left us in 2013 and three new staff members were welcomed: Vumile Zulu (junior administration assistant), Sphamandla Shongwe and Constance Chihau (enrolled nurses)



Visitors:

Alena Schütte (3. - 25.1.2013)
 Katharina Matzenbacher (22. - 24.3.2013)
 Guy Graf von Moy (18. - 23.4.2013)
 Dr. Elisabeth & Irmgard Inwald (6. - 19.8.2013),



Congregation Council of the Missionary Benedictines (4.10.2013)

Maresi Rehder (14. - 24.10.2013)
 Fritz Draxinger, Dr. Klaus Lerch & Dr. Manuela Weis (15.- 21.11.2013)

Public Relations:

Internet:

Our homepage on the **Internet** (www.bbg.org.za) was totally refurbished and is now online at <http://bbg.malteser-internet.de>

You will also find us on Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BBG.ORG.ZA>
Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+GérardLagleder/>
LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1833474>
Twitter: @FatherGerard · <https://twitter.com/FatherGerard>
XING: <https://www.xing.com/net/priffc80x/brotherhood/>

Radio:

Vatican Radio, 1 June 2013:

The HIV/AIDS Programme of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference
http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2013/06/01/the_hiv_aids_programme_of_the_south_african_catholic_bishops/en3-697620

Vatican Radio , 16 July 2013:

Caring for AIDS patients in South Africa in times of (financial) change
<http://media01.radiovaticana.va/audiomp3/00381798.MP3>

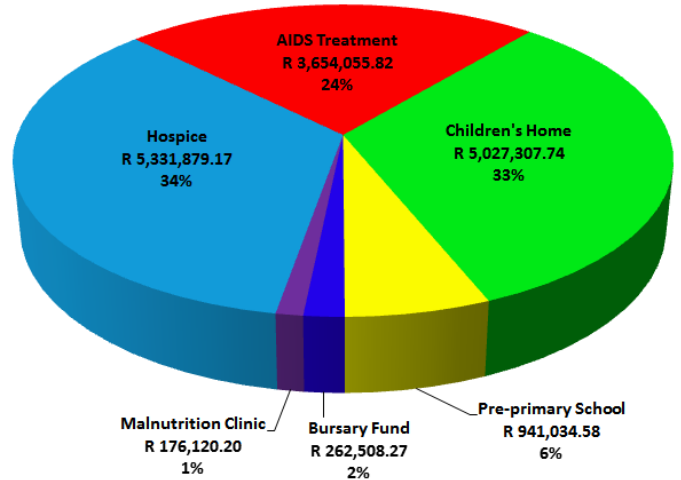
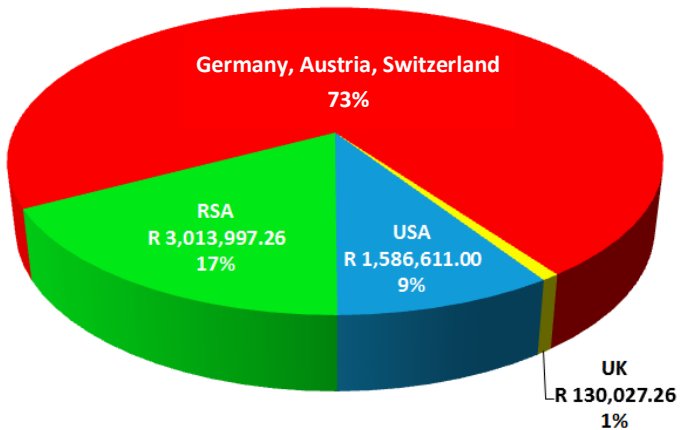
Radio Veritas, 28 July 2013: The Melting Pot

Finance Report 2013

Figures in South African Rand (ZAR)

Total Income 2013: R 17,414,373.95

Total Expenditure 2013: R 15,392,905.78



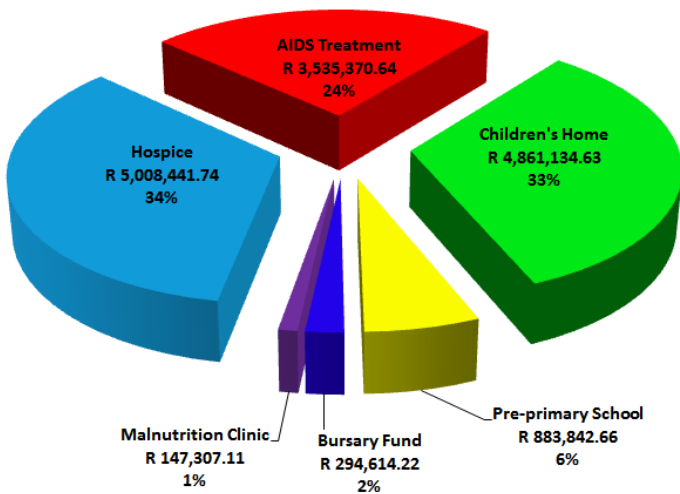
We wholeheartedly thank all our donors for enabling us to render our services.

We serve an impoverished community.

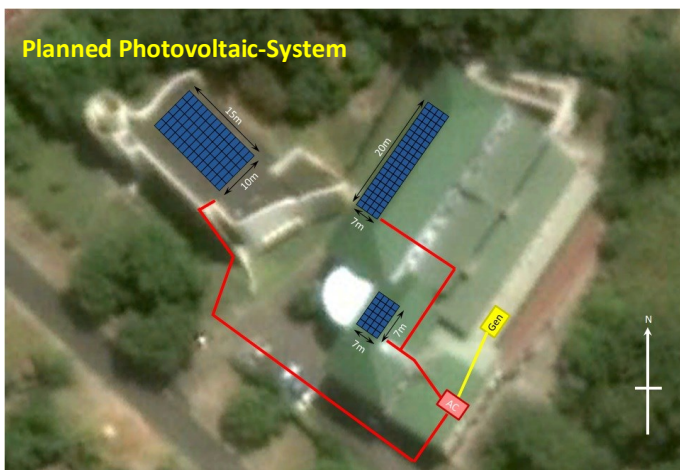
Therefore we offer all our services free of charge and have to rely solely on donations and grants to finance our work.

The following **Special Expenditures** are not contained in the list of expected running cost:

Running Cost
Expected Expenditure 2014: R 14,730,711.00



1. Our **industrial dishwasher**, which had been donated to us by Toyota South Africa many years ago as a second hand appliance, is now beyond repair and has to be replaced. Our kitchen personnel currently has to wash the dishes for about 500 meal portions per day by hand. Cost: R77,000.00.
2. Unfortunately we also have to replace the **furniture of our central kitchen** which after 18 years of use has badly deteriorated, in order to maintain our high standard of hygiene.
3. Our industrial washing machine and the corresponding tumble dryer, which we had received as second hand donations in 2009, also had to be scrapped. Currently we have to bridge the gap with smaller washing machines and they run 12 hours per day, 7 days per week. The financing of a new washing machine has been secured through generous donations and the courtesy of the manufacturer. We are still looking for donations to pay for an equally urgently needed **tumble dryer**. The quotation at cost price of the manufacturer including installation is R84,000.00
4. The purchase and installation of a **photovoltaic system** that will enable us to counteract the tremendously rising cost of electricity in South Africa. Cost estimate: about R1,400,000.00, because we also have to replace the roof of Blessed Gérard's Community Centre to enable it to carry the weight of the system.



St. Ottilien Archabbey donated a new 4x4 ambulance

We say a special “Thank you” to the home monastery of Father Gérard, St. Ottilien Archabbey, for the most helpful and generous donation of a new 4x4 ambulance.

The Abbot of Inkamana, Godfrey Sieber O.S.B., presents the ambulance to Blessed Gérard’s Hospice.



(from left to right): Abbot Godfrey, Father Gérard and Brother Bernard (all three of them are monks of St. Ottilien Archabbey and work as missionaries for Inkamana Abbey).



The old ambulance had more than 200.000 km on the odometer, a welded chassis and when the back axle broke, it was beyond repair. “That is no surprise”, said a car mechanic, “taking into account what bad roads you have to drive on all the time.”

We wholeheartedly thank St. Ottilien Archabbey, Archabbot Wolfgang Öxler O.S.B., Father Berthold Kirchlechner O.S.B. and the board of the “Liebeswerk vom Heiligen Benedikt” for the magnificent and equally needed and need-turning support!



The Feast of Blessed Gérard

We celebrated the Feast of Blessed Gérard on 12th October 2013 in Mandeni.

Bishop Kumalo blessed the new wing



and the newly constructed soccer ground of our Children's Home, the new parking area of our Care Centre and the renovated former St. Anthony's Church, which we now use as "Blessed Gérard's Community Centre".



Outstanding members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard were honoured for their extraordinary merits at the subsequent function:

Father Gérard presented the Orders of merit that had been awarded by the Grandmaster of the Order of Malta:

The **Grand Cross "pro piis meritis" pro Merito Melitensi** to **Bishop Thaddeus X. Kumalo**



and **Abbot Godfrey Sieber O.S.B.**

The **Officer's Cross pro Merito Melitensi** to **Dr. Paul Z. Thabethe**



The **Cross pro Merito Melitensi with Shield** to **Mrs Nokuthula M. Thabethe**



The **Cross pro Merito Melitensi** to **Mrs. Caroline F. Beaumont**



The **Silver Medal pro Merito Melitensi** to **Mrs. Yvonne J. Renaud**



The **Bronze Medal pro Merito Melitensi** to **Mrs. Carolyn Nunn**



Mr. Wiseman Q. Zulu



and **Dr. Khaya Nzimande.**



The **President's Award for the most outstanding employee** in 2013 was presented to **Miss Fanelesibonge Ndwandwe** "in gratitude and acknowledgement

of her faithful service as an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and caregiver at Blessed Gérard's Hospice."

The **President's Award for the most outstanding volunteer** in 2013 was presented to **Miss Ethel Lwandle** "in gratitude and acknowledgement of her faithful service as an active member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and as a volunteer at Blessed Gérard's Hospice."



Although this most pleasant news will only be the content of the next newsletter for 2015, we do not want to withhold this information from you:

**The Prince and Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta,
Frà Matthew Festing, visited the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard
from 8 to 14 April 2014.**

His Most Eminent Highness has been a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard since 9th July 2002. We are enormously pleased that he accepted the highest Award and Honour which the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard can grant.

Thus **Frà Matthew Festing**
was invested as an "Honorary Dedicated Member" of the
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard on Palm Sunday 2014.



The Grandmaster of the Order of Malta invested six members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as members of the Order of Malta on 14th April 2014: Wilfrid Cardinal Napier OFM, Bishop Xolelo Kumalo, Dr. Paul Thabethe, Nokuthula Thabethe, Yvonne Renaud and Dr. Khaya Nzimande. Frà Matthew presented the Cross of the Order on the previous day to Mrs. Renaud, who could not attend the investiture because she was hospitalised.



We, the children of **Blessed Gérard's Children's Home**, express our gratitude for all your benevolence and support on behalf of the several thousands of people, who have been helped, cared for and looked after through the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**.



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.

Making a donation

If you live in **South Africa**:

Donations to **Blessed Gerard's Care Centre** are tax deductible. [Reference 18/11/13/2777]

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.

If you want to donate regularly, please organise a stop order on your account.

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 are subscribed to **PayPal**, you may send us a **donation online** using our e-mail father@bbg.org.za

We render a **health care service** to poor and needy persons, including the care for people living with HIV/AIDS at the hotspot of the AIDS pandemic in the world, the North Coast of Zululand in South Africa.

Our AIDS treatment (HAART) Programme comprises

Voluntary Counselling and HIV-Testing (VCT)

We offer free and confidential HIV Tests to the general public.

HAART Readiness Courses



Before starting patients on the medication we ensure that they get sufficient information to give their informed consent and to understand that antiretroviral treatment is of vital importance for them.

Antiretroviral Treatment



We provide free **Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment (HAART)** as comprehensive medical care including regular medical examinations, blood monitoring, on-going prevention or treatment of opportunistic infections, medical and psychosocial counselling and dispensing of the drugs.

Adherence Monitoring



Our Therapeutic Counsellors make home visits to our patients on ARV-treatment to ensure that they adhere to the treatment and so to prevent treatment failure. This enables us to discover adverse drug reactions early and to prevent problems.

Support Groups

We have several Support Groups where our HAART Patients meet voluntarily to encourage and support one another and prevent isolation.



Motivation and Income Generation

Our Therapeutic Counsellors motivate and encourage our HAART patients to engage in income generating activities instead of expecting that their families or society would have to provide for them because they are sick.

Hospice & Palliative Care

We provide **residential Palliative Care** for terminally ill patients in our **Inpatient Unit**.



We can admit up to 40 patients, which makes us the largest inpatient hospice in South Africa.



We send out mobile home-nursing teams, which supplement and support the family's home based care through hands-on training and additional aids in the home situation of the respective patient. This includes the assessment of patients at home and proper medical **home care**.

Poor Sick Fund

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



Relief & Social Care

Relief Fund

We provide poverty relief by helping people in our local community in genuine cases of immediate need.

Disaster Relief

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



Child Care

Pre-Primary School & Crèche

We provide "edu-care" and an early childhood development service for underprivileged pre-school children.



Children's Home

We look after, counsel and give a home to sick and healthy "Orphans and Vulnerable Children" (OVCs).



Blessed Gérard's Care Centre

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.



Bursary Fund

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



The **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

is ...



- a "Private **Association of Christ's Faithful**" in the Roman Catholic Church (FBO),
- the **Relief Organisation** of the Order of Malta in South Africa,
- a (South African) **Public Benefit Organisation** (PBO 18/11/13/2769) operated not for profit (NPO),
- a **group of idealists**, resolved to live our faith according to our motto "tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum", which means "Protection of faith and service to the poor".
- an **instrument of the Church** to serve the Lord in the poor and to bring God's love to the needy through our service.

We serve the needy irrespective of their creed, colour of skin, sexual orientation and political affiliation.

We serve an impoverished community.

Therefore we render all our services free of charge and **have to rely solely on donations and grants to finance our work.**



Brotherhood
P O Box 440
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Republic of South Africa

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www.bbg.org.za
Phone +27 82 4924043
Fax +27 86 6938940

of Blessed Gérard

Pledge to donate

Kindly indicate how you would like to support the patients of the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**:

I want to support the **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard** as a **Donor member** through an annual quarterly monthly donation of (amount): _____ (currency) _____.

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Surname or Company/Society: _____

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(use letters, not figures for the month) _____

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Postal/ZIP Code: _____ Town/City: _____

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Signed at: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please send this form to the: **Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

P O Box 440 · Mandeni 4490 · Republic of South Africa

Fax +27 86 6938940

See <http://bbg.org.za/finance/donation.htm> for information about obtaining tax deductible certificates in several countries.



Brotherhood

May we
introduce
ourselves
to you?

of Blessed Gérard