



# Newsletter 2023

## Annual Report 2022

1992 - 2022  30 years of selfless service



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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 needy).

### "**Vision**"

May the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in adopting its 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 <https://www.bsg.org.za/en/our-organisation/publications/newsletters-annual-reports.html>

**Kindly update your current contact details** by sending an e-mail to [bbg@bbg.org.za](mailto:bbg@bbg.org.za) or a SMS or WhatsApp message to Father Gérard at +27 82 492 4043. That will make it much easier for us to contact you. We will never share your private details with anybody.

# We are ...

- a group of more than 2600 **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 had been 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 abilities, creed, ethnicity, 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"

(PBO number 13 000 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.

More than 80% of these live in poverty.

**All our services are rendered free of charge.**



# Chronicle 2022



With the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa in March 2020, we introduced a new reporting medium, which we initially called "Covid-19 Chronicle" and have renamed "Chronicle" since March 2021. We tried to report about our work every day if possible. However, this chronicle was and is only published online:

<http://bbg.org.za/chronicles.htm>

So that those who do not have access to the internet can also find out about our work, we are reprinting excerpts from this chronicle here:



## 21 January 2022

We are especially grateful to our donors, who have enabled us to keep stocks of antiretroviral medication. Due to a shortage of medication in the government supplies we could not receive the needed medication from there, as we usually do. Therefore, we could use our own stocks to safeguard the continuous antiretroviral treatment of our AIDS patients. Thank you!

## 1 February 2022

### Blessed Gérard's Care Centre welcomes new Managing Director, Dr Douglas Ross, to the team!

Blessed Gérard's Care Centre (BGCC) is excited to welcome Dr Douglas Ross to the BGCC Team, as its new Managing Director or "MD". This new top management position, recently created by our Council, as part of the Council's ongoing strategic realignment initiatives for BGCC, is a challenging position. Council has no doubt that Dr Ross is up to this challenge, hence his appointment.



## 10 & 11 February 2022

### World Day of the Sick

<https://youtu.be/plJrtOG4VZO>

Each year for the past 30 years, February the 11th has been celebrated by the Church as the World Day of the Sick, to ensure the Church, catholic health institutions, such as Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, and civil society at large, focus their attention on the sick and all those who take care of the sick. The theme chosen for the 2022 World Day of the Sick is: "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful". (Lk 6:36).

In commemoration of this special day, the BGCC team held a BGCC “family” celebration, outdoors on the veranda of our Hospice, involving our Hospice patients and staff, the staff and children from the Blessed Gerard’s Children’s Home, and other BGCC staff members who were available at the time.



This celebration started with a short welcome from our new Managing Director, Dr. Douglas Ross, together with an input from Dr Ross about the significance of the World Day of the Sick. Dr Ross highlighted the overall message from the Holy Father that we, as staff and volunteers of BGCC, need to ensure that we are merciful to our patients, to our children, to each other and also to



ourselves.

Our hospice patients and staff were then entertained by a series of lively traditional song and dance numbers from our children.



It was particularly heart-warming to see our hospice patients and staff joining in the songs and clapping enthusiastically in unison with the children. This “family” celebration concluded with all in attendance receiving a commemorative “goodie bag” to remind them of this joyful

event.

In addition to this, Father Gérard celebrated Mass on Friday the 11th February 2022 with a liturgy, which was specifically directed to the World Day of the Sick, focusing on both the sick and their caregivers.



## 18 February 2022

Health and Safety Protocols are of utmost importance to safeguard a safe environment.

It is indispensable to be trained how to react in an emergency.

Today some of our staff members were trained how to use a fire extinguisher and how to fight a fire. This can be even fun in a training situation.



## 17 – 18 March 2022

Farewell to Sr. Josepha Mkhize, who had been in our care centre as a guest and geriatric patient since 8 October 2018.

## 24 – 27 March 2022

Father Gérard represented South Africa at the XXVIII International Hospitallers' Conference of the Order of Malta in Rome and co-moderated a workshop about the spiritual dimension of the Order of Mal-



ta: "How to strengthen spirituality within the works."



## 11 April 2022

Prolonged torrential rain led to a terrible natural disaster in KwaZulu-Natal. Thank goodness our Care Centre got off relatively lightly. The water stood in the hospice and it took us hours to dry the floors out again. Furniture and doors were damaged by the water, but nothing else happened. The photo shows the result of the nearly drained floors. Before that there was no time to take pictures



## 13 April 2022

Today we learned that our social worker, Fortunate Musa Shezi, disappeared on Monday April 11th on her way home from work at our children's home. Her car was found next to a low-level bridge covered in mud. She still had made a call to say she got out of the car. Since then she has been missing. An extensive search has so far been unsuccessful.

**15 April 2022**

**We mourn Fortunate Musa SHEZI**

She has been working as a social worker in our children's home since 1 April 2019.

She had well-founded specialist knowledge, which she used with great care, empathy and passion for the well-being of the children entrusted to us. We will forever miss her friendly nature, her winning smile and her good charisma. Positions can be filled, but people are irreplaceable.

On Monday, 11 April 2022 she drove home a little early because of the bad storm in Zululand, but she never got there. Her car was caught in the flood waters a kilometre from her home and was later found covered in mud. She was still able to make emergency calls. But they came too late. There was no trace of her.

Today (Good Friday) we learned that her body has been found.

May the Risen Christ, the Lord of life, grant her eternal life in our heavenly home. We ask for your prayers for Musa and all who mourn with us.



**4 May 2022**

Food parcel delivery to a Hlomendlini family that was affected by the floods. Ms Mkhumbuzi lives in a rondavel house with her two children. She is unemployed and suffers from arthritis. All their food and clothes were soaked in water.

**5 May 2022**

Food parcel delivery to the Manqele family which lives in Ngulule. There are twelve members in the family (including children). They are all unemployed. The only source of income was their grandmother's old age grant. She had passed away at the age of **104 years.**



**20 May 2022**

We thanked our nurses today on the International Nurses' Day for their most dedicated service in our Hospice.



**1 June 2022**

We received a large donation of blankets today from Allied Steelrode.



**4 June 2022**

Children of our Children's Home widened their cultural horizon today learning to cook Indian food and wearing Indian Saris.



**13 June 2022**

South Africa is plagued by acts of violence, which unfortunately do not exclude children. That's why we give the children in our children's home the opportunity to defend themselves through karate, but also to be physically fit and to learn self-control.

**8 –10 July 2022**

Our German support association, the "Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V." held its annual general meeting on Mt. Sainte Odile in Ottrott/France.



Father Gérard and Johannes Lagleder

On Saturday and Sunday, we celebrated Holy Mass at the grave of St. Odilia.



**Caring without borders**





## August 2023

Pictures from home visits of our Hospice



## 23 August 2022

In the children's home with Dalya Droste from Düsseldorf/Germany, who did voluntary service with us from 7 to 30 August 2022.

## 9 September 2022

The "chommy programme" of our children's home We are currently running a social and behavioural guidance programme for younger (children 6-13) called the "Chommy" programme". It is an established national programme, which we have amended slightly for the Children's Home.

It is designed in twelve sessions and builds and strengthens pre-teens sense of self, it equips them with knowledge, skills and values that will help them to make informed and responsible decisions on sexual and social relationships. The most important goal of Chommy is that participants end the programme with a personal plan for their lives, tools and skills to navigate through life challenges.



## 12 – 16 September 2022

The Law Society of South Africa's National Wills Week took place from the 12th to the 16th September 2022. This annual event is an established highlight among the South African legal profession's social outreach initiatives. It was recently established that a number of staff members of Blessed Gerard's Care Centre did not have a will and wished to obtain one. BGCC therefore ensured that three firms of local attorneys visited BGCC on separate

days, around the time of this year's Will Week, to consult with our staff and to draft basic wills for our staff free of charge. On behalf of our staff, BGCC wishes to formally acknowledge and thank Harilall Naik Peters Attorneys, Vermeulen Attorneys and Vani Moodley Attorneys, for going the extra mile here, and coming through to BGCC

to offer their services on a pro-deo basis.

The pictures show members of our staff in consultation with members of the legal team from Vani Moodley Attorneys.

## 24 September 2022

„Heritage Day“ is a Public Holiday in South Africa. The aim of this day is to become even more aware of our heritage and all its cultural, ethical and customary values. The children of our children's home celebrated this day with great enthusiasm.



## 8 October 2022

We celebrated World Hospice Palliative Care Day today in our Hospice.

## 10 October 2022

Especially for children in a children's home, it is particularly necessary to prepare the children for an independent life, so that they are not unfit for life once they leave the often overprotected atmosphere of the children's home. Today the children learned how to use public transport and got to know bus stations, train stations and the airport



Today the children learned how to use public transport and got to know bus stations, train stations and the airport



## 15 October 2022

We received a wonderful surprise visit today: Simangele Cynthia Khoza, a former patient at our Hospice, came to us unexpectedly to thank us, that we had saved her life when she was treated here. She is happy and healthy now and works as a teacher. She was overjoyed and most grateful for her total recovery and full of praise for our hospice. She wanted to express her gratitude by making an in kind donation of a whole trolley full of groceries (cabbages, butter-

nuts, potatoes, maize meal, sour milk etc.). She reminded us that we had printed an article about her in one of our previous newsletters.

## 28—30 October 2022

**Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard**

See article on page 12


You are cordially invited  
to join us at the celebration of the  
**30th anniversary**  
of the  
**Brotherhood**  
of Blessed Gérard



28 - 30 October 2022  
at Blessed Gérard's Care Centre  
61 Anderson Road  
Mandeni 4490, South Africa.



Christmas Celebration at Blessed Gérard's Children's Home

**Brotherhood**  
  
**of Blessed Gérard**

**The prayer of the**  
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Lord Jesus Christ, through your grace you have called me to serve you as a member of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

I thank you for counting me worthy of this task.

I ask you humbly, with the intercession of Our Lady, St. John the Baptist, Blessed Gérard and all the Saints that the spirituality of our Brotherhood may pervade my life and my actions to be always dedicated to your service to whoever needs my help.

Trusting in your help I always want to protect the faith and have an open heart for my neighbour, especially the Poor, the Sad, the Lonely, the Handicapped and the Sick.

Grant me the strength needed to live according to this resolution as an upright Christian selflessly in the Spirit of Your Gospel, for the honour of God, for the peace of the world and the benefit of our community.

Amen.





# 30 years Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Jubilee on 28—30 October 2022



29 October 2022

## Festive Holy Mass



Main celebrant and preacher: His Eminence, Wilfrid Fox Cardinal Napier O.F.M.



Cardinal Napier preaching



The Dedicated members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, here Count Guy Moy, present the members' medals.



Father Gérard welcomes everybody.



Cardinal Napier blesses the medals for the new members of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Cardinal Napier blesses the new members



At the Eucharistic Prayer.

Article continues on page 25 →

# Annual Report 2022

## Activity Report

**The activities of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre in the year 2022, as in the year before, were concentrated on maintaining momentum in our existing projects: Blessed Gérard's Care Centre provides a comprehensive and holistic system of care:**

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.

**22 patients tested.**



**Antiretroviral Treatment**

We provide free **Highly Active Anti-Retroviral 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.

**4287 outpatient consultations for**

**615 patients on ongoing life-long treatment.**

**14 new patients admitted.**

**Adherence Monitoring**

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

**1759 home visits made.**

**Nutritional and Social Care**

**303 Covid-19 relief food parcels, blankets and second hand clothing delivered to starving AIDS patients.**





## 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.



**5194 social workers' consultations** (mostly for the Hospice, but also for the Children's Home, Bursary Fund and Relief Fund)

**815 outpatient consultations**

**79 inpatients admitted**

**35 inpatients accompanied when they died.**

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**.

**314 Covid-19 relief food parcels, blankets and second hand clothing** delivered to starving home care patients.



**127 patients** enrolled.

**1477 sick visits** made.

**221 patients transported** by ambulance.

**222 patient assessment visits** done.

## Relief & Social Care



### Relief Fund

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

We provided relief in **47 social emergency cases**.

### Poor Sick Fund

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



## Child Care

### 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.



We provided

- 70200 specialised food servings by
- 2700 400g packs of milk powder and
- 3476 500g packets of future life fortified porridge in
- 780 consultations to
- 100 malnourished children with an average of
- 65 children per month.



### Children's Home

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



- 13 children were admitted.
- 13 children were discharged.
- 64 children lived here on 31 December 2022

### Bursary Fund

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

385 bursaries granted.

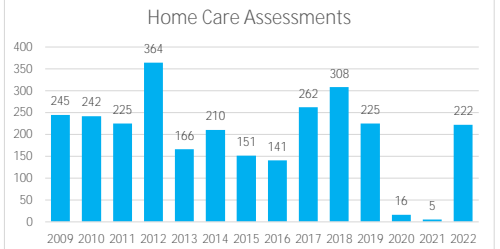
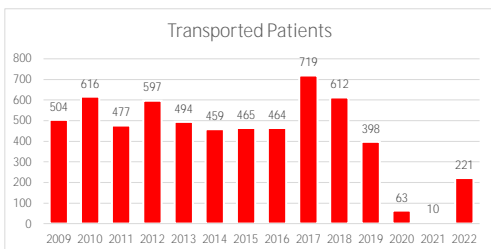
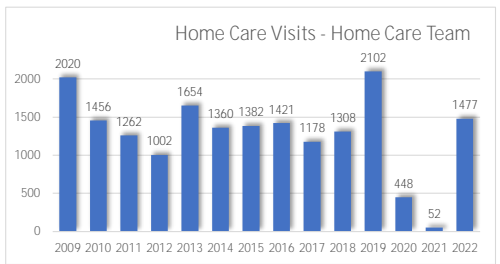
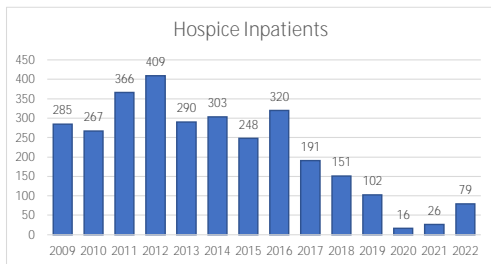
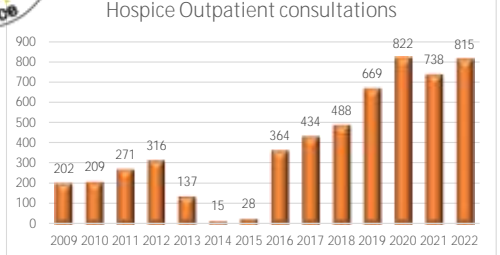
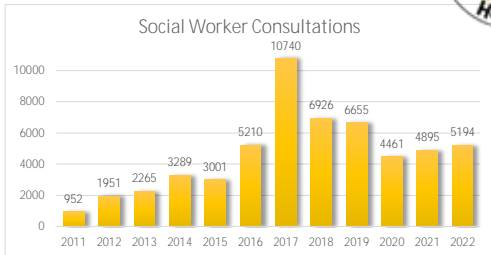
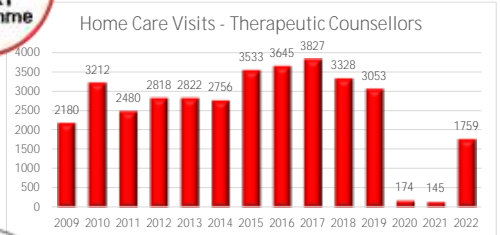
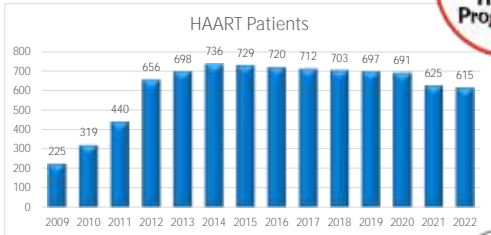


# We care in any case



# Activity Report – continued

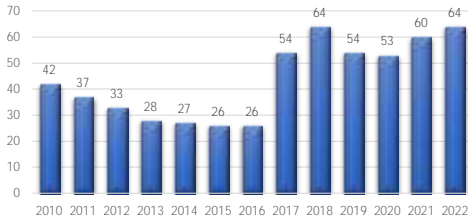
## Statistics: Graphs



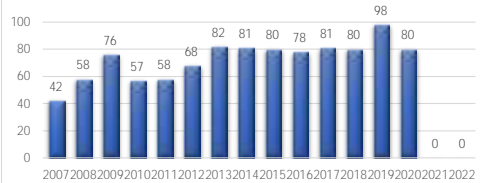




Children - Children's Home



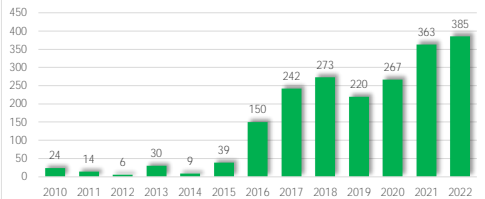
Children - Pre-Primary School & Creche  
Re-opened on 1 April 2023



Malnutrition Clinic - Consultations



Bursaries



The noticeable statistical decrease in several areas of our activities in 2020 and 2021 is due to the necessary Covid-19 restrictions to protect our patients and children with immunodeficiency (especially those with comorbidities) and our staff from possible infections.

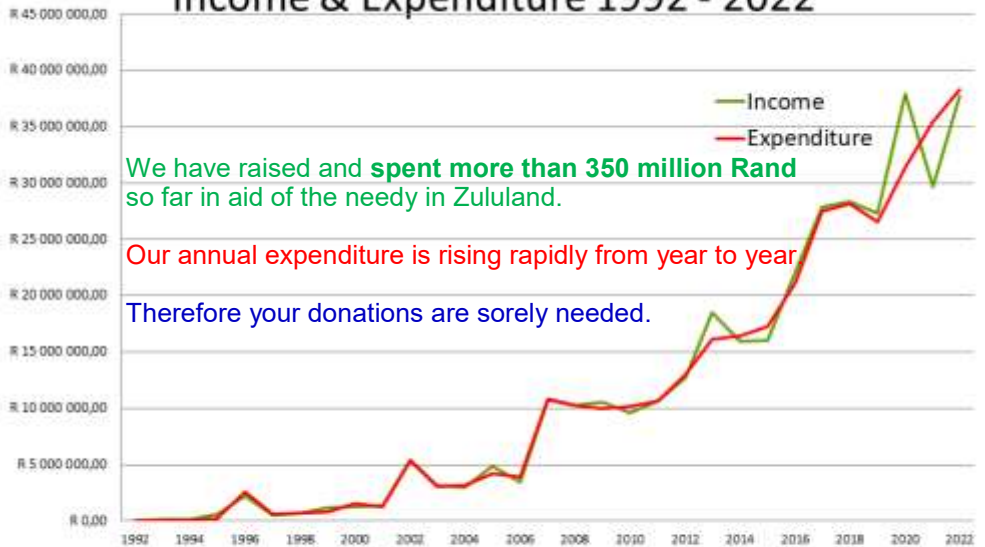
AIDS therapy counselling, inpatient hospice admission, nursing and assessment home visits and patient transport from the outpatient hospice had to be minimized. In the meantime, all services have resumed in full.

Social Cases - Relief Fund



## Finance Report: Financial growth

### Income & Expenditure 1992 - 2022



Blessed Gérard,  
our patron saint,  
is quoted to have said:

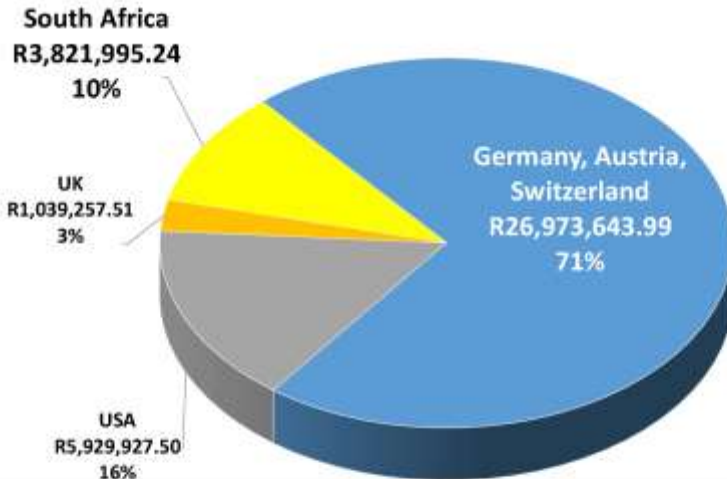
**"Our brotherhood  
will be everlasting**  
because the misery of the world  
is the ground,  
within which this plant is rooted -  
and because, God willing,  
there always will be people,  
who want to work  
towards decreasing these sufferings  
and increasing the resilience  
against this misery."

**Blessed Gérard, pray for us!**



# Finance Report

## SOURCES OF INCOME 2022 : R37,764,824.24



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

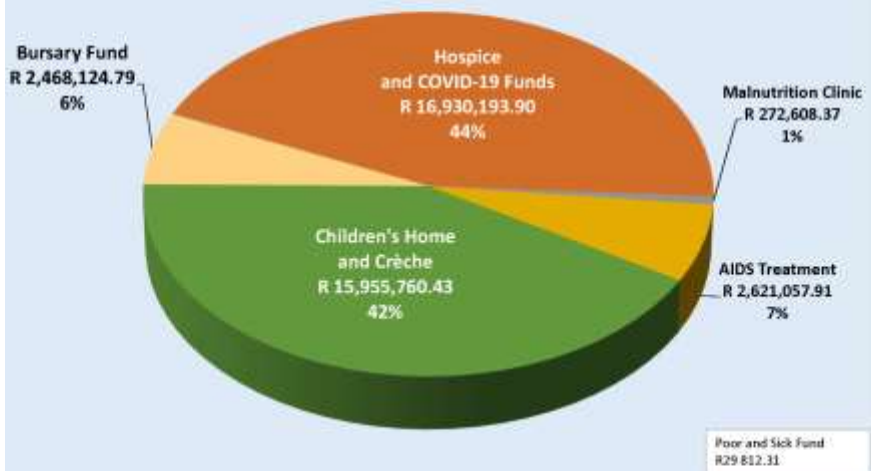
We serve an impoverished community.

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

We included the monetary value of the benefits in kind (medicines and laboratory for our AIDS treatment programme) from the Department of Health of KwaZulu-Natal as income and expenditure in the financial report again.

International donations via the PayPal account of our German benefit association are part of the donations from Germany.

## EXPENDITURE 2022 : R 38,277,557.71



## Financial Audit:

The external Financial Audit of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre for 2022 had **spotless results** again because of the expertise of the bookkeeping company "Burrows & Associates" (especially Mrs. Angelee Botha) which has kept our books for years impeccably.

# Green/pen

The art of accounting

*"We conclude the following overall comments from our audit work performed and our interaction with the various staff members of the organisations:*

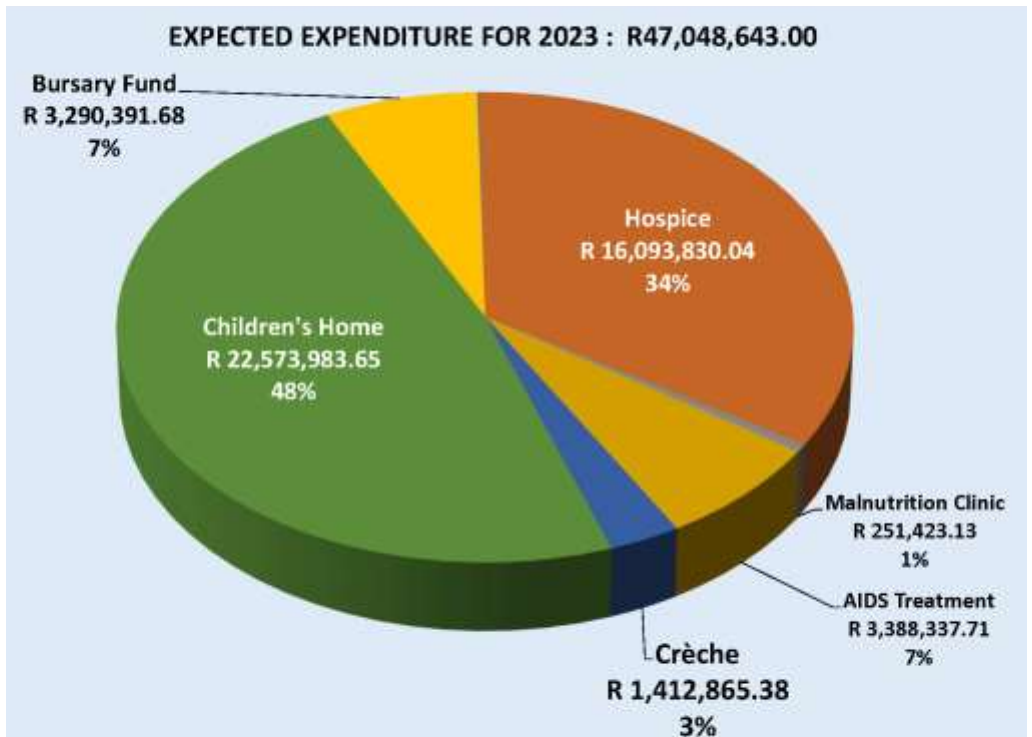
*The organisations are well run, good controls are in place to safeguard the assets and control expenditure.*

*The appointment of the Managing Director has significantly improved the esprit de corps and morale of the staff of the organisations.*

*Correct procedures and discipline are being entrenched with positive effects.*

*The financial records are kept accurately, are up to date and sound internal controls are maintained.*

*The Financial Manager and Admin Department are commended in maintaining financial controls and procedures of a high standard."*



## Personnel

Personnel: employees

On December 31, 2022, we had 119 employees (89 **full-time** and 30 **part-time**). We warmly welcome the new employees who were hired in 2022:

**Member statistics** (31 December 2022)

	<b>1593</b>	active members
+	<b>743</b>	financial supporter members
+	<b>354</b>	spiritual supporter members
=	<b>2687</b>	<b>members.</b>

Celiwe Nkosingiphile Shongwe, Sammuel Julius Zwane, Emedah Zandile Shange, Zinhle Celiwe Sikhosana, Makhosi Nonto Khanyile, Patience Nomthandazo Zwane, Zethembile Promise Biyela, Nelisiwe Mbuyisa, Zandile Pearl Sokhulu, Pretty Pullen, Annah Ntombiziningi Mhlophe, Nombulelo Nompumelelo Zondo, Zanele Purity Ndlovu, Phumlani Sakhieni Mpungose, Nothando Cresantia Bhengu, Samukelisiwe Evidence Biyela, Gugu Rosebud Mthembu, Christinah Nkosingiphile Mhlongo, Jo-ann Pillay, Sihle Busane, **Dr. Douglas Patrick Ross**, **Tessa Adrienne Hills**, Nontobeko Thusi, Jabulile Monica Buthelezi.

In view of the record-breaking local unemployment rate, over 1000 locals have come to us over the years, have been trained by us as nursing assistants and have become active members with us in the hope of getting employment. For many of these, the generous allowance we provided was their only income and the free meals they received from us when on duty, the only food for the day and the free medical treatment they received from us was a great bonus. Nevertheless, for the sake of social justice, we did not want to continue this day laborer status and instead decided to create **30 new part-time jobs** and thus make unemployment insurance possible for everyone.

Four employees left us in 2022:

### 1. Sven Oscar Anderson

Under his leadership, our organization grew from humble status to a respected and reputable not-for-profit service provider with nearly 100 employees and an annual budget of nearly R38 million.

One of his greatest achievements was that he developed and implemented a detailed general operations manual (policies, procedures and forms) for our organization which was admired as a mark of a high level of professionalism.

Mr. Anderson was always absolutely loyal to Father Gérard and we developed a relationship of mutual trust and friendship.



### 2. Fortunate Musa Shezi

She died on April 11, 2022.

See the chronicle entry of April 15, 2022 (page 7)

### 3. Jabulile Monica Buthelezi,

Her fixed-term employment contract had expired.

### 4. Caroline Frances Beaumont

retired at the end of March 2022. She has been one of the most trusted pillars of our organisations for over 29 years. She started out as a secretary and soon became our housekeeping manager. For a time she ran our children's home. At times she did our bookkeeping. For many years she was a valued member of the Management Committee of our care centre. She was also a religion teacher for the children in our children's home for a long time and prepared many for baptism, first communion and confirmation.

Thank God she is now carrying on these tasks on a voluntary basis. We are infinitely grateful to her and cannot praise her enough. May God bless her for her faithful and highly valuable services!



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## Kindly Help Us to Help!

All our services entirely depend on your 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.

## Making a donation

### If you live in **South Africa**:

Donations to Blessed Gérard's Care Centre are tax deductible. [PBO No 130002777]  
We can issue South African tax payers with a section 18A tax certificates for their donations upon request, which they can use for tax deduction from the SARS.  
If you 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!).

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 are prepared 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. Checks 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, NE 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.

You may make a **donation online** using <https://www.paypal.me/SMOMRSA>  
or <https://www.facebook.com/BBG.ORG.ZA>

## Application for Associate Membership in the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

Kindly indicate  which kind of membership you want

- I am prepared to support the objectives of the  
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard as a **Donor** through an
- annual  quarterly  monthly membership donation of

- I want to help the  
Brotherhood of Blessed  
Gérard through my  
prayers as a **Spiritual  
Supporter**

(currency) \_\_\_\_\_ (amount) \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly give your bank a stop order or make regular transfers!

You will find our banking details online at

<http://bbg.org.za/finance/donation.htm>

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Rev/Honourable) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth:

year                      month                      day

**Postal address:**

Street address or P O Box \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Code \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone Code \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Code \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Internet Homepage: <http://> \_\_\_\_\_

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

In case of applicant being a minor,  
signature of parent or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to the  
Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard

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

+27 82 4924043 · Fax +27 32 456 7962 · e-mail [bbg@bbg.org.za](mailto:bbg@bbg.org.za)





The Managing Director of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre, Dr. Douglas Ross, welcomes everybody.

Count Guy Moy delivers the keynote speech:

Your Eminence Cardinal Napier, dear Father Prior, dear friends and members of our Brotherhood and, most importantly: Dear Father Gérard!

It is a great joy and honour to be allowed to speak to you today on this wonderful

festive day where we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard in Mandeni.

“Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum” – nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith and serving the poor and the sick. This is the principle of the Order of Malta for over 900 years and has been adhered to over all these centuries.

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Christian civilisation. We have today over 13.500 members of the Order and tens of thousands of people who work with us on this principle.

Ever since I became a member of this Order I could see how this principle, our “proprium” has been put into practice. We have taken the word of our Saviour Jesus Christ “What you have done to the least of your brothers and sisters, this you have done unto me”. As simple as that – and it has helped the Order to survive nearly 1.000 years. The founder of the Order of Malta, the Blessed Gérard, who gave this brotherhood its name, strongly pointed out that our Lord has to be seen in the poorest, the sick, the hungry, the ones in need.



About ten years ago the President of the German Association of the Order of Malta, Prince Lobkowicz asked me if would like to get into contact with a very interesting member of our Order, Father Gérard Lagleder in Mandeni, South Africa and if I'd like to be a "Competent entity" for the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard. Well, to this day I have not found out what a "Competent Entity" is and the more I learn about the Brotherhood the less competent I feel – but when I came here I did not only find a Hospice, a Children's home, an Orphanage and many other wonderful things: First of all, I found a friend. I found a man and an organisation that is really worthwhile to make a big effort for.

You all know Father Gérard and his way of seeing where there is need and right away doing something about it. And quite apparently the blessing of our Lord is upon his work! He told me how he created this mission station out of practically nothing. There were no funds available; he had to find and organize people who helped him to take care of the poor and the sick here in Mandeni. He very soon succeeded and found helpers, people who were already trained and people he could train himself to become medical assistants.

We all know that to help you do not only need a hand but you also need the muscles behind it. Muscles, that means here to get the funding for his plans – so he travels twice a year to Europe to collect money, to explain to audiences what he does and to convince his audiences to help him and all of you in your endeavour.

And for 30 years now, dear Father Gérard, you have successfully done so, - now if I ever saw a miracle happen, this is one! It is a large sum of money that is needed here every year and somehow every year you manage to get it.

There are people who can organize others and there are people who do the hands-on work. You, Father Gérard have done both for the last 30 years. Your real love, you told me, is to be with the sick and the needy yourself. But you have also trained others, hundreds of others in First Aid, you made them become Paramedics, Medical Assistants, healthcare workers and so on. But among the many who work with you I have always found the same: Besides high professionalism there is always laughter, always a good mood, there is always devotion to their task.

There is a flame burning within you, Father Gérard - the flame of love for the ones you have enclosed in your heart. And this flame you have passed on to hundreds, probably thousands of others. It is the principle, the innermost core of our faith; that we are not here on this earth for ourselves but for the others who need us. This whole wonderful Brotherhood is the burning flame of love, everyone who has been working with you has carried this flame on and brought it to the ones you all care for.

You have asked me twice, dear Father, not to give a speech about you, not to praise you. Well actually – what else? I had been you who started this Brotherhood, it is you who gives it life, it is you who is inspiring everyone in this room. This plant you have planted, this tree you have sown, it grows stronger and stronger every year. It has a wonderful past and it will have a wonderful future. It has had the blessing by our Lord Jesus Christ in the past and this blessing will stay here and will be with the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

Thank you very much that we may be a part of it.



Father Gérard delivers his jubilee speech:

Dear guests of honour –  
and that is every single person here,

**I had a dream ...**

... when I was a small boy and my godmother,  
who went to Brazil with her brother as missionaries,  
kept sending us information about their work to promote  
the faith.

**I had the dream** to become a missionary myself,  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up  
and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter,**

I found myself in school to prepare for the challenges of  
life.

**I had a dream ...**

... when I was a youth and my parents had initiated and run  
a self-help-organisation for elderly, sickly and lonely persons.

**I had the dream** to get involved myself and help  
all those countless people who often just needed a good word  
and a smile and a helping hand now and then,  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up  
and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter,**

I found myself volunteering there and for Caritas

**I had a dream ...**

... when I was a young adult and had made a First Aid Course  
at the German relief organisation of the Order of Malta.

**I had the dream** to help people as much as I could,  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up  
and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter,**

I found myself as an active member of Malteser Hilfsdienst,  
and finally as emergency medical technician,  
First Aid and Nursing instructor and deputy provincial manager.

**I had a dream ...**

... when I met exemplary priests  
who were ideal good shepherds of their flock.

**I had the dream** to become a priest myself,  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up  
and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter,** I found myself in the seminary  
and finally at the altar of ordination.

## I had a dream ...

... when I met with wonderful monks and nuns who happily lived their monastic vocation in its fullness.

**I had the dream** to become a monk myself  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter**,  
I found myself in the novitiate as a Benedictine monk and finally at the altar of monastic profession.

## I had a dream ...

... when I was sent as a missionary to Zululand and saw several people die from neglect.

**I had the dream**  
to alleviate their sufferings and to make their misery bearable,  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter**, I found myself at many sick beds in the bush and in talks with our local people what to do about the dire situation.

## I had a dream ...

... when I became the Parish Priest of Mangethe and Mandeni

**I had the dream** to find a solution to so many of our problems together with my parishioners and to establish a relief organisation.  
**but then I woke up** and found out that I had to grow up and learn and do a lot to put my dream into action.

**Not long thereafter – and that is 30 years ago**,  
I found myself in the chapel of the priest's house here next door signing the foundation document of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard.

## We had a dream ...

... when we needed more than just good willing volunteers alone to meet the needs of the people through our growing organisation.

**We had the dream** to construct the buildings needed to look after children and poor sick people,  
**but then we woke up** and found out that we had to grow up and learn and do a lot to put our dream into action.

**Not long thereafter**, we opened the new building of Blessed Gérard's Pre-Primary School and Crèche and a year later, we opened Blessed Gérard's Care Centre.

## We had a dream ...

... when our work and our organisation grew more and more.

### **We had the dream**

to put it onto a sustainable human resource and financial basis, **but then we woke up** and found out that we had to grow up and learn and do a lot to put our dream into action.

**Not long thereafter**, our membership steadily grew and today we have welcomed member No. 3064 into our organisation.

We are proud of our currently

2662 members, of which  
1589 are active members,  
720 financial supporter members and  
353 spiritual supporter members.  
88 of our active members are full-time-employees and  
30 are part time employees of our Care Centre.

Our annual turnover grew from

2 ½ Thousand Rand in 1992 to  
5.3 Million Rand ten years later in 2002, to  
12.6 Million Rand another ten years later in 2012, to  
34 Million Rand last year (2021) and  
in this year (2022) we expect a turnover of 39.6 Million Rand.  
In these 30 years we have raised and spent 336 Million Rand.  
(That is close to 19 Million Euro).

In these 30 years ...

- ...we have given a protective home to more than 200 children.  
Some of these have spent more than 20 years with us.
  - ...we helped to finance the education of 2,248 young people through our bursary fund.
  - ...we treated 1647 AIDS-Patients in a life-long therapy
  - ...we looked after 5250 desperately sick persons – some of them over months and years – through our Home Care Programme.
  - ...we admitted 5492 terminally ill people to our Inpatient Hospice.
  - ...we treated 5989 terminally ill people as outpatients, many of them over a very long period of time.
  - ...we transported 7844 patients by ambulance, mostly from their home to our hospice.
- We distributed 2180 Food parcels during the Covid Pandemic.  
1 parcel fed 4 people for 30 days with 3 meals per day, which amounts to 784,800 plates of food provided.

All these services were rendered free of charge and quite often we did not even get a “Thank you” for this.

The biggest Thank you of today is due to our most wonderful staff members and our volunteers.

You are the smiling face,  
You are the helping hand,  
You are the consoling word  
You are the loving heart of our organisation.

**We are what we are through you!** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We are proud and grateful that our German benefit association, the “**Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard e.V.**”, which raises most of our financial support, and together with the “**Bruderschaft des Seligen Gerhard Stiftung**” guarantees our financial sustainability.

We are grateful to the **Benedictine Mission House** in Schuyler/Nebraska in the U.S.A. for their own support and for acting as a donation portal for our American donors.

We are grateful to my own monastic home,  
**St. Ottilien Archabbey**, for their great support.

We are grateful to all people who fund-raise for us  
and for all our donors. Amongst these is **Malteser Hilfsdienst**.

We are grateful to the **Order of Malta** whose ideals “tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum” we put into action in this part of the world. We are most grateful to the **German Association** (and their liaison officer **Guy Count Moy**).

We are grateful to our most wonderful **management committee of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre**, for their good governance and leadership and keeping our services on track.  
(Dr. Ross, , Mrs. Nunn, Dr. Ntshangase, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Botha, Mr. Allan and previously Mrs. Beaumont and Dr. Nzimande).  
They have also taken the brunt of the preparation work for this feast today. You are jolly good fellows! Hip-hip-hooray!

We are especially grateful to those many – the Bible would call them – **poor widows**, who give from the little they have, because they know that there are others who are worse off than they are.

**We have a dream ...**

... as the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard  
on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishment  
has now finally grown up and came of age.

**We have the dream** that the words,  
which are frequently laid into the mouth of Blessed Gérard,  
who founded the Order of Malta more than 900 years ago,  
will apply to the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, too:

“Our brotherhood will be everlasting,  
because the soil, which this plant is rooted in,  
is the misery of the world,  
and because, God willing, there will always be people,  
who wish to work towards easing these sufferings  
and increase the resilience against this misery.”

**I have a dream ... and this dream are you!**

I thank you all!



Dr. Ross presents the long service Certificates.



Father Gérard presents Count Moy with a medal of the Order of Malta depicting Blessed Gérard and a wooden badge of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Count Moy and Father Gérard present Cardinal Napier



Mathambo Nhleko, Thokozile Ngcobo, Thulisile Mkhwanazi, Nana Masikane und Salmina Maduna

with the Commemorative Medal of the Order of Malta of the anniversary of the establishment of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard



Father Gérard presented the founder members Dr. Paul Thabethe and his wife Nokuthula Thabethe a print of a picture of Blessed Gérard in the founding hospital of the Order of Malta in Jerusalem. The surprise is the voucher on the back for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to visit the Holy Places of Christianity and of course the remains of this hospital.



The President's Award for the best employee was presented to Hayne Clark (for 2020), Zodwa Ndimande (for 2021) und Khanyi Ngema (for 2022)



The President's Award for the best volunteer was presented to Nomathemba Ngubane (for 2020), Duke Ndwandwe (for 2021) und Samuel Zwane (for 2022)



The ceremony ended with a Zulu-style speech of gratitude by our employee Lindiwe Vilane.



years of  
selfless service



## Our requests

### AIDS-Treatment



Once again, we are faced with the situation of having to **fund** our **AIDS treatment program** **entirely out of our own pockets**, hopefully only temporarily.

For the past 12 years, the Ministry of Health has provided us with the antiretroviral drugs in kind and allowed free use of the government laboratory, based on a contract between the South African Bishops' Conference and the government.

We were recently informed that we would now have to negotiate a new contract ourselves.

But that could take a year or more.

However, it remains to be seen whether it will then be approved.

**We have to ensure that we can finance the program with currently 618 AIDS patients from our own resources.**



### AIDS-Treatment



The total costs for the holistic treatment of our AIDS patients in our HAART program (=Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy):

HAART Programme	Rand	US Dollar	Pound
total per annum	R7 388 337,00	\$407 097,37	GBP 328 042,16
total per month	R615 694,75	\$33 924,78	GBP 27 336,85
total per day	R20 242,02	\$1 115,34	GBP 898,75
per patient per annum	R11 955,24	\$658,73	GBP 530,81
per patient per month	R996,27	\$54,89	GBP 44,23
per patient per day	R32,75	\$1,80	GBP 1,45







## AIDS-Treatment

Take on a HAART Sponsorship!

With R1,000.00 / \$ 55.00 / £ 45.00 per month

you can help someone with AIDS through us

- save and secure (survival) life
- enable a healthy future
- restore the ability to work
- prevent her/him from infecting others
- prevent her/his children from becoming orphans
- and above all: *give new joie de vivre*



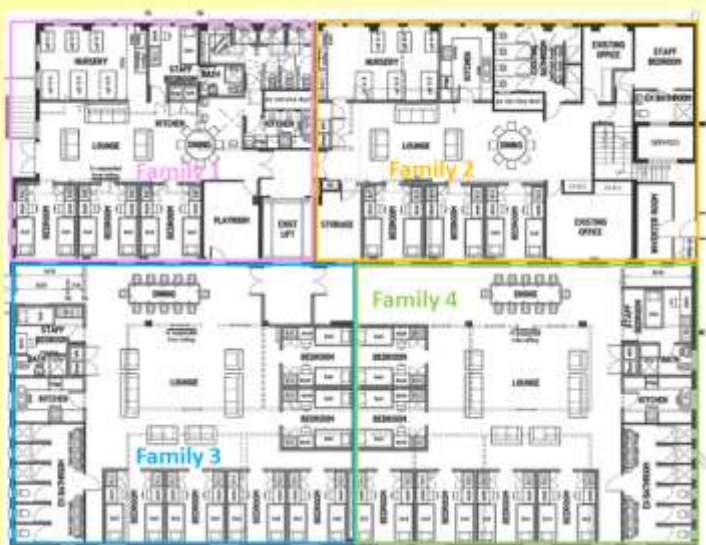
## AIDS-Treatment

*Give new joie de vivre!*

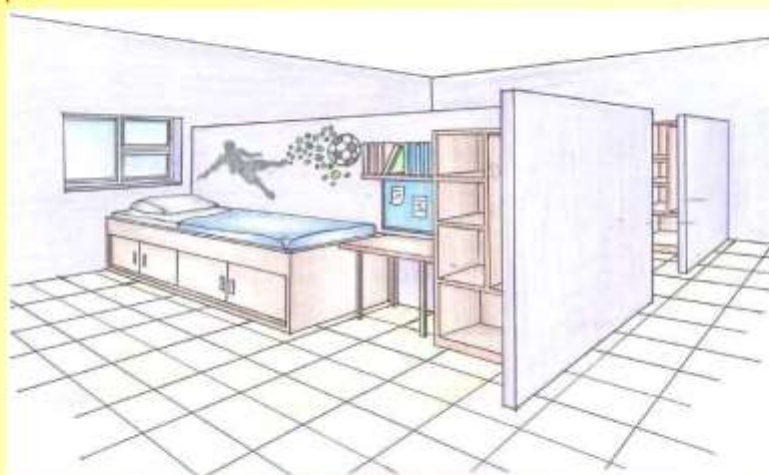




We would like to improve and restructure our children's home. Currently 45 children are accommodated in dormitories, eat in a dining room and study in a study room. We would rather let the children grow up in smaller groups where they live, eat, learn, play and sleep like in a family with the carers.



Thank goodness we've already found someone to pay for the conversion, but we still need R1 500 000,00 | \$82 650,00 | GBP 66 600,00 for the furniture and equipment



We still need R1 500 000,00 | \$82 650,00 | GBP 66 600,00 for furniture and equipment





We still need R1 500 000,00 | \$82 650,00 | GBP 66 600,00  
for furniture and equipment



**"A large part of the South African population  
does not have access to clean drinking water."**

Neue Züricher Zeitung 22 April 2022



We are being warned more and more often that the water supply could also be scarce in Mandeni. That's why we want to take precautions and have a well drilled its water via a water treatment plant can supply our care center with the necessary water, if the public water supply fails. (Cost estimate: R250 000,00 | \$13 775,00 | GBP 11 100,00 )

- <https://youtu.be/ZFcOr7f5idQ>
- <https://youtu.be/Z6UxTTrdsZo>





## South Africa has declared a **state of emergency** because of our national **energy crisis**:

<https://youtu.be/30LkCL5NVNs>

<https://youtu.be/OaOjRGOJIOU>

<https://youtu.be/ua7ol82Zd9c>

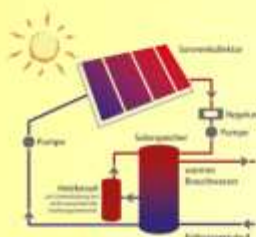
A few hours of electricity, then a few hours of no electricity, then another few hours of electricity, then another few hours of no electricity... Sometimes we're without electricity for up to a total of 12 hours a day.



That's why we have to try to become independent of the public power grid and renew and expand our **photovoltaic system** accordingly.

(Cost estimate:

**R9 874 918,42 | \$544 108,00 | GBP 438 446,38 )**



In addition, we should renew our old and inefficient **air conditioning systems** and connect them to a **heat recovery** and **solar thermal system** for hot water production in order to save more energy.

(Cost estimate: **R5 022 289,84 | \$276 728,17 | GBP 222 989,67 )**

Eventually we should get a new **backup generator**. The old one overheats, groans and moans under the constant load and overload and is much too small and can only supply part of the electrical systems.

(Cost estimate:

**R1 277 390,19 | \$70 384,20 | GBP 56 716,12 )**

