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EMBRACING
QUALITY
OF LIFE

May 2015 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIRLADY

First and foremost I would like to thank the community of Howick for the support they gave us following articles printed in the Village Talk with regards to the financial challenges we were facing. As you can imagine, the decision we were obliged to take last October was extremely distressing for the Board. We were, however, blessed by your support and as you know, we were able to reverse our previous decision and reinstate our staff to their previous hours of work and remuneration. For this we and the staff were more than grateful.

All the members of the Board appreciate the loyalty of our staff and our volunteers to Howick Hospice and the efforts which they make to ensure the highest quality of service to the communities which they serve. It is always a pleasure for me to visit the premises and know that I will be welcomed with open arms – just as other visitors are. I regard HH as my second family and I am sure many of our members feel the same way.

Thanks to Sharon, our General Manager, for her leadership and Managerial proficiency, which make our responsibilities as Board members straightforward and easily implemented. She is ably supported by her professional staff and MANCO whose devotion to duty knows no bounds. Then, of course, we cannot forget the volunteers without whom we would certainly struggle.

My gratitude to all who make my responsibilities as Chairlady so interesting and stimulating. It is an honour for me to serve you in this capacity.

Sheelagh Smallwood

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

Welcome, Howick Hospice friends, to the first Newsletter of 2015. One can hardly credit how fast time flies; we are a third of the way through the year, the leaves are already turning beautiful autumn shades and there is a definite chill in the air!

2015 began as a year of challenge, particularly from a financial perspective. However thanks to the support of this incredible community, our Board's belief in the work that we do and the team that does it, and the generosity of donors, we are still here and are as determined as ever to continue to offer free home based holistic and quality palliative care to patients with a confirmed diagnosis of a life threatening illness and a reduced life expectancy, and their families, for another 28 years!

To help us do this we've got a full calendar of events to which we would like to invite your support, and we are always happy to meet with you, our Hospice friends, as you bring in to us exciting ideas regarding income generation. We are working hard to ensure our sustainability, so as the saying goes "watch this space"!

Our AGM is taking place on Monday 01 June from 10.00 – 11.00. Please accept this as an invitation to attend. I am delighted to say that our whole Board is willing to re-stand for election. Our Board members are as follows: Sheelagh Smallwood (Chairlady), Robin Gibson (Treasurer), Pixie Jenkins, Zwe Sokhela, Mbali Myeni, David Totaram and Dr Bianca Skinner. My grateful thanks to you for your wisdom and commitment to Howick Hospice, and very especially to my Exco, Sheelagh and Robin.

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to our Finance Manager Les Peiser at the end of July this year after 14 years of faithful service to this organization. Les goes with our deepest appreciation for her efforts, much love and our very best wishes for her future!

In closing, I would once again like to take this opportunity to commend and thank my staff and our volunteers for their dedication, caring and hard work. It is a privilege indeed, to lead such an exemplary team.

And I look forward to seeing you all, our Hospice friends, at our upcoming events! Stay safe, stay warm and God bless.

With Love Sharon

NEWS ON THE STAFF FRONT

New Staff: Kaylynn Pannifer



We were delighted to welcome Kaylynn to our team as our new Fundraiser / P.R.O. in January this year. Kaylynn is very well qualified, having obtained a diploma in Public Relations from Varsity College, and has recently settled into her own home in Howick.

The events which Kaylynn has co-ordinated so far have been very successful and we look forward to a long and happy working relationship with her!

Old staff, new name: Sharon Nugent

You are probably all familiar with the name of Sharon Alva-Wright, our General Manager. For those of you who may have missed the news in the Village Talk, with effect several months ago and after a change in her personal circumstances, Sharon has reverted to her previous name of Sharon Nugent.

Congratulations to...

Charlotte and Chris Woudberg on the very recent engagement of their daughter Laura to **Malcolm**.

A very sad Farewell

We were very sad when Les Peiser, our Financial Manager, told us that she would be leaving us at the end of July this year. Les has worked at Hospice since 2002, starting as our Front Office receptionist, and then taking over the bookkeeping. She has been the most creative, helpful and generous person to work with, always willing to go the extra mile - making extra special and very beautiful cards, delicious cakes, beautiful jewellery, and many other innovative craft items for special occasions and events. Dave and Les leave for England on Friday for a well-deserved holiday, where we hope that the weather will really be kind and that they will have a wonderful time.

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NEWS ON OUR VOLUNTEER FRONT...

We extend a warm welcome to...

Penny McNair, who is helping out in our Shop on Thursdays; ***Catherine Beazley***, who has joined our Card Ladies on Monday mornings; and last, but by no means least, ***Peggy Bester***, who runs our Front Office on Thursday mornings.

We welcome you all to our team and hope you will have a very long and happy association with Howick Hospice!

Special Thanks to Our Card Ladies!

A special mention really does have to be made of our wonderful Card Ladies who, under the dedicated (and very strict!) guidance of Mabel Heymans, recondition and sell donated cards for Hospice. During the last Financial Year, this small team of volunteers, who only meet here once a week, managed to raise the amazing amount of R11 914, 00 from the sale of cards. A really wonderful achievement! Thank you all for your hard work.

We will be holding a Volunteers' Tea in due course (date still to be decided upon), and we hope to see as many of you as possible at this get-together.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to once again thank each Volunteer for all that you do for Howick Hospice every week. Without your unfailing willingness to help, Hospice simply would not function as it does, and your efforts are greatly appreciated by us all.

Thank you!

Love Gill

A NOTE FROM THE CLINICAL DEPARTMENT

The Clinical Team are thrilled to have the expertise of Doctor Helga Holst. Doctor Helga (as we affectionately call her) attends a bi-monthly Multi-Disciplinary Clinical Meeting and guides the Clinical team in managing the patient care. Doctor Helga is a Medical Doctor who is also trained in Palliative Care and has accompanied the Sisters to visit patients who are bedbound, at home. Her input has been invaluable in managing pain and symptom control for these patients. Thank you Doctor Helga for giving your precious time and expertise to our patients and to Howick Hospice.

Two of our Sisters, Chantal and Nola are in the process of completing the short course in Palliative Care, at Highway hospice. Both ladies are thoroughly enjoying the course and we know that that our organisation will benefit from the knowledge and skills that these ladies will acquire. We are very proud of Nompilo Khowane who qualified as a registered Social Worker, in January 2015. Nompilo is to be commended for her tenacity in completing her degree on a part-time basis.

Zama Kunene is away on maternity leave, awaiting the birth of her second child. The Clinical Team is eagerly awaiting the birth of the baby and assuming the surrogate 'granny/aunt' roles! We were very sad to say goodbye to our Community Health Worker, Sizeni Ngcobo, at the end of January 2015. Sizeni has taken up a position at a school in Bergville, closer to her home. Sizeni was a very committed and dependable team member and we miss her valuable contribution to care.

I am truly proud of our Clinical team, their effective teamwork, compassion for one another and to our patients and their families. *Thank you Clinical Team for your unconditional commitment and dedication to the work of Howick Hospice.*

Love Charlotte

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRO

Wow, what a humbling experience it has been working for Howick Hospice as the new fundraiser. Although I have not been at hospice for more than a couple of months, I feel truly blessed to be part of a team who care so much about the community and the patients in their care.

Since I started at hospice in January I have received the most incredible support and guidance from both the dedicated Howick Hospice staff and volunteers. What I have very quickly learned is that there is always somebody to ask for advice or lend a hand when necessary no matter what the situation is, for which I am truly grateful.

Thank you to both the dedicated staff and volunteers for welcoming me to the Howick Hospice family and for the incredible support that I have received from you in the past couple of months. I really appreciate each and every one of your contributions.

I look forward to continuing my journey with Howick Hospice, planning and co-ordinating many more successful events in the years to come.

With Love Kaylynn Pannifer

NEWS FROM OUR CHARITY SHOP

We in the Howick Hospice shop can never say thank you enough to the caring community for their generous donations. Shop sales are a vital component of our income generation and any item is most welcome. Without the generosity of our community, there would be no shop!

Goods received from the public, are sorted and priced by Denise Larsen in her back rooms. Any clothing items that have not sold in the shop are then made up into "Jabula bags" which are sold as lucky dips. The clothing and items which do not sell are donated to an outreach program. So everything finds a good home in the end.

An amazing assortment of books and magazines has been accumulated and is now categorized and displayed in such a way to make it easy for our customers to find interesting reading material. Some are even returned for re-sale!!!

There is also a lovely selection of music and DVDs for sale as well as puzzles and a range of board games. In our 'home department', we have a large selection of linen, crockery and cutlery. So please pay us a visit when you are in the area.

Once again, we thank you for your contribution in all respects to our efforts.

Love Colleen



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UP AND COMING EVENTS

01 June 2015 - AGM
Venue: Howick Hospice
From 10am-11am

27 June 2015 - Annual Winter Fair
Venue: Howick Hospice
9am - 1pm

07 July 2015 - Remembrance Service
Venue: Howick Hospice
10am

26 July 2015 - Golf Day
Venue: Howick Golf Club

31 July 2015 - Food & Wine Fair
Fern Hill Hotel

PICTURES FROM 2015'S PAST EVENTS

Car Boot Sale – March 2015



Card Making Workshop – April 2015



Hospice Week Raffle Winners – May 2015



**HOWICK HOSPICE SOCIAL
MEDIA**

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OR

GO TO OUR WEBSITE

www.howickhospice.org.za

A kind reminder to please renew your Howick Hospice Membership for 2015



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for/wish to renew my membership of Howick Hospice

Annual Membership R50

Surname

First Names

Postal Address

.....

.....

Telephone Fax

Cell Email

I enclose my payment to the sum of R.....

Subscription Donation

Howick Hospice Association
A branch of KwaZulu-Natal Hospice Association
NPO Registration Number 002-413 NPO

Bequests

Over the years Howick Hospice has been the sincerely grateful recipient of legacies and bequests which have helped us to grow in our service to the Lion's River community. A Codicil is a valid and legal alteration or addition to an existing Will. Should you decide that you would like to have a Codicil drawn up in favour of Howick Hospice, please feel free to contact our offices so that we are able to forward the relevant Codicil document to you for your perusal.

Thank you