



Family Care Project

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital
Project Update July 2022



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Many of the children seen at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital come from very vulnerable and impoverished communities. With the costs of living and transport continuing to increase, the Hospital is finding that many more families are unable to afford basic items required for their child's health, optimal recovery and overall well-being, including access to regular (and nutritious) meals, clothing, educational support, hygiene and care items and transport to appointments. This project aims to support the Hospital's Social Work Department to provide vulnerable patients and their families with temporary emergency relief to help them on their road to recovery.



The difference the project has made between January and June 2022



Nutritional support

625 Families received food parcels containing 2 weeks supply of staple provisions for a family of 4.

650 children and their caregivers were provided with snack packs whilst they waited for their appointments



Transport assistance

652 children and/or their caregivers were provided with funds to assist with transport to and from appointments and places of safety. The amount provided is a once off contribution to overall transport costs.



Emergency care items

575 children and/or their caregivers were provided with essential care items including hygiene packs, nappies, underwear and a change of clothing.

The social work department works throughout the Hospital providing care to children with chronic illnesses like cancer and diabetes, and children who have been neglected and abused. In every case, the social worker does a thorough assessment of the child's support system and home environment to identify risk factors that may disrupt their recovery. Relevant emergency relief items funded by your generous donations are then provided to the most vulnerable children. At the same time, the social workers work together with the patient's primary caregiver to help them access local networks for sustainable support.

Since the start of this project in January, thousands of children and their families have been provided with temporary relief items to help alleviate the burden of their circumstances.



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The realities for many families and children who visit the Red Cross Children's Hospital and the children and families you have supported

Why Snack Packs are important

- No food at home
- Long waiting time or multiple appointments on same day
- No money to purchase a snack
- Long term hospitalization

Nutritional snack for families waiting with their children.

Toiletries and Clothing

- Impoverished families cannot prioritise toiletry costs
- Parents who arrive in emergency don't think about toiletries or extra clothes
- Family at home have no money to travel to RXH to bring clothing
- When a child is removed and placed, we need emergency pack

Nutritional Support

Food parcels for

- Special nutritional needs e.g., diabetic / allergies
- Severe Acute Malnutrition
- HIV positive parent
- Teenage mothers unable to breastfeed
- Poverty
- Post illness
- Alternative caretaker



Transport Support Fund

To ensure children return for their follow up appointments so that they complete their full treatment plan.

Public transport has become very expensive, and many families take more than one taxi to get to the hospital.



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Lethokuhle!

“Bringing goodness” into a little girls life.

Her name means “Bring in goodness,” and this baby girl certainly lives up to her name as she brightens up the lives of those who love her. However, things changed drastically when she was five months old.

Lethokuhle would also be the one to introduce Her mother to an even bigger family of carers at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital - the social work department and by extension the Children's Hospital Trust and its Family Care Project which helps provide vulnerable families with emergency relief materials such as food hampers, snack packs, much needed funds for transportation.



On Heritage Day in 2019, their lives changed in the blink of an eye as her five-month-old daughter suffered a seizure.

“We rushed her to the Red Cross Children's Hospital. On arrival, I was told she was in a critical condition and was immediately admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU),” Thulisa shares. Lethokuhle stayed in ICU for three days and on the fourth day, her health took a turn for the worse.

Thulisa had full time employment at the time but lost her job because of missing too many days of work as she spent time with Lethokuhle in hospital. The loss of regular income had a devastating impact on the family.

Lethokuhle is now three years old and visits the Hospital every month for her check-up. Thulisa's face lights up as she helps her little girl build her strength through physiotherapy. For a moment, the mother forgets about her worries of how she is going to pay for transport for the next visit. Her home is 12 kilometres from Red Cross, but there is no direct route via public transport. Thulisa must take two taxis: a taxi from home to Cape Town and then another one to the Red Cross Children's Hospital. This costs her R100 return fare for every visit, every month. If she brings Lethokuhle's transport wheeler along, the cost is double.

Thulisa and her daughter benefit from the Family Care Project which is implemented through the Social Work Department in the Hospital. Through a well governed process, this mom and daughter have benefitted from the Family Care Transport Fund and has ensured that Lethokuhle's journey to recovery continues and alleviates some anxiety for her mom.



Every little one counts





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Our heartfelt and sincere appreciation extends to each and every one of our loyal donors for your ongoing and continued financial support.



Financial Report

Fundraising Target: R3.8 million

Amount raised to date: R3.2 million

Balance to raise: R600 000

	Budget year 1	Expenditure Jan-June
Food and Care Items	R922 200	R327 863
Transport funds	R126 000	R30 000
Operational costs	R229 400	R60 413
Total	R1 277 600	R418 276



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