



# Family Care Project

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital  
Project Update June 2023



## PROJECT SUMMARY

The Family Care Project, launched in January 2022, supports the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital's Social Work Department to provide vulnerable patients and their families with temporary emergency relief to help them on their road to recovery.

Material relief, encompassing essentials like food, clothing, hygiene products, and transport funds, holds immense importance for hospitalized and vulnerable children. These children often face not only medical challenges, but also various socio-economic burdens that further compound their difficulties. **Adequate nutrition** is critical for a child's physical health and plays a pivotal role in their development, enhances their immune systems, and supports their resilience. Furthermore, **access to proper clothing** offers more than just protection - it boosts their self-confidence, provides comfort and warmth, and helps restore a sense of dignity during their vulnerable moments. Equally important are **hygiene products** that promote cleanliness and prevent the spread of infections, safeguarding their health within hospital settings. Lastly, the contribution to **transport funds** enables these children and their families to overcome financial barriers, ensuring they can access essential medical care and support services without added hardship.

By addressing these fundamental needs, material relief helps alleviate the burdens faced by hospitalized and vulnerable children, fostering a healthier and more secure environment conducive to their recovery and well-being.



Every little one counts





# Family Care Project

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital  
Project Update June 2023



## Journey to Safety

### *The Family Care Project Offers New Beginnings to a Young Mom and Her Four Little Ones*

\*Zuki is 27 years old. She has four children. The father of her four children doesn't like to be questioned. When he decides they're packing up and moving from Fort Beaufort (in the Eastern Cape) to Cape Town, \*Zuki does as she's told, while silently praying for better opportunities. They end up in a shack in Delft where things quickly go from bad to worse as the father falls into a life of crime and drugs, which only exacerbates his already violent streak.

To add to \*Zuki woes, the community doesn't want them there because of the crowd the father attracts, and they threaten to burn down their shack. They take \*Zuki to the Delft Police Station where the Department of Social Development helps her to move to a distant relative's house in Gugulethu.



Her four children are suffering through all this, especially six-month-old \*Lungi, who is very sick. \*Zuki takes \*Lungi to the nearest clinic in Gugulethu. The nurses take one look at the severely ill baby and promptly send them to the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital where the baby boy is admitted for severe, acute malnourishment and acute gastro. The mom stays at the Hospital with her baby but must rely on her relative to take care of her other children. It takes the relative just one short day to unceremoniously throw them out. \*Zuki, desperate and with no other option, arrives at the Hospital early the next morning with her three other children.

Primrose, the Hospital social worker, has sadly seen this before. This family is but one of many who arrive there with nothing, not even a shred of hope. It's an incredibly scary and traumatic situation to be in, especially for a mom who herself is a victim of domestic violence and has no way of providing for her children.

Primrose immediately starts working on the case. She liaises with the Department of Social Development who provides a safe house for the three children while baby \*Lungi recovers with her in the Hospital. Primrose asks the Children's Hospital Trust, the champion of hand-ups, to help this family. They need to get back to Fort Beaufort, where \*Zuki has family and support.

The Family Care Project assisted \*Zuki and her four children to get back home to the Eastern Cape safely. The project also provided the family with clothing, shoes, and food for their journey.

One of the Hospital's and Trust's core values is echoed in Primrose's words: "The focus was not only on the patient, but it was also on the whole family because they were all victims of violence. For us, it's very important that the safety and care of the children is a priority. So, in this case, the mom was not a perpetrator; she was also a victim and therefore we had to accommodate the whole family."

\*not their real names



Every little one counts





# Family Care Project

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital  
Project Update June 2023



## THE DIFFERENCE YOUR DONATION HAS MADE

Since its launch in January 2022, the Family Care Project has supported over **8 000 patients and their families** with essential material aid necessary for their optimal recovery.



### Children have benefitted in the following ways from this project in the last 6 months:

- Vulnerable children identified by social workers received nutritional support while on treatment plans or on discharge to go home.
- Children with special dietary needs that proved to be expensive were supported while families planned - this helped to keep children healthy and well.
- Children and their families received food while waiting many hours for appointments - this also helped the staff treating the children as they were less anxious.
- Children who were removed from their families for child protection reasons received a special childcare pack. This assisted the family receiving the child.
- Financial assistance towards transport ensured children were able to get to their appointments.
- The dignity of children and their families while in hospital was preserved by ensuring they had everything they needed, including clothing and toiletries.

### PROJECT BENEFICIARIES Dec 2022 - May 2023



#### Nutritional support

**855 Food Parcels**  
**1 115 Snack Packs**



#### Emergency Care Items

**484 clothing and  
toiletry packs**



#### Transport Assistance

**102 patients and their  
caregivers**



**Every little one counts**





# Family Care Project

Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital  
Project Update June 2023



## Financial Report

	Total Budget 2023	Total Expenditure Jan - May 2023
Food and Care Items	R1 291 080	R556 781
Transport funds	R72 000	R18 143
Operational costs	R74 400	R59 819
<b>Total</b>	<b>R1 437 480</b>	<b>R634 744</b>

*Our heartfelt and sincere appreciation for supporting The Family Care Project*



**Every little one counts**

