

## WORLD AIDS DAY IN KOFFIEKRAAL AND SKUINSDRIFT

World Aids day is celebrated globally every year on 1 December, commencing a month long awareness drive of this pandemic that has claimed over 30 million lives since its first diagnosis in 1981. It is estimated that close to 40 million people worldwide today is currently living with the disease and as yet, no cure has been found. World Aids day was first celebrated in 1988, an initiative brought to life by Swiss public information officers James Bunn and Thomas Netter. All over the world, people observe this awareness day. In Johannesburg this year, the world record for the longest ribbon was broken by stitching together thousands of red t-shirts, making a red ribbon of 1.5km long! For us at the GRCF, it is a day where we get to once again, do what we love to do – reach out to our community, spend time in our local villages, and bring a message of hope to our countrymen. We were fortunate this year to have our good friends from UNISA's Department of Geography with us in Koffiekraal and Skuinsdrift together with staff members from Unisa's Tirisano Centre, visiting the elderly in their homes, spending time with the children, and handing out much appreciated supplies. The message is clear: Get tested, know your status, live healthy, and live long. Our heartfelt thanks goes to our partners at the university, and to Pick n Pay for their contribution in making this day so special to us and our community.



*From left to right:* An elderly member of the community, grateful for the visit and supplies; Melanie Nicolau and Retha Coetzee of CAES, visiting a family in Koffiekraal; Children painting a "Quilt of Hope" at Skuinsdrift Laerskool.

### FACTS ABOUT HIV/AIDS

- Sub-saharan Africa is most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with an estimated 68% of global cases recorded in this region (2010). This means that about 5% of the regions' population is infected.
- AIDS was first observed clinically in 1981 in the USA, with the press generally naming it "GRID" (Gay-related Immune disease). After determining that AIDS was not isolated to the homosexual community, the Centre for Disease Control started using the terms "AIDS" (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome), and this has been the accepted global term for the disease since September 1982.
- The earliest well documented case of HIV in a human dates back to 1959 in the Congo.
- Well known people with the disease include Freddy Mercury (Rock star), Liberace (Piano virtuoso), Rock Hudson (American Actor), Lesego Motsepe (South-African Actress), Magic Johnson (American Basketball player), Isaac Asimov (Author) and Makgatho Mandela (son of Nelson Mandela)

**Sources:**

[http://www.journaids.org/index.php/essential\\_information/hiv\\_aids\\_key\\_people/public\\_figures\\_and\\_hiv\\_aids/](http://www.journaids.org/index.php/essential_information/hiv_aids_key_people/public_figures_and_hiv_aids/)  
[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

PO Box 21553  
Protea Park  
0305  
E: [grcf@grcf.co.za](mailto:grcf@grcf.co.za)  
P: +14 592 1525  
F: +14 592 1506  
Web: [www.grcf.co.za](http://www.grcf.co.za)

*Making Rustenburg the place we love to call Home*



### LMCPF GRANTMAKING CEREMONY

We were thrilled to attend the first grantmaking ceremony for the Lexus Mila Cerebral Palsy fund at the end of November. Earlier this year, Thys Hattingh, famous for being a finalist in this year's MasterChef SA competition, and his wife Andrea opened a fund for children suffering from cerebral palsy in the name of their daughter Lexus Mila, who is affected by this condition, and subsequently a fundraiser was held at the Waterfall Mall. The first annual grantmaking ceremony was heartwarming and personal, where the LMCPF fund made contributions to the Brenda Klopper Scholarship fund for the Disabled, a grant to the Bessie Mpelele Care Centre, and a donation to Kyle from My Home for specially made shoes. Altogether R12 000 was granted on the evening, where Thys entertained the guests by a short-course in truffle making. This cause lies very close to our hearts, a true example of community, where our local citizens are helping us in making Rustenburg the place we love to call "Home".

*From left to right:* Thys and Andrea Hattingh with Kyle from My Home; Thys handing over a grant to Brenda Klopper; Thys making a contribution to Bessie Mpelele for her care centre that takes care of 60 disabled children, and 20 adults.

## BATSA REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY IN SKUINSDRIFT

*It's not often that you find big corporates, who put their daily work aside for a day to do hard physical labour in rural communities. Our country's legislation provides that corporations invest at least 1% of their PBT to social upliftment, and often, this is where the buck stops. We are so proud to be associated with this corporation, because not only are they financially socially responsible, but they also pitch in and get their hands dirty!*

On 20 November, 93 staff members from British American Tobacco visited us in Skuinsdrift. Although the temperatures reached 40 degrees Celsius, these troops immediately pitched in, and started helping community members with various tasks such as fixing roads, shuffling the tobacco fields, and cleaning up the Multi-purpose Centre at Quiet Living. The children were entertained and treated with gifts. For the community, this sent out a huge message of support and companionship, and we would like to commend BATSA on the enthusiasm and interest that they show in this community. For us, social development not only relies on financial support, but support in knowledge, manpower and morale too! All equipment and supplies purchased for the day remains the property of the community; this includes farming implements, marquee tent with tables and chairs, and cooking pots. Thank you BATSA!



**Top right:** Children receiving gifts from the ladies of BATSA; **Bottom right:** Staff members shuffling tobacco fields with the community; **Right:** Management of BATSA fixing up the road leading to the Multi-purpose centre.

