

Friends of Umgeni Newsletter

September 2016



Dear Friends

On behalf of our Chairman, I wish to express our gratitude to those of you, who kindly donated to Friends of Umgeni this past year, enabling us to once again bring joy to the patients and a special thank you to our committee and all their “helpers” who tirelessly work the entire year to achieve all these projects you will see below.

The past year has been challenging in many ways, with changes in our committee plus new Dept of Health regulations stipulating that a signed Memorandum of Understanding be in place regarding any donations or projects. Fortunately, we were able to overcome these obstacles and all in all – it was a successful year with many happy outings for the patients! One of our highlights of the year, was that Carl (our acting chairman), managed to enlist Friends of Umgeni on the “Litres for Education” program, and we are now receiving 10c for every litre of fuel purchased (using our no 710#) at Fairways Service Station Howick!

It was our privilege as Friends of Umgeni to once again sponsor the Royal Show visit in June, which included the gate fee plus R70 spending money for each patient. As usual the patients looked forward to the day with much anticipation and were ecstatic with three 1st place awards! In the grounds they had so much fun – visiting each and every stall for something to buy with their pocket money. Needless to say the food and jewelry stalls grabbed them every time!



Birthdays have always been on our hearts, so when Joan (who is our creative member) set about making 360 beautiful cards to be received by the patients on their birthdays, we were all delighted. Aren't they gorgeous...a big thank you to Joan!

The Patients LOVE dancingand the Spring Dance, Christmas and New year dances which are sponsored by Friends of Umgeni and organized by the OT staff were a resounding success. Each occasion the tables were beautifully decorated with goodies they normally would not receive.the Hospital band played.....and everyone literally had a ball.

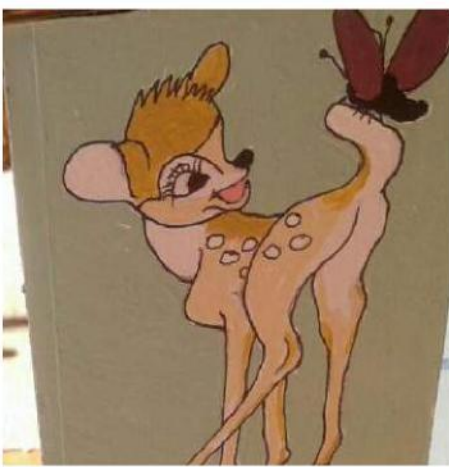


Another very enjoyable outing was a trip to THE CRAFTY DUCK VILLAGE on the Wartburg Road. This time a different group of patients, some in wheel chairs benefitted from this wonderful day. Under the guidance of the instructor, and after overcoming their initial fear.... they were able to interact and feed the goats, horses, pigs, and ducks and view others like, iguanas and various types of snakes. During the tour, refreshments were served, and finally to everyone's delight, they were taken on a train ride! On their way home, after spending an exciting morning at the village, their final surprise was a burger and chips kindly donated by Wimpy Howick! What an amazing day and definitely a winner for next year!



A big thank you to Delene who is part Of our committee, Nerissa from the OT Department and Wimpy Howick for their contributions to this very successful event.

After reflecting on our achievements as a committee this past year, we are thrilled that so many patients had memorable outings and functions, however, we are constantly aware of the fact that much more needs to be done for those bedridden patients who are not able to enjoy these occasions. With this goal in mind, our committee (and family) began the preparations for redecorating one of their wards. Curtaining, paint and comforters were purchased plus lovely animated mobiles were painstakingly hand painted by Eugen. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, this project has been delayed, so a decision was made to put the mobiles up in the wards, so the patients can enjoy them in the interim. Thanks to Eugen and Carl for their hard work!



Christmas is on its way – and our committee have already begun the planning, with Joan coordinating the making of 360 denim bags, by a group of ladies from the “Ambers” – each with the patient’s individual names on the front. Definitely a much more useful way of wrapping their Christmas gifts! Thank you to all the ladies who participated in this project – we really appreciate every one of you!



OUR PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2017 are to install a music sound system throughout the wards as well as replacing the current TV’s with larger flat screens if possible. We are also confident that we will be in a position to continue with the redecorating of the wards shortly.

If there is anything above that you feel you could be of assistance with, ie toys, sewing, mobiles, or perhaps you would like to join our committee, please contact me on 082 459 2743. Any help is greatly appreciated! You don’t have to be an expert in anything, but rather a willing person with a passion to help those less fortunate!

God Bless you Kind Regards
Bev Habermann
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***Because someone cared,
someone did something,
a child smiled and was comforted***

Fundraising No: 3291002-091-NPO

Bank details: FNB Howick – Branch Code 220725 – Account No 6263 041 7815

Please use your name as a reference and send your deposit/donation details to the above email address