

Friends of Umgeni



Dear Friends,

December 2018

On behalf of our Chairman and the committee, I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who has so generously donated to Friends of Umgeni this past year, enabling us once again to bring joy to our dear patients. A special thank you to our main sponsors, namely the Fuchs Foundation, Mr Price Home, Vintage Sports Car Club, Ascot Conference Centre, and to all others who have so generously supported our efforts this past year. We take this opportunity of wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New year.

As nothing can ever be achieved without the dedicated commitment of the people behind the scenes, I have decided to do things differently this year, and to rather give you our supporters and donors, a little insight into who Friends of Umgeni actually are.

First on our list is our Chairman Carl He is our jack of all trades! Besides preparing for the monthly meetingshe can be found up the ladder securing the mobiles to the ceilings in the many wards we are continuously refurbishing. He is the go to person when the TVs (which we provide to each ward), go faulty, and who collects them from the hospital and gets them repaired, which is no mean feat, when you consider that they all have to be taken into Pietermaritzburg and sometimes one at a time! Carl oftens gets roped into taking various hospital staff members into town to do all the shopping for the many functions Friends of Umgeni provides, as he holds the bank card! ☺ Thank you Carl.





This year we had to sadly say goodbye to our Treasurer who has held the position for the past 11 years. A very heartfelt thank you Tracy.....you did a sterling job and we wish you everything of the best in the future.

Tracy at her farewell meeting



Now for our in coming Treasurer, retired accountant Billy James..... who is not new to Friends of Umgeni. Billy and his wife Joan, religiously undertake the enormous job every alternate Wednesday, of collecting surplus yoghurts and custard from fairfield Dairies for the patients to enjoy with their meals. Thank you Billy. We are delighted to have you on board!

Next up is our secretarty Rita Geiser, who has to have the patience of Job when trying to take minutes with everyone offering their two pence worth and who all have a multitude of opinions! She is focused, and very very organized and keeps us all on our toes!! Rita and her husband Eugen, (who is our artist), spend hours drawing, cutting, pasting and producing the most beautiful wall murals to brighten the patients wards, not to mention all her admin duties. A special thanks to both of you!



The final product of another ward upgrade.

Before



After



Next up is Joan James, who abounds with energy and her enthusiasm to do anything that will enhance the patients lives is amazing. Joan has tirelessly continued collecting plastic bottles, (even under dubious circumstances) to enable Friends of Umgeni to receive free “environ friendly” benches which are now being used in all the wards. Below is Joan off-loading plastic bottles. This year she organized the entire hospitals Christmas gifts, which are being given out at the various ward parties, together with the eats Friends of Umgeni provide each year. A big thank you Joan!

Joan with her hundreds of bottles collected, to get “free” benches for the hospital



Then comes Lorraine Naude, Vice Chairlady of Friends of Umgeni. Lorraine has had years of experience working with Mental Health in Richards Bay and is a huge asset to our committee. During many of our “workshops”, she will always be the one who keeps us all calm and focused. She is also often the person behind the purchasing of all the eats and drinks for the many functions and parties we provide annually for the patients. She has the patients wellbeing at heart, and will always go that extra mile for them. Thank you Lorraine...we value your input tremendously.

A very big welcome to Yvonne, who has been quietly working on our projects but who has now officially joined our committee as from January. Thank you Yvonne for your input so far.

A morning workshop from left to right: Rita, Bev, Lorraine, Joan and Yvonne



Last but not least are a handful of dedicated hospital staff members who are prepared to give so much, to make sure that the patient's needs are taken care of. A special mention goes to Ayanda the hospitals Public Relations Officer, who is a godsend to our committee. She is efficient and calm, attends every meeting possible, and quietly sorts through our bombardment of questions. Well done Ayanda! We are also very grateful to Sister Manser with her vast experience, invaluable knowledge and many years service at the Hospital, thank you Sharon.

Then there is Nerissa, the Occupational Therapist and her team, whose expertise with mentally and physically challenged patients is a must for our committee. She keeps us informed of their needs and always pushes the boundaries when requesting parties and functions for her patients. Thank you Nerissa!

Nerissa and her Occupational Therapy team



Ayanda the Hospital Pro



Then there is me...my job is to liaise with the various donors and fund raise. Not always easy as our needs are getting greater, and our funds are limited! So please everyone...be kind to me, and send a little extra cash or donations of paint, curtains or comforters, as it costs +- R 30 000.00 to complete a ward, and we still have so many wards we would LOVE to refurbish but don't have the funds. Its incredibly rewarding to see how the patients enjoy what we have already done, so please, please help us, if you can, by emailing me on info@friendsofumgeni.co.za with your donation. If you would like to join our committee, please contact us. You don't have to be an expert at anything, but rather a willing person with a heart for those less fortunate. We would love to meet you!

*God bless,
Kind Regards,
Bev Habermann*

info@friendsofumgeni.co.za

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Because someone cared, someone did something, a child smiled and was comforted

Fundraising No: 002-091-NPO

Bank details: Nedbank Howick – Nedbank Howick - Branch Code 198765 - Account No 1176516159

Please note our new bank details, changed from FNB, due to poor service

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