

Elgin Free Range Chickens reach out to ThembaCare

Elgin Free Range Chickens (EFRC) has recently joined hands with ThembaCare Grabouw and started working together to raise funds as well as to assist the clinic with aid packages.

At a recent ceremony at ThembaCare's facility in Pineview, EFRC's general manager, Linka Bester handed over the first of a series of aid packages. EFRC have reached out to associates and are working together with suppliers and the community at large to support this worthy outreach project in Grabouw.

The recent package was donated by EFRC suppliers Ecolab and Evergreen. Evergreen has committed themselves to donating stationary to the value of R500 every month until February 2012. Ecolab has committed to installing two fly units to control flies at the facility in Ou Kaapse Weg. In addition they will also be maintaining the control units for 12 months.

EFRC has offered training sessions and free testing to EFRC employees which will be hosted by ThembaCare Grabouw.

ThembaCare Grabouw is a pioneer palliative care clinic in Grabouw, a town with an over 34% HIV infection rate, and one of the highest tuberculosis infection rates worldwide. The distribution of HIV and TB is closely correlated with population density and human-movement patterns. The labour intensive fruit farms are a drawcard for migrating labourers who assist farmers with the seasonal picking of apples, pears and other fruits. Often these workers contract AID's or TB during the season and then end up not returning to their tribal areas or homes in other areas in the country once they have fallen ill. These patients then have to be cared for in Grabouw.

At the handover ceremony, one of the sisters at the clinic, Thandi Sililo mentioned that some 30 – 40 new HIV infected patients are admitted at the Day Hospital in Grabouw every month.

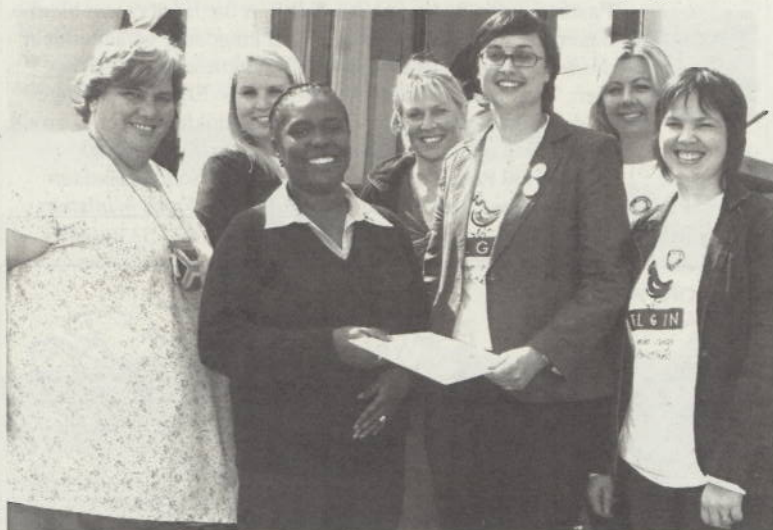
As a result, the government is under-equipped to deal with this rising tide of chronic and terminally ill patients.

At present there are no hospital beds at the Day Hospital, only three maternity beds.

ThembaCare therefore provides a vital role with its eight bedded facility and volunteers visit over 450 outpatients monthly who receive anti-retroviral and tuberculosis medicines from their nursing staff.

The Western Cape Department of Health regards the facility as a critical support factor to many of their outpatients who have been ravaged by the AIDS epidemic and provide a small percentage of our funding on a monthly basis.

The project team needs monthly funding to enable it to employ two new nurses who will spread the load of home-based care now currently serving some 450 outpatients as well as monthly funding to cover medical and operational costs. Funds are also needed for the planned new 15 to 25 bedded clinic which will be built next to the Day Clinic in Ou Kaapse Weg. Also needed are specialised volunteers such as medical students and drivers for ThembaCare outpatient careworkers to reach farms in the outlying districts.



AT the handover ceremony at ThembaCare fltr: Sister Joyce van den Berg, Lisa Weeber, Thandi Sililo, Antoinette Erasmus, Linka Bester, GM of EFRC, Michelle Korevaar from SPice4Life and Amanda Nortje .

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