

2024 gave us a sense of ‘the new normal’: no major disasters but a tough situation in Durban of on-going urban decay, Municipal indifference and economic hardship for all. (At least load-shedding was reduced – just as we introduced our solar system!) All of these have made life harder for everyone: but for the poorest of central Durban the impact has been keenest: we estimate that for the above reasons the number of homeless is about 50% higher than before COVID.

Usizo Lwethu, the DHC Clinic continues to operate in four different ways:

- primary healthcare to refugees and the urban poor at the Afrisun Clinic in the DHC
- outreach healthcare from a mobile clinic to homeless people around Durban
- outreach healthcare from a converted container in the grounds of Dalton Beer Hall
- provision of a pre-school for 15 children at Dalton.

Clinic was stabilised by Maighlin Andrew acting as Clinic Co-Ordinator and then the appointment of Thobile Mthembu.

In total, 10,740 medical consultations (up 9% on 2023) were provided at the Afrisun Clinic plus another 889 via outreach, of which 72% were for men. One third were for refugees (a lower proportion than in the past). Only 5% were to patients aged under 21 (a figure that has been falling as we have avoided duplicating DoH paediatric programmes). Around 55% of patients showed signs of addiction to whoonga – though this is difficult to measure accurately.

Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV (VCTs) was given to 2,400 people (up 12%). As in most previous years, reactivity rates for women (24.8% of those tested are HIV+) were higher than for men (21.1%) – but for both groups 4-5% points lower than in recent years. We continue to provide the ARV (Anti-Retrovirals) service that the Government had been running in our building until 2021. We saw 5,447 patients (up 11% on 2023) in the ARV room and have a patient base of about 1,000 whom we are actively keeping adherent. In addition, we have higher-risk patients (on ARVs, on TB medication or both) who are seen every few days for Directly Observed Treatment. This totalled over 14,000 sessions across the year, both in the building and through outreach. The DOTS programme enabled us to help 53 patients successfully come clear of TB who had not succeeded in the past, including some on an intense 9-month programme to be clear of multi-drug-resistant TB.

We received medicines from Government, worth R201,000 (up 4% from 2023). In addition, the HIV tests, ARVs and TB meds come from Government. The total of our own purchases of medicines, patient and clinic supplies was R169,000.

The team comprises a Co-ordinator plus two more registered nurses, five community health workers, a social worker and auxiliary, a driver and a security guard; at Dalton we have a pre-school teacher (on generous loan from Montessori International) and an assistant. The clinic has benefited from interns in homeopathy, social work, OT and community healthcare from DUT, UKZN, UNISA, Brooklyn Academy and Abafundi; plus DUT Health Sciences is running an on-going staff training programme. Throughout the year, Dr Stephen Carpenter and Dr Don O’Mahoney volunteered for 3 mornings a week, recently joined by Dr Christina Mpungose.

Nkosingathi is dedicated to welfare for the homeless and comprises:

- providing nutritious food, regular access to ablutions and laundry service
- opportunity to speak to a counsellor or social worker, family reunification
- education on addiction, and preparation for attending rehabilitation for substance abuse

In 2024, we operated on 262 days (5 days a week) and served 61,763 breakfasts (up 15% from 2023), 66,752 freshly-cooked lunches and 57,561 sandwich packs (some prepared by us and some by other church networks for us to distribute). That means an average of 710 meals per day and 186,076 meals in the year: 10% more than in 2023, and more than double our pre-COVID numbers. 6,692 showers were provided for women and men (about 26 per day). 493 people had their laundry washed and 1,040 received wonderful clothes at our Street Store in June (in partnership with Grace Family Church).

The Project Co-ordinator Sr Cathy Murugan HF is assisted by a team of cooks, a social worker and an auxiliary, as well as interns and dozens of volunteers. In total, volunteers provided 2,286 sessions of work (down from 2022’s record, but still 25% higher than the 2019 number); about 1/3 delivered by Homeless people plus consistent support from loyal volunteers, schools, colleges, parishes and corporates. At minimum wage, volunteering is worth R252,000 of labour.

In contrast to the great success during lockdown, we have been struggling to engage with City Hall on homeless issues in Durban. Months of indifference are then punctuated with showy events designed more for PR than actually improving people’s lives. Engagement with the ‘Presidential eThekweni Working Group’ offers some glimpses of light. Meantime, Municipality-approved raids on the homeless continue with regularity. After years of lobbying from the National Homeless Network, the Department of Social Development finally commissioned the development of a Green Paper for a **National Homeless Policy** in which we played a leading role with the Human Sciences Research Council.

We have a good working relationship with Newlands Park DSD drug rehabilitation centre: at any one time we are accompanying several dozen people for about 6 weeks to prepare them; we referred 58 men and women for rehab and 32 completed the programme. Of the 15 young men who were admitted to the Napier Centre 4 Healing 9 were referred by us.

Empowerment is led by Stuart Talbot. A key part of his focus has been securing IDs for the homeless, though frustrated by the stop-start practices of Home Affairs (and sometimes the lack of follow through by homeless people themselves). He managed to secure 135 ID's, having started a process for over 250. We continued our work of educating homeless people about their political and civic rights in collaboration with DDP and UKZN Street Law and focused on enabling homeless people to register as voters for the May General Election. We can offer a year-round once-a-week legal office which then refers on to the Law Clinic at UKZN and are also able to help people clear criminal records.

Street Lit continues under the co-ordination of Illa Thompson (who has also been our *pro bono* publicist since we began). Our 20 vendors between them sold over 17,000 books generating an income of over R800,000 (up 60%)! As well the leisure destinations which have been our traditional venues, we additionally secured several shops at malls. A massive book drive during Mandela Month reached more than twice the target of 10,052 books, thanks to a network of 20 church drop-off points. The Hollywood Foundation donated jackets, while St John remains a key partner in providing storage space for books. The booksellers were also involved in several community literacy projects around the region.

We have still not found a partner to make our training café viable again but are open to suggestions. **Refugee Pastoral Care**, though based at the DHC, is not part of our Trust but instead reports to the Archdiocese of Durban.

A few planned **community events** have been carried over to 2025, but we did hold, often in partnership with others:

- An interfaith *iftar* outside so we could hear the *adhan* from the Jumma Masjid next door
- A lecture tour of the UK and service at St Martin in the Fields in London connecting +Hurley with St Oscar Romero
- Lectures and sermons around the country launching the Paddy Kearney book
- Joint lectures/ conferences with St Joseph's Cedara (on the environment) and J&P (on human rights)
- Arts events with the Centre for Creative Arts (film screenings, slam poetry), Power 24 Film Festival and community classes and performances (courtesy of UKZN's UKUSA project)
- Induction into Community of Cross of Nails with services in Coventry Cathedral, and at Anglican and Catholic venues in Durban with both Anglican and Catholic bishops
- Workshops celebrating +Hurley's role in education with the Catholic Schools Offices in Durban and Johannesburg
- Hosting the National Homeless Conversation with over 200 participants from 8 cities (50% of them homeless)
- Meal of Reconciliation with over 400 participants from all walks of life

The Denis Hurley Centre **Administration** consists of a Director (Raymond Perrier), Finance Manager (Thembeke Mchunu) and Administrator now COO (Leanne Banks). The building has a new Manager (Rob Wolhuter) supported by a Caretaker and two assistants, plus volunteer reception staff. On-going repair and maintenance work mean the building, after 10 years, remains in good condition.

Activities with staff continued with regular birthday celebrations, monthly training sessions and quarterly inspirational activities. The R1,000 per person yearly 'Paddy Grant' can be used by staff on any form of personal development. Regrettably, two staff were found to be systematically stealing and were dismissed after fair process.

In 2024, total **funds raised** were R4.66M (4% *below* our budget) while our **expenses** were R5.40M (2% *below* budget). We did not raise sufficient funds *in the year* but were able to cover costs by drawing down from unspent funds from 2023. To cover our budgeted expenses for 2025, the income target is set at R6.55M but this still requires us to raise R17,900 every single day.

We benefit from a wide range of **donors**. In 2024, we received 26% of our funds from overseas and 74% from SA (which is commendable). Of this, 28% came from individuals (including the Centenary Club), 19% from renting out space in the DHC (an increase of 20% over 2023), 10% from interest (thanks in part to legacy bequests), 9% from SA grant-making trusts, 2% from fundraising events, 2% from faith-based organisations (though sadly none from Emmanuel Cathedral who have also not been using the building despite invitations to them to do so) and 1% from corporates. 4% of value came from Government in the form of medicines. Many thanks to all who give funds.

Alongside the cost of running the building, the Clinic is our single largest area of spend (40% of what we raise) – but it is hugely efficient given the 26,000 patients interactions we had. The cash spend on Nkosinathi is minimised by the great amount of volunteering, though we again had to spend much more in ingredients than in previous years. Overall, salaries were our single largest cost: they accounted for 59%—though with 21 full-time-equivalent staff these are still very modest average salaries. After this, our largest areas of spend in descending order are medicines, utilities, cleaning, repairs and IT.

Audited Financial Statements are available on our website; the 2024 audited statement will be posted by mid-2025. Our 12 Trustees remain highly focused and generous with their time and expertise to ensure we have excellent governance.

We are grateful to all those who have helped us, in small and large ways, by donating funds, goods and time to enable us to serve the literally thousands of people whose lives we touch every month. We commend our staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to helping those most in need, despite the scale of the task.

Thank you to Staff and Full-time Volunteers

- Maighlin Andrew
- Nombulelo Bambayi
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- Dr Stephen Carpenter
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- Thabang Mokoena
- Thobile Mthembu
- Zamahlubi Mthimkhulu
- Jemima Mulubi
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- Lindani Ngubane
- Nonhlanhla Nhlangulela
- Dudu Ntombela
- Godfrey Ntuli
- Dr Don O'Mahoney
- Raymond Perrier
- Geetha & Jayan Pillay
- Paul Radebe
- Sr Noelle Simpole FMM
- Sr Immaculate Sitima FMM
- Jody Solomon
- Stuart Talbot
- Wendy Tomo
- Illa Thompson
- Rob Wolhuter
- Philile Zulu



Thank you to Partner Organisations in 2024

Faith Partners

Emmanuel Cathedral
And various parishes in
Archdiocese of Durban
Diocese of Natal
Methodist Natal Coast
Bhai Rustomjee Trust
Catholic Women's League
CAST
Cmty of the Cross of Nails
Food for Life (ISKCON)
FMM
Glenridge Church
Grace Family Church
Holy Family Sisters
IPCI/ SANZAF
Jumma Masjid
Missionaries of Charity
Oblates of Mary
Immaculate
SEVA
Society of Jesus
St Joseph's Theological
Institute, Cedara
St Vincent de Paul Society
Union of Jewish Women

Educational Partners

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DUT/ MUT
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SACAP
UKZN/ UNISA

NGO Partners

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Philakade Care Home
St John

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MSBI Maintenance
Mr Price
Phambano Technology
Shoprite Checkers
Siqalo Food
Smiths Manufacturing
SPAR
Thusa
Umbilo Business Assoc.
Victoria Street Market
VM Cleaning Services
& various malls that host
Street Lit vendors

Funding Partners

A huge number of
individuals plus
Batho Batho Trust
GMA Foundation
HCI
Masojada Family Trust
Ubuntu Community Chest

Government Partners

eThekweni Municipality
• Area Based
Management
• Botanic Gardens
• City Health
• Metro Police
• Playhouse Theatre
• Safer Cities
Independent Electoral
Commission
Indian Consulate
Newlands Park Centre
US Consulate

Overseas Partners

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Izingane Happy
Foundation
Romero Trust (UK)

