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UPDATE

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January 2025

Finances and Fundraising Nominations for Outstanding Service Introducing our new Building Manager Celebrating 100 years with our Rotary friends



Justice Leona Theron will speak at the AGM



A man who looks at everything with a sharp eye



100 years of service - though not by us

A NEW YEAR AND A NEW FINANCIAL CHALLENGE – RAISING OVER \$1,100 PER DAY!

The DHC financial year runs with the calendar year, from January to December. So while others are focused on the fun of the Festive Season, our Admin Team and our Trustees were also concentrating on finishing off the year's finances and preparing a Budget for the new year.

We have benefited greatly in having professional and experienced administrative managers: our Director Raymond Perrier, our Administrator Leanne Banks and our Finance Manager Thembeke Mchunu. They in turn work on the Finance Committee with three Trustees: Siphon Phakathi (the out-going Treasurer), Arn de Haas (the in-coming Treasurer) and Fanie Nothnagel. There have been sadly too many cases when NGOs and church projects – despite doing great work – have collapsed because of poor financial record keeping, lack of

governance, or a failure to plan for the future. We pride ourselves on being alert to these risks.

Whilst we are always cautious about containing costs, like everyone we are affected by inflation. We also try to ensure that our staff salaries increase at least in line with the cost of living. Over time the impact of inflation really builds: something that cost R100 when we opened our doors 10 years ago now costs R162 just because of inflation. So simply to stand still, we need to increase our fundraising to match. Last year, it looked as if we would actually face a deficit and we might need to draw on our reserves. In the end, at the last minute, some extra funds came in from our UK partners, the Denis Hurley Association which meant that we just got over the line.

So as we start a new year of fundraising, we need to ask our supporters to think about what you can do to help us continue to do good work. Apart from some interest income from our reserves, we start with almost zero guaranteed funds – not from the Government, not from the Archdiocese, not from any of the other churches, faith communities or corporates with whom we partner. We do have many loyal and generous repeat supporters, but with them as with all our donors we need to argue our case with passion each year.

Our budget for 2025 estimates that our expenses will be \$387,000 – an effective increase of just under 8% from 2024. But that still means raising over \$1,100 every day, 7 days a week through the year! So please consider [making a donation](#).

Our financial results for 2024 will be presented at the Annual Stakeholders' Meeting which will be held at the DHC on Sat 8 February at 2.30pm. We hope that as many as possible of our various stakeholders in the Durban area will join us. A fuller report will be in the February newsletter, but if you can be there in person it is a great chance to hear reports at first hand, to ask questions, and to meet up with old friends.

Photo: Our clinic provides daily observed TB and ARV treatments to dozens of homeless men and women. The clinic sees almost 1,200 patients every month and is the single largest expense for the DHC, benefiting from the generosity of donors, small and large.



LAST FEW DAYS TO SEND NOMINATIONS TO RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING SERVICE

As well as the Financial Report, the AGM will also feature the Director's report which each year provides a different spin on showing what we have been up to. You can see previous presentations on You Tube [via this link](#). This also gives access to previous years' audited financial results and a one page summary of each year's activities and key data.

One extra feature of the AGM this year will be the presence of Leona Theron, one of our Patrons and a Justice on the Constitutional Court (the equivalent of the Supreme Court). She will be reflecting on the role of the legal system in protecting the vulnerable, 40 years after the Apartheid government tried to use legal mechanisms to silence both Archbishop Hurley and Paddy Kearney.

Early in 1985, +Hurley faced a trial because of information he had shared about horrific activities by the Apartheid state in Namibia. And then later in the same year, Paddy was detained without charge and +Hurley succeeded in challenging the detention in a landmark court case and ensuring Paddy's release. While such blatant political manipulation of the courts may not happen any more, we still live in a country in which the rights enshrined in the Constitution are not enjoyed equally by 'all who live within our borders'.

Another key element of the AGM will be the Annual Barry Wood Awards. +Barry was Auxiliary Bishop of Durban and so we are delighted that the awards this year will be presented by the new Auxiliary Bishop of Durban, Rt Rev Elias Zondi.

It is not too late if you want to nominate someone for an award: the closing date is this Monday 3 February. The awards are a chance to recognise both staff members and volunteers who have given outstanding service over the previous year. Whilst we hope that everyone who works at the DHC, whether paid or unpaid, is motivated to give the best they can, we also know that there are some who 'go the extra mile'.

Winners of the staff award in the past have included all three of our regular cooks, members of our clinic team, our caretaker and two of our cleaners. Not surprisingly in the volunteer category, a number of winners have come from the Nkosinathi project, where we have so many great volunteers; but there has also been a winner from the Street Lit project and one of our clinic interns who stayed on as a volunteer. Each year we also name runners-up in each category.

The attached form details who is eligible and what the criteria are. Anyone who is a stakeholder of the DHC is entitled to nominate a staff member, a volunteer or both – and since you are reading this that includes you!

Photo: The volunteer winner from 2022 being presented with her Barry Wood Award (left to right): Farida Patel (Trustee), Mette Bunyan (winner), Justice Navi Pillay (Patron), Illa Thompson (Street Lit Co-ordinator), Mxolisy Mavimbela and Alvin Dube (book vendors).



INTRODUCING OUR NEW BUILDING MANAGER

Although it is 10 years since we moved into our building, we hope that it still feels as modern and fresh and new as it did a decade ago. Key to ensuring this is our Building Manager: when we unexpectedly had to find someone new for that role last year, we were looking for a person

who has a keen eye for detail, an ability to solve problems, unimpeachable integrity and a commitment to honesty.

We are delighted that Rob Wolhuter, who joined us in September, has proven to be exemplary in the role. He writes:

“Joining the team of the DHC a few months ago has been one of the most enjoyable, humbling and fulfilling experiences of my life. The Centre is not for the faint-hearted and is in an area of the city that has sadly been neglected over the years. But the staff, managers and volunteers of the different projects are dedicated, loyal, compassionate and reliable, as witnessed by the thousands of people that they serve. There is certainly a lot of activity at the Centre to keep everybody busy.

“I come from a professional background of construction and maintenance; but I have also had the honour of working with underprivileged people and families through the Society of St Vincent De Paul. I have therefore been able to relate to and show compassion for all those who need the services of the DHC.

“My function as Building Manager requires me to be of service to the other project managers and to ensure that the DHC is always in good condition. This would not be possible without the assistance of the excellent building team, caretaker and our cleaning staff.

“Maintenance at the DHC is a large ongoing task and needs constant attention. It can be quite challenging with burst geysers, damaged speaker systems and stolen copper cables. But it is also rewarding when a task is completed successfully, and one can see the benefits of a job well done.”

Rob needs to make sure that the building is not only ready for DHC use, but also for the various other organisations that hire space in the building. We have tenants that rent offices and use the building all year round (including the Archdiocese of Durban’s Refugee Pastoral Care project). And we also host organisations who hire space for meetings and training courses. Collectively these contributed almost \$54,000 to our income last year (an increase of 18% over the previous year).

This makes an excellent impact on covering the day-to-day costs of running our building: utilities, security, cleaning, building management, maintenance. By covering most of these with income from rentals, we are able to ensure that the majority of funds from donors is being spent on delivering our welfare and healthcare services.

It is not possible for us to give space for free – after all we still have to pay our bills – but where possible we do try to offer space at affordable prices so that other NGOs and faith groups can benefit from our wonderful building. And one thing that almost everyone comments on is how clean and organised we keep the building despite the foot-fall of up to 1,000 people on busy days.

Photo: Rob’s building team assembled around the statue of Archbishop Hurley (left to right): Paul Radebe, Xolani Buthelezi, Lindani Ngubane, Afikile Memela, Khuthala Jiyedwa and Rob. (Simphiwe Khoza was absent when the photo was taken).



SHARING THE CENTURY

Although the DHC has only been in place for 10 years, we do feel connected to the past century by the presence of Archbishop Denis Hurley who was born in 1915. We were therefore delighted to be part of the recent centenary celebrations of the Durban Rotary Club. When it was founded in 1925, it was one of the oldest Rotary clubs on the African continent and over the past 100 years it has been the 'mother' of a whole network of other Rotary clubs across KZN.

A celebratory lunch was held at the Elangeni Hotel (which had been the regular meeting place for Rotary for many years) attended by over 120 people. The guest speaker was our own Director, Raymond. He reflected on the fact that +Hurley would have been only 9 years old when the club started in Durban. It was around that time that the young Denis committed himself to a life of service after getting rescued from a near-death experience in a cave. +Hurley and Rotary thus trod a parallel path of service to Durban over the decades that followed. It was fitting that Hurley was in fact given the highest Rotary honour, a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1998.

At the lunch, Richard Cluver a past President, shared some of the highlights of Rotary's successes over the decades including, for example, the founding of the Community Chest who are loyal supporters of the DHC's Nkosinathi feeding project. He also explained how Rotarians, and members of their sister organisation the Rotary Anns, had been involved in early work to address TB, to help people access drug rehabilitation and to provide support for disadvantaged children – all of them areas of focus of the DHC today.

In his address, Raymond reflected on the 'four way test' that is at the heart of Rotary's mission: Is it true? Is it fair? Does it build goodwill? Will it benefit all concerned? While Rotary is a secular organisation, and the DHC a multi-faith one, these values are ones that resonate with both organisations and indeed all who are committed to bringing about change in society.

In an age which claims to be 'post truth', Raymond drew attention to the on-going importance of being able to identify the truth and be a voice for the voiceless. This applied to +Hurley, we hope it applies to the DHC, and we have recently seen the importance of this in the address by Bishop Mariann Budde in Washington to the newly inaugurated President Trump. It is to be hoped that religious leaders having the courage to speak truth to power is something that we can take for granted rather than being surprised when it happens.

The aspect of fairness, Raymond pointed out, has changed so much in the last 100 years as we have become more and more aware of perspectives beyond 'old, white, straight men'. We can now ask the question: fair for whom? Goodwill he argued is built in to the model, used by Rotary and the DHC, of working in partnership so that goodwill is both built up and drawn on in

a virtuous circle. And finally benefiting all – and in particular benefiting those who are most poor and most vulnerable – must be our test in an age when those in power seem only concerned for themselves or their own group.

Whilst it might be tempting to see 2025 as a much less optimistic point in history than 1925, Raymond urged Rotarians to draw hope from their four principles. Staying true to that moral compass would enable them to help shape Durban society for the next 100 years as they have for the past century.

Photo: Guests of honour at the Rotary lunch (left to right): Lauraine Lafferty, Shereen Ramchunder, President Rydal Spavins, District Governor Raj Ramchunder, Ann's President Liz Cluver, past President Richard Cluver and Raymond Perrier.



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First National Bank Durban Main branch 221426

Account: Denis Hurley Centre Trust A/C No. 622 0426 1002

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www.denishurleycentre.org

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