View in browser

If you cannot see the pictures, use the right-hand mouse click and select ‘Download pictures'. If you are still having problems, email us

You are receiving this information about the Denis Hurley Centre because you have shown an interest in the work done by us or one of our partners, and we believe you live in SA. We hope that you will enjoy receiving this monthly update. If you have any comments please email us.

If you do not want to receive emails from us, scroll to the end for information about unsubscribing and also our obligations under the POPI Act. If you would like to recommend us to anyone you know please send us their email address if they consent.

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE

UPDATE

Care • Education • Community
Ukunakekela • Imfundo • Umphakathi
www.denishurleycentre.org

COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS OF NAILS

ETHEKWINI Living Legends

June 2026

9th Street Store with Grace Family Church
Celebrating Youth Month at the DHC
Working with the IEC to help homeless voters
Archbishop Hurley and Cecil John Rhodes?

Teenage boys intrigued by Latin on a grave

Homeless men and women registering

Zimbabwean sculpture in Oxford

SERVING OVER ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH DIGNITY

Our annual Street Store event with Grace Family Church took place for the ninth time and reached a new record of serving 1,128 ‘customers’.

For those not familiar with Street Store, the model is straightforward – just on a massive scale. Durban, like most cities, has many people in need of quality clothes who cannot afford them; and it also has lots of people with quality clothes they no longer need. The challenge is how to bring them together in a way that is respectful and dignified.

Over several weeks, at the various Grace Church campuses, thousands of items of clothing were donated. In addition, we were pleased that a number of boys’/ co-ed high schools accepted our challenge to collect thin men’s clothes – to ensure there would be enough for the homeless men who come to Street Store. A big thank you to Clifton,

Westville Boys High, Kearsney, St Henry's Marist College and Northwood. In the end, there were 150 boxes of clothing and shoes filling most of a container! In addition, there were six bales of brand-new clothes, each of about 40 kg, donated by SARS who had confiscated them at Durban harbour!

The attached video provides a good overview of Street Store in action (on the playlist you can also view videos from previous Street Stores). You will see the care with which people are welcomed – some of whom had begun queueing at midnight. Each person was greeted by a 'personal shopper' and invited to select four items. The clothes are all pre-sorted and folded so that people can clearly choose what suits them. All of this was possible because of the more than 100 volunteers from Grace Church, about half of whom were attending for the first time.

In addition, 74 somatology students from DUT provided manicures and pedicures to dozens of people, while Grace volunteers gave haircuts to 160 men. While enjoying lunch in the hall, people also had a chance to consult with Street Law students, counsellors from the SA Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), members of Alcoholics Anonymous, and people to advise them on voter registration and chiropractice.

A surprise feature this year was that there was a wedding taking place at the Cathedral while the crowd was queueing in the car park. There was much joy and celebration when the bride arrived, though she did look a little surprised by presence of so many people. Many thanks to Fr Simon Sibisi, the new Administrator at the Cathedral, for his assistance and co-operation.

For the first time, we had a connection with Up and Up, the advertising agency in Cape Town who were the originators of the concept. They sent the following message: "Huge congratulations to your team and your partner organisers on the incredible Street Store in Durban. Seeing all the planning, care and coordination come together in action was truly something special. It was an absolute privilege to witness. The scale, organisation and spirit of service on the day were genuinely inspiring."

Photo: The massed volunteers who make Street Store possible. Click here for more photos on the Grace Family Church Facebook page.

CELEBRATING THE NEXT GENERATION

16 June is the anniversary of the Soweto Uprising and this year marked 50 years since that momentous and courageous campaign against injustice (click here for a reflection in the *Southern Cross* by our Director). At the DHC we were therefore pleased to engage with so many young people during the month of June.

The biggest group was the entire Grade 9 from Northwood School, comprising three hundred 14/15-year-old boys. Their visit was spread over four days and in small groups they each had a chance to work in the kitchen, visit the mosque and cathedral, learn a bit about Archbishop Hurley and reflect on the effect of stigma in healthcare.

We got great feedback afterwards: “I was very humbled and enjoyed helping feed the homeless. I want to do more”; “The Denis Hurley Centre model of engagement and giving is the best I have seen”; “The DHC was my favourite because I liked the concept of unity that they had and the fact that we were able to do multiple activities”; “Some of my boys said in their reflection that Denis Hurley impacted them and that they want to be like him”.

Earlier in the month, Eric Badise and Illa Thompson were invited to Fatima Dominican Convent School to present an informal lesson on the business side of Street Lit as part of a series looking at entrepreneurship. Eric shared with the girls his personal journey from the streets to becoming a book seller, and now a mentor to other emerging vendors. He explained that the possibility of many of the homeless community to find worthwhile jobs was fairly unlikely. “But many of us have the ability, skills and support to run our own small business – that is an achievable goal and Street Lit has allowed many people to do just that.” We are grateful to the the Accounting and Commerce Department for showcasing our form of entrepreneurship, alongside Fatima parents involved in much more traditional models of business.

We have also had a number of groups of young people volunteering for the first time and expressing a desire to build an on-going partnership with the DHC. We had a delegation from the Durban Youth Council, founded 60 years ago to empower local youth through hands-on service, leadership development, and civic responsibility. In addition, a group of older youth chose to celebrate the second birthday of their organisation by coming to assist at the DHC one Saturday morning. ‘BTY’ is a social club and community that brings together people in their 20s and early 30s through running, hiking, tennis and meaningful social experiences. They posted a video on Instagram which captures the joy of their experience with us. (Click here if you would like join or find out more about them).

Part of the tragedy of Soweto 76 is that an entire generation of young people was lost because of injustice and exclusion. Sadly, so many of the young homeless people we encounter today face the same fate, 60 years on and 32 years after Liberation. But the many empowered and active young people we met this month give us hope for the future. And we hope that their engagement with their less advantaged peers will be a benefit to both groups.

If you would like to bring a school or youth group to visit the DHC – or even an older group! – do get in touch.

Photo below: Eric at Fatima Dominican Convent School. The photo at the top shows some Northwood boys intrigued by the Latin inscription on the grave of Bishop Jolivet, the founder of Emmanuel Cathedral.

START OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The BYT volunteers can be seen in the video wearing T-shirts that say 'Vote for Better'. The timing was intentional because their volunteering coincided with the IEC voter registration weekend. And since the DHC is a voting station, we were once again at the heart of the democratic process.

During every election since the DHC opened, we have worked with the IEC in Durban to help register homeless people as voters. This year, the IEC nationally has committed to work with the National Homeless Network so that this model can be replicated around the country. A webinar took place in May to brief Network members, and the programme will roll out over the next few months.

The vast majority of homeless people are South African citizens which means they have the right to vote. But they are rarely registered and so cannot exercise that right. One of the obstacles is the lack of a physical ID – some have never had one, some have lost theirs, many have seen them destroyed by security and police in 'clean up' campaigns. We have been repeatedly asking the Department of Home Affairs to assist with a special initiative to replace IDs for the homeless. Even though we know that the Minister himself has seen our request, we have had no response; however, a recent visit to the DHC by the Deputy Minister of Social Development offers some hope of progress on this.

In the meantime, we can at least work with the homeless men and women who do have ID's. Although the total number of voters who registered at the DHC over the weekend was low, it is interesting that one third of them were homeless people. We are now working towards the second (and final) registration weekend, announced for 1 and 2 August.

Over the next few weeks, groups around the country will also be working on developing their local versions of the National Homeless Manifesto ready for the National Homeless Network to launch this in September. Email us if you want to contribute to the consultation in your area. There is so much that Municipalities can do, and can stop doing, that would directly help homeless people. We want to make sure that these issues are on the agenda for the upcoming November elections so that the competing political parties can be challenged on them.

At the DHC, we are proud that we have the opportunity to be a 'voice for the voiceless' – as we did recently in the face of Municipality-funded violence directed at homeless

people. The election process, moreover, gives us a chance to help homeless people to speak out with their own voices. Foreign nationals in South Africa who have recently faced harassment and violence, do not have a political voice of their own – and many people that should be speaking out for them have remained silent. We encourage all South Africans of goodwill – and especially religious and civic leaders – to use their voices and their authority to support all those who are marginalised and to counter the voices of exclusion.

Photo: Khaya Jose was one of the homeless men who registered to vote. He is proudly wearing a wrist band (courtesy of Tony Miller Promotions) that he can use to motivate his peers to also register.

ARCHBISHOP HURLEY CELEBRATED AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

In Southern Africa, the name 'Rhodes' is often controversial. Nevertheless, the impact of the Rhodes scholarships is well known around the world – it is what took Bill Clinton to Oxford! – and remains a prestigious award in many circles.

Each year, a number of South Africans are chosen as Rhodes scholars including one or two from KZN. A long-term supporter of ours, Bronek Masojada, was a Rhodes Scholar from Durban in the 1980s and his family remain great friends of the DHC. More recently, both of the current Durban-originating Rhodes scholars had actually been volunteers at the DHC before heading to Oxford. We hope that is not a coincidence!

Jeremy Simpson, while at Crawford School often came to volunteer with his sister Brigitte, his mother Danielle and his grandmother Charmaine – three generations of service from the same family. Dr Kapil Narain connected with us when heading the Amnesty International group at UKZN-Howard and was, in fact, part of the speaker panel for our 2022 AGM.

The two are now united at Oxford, both studying for a Masters' degree, with a view to extending to a Doctorate. They played host to our Director recently – who had himself been at Oxford 42 years ago – to give a talk about our work at the very elegant Rhodes House. Of particular interest was the way in which the DHC brings together different faiths to serve side-by-side.

Oxford is a city where religion is taken very seriously. It has links to two Catholic saints (Edmund Campion and John Henry Newman) as well as to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. It also is home to a wide range of religious venues, having hosted a

significant Jewish community in the Middle Ages and then, in the 19th century, one of the first major Indian communities in the UK.

Dr Kapil who is Hindu commented: “The interfaith initiatives at the DHC are a microcosm of what becomes possible when people choose sustained collaboration, mutual respect, and genuine love for their communities. The spirit of Ubuntu was clearly infused in many of the social justice programmes at DHC. This is a stark reminder that we are made through one another, and that the common good is built when we work together across difference.”

Jeremy added: “The good the DHC does in addressing challenges in Durban is underpinned by the principle of collegiality, through bringing together people from various walks of life and religions. This same principle has informed my experience at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar: collectively sharing experiences with others to shape a better world in the future.”

We were privileged that the talk was attended by Professor Sir Rick Trainor, the Warden of Rhodes House: “Here at the Rhodes Trust we talk about Scholars being ‘Unlike-minded but Like-hearted’. I think it is so important for Scholars to host talks on a wide range of subjects, in order to allow them to explore topics unrelated to their academic work, and to debate and discuss important issues of the day. I was fascinated to learn more about Archbishop Hurley and, given that several Rhodes Scholars were prominent in the fight against apartheid, it is a topic of great importance to our community.”

To keep the connection with Oxford going, a copy of the book of Hurley’s letters is now sitting in the library of the Jesuit college, Campion Hall.

Photo: Kapil and Jeremy standing next to a photo which is part of an exhibition at Rhodes House explaining about the ‘Rhodes Must Fall’ campaign at the University of Cape Town. The image at the top is a Zimbabwean sculpture (by Sydney Manjengwa) which links with an epitaph engraved in stone in !Xam which translates as: “Remembering and Honouring in our Work those who Suffered and Laboured to Generate this Wealth”.

First National Bank Durban Main branch 221426
Account: Denis Hurley Centre Trust A/C No. 622 0426 1002

For more information, and to donate from outside South Africa, see:
www.denishurleycentre.org

In accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (4 of 2013) please be aware:
- you can remove yourself from this list at any tme by clicking unsubscribe below
- you can request to see what information we are holding about you by contacting Leanne Banks (leanne@denishurleycentre.org)
- by responding to this communication, you are consenting to us processing and using any personal information provided

Sent by
{{ contact.SendinBlue }}

You received this email because you are registered with DenisHurleyCentre

Unsubscribe here

© 2016 DenisHurleyCentre