

Ron Smith Care Centre @ Elphin Lodge



JULY 2021 No.69



Hearts and Hands for the Homeless



On Friday, 4 June, Rand Aid, represented by staff members Debbie Christen and Salina Mtshali and volunteer Claudette Theunissen, was finally able to deliver the crocheted sleeping mats and blankets that were earmarked for the homeless and needy in Krugersdorp.



The mats were made out of recycled plastic bags which needed to be cut into strips and wound into balls of yarn. This activity formed the care centre's Hearts and Hands for the Homeless project which kicked off in March 2020, but ground to a halt a few weeks later due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The blankets were part of an ongoing recreation programme, which sees squares being knitted and then sewn together by volunteers to make blankets.

PICTURED:

1. A work group of residents and staff are busy preparing the plastic yarn
2. Salina Mtshali (RSCC staff, far left), Claudette Theunissen (RSCC volunteer, second from right) and Rickie Trollip (soup kitchen manager at Rainbow Haven, far right) with Rainbow Haven workers.
3. Josephine Kew cutting strips from plastic bags
4. Joy Smith making balls of plarn
5. Ems Horn crocheted 12 out of the 14 sleeping bags that we donated to Rainbow Haven!
6. Elphin Lodge resident and volunteer Kryz Geyser displays some of the blankets she put together for RSCC's ongoing knitting project.
7. Doreen Woodward winds the plastic yarn into balls.



For over a year, residents and staff intermittently worked on the initiative through many disruptions and the ever-changing circumstances of lockdown. "Finally, and just in time for the winter cold snap, 14 mats and 45 blankets were handed over to the WAS Foundation's Rainbow Haven in Krugersdorp with our love and best wishes," said Debbie.

"It was amazing that the care centre staff and residents were able to persevere through all the disruptions and to use this time of lockdown to try and make a difference, and so heart-warming to be able to contribute to the comfort and well-being of those who are less fortunate."

Get to know me

Asnath Muthakhi: River Lodge 2 careworker

I was born on 5 June, 1978, in Shayandima, Venda, and was raised by my grandparents. I went to school in the village – my favourite subject was home economics because I enjoyed sewing. After matric, I went to nursing college in JHB & qualified as a care worker. My first job was at Kensington Clinic where I worked for 1½ years, followed by 10 years at Sandringham Gardens. I joined Rand Aid in 2017 & love caring for our residents on River Lodge 2. I think I have a gift for working with older people. When we see each other, they are happy & I am happy. I have 2 beautiful daughters: Zwanga (21) and Khathutshelo



(15), and an adorable son, Asambalelwi (5). I am raising my children on my own & would be so thankful & proud if I could see all my children

become successful & good people. I live in Soweto, but they are staying with my parents in Venda, which is where I am busy building a house. It is my dream to be able for all of us to live together as a family.

Passing thoughts:

My happy place is church. It is here where I feel close to God & where we learn about who we are as African people. I love to sing in our church choir & have been told that I have been gifted with a beautiful voice. I have happy memories of the River Lodge 2 staff outing to Happy Island Water World for team building. They have the biggest wave pool in Africa, which is like being in the ocean. I grew up swimming in the river, but when I was in the wave pool, I felt like I had forgotten how to swim. My motto is: For as long as I can, I want to help those who cannot help themselves.

Denise Anstey, River Lodge 2 resident

I was born on 9 August, 1929, in a little fishing village in Devon, England. We moved a lot, depending on where my father's work as an engineer took him. I was educated in various village schools, but during the war, everything was upside down, & I finished school when I was only 14. I attended secretarial college & held various office & administrative jobs in my life time. In my early 20s, I travelled to Canada to meet up with my brother, Thomas, who was a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch. I ended up living in Toronto for 17 years! I met several South Africans in Toronto, who convinced me to visit SA. I lived & worked in JHB for a number of years until Canada beckoned once again. I eventually became homesick for SA & returned home for good, although I



still enjoyed travelling overseas & locally. As a survivor of Covid, I am thankful to be alive and well, & still able to communicate with my family and special friend Barbara, who lives at Elphin Lodge.

still enjoyed travelling overseas & locally. As a survivor of Covid, I am thankful to be alive and well, & still able to communicate with my family and special friend Barbara, who lives at Elphin Lodge.

Passing thoughts:

I am generally a happy person – content to be on my own & comfortable in my own skin. My favourite place is the duck pond. My morning routine is to have breakfast, read a little bit & then, after morning tea, take a walk to the pond to visit the ducks & geese & to see what birds I can identify. I used to sail on Emmentia Dam. I was a member of St Mary's Anglican Church in Rosettenville for over 30 years. I used to attend classical concerts at the Linder Auditorium. I also enjoyed a live concert in JHB, when Harry Belafonte & Miriam Makeba came to town.

Jim Turner, River Lodge 2 resident

I was born on 20th December, 1941, in Yorkshire, England. I remember the wonderful freedom we had as children - our neighbourhoods were safe. After matriculating, I got a job as a quantity surveyor, working & training in the day, & studying at night to become a professional quantity surveyor. I eventually qualified as a professional & became a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. After working for 13 years in England, I applied for work in South Africa, as I wanted to see a bit more of the world. I arrived in JHB in 1969, found a place to live in Berea & went to work. I eventually joined Johannesburg Consolidated



Investment Co and worked there for over 22 years, followed by work with Murray and Roberts until I retired in 2014. I met my wife, Eleanor, at

JCI where she was a secretary. We have now been together for 33 years & have a wonderful daughter, Alexandra, who lives in JHB North. Eleanor lives in our home in Edenvale.

Passing thoughts:

I was an avid golfer before I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease & had a spinal cord operation which has limited my mobility. I love the seaside, nature & wildlife & used to enjoy bush holidays at Mabula Lodge. I like watching & reading action/thriller books & shows. I also like to keep up-to-date with the news & enjoy watching golf, rugby, cricket & F1 Grand Prix. I am thankful that I've made it this far despite all my medical & health issues. I would be so happy to go home & re-unite with my wonderful family & be able to relax in the garden with a cold beer and a book!

Birthdays

RESIDENTS

04 July, Ron Adcock, Woodlands (80)
05 July, Maria Mendonca, Lakeside (85)
08 July, Karen Mitchell, Cedar Park (74)
13 July, Leon Shuker, Cedar Park (90)
19 July, Douglas Morgan, River Lodge 3 (77)
19 July, Susanna Town, Woodlands (90)
21 July, Janice Costigan, River Lodge 2 (76)
24 July, Evelyn Krupke, River Lodge 3 (61)
25 July, Sandra Dimant, River Lodge 1 (77)
29 July, Mike Papageorgiou, Cedar Park (91)
31 July, Rosina Pretorius, River Lodge 2 (89)

VOLUNTEERS

7 July, Jean Johnson
16 July, Denise McGee
29 July, Sherill Singh
31 July, Vicky Papageorgiou

STAFF

5 July, Zabeth Zuhlsdorff (Head office)
16 July, Lilly Mathebula (Woodlands)
18 July, Constance Bonoko (Kitchen)
19 July, Dorothy Mashaba (RL3)
22 July, Mary Kekana (Housekeeping)
22 July, Chrestina Nzeru (Security)
23 July, Melta Molefe (RL3)
25 July, Peter Letsoalo (Elfie driver)

Fondly remembered

Malcolm Barlow-Jones and Getty Lee (RL2).

Welcome to

Rhona Burnham (RL3)



Father's Day delight

Cynthia Dlamini offers Woodlands resident Ron Adcock a cupcake for Father's Day. The staff & residents spent a morning icing the cupcakes before enjoying them for morning tea. All agreed that they were delicious!