The Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital management would like to wish all staff the best for the festive season and a peaceful and prosperous new year. Thank you for all your hard work.

Staff Nurse Antonio was chosen as this year’s Nurse of the Year at the Nursing Excellence Awards ceremony on October 29. She is pictured with Medical Manager Dr Thomas Blake and Nursing Manager Sandra Roodt and Hospital Facility Board Deputy Chairperson Dalmari Stewart.

The Christmas Parade, which was held on December 13, had clowns, cartoon characters and its fair share of costumed royalty.

ICU nursing assistant Galima Abdol was awarded for 40 years’ service on September 27. She is pictured here with Western Cape Health Minister Theuns Botha.
**SPRING TALENT SHOW**

Miss Red Cross crowned

Ghairounesa Daltjie (AKA Haroun Esau) was the gorgeous host at the first annual Spring Talent Show on September 27.

**Left:** Ronnis and Ralph, of the Children’s Hospital Trust and Medical Emergency, took away the first place prize.

**Right:** Clement of Nursing Education crooned James Blunt’s “You’re Beautiful”.

**Left:** Mujahida of the information management unit (AKA Mujahid Allie) upstaged her fellow competitors as crowd favourite and snatched away the first Miss Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital title.

**Right:** Cleo (pictured) and Kurt of the G2 management suite won third prize at the competition and the spunky Cleo unabashedly returned for an impromptu encore.

**Down the Rabbit Hole**

Mad Hatter’s Tea Party

Theatre celebrates as their table is announced as the winner at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party event on September 5. Theatre beat eight other table entries to take home the prize.

**Above:** Hospital staff went a bit crazy at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party on September 5. Here the oncology ward show off their brightly coloured grassy display.

**Right:** The ICU department had a lady like, high tea affair as their entry for the competition.
**NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

SN Antonio is nurse of the year

The nursing department held its annual Nursing Excellence Awards ceremony on October 29. The ceremony honoured nurses for excellence in both the surgical and paediatric fields. The winners were nominated and voted for by their peers.

Staff Nurse Antonio (right) of the Trauma Unit was voted as this year’s Nurse of the Year.

- Assistant Nursing Manager Christal Bastian gives Operational Manager Manda Appels of Ward D1 her Nursing Excellence Award.
- Assistant Nursing Manager Barryan Ludick gives Operational Manager Shamila Amos of A7 Day Surgery her Nursing Excellence Award.

Cecilia Makiwane

PN Angelina Schrikker nominated

Professional Nurse Angelina Schrikker (right) was the first runner up at this year’s annual Cecilia Makiwane Nursing Awards ceremony on the October 30. The special award was named after Cecilia Makiwane, the first registered professional black nurse in South Africa, early activist in the struggle for women’s rights and protester in the first anti-women’s pass campaign in 1912.

Sr Schrikker is part of the pain management unit.

This year’s winner was Sr Ilze Phipson of Graafwater.

**RESTROOMS REVAMPED**

Family toilets opened

The Restroom Committee opens one of two new Family Ablutions in the Outpatients Department on August 27. The ribbon cutting symbolised the completion of phase one of the Restroom Project.

**BREASTFEEDING IS BEST**

Moms given gold pins

The Breastfeeding Is Best (BIB) team held various activities at the hospital during World Breastfeeding Awareness Week. On August 2 Hospital CEO Dr Lungi Linda presented each breastfeeding mother with a gold, beaded pin to honour their commitment to breastfeeding.

**SATURDAY SURGERIES**

Initiative is successful for second year

November 24 saw the end of the 2012 Saturday Surgeries initiative. The initiative, which ran for the second year, reduced the long waiting list for patients in need of life-changing surgery.

Mediclinic Southern Africa, in partnership with the Children’s Hospital Trust, sponsored the additional day of surgeries to the cost of R200 000. The extra day of elective surgeries ran for 12 weeks.

In 2011, the first eight week series of Saturday Surgeries was piloted and had an massive impact, with 71 clinical cases being cleared from the surgical waiting list. This year, the initiative benefitted 87 patients of which 26 were general surgery, 46 ENT and 15 plastic surgeries.

Mediclinic Southern Africa’s funding covered the administration costs and the hospital carried the costs for services and recuperation space, such as operating theatres, consumables and inpatient care.

Western Cape Government Health Minister, Mr Theuns Botha, said: “We are grateful to Mediclinic Southern Africa for donating the funds to make this project a reality and this partnership is exactly in line with the Western Cape Government Health’s future strategy.

“We hope to expand this project to include Tygerberg Children’s Hospital and later, general surgeries across a variety of our facilities.”

Professor Alp Numanoglu, Head of Department of Paediatric Surgery, said: “Now that a big volume of these non-emergency cases are taken off the waiting list, there will be scope for more flexibility for theatre lists during the week.

“This undertaking to minimise surgical waiting lists will also prevent the less critical cases from leading to more serious medical complications if postponed,” he said.

Louise Driver, CEO of the Children’s Hospital Trust, said: “The hospital’s waiting list for elective surgery in general, ENT and plastics has been radically decreased from between six months and a year, to only three to four weeks. Through funding the Saturday Surgeries initiative, Mediclinic Southern Africa has once again shown their commitment to a successful public-private partnership in healthcare. The Trust is so appreciative of their continued valuable support.

“The hospital is renowned for its achievements and milestones in paediatric healthcare on the African continent and globally, and the Trust is determined to ensure the hospital continues to stay on a par with international standards. Surgical specialties such as spinal and eye injuries, where long waiting lists exist, will also be included in future projects,” she said.

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SO LONG, FAREWELL
Many bid adieu

This year the hospital said goodbye to many familiar faces. Several long-serving employees retired this year, some of whom had been working for the hospital for more than 40 years, and the management suite bid farewell to Financial Manager Rifqa van Haaght, who had worked for the hospital for seven years.

We wish all of those who have left our ranks the best for their futures.

Some of the people who left the hospital this year includes:

- **Johanna Lucas** who has worked for the department of health for more than 30 years and was regarded “the mother” of the main kitchen.
- **Hans Human**, the clinical technician in the ICU.
- **Professional Nurse Lyn Starck**, who has worked for the hospital more than 40 years.
- **Sr Starck** treated thousands of children in the diabetic clinic.
- **Dr Farieda Desai**, an oncology specialist.
- **Nursing Assistant Yasmine Stellenboom** or Ward E2. Mrs Stellenboom was affectionately known as the matron of dialysis.
- **Professional Nurse Felicity Douglas**, the long-time operational manager of the oncology ward.
LONG SERVICE AWARDS
Staff honoured for loyalty

Prof John Hewitson has saved thousands of little lives in his 30 years’ service at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital. Prof Hewitson, the Head of the cardiac unit, is one of 35 long-serving employees who were honoured at an awards ceremony on September 27.

Prof Hewitson estimates that he has performed about 6 000 surgeries during this three decades of service.

“I didn’t perform many in the 80s because I was still training but in the 90s I did about 250 cardiac surgeries a year and about 150 cardio thoracic surgeries. After that I did about 150 a year because I had more help,” he said.

Also honoured on the day were five employees who have worked in the public service for 40 years, Galima Abdol, George Hope, Yasmine Stellenboom, Jean Roman and Charmaine Stanley. Eleven employees were awarded for 20 years’ service and 28 were honoured for 30 years’ service.

Eight people were also honoured by the Hospital Facility Board for working at Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital specifically for 20 years.

“We feel proud that you have been true public service ambassadors who have served our people selflessly with dignity and humility. You have lived the Bathopele principles and raised the standards of this hospital,” said Dr Lungi Linda, the hospital’s CEO. “We thank you very much for your loyalty, professionalism, high work ethic, accountability, respect for human dignity, caring attitude and empathy.”

Nursing Assistant Jean Roman is awarded for 40 years’ service by Minister Theuns Botha.

Minister Theuns Botha and Medical Manager Dr Anita Parbhoo are pictured with some of the 20- and 30-year award recipients.

SWEETS FOR OUR SWEET
GHFM boosts Trust campaign

The Children’s Hospital Trust have created a “Sweetie Campaign” to increase the amount of fans on their Facebook page. With every new “Like” a sweet will be added to the Trust’s virtual sweetie jar and ultimately increase awareness of their role in fundraising for the hospital and paediatric healthcare in the Western Cape.

The more people who know about the Trust, the more funding could be secured for the Trust’s latest priority project to build a new Radiology Complex at the hospital. The new complex will accommodate the hospital’s existing Radiology and Nuclear Medicine departments.

The Trust’s goal is to fill the virtual sweetie jar with 20 000 sweets equating to 20 000 fans and all supporters are encouraged to share the “Like” and help grow the Trust’s Facebook fan base.

On November 28 Nigel Pierce broadcast his Good Hope FM show live from the hospital foyer to drum up support for the campaign.

To show your support, visit the Trust’s Facebook page and click “Like”.

CAPITAL PROJECTS
Hospital’s face continues to change

The B1 Ward was officially opened on June 19. The ward was the eighth ward to have been upgraded thanks to the long-standing public-private partnership between the Western Cape Government Health and the Children’s Hospital Trust. Ward B2 will be the final ward to be upgraded and the refurbishment is due to be completed in March 2013.

The groundbreaking for the Centre for Childhood Infectious Diseases, currently being built at Gnome Park, took place on August 22. The Children’s Hospital Trust has raised over R20 million for the construction of the centre.
END OF YEAR
Staff rock at festive event

The hospital’s annual End of Year Event was held on December 5. Mark Haze, Idols runner up for 2011 provided the entertainment at the event.

Several volunteers posed as human statues at the event which was held in a tent on the field at the back of the Staff Residence.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
Santa Claus came to town

Costumes and characters abounded at the Christmas Parade. Here a patient has his picture taken at the photo booth.

The Juvie Boys marching band led the parade on December 13.

→ There was ice cream ...

→... and much, much more.

←... and popped corn →

Fr Christmas and his wife made their usual magical appearance.
SNAPSHOTS

Above: This artwork was featured as part of the Department of Paediatrics, and UCT Faculty of Health Sciences’ My 100 Wishes for Tomorrow Centenary Art Exhibit, which ran from October 22 to 28, at the J&J Hall. The exhibition was curated by Frank Joubert Art Centre and the Ibabathane Art Project.

Right: Staff Wellness Day on November 29 saw many employees getting health screenings and energy balancing but also being spoilt with massages and manicures.

Above: The honourary “women” admin personnel assist Dr Lungi Linda, hospital CEO, with the Women’s Day gift hand over on August 8.

Right: Kaizer Chiefs (AKA Ward B1) pose with Santos (AKA Procurement) after Chiefs beat Santos to take home the annual Easter Interdepartmental Soccer Tournament trophy.

Above: Radio DJ Diggy Bongz, who hosted the Hand Hygiene Campaign Launch on November 15, poses with the winners of the poster competition.

Right: Neurosurgeon Prof Anthony Figaji prepares a conjoined twin for a complicated separation surgery. The successful surgery was to remove the boy’s undeveloped parasitic twin from his spine.

Below: Children enjoy the festivities during the Friends of the Children’s Hospital Association’s Children’s Day event.