



Jongga

December 2009 / January 2010

WCRC HOSTS FIRST MITCHELL'S PLAIN WHEEL CHAIR CHALLENGE

The Department of Health's Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre (WCRC) and the QuadPara Association of the Western Cape (QAWC) joined forces in holding the first Mitchells Plain Wheelchair Challenge on 7 November 2009. The race took place at the WCRC site, inclusive of the perimeter road of the Lentegeur Hospital (LGH) site.

The main objectives of the event were to market the WCRC and QAWC and to raise funds for these organisations. It also:

- Created an opportunity for everyone; disabled and non-disabled to have fun;
- Enabled participation in a sporting event for persons with disabilities;
- Introduced persons with disabilities to a wide range of assistive devices;
- Raised awareness regarding disability; and
- Invited members of the community to exhibit goods or man food stalls.

The wheelchair race attempted to highlight the core function and clientele of the WCRC. It also introduced the WCRC to a wide range of clients, as the race attracted wheelchair users from across the Province.

The race categories were allocated as follows:

- **21 km event:** 4 races
- **6 km event:** 2 races
- **800 m event:** 6 races, including an inter-school relay- and corporate relay races

A total of 180 participants entered various categorized races according to their disability and wheelchair types. This included nine corporate companies who entered in the 800m Liberty Promenade sponsored relay event.

Visitors received free health screenings which included monitoring of blood pressure, blood sugar levels and body mass index. They also participated in the "Water Fun, Water Wise, Water Safe and Learn to Swim" Programme.

Encouraging participation in sport activities is one aspect of the re-integration of clients into society, as well as contributing to the individual's overall sense of well-being. The latter forms an integral part of the services at the WCRC.



Mr Thomas Micklem (right) receives his prize from Mr Nandu Bhula from Eskom Peking Generation for winning the 21km hand cycle race.



World Aids day

With the December focus on Aids all over the world, I fully support the three new initiatives to further the fight on HIV/AIDS.

The offering of routine HIV and AIDS testing will take the success the Province has experienced in combating the virus to the next level. The routine testing policy will move to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to know their status and, with that knowledge, empower themselves to continue with a healthy living.

The earlier initiation of treatment will ensure that people living with HIV will stay healthy for longer and continue to be productive members of society. Earlier treatment will also contribute to lighten the load of Health resources in communities where it is already under pressure.

The triple therapy for the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) will aide this Province towards our goal of creating an HIV-free generation. The early prevention of PMTCT will also ensure the decrease in infant and child mortality rates.

Season's greetings

We are in the last stretches of 2009, and there is the anticipation of the festive season and New Year celebrations ahead. At the same time I am deeply aware that for our staff working in health facilities this also means a time of pressure, hard work, overloaded trauma rooms and tragic scenes.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for the care and commitment that I know you will show towards our patients during this time.

It is my sincere wish that those of you who

celebrated Christmas, had a truly significant experience of our Christian faith.

2010

As for the New Year, 2010 will pose special challenges for all of us, but more specifically for us in the service sector. During the time of the World Cup 2010 Soccer Tournament this country, and this Province, will see many visitors from all over the world, and it will require exceptional service from our people working in health facilities.

This government has also initiated a number of new ventures which will start to bear its first fruits during the course of the year. I am looking forward to these actions, and I am relying on your loyalty and commitment throughout.

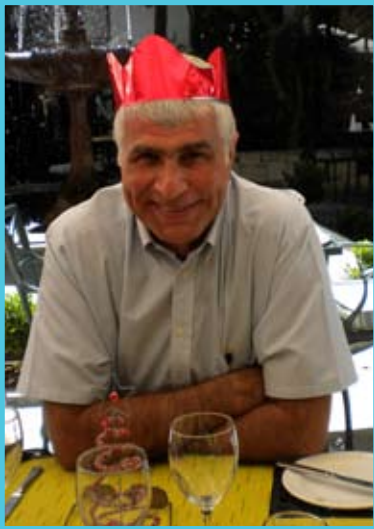
In the past year I have met many of you, and next year I hope that I will be able to exchange a handshake with many more.

Warm wishes,

THEUNS BOTHA
MINISTER OF HEALTH: WESTERN CAPE



MESSAGE FROM THE HOD TO STAFF



2009 brought changes and challenges!

While every year inevitably has high and low points this is the time of year when most of us reflect on what was, what could have been and what will be! On the sport front we had the successes of the Springboks in 2009

balanced by the disappointments of Bafana Bafana! We look forward with anticipation to the FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010.

I trust that after such reflection on 2009, possibly in a quiet moment if you are fortunate enough to take a holiday break that most of you will arrive at a positive balance for the year. For those of you where this is not the case I sincerely trust that you can find some good things on which you can look back and that you will see the prospect of better things to come in 2010!

For we who work in the Western Cape Department of Health the challenge of providing health care to the over 70% of the Western Cape population and meeting their expectations remains a formidable one.

There were the successes of improved cure rates, increased patient numbers and compliments for good service but also the disappointments of service targets not achieved and service delivery that did not meet the expectations of the people that we serve. There were reports that reflected a provincial health service delivering health care and managing its business better than any province in the country while there were others that criticized the department for failing to deliver health care of reasonable quality.

Some of these reports were fair while others, and one in particular that produced damaging newspaper headlines describing the health

services as a "city's shame" although after an independent investigation proving to be untrue unfairly blackened the name of this department.

But then life is not necessarily fair and in this situation each of us as individuals and all of us together need to accept responsibility for what is true, understand what is not and do the best we possibly can to improve where things are lacking.

It is encouraging that in a recent meeting with hospital and district managers the National Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi acknowledged that while health facilities across the country were in urgent need of an overhaul, those in the Western Cape were in large measure an exception to the overall bleak picture of health facilities nationally.

He also acknowledged the success of the Western Cape program to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus from pregnant mothers to their babies as the most successful in the country! This compliment is well deserved and I would like thank all of you who contributed to these successes.

The department remains financially challenged by falling government revenue as a result of the impact of the global recession. In this situation it is when the capacity to face challenges will be fully tested and when we need every good idea of how we can do more, efficiently.

I would encourage every employee of the Western Cape Department of Health rather than reflecting on what we do not have to rather concentrate on what we do have and how to utilize it to the best effect. Do not hesitate to contact me with constructive criticism and in particular suggestions and ideas of how we can do things better!

I hope all our employees rested well over the festive season and returned safe if they travelled during this period.

PROFESSOR CRAIG HOUSEHAM
HEAD OF HEALTH: WESTERN CAPE

DIARRHOEAL DISEASE SEASON 2009/10

From November 2009 to May 2010, health measures across the Province will be in place to combat the expected high case-load of children with diarrhoea.

The Provincial Health Department in conjunction with the City of Cape Town established an integrated system of community and facility-based interventions aimed at preventing and treating diarrhoea during the peak season.

If a child with severe diarrhoea is immediately given the proper care and treatment, he or she can recover completely in a few days. But every summer many children get very sick and some of them die. Prevalence is particularly high in areas where there are shared water and sanitation facilities.

The 'Hotspot' areas in the Cape Town Metropole where the most cases of fatal diarrhoea were reported for the previous summer were identified as Gugulethu, Nyanga, Phillipi, Browns Farm, Khayelitsha, Delft, Bloekombos, Wallacedene, Langa and Joe Slovo.

Steps taken by the Western Cape Department of Health to address the prevention and management of diarrhoea:

- Health promotion programmes aimed at preventing diarrhoea and promoting appropriate home treatment for dehydration will be intensified;
- Mothers, day-care workers and other child-care providers will be targeted in households and health facilities with an emphasis on;

Maintaining hygiene and water quality standards, promoting hand-washing in particular.

Raising awareness of the danger of rapid dehydration, promoting the use of a simple rehydrating home remedy and alerting care-givers to the symptoms calling for immediate medical attention.

- Thousands of Community Health Workers, Health Promoters, Environmental Health practitioners, NGOs and volunteers will be deployed during the campaign to interact directly with community members.

Interventions at Primary Health Care facilities include:

- Rapid triage of all children on entry into the facility, i.e. prioritising children according to the severity of their condition. All clinic staff, including security guards and cleaners will be trained to recognise the signs of severe dehydration and to fast-track children in need of immediate attention;
- Well situated and functional Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) corners;
- Extended hours for access to Primary Health Care (PHC) services in 'hotspot areas';
- Short-stay Rehydration Units at primary health care facilities for less severe (yellow triaged) cases (4-5 hours rehydration with hourly assessments.);
- Skilled clinicians are deployed to manage cases and do ward rounds at PHC level;
- Effective Emergency Medical Services viz. Flying Squad, to transport children in need of hospitalisation;
- The Rotavirus vaccine was introduced from 1 November 2009. This vaccine assists in the management of diarrhoea, but does not necessarily prevent children from getting diarrhoea.

NOVEL WEB ACCESS

Important notice:

The Novel web access address for the Western Cape Department of Health has changed.

Emails can now be accessed via <http://coreweb.pgwc.gov.za/gw/weacc>

For more information, contact the IT Helpdesk on 021 483 4800.

PROVINCIAL CECILIA MAKIWANE NURSE'S RECOGNITION AWARDS



MEC Theuns Botha and Prof Craig Househam handed over the award to winner Nompumelelo Mantangana.

On 30 October 2009, the Western Cape Department of Health hosted its annual Provincial Cecilia Makiwane Nurse's Recognition Awards Ceremony at the Bloemendal Restaurant in Durbanville.

The Cecilia Makiwane Recognition Award for Nurses is an initiative of the Ministry of Health, in partnership with provincial departments. The award was named after Cecilia Makiwane, the first black nurse to be recognised by Government almost a century ago.

The purpose of the award is to recognise the important role played by nurses, who are often overlooked and undervalued. It also seeks to motivate and inspire nurses by recognising and rewarding excellence.

The selection criteria included living up to the nurses' pledge and nursing ethics; going beyond the call of duty; having a positive attitude to patients and colleagues; contributing to effective management; and being part of the multi-disciplinary health care team.

Each province identified a provincial winner and a runner-up. Each provincial winner and runner-up received a monetary reward. The nine provincial winners later competed for the National Cecilia Makiwane Recognition Award.

Western Cape Provincial Nominees:

- **Nompumelelo Mantangana**
- Khayelitsha Ubuntu Clinic (Winner)
- **Valerie Starck**
- Red Cross Children's Hospital (First Runner-up)
- **Johanna Janse van Vuren**
- Vredenburg Hospital (Second Runner-up)
- **Ellie Warrington**
- Tygerberg Hospital
- **Gregory Tarentaal**
- Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre
- **Aronda Barkhuizen**
- Wittedrif Satellite Clinic, Bitou

This year's provincial winner, **Mrs Nompumelelo Mantangana**, was awarded for her outstanding work done at the Khayelitsha Ubuntu Clinic. She provides treatment to a total of 4000 patients and implemented adherence clubs for ARV patients.

Mrs Mantangana further competed with winners from other provinces for the National Cecilia Makiwane Nurses Recognition Award last month.



MEC Theuns Botha handed over the First Runner-up award to Valerie Starck.



Johanna Janse van Vuren received the Second Runner-up award.

EMERITUS ARCHBISHOP TUTU LEADS INTERFAITH SERVICE

On 18 November 2009, Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu arrived in style on a bicycle taxi at Tygerberg Children's Hospital to lead an Interfaith Service.

Archbishop Tutu and his wife, Leah, are the patrons of the Tygerberg Children's Hospital. For the past seven years, he led thanksgiving services at the hospital to honour the work being done, especially at the Children's Hospital.

The Children's Hospital was opened in March 2000, after a start had been made to consolidate all services for children in the G-Block.

UNICEF accredited the hospital as a 'child-friendly' hospital for its comprehensive maternal care services, kangaroo care and the handling of premature babies. It is one of the only two tertiary institutions to attain this status. By 2006 the hospital embarked on establishing a child-friendly outpatient service.

More than 100 000 children under the age of 13 are treated annually at the Outpatients division of the Children's Hospital and 16 000 are admitted. Of the 16 000, 1 000 receive surgery, 2 300 neurological services and 510 suffer from cancer.

Paediatricians working in the Children's Hospital also have a provincial responsibility to treat TB, meningitis and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

They are world leaders in the treatment and research of tuberculosis. Clinicians at the Children's Hospital are also involved in extensive research projects in the fields of HIV and Aids, cancer and the handling of newborn babies.



Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu arrived in a bicycle-taxi at the Interfaith Service.

TBH OPENS NEW CENTRAL STERILIZATION SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Tygerberg Hospital's recently opened its new Central Sterilization Service Department (CSSD). After concerns and professional advice by the Infection Control and Prevention Unit at the hospital, a project was launched 18 months ago to revamp the new CSSD.

The upgraded unit sees a complete overhaul of the inner infrastructure, as well as three state of the art washer disinfectors imported from Germany, valued at R10 million. Furthermore, ten new sterilisers were installed, as well as an air conditioning system to cater for both negative and

positive pressures - as required in a sterilizing unit.

No stone was left unturned and a completely new facility, together with new shelving, lockers and furniture were installed. The hospital is also in the process of appointing a Sterilization Services Manager.

Surgeons and doctors at the hospital are now more assured that instruments are sterile for all operations and procedures. We can proudly say this is a showpiece for the Department of Health in the Western Cape.

DIABETES RUN/WALK ON GLOBAL DIABETES DAY

In celebration of World Diabetes Day, Diabetes South Africa (DSA), in association with a range of stakeholders hosted a Global Diabetes Run/Walk on 7 November 2009 at Moullie Point Light House, Green Point in Cape Town.

Themed **“Understand diabetes and take control”**, the fun run/walk offered everyone an opportunity to raise awareness about the need for worldwide action for the many disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups with diabetes.

At the same time, directing attention to the low-cost physical activity and emphasizing the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, which is important in helping to prevent type 2 diabetes. Walking or any form of exercise also forms a vital part of treatment for patients with diabetes and hypertension.

Approximately one in five people over the age of 35 years have type 2 diabetes in South Africa and more than 50% of them do not even know it.

The Cape Town Global Diabetes Run/ Walk event has been successfully organised by Diabetes South Africa Western Cape for the past three years with the number of participants growing from approximately 300 to 1000. It aims to increase the number of participants to at least 20 000 over the next few years.



Participants were introduced to various exercise methods to help them keep fit.



The Diabetes Run/Walk was attended and supported by athletes, families and even pets!

LODGING FACILITY OPENS AT GROOTE SCHUUR HOSPITAL

A new eight-bedded lodging facility opened in the C9 Ward at Groote Schuur Hospital.

This will initially be used to accommodate Oncology patients who are not in need of nursing care .

The facility will be trialled for three to six months, and if successful will be expanded to include more beds.



Participants taking a well deserved break after the walk.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2009

In 1998, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared 1 December a day to commemorate World AIDS Day (WAD). Since then, it became a successful event to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS to people around the world.

Currently there are approximately 33 million people living with HIV throughout the world, with the number of people infected increasing every day. Around 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS reside in developing countries.

The international theme for this year is **“Universal Access and Human Rights”**. The South African theme this year is: **“I am responsible, We are responsible and South Africa is taking responsibility”**. This theme demands that we show leadership and unity around HIV & AIDS.

Provincially, given the prominence of the youth in responses to the HIV & AIDS epidemic, the Western Cape Department of Health held ‘Youth Health Dialogues’ in Atlantis where four high schools were involved, targeting Grade 9 and 11 learners.

Government departments and non-governmental organisations that render services to the youth were invited to participate in the dialogues. The learners and the service providers then shared knowledge of what is currently available and gaps in services for the youth.

All of this was aimed at ensuring that when ‘youth friendly’ health services are revived, they will

accommodate the needs of this target group.

The South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey conducted in 2008, presented findings about teenage sexual behaviour.

It reported that among teenagers aged 15-19 years, HIV prevalence declined by 3%. On the other hand, among currently sexually active teenagers aged 15-19 years; intergenerational sex has increased substantially which poses a risk to HIV infection. It is of concern that “condom usage was lowest in the Western Cape in comparison to all other provinces.

This year's World AIDS Day event provided learners with an opportunity to give feedback to other young people about what happened at the dialogues. It will also provide all role players in the area with an opportunity to craft a way forward in addressing youth health issues.

The South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey conducted in 2002 helped cast light on behaviour of youth in relation to violence, substance abuse, sexual behaviour, hygiene and diet amongst other things.

It unequivocally demonstrated that a number of young people, as a result of the sexual choices they make, or situations they find themselves in, are at risk in terms of their sexual health and subsequently their physical and mental health.



COPING WITH “DEBT STRESS”

Stress is a silent alarm going off in your body. You begin to sum up your total debt that you owe, your body reacts to your stress. Your heart races, you panic and feel trapped.

Consumer debt in South Africa has been rising fast, causing alarm to the South African Reserve Bank. The South African Reserve Bank has tried to stabilise the economy by trying to bring consumer debt under control by curbing consumer spending.

A measure designed to make borrowing more difficult was the June 2007 introduction of regulations requiring credit providers to assess applicants' income, monthly financial commitments and prospects. Borrowing money has become more difficult and expensive, thereby constraining consumer spending.

Credit claims on the domestic private sector grew by 24.9% between June 2006 and June 2007. Statistics showed that 17.5 million South African consumers had credit agreements, of which 7.2 million were three months or more in arrears.

Household debt reached record high levels of 76.0% of disposable income in the first quarter of 2007, up from 47.6% in 2003. South African households owe more on their home loans, car repayments, personal loans, furniture accounts and credit cards than the government has committed to spending on running the country in the current budget. Total debt is estimated at R680-billion, while R600-billion was set aside in February for, among other priorities, education, health, housing and servicing its own debt.

Scholars and business experts say there is a connection between debt and stress. According to the University of Pretoria's Law Clinic, there are about half a million South Africans who cannot cope with their debt and are in need of counseling and financial restructuring.

Being stressed over debt only creates a bad situation. It was noted that stressed workers are least likely to perform well in their jobs due to constant concerns on their debt and poor financial standing.

Dealing with Stress and Debt:

The important thing one can do to relieve stress is to confront the problem. Confronting the problem will cause you to create a plan of action that will start the process of paying back your debt. Talk with your spouse about how you will begin to pay back the money. Do not use your credit cards.

Consult a financial advisor, such as a credit counselor at the Employee Health and Wellness Programme (0800 611093), who can answer questions you might have regarding personal loans, credit card bills and the time you have to pay them back. Sometimes, just discussing your problems and concerns can help you put them into perspective and give you insight into ways to deal with them.

Make a commitment to pay at least the minimum amounts on the bills you owe. Make and set goals for each bill that you are paying off. If the credit card companies contact you, answer the phone and arrange smaller payment plans. It may seem like it will take forever, but at least you are committed and in control. This proactive approach will make you feel much better and less stressed.

People tend to equate debt with failure and this creates more stress. Remember, if you make a plan to manage your debt and begin taking the long journey back to financial freedom you will also in turn be relieving your stress. Learn from past mistakes. Stay away from the things or items that are the source of your stress.

Most importantly, don't think of the worst case scenarios. Professionals in the medical field call it "catastrophizing."

Your body does not know the difference between what you are imagining and the reality of the situation. When you do this you are only causing your body to produce more adrenaline, which in turn generates more stress. Stay positive and stick to your plan - and don't forget to congratulate yourself when you reach a goal.

For further advice can contact your Employee Health, Wellness, and Diversity Programme on (0800 611 093)

PHARMACIST INTERN RESEARCH DAY

The Pharmacist Intern Research Day was held on 18 November 2009 at Pharmacy House, Kenilworth.

This event is the highlight of Pharmacy Services' year and is used to showcase the projects of the pharmacist interns of 2009.

These projects are decided at the beginning of the intern year and are worked on throughout the year. An enormous amount of work has been invested in these projects. Sixteen projects of a very high standard were presented.

The winner of the event was Jeanne Hari Stadler from Ravensmead Community Health Centre, with her presentation entitled "Educating the community and prescribers on correct CDU procedures".

The first runner up was Claire Frieslaar from Victoria Hospital. Her presentation entitled; "Investigation into the Pharmaceutical Knowledge of Insulin in patients and Healthcare Worker".

The second runner up was Hoomairah Moola from Lady Michealis Community Health Centre: Her presentation entitled "Recognising and increasing effective communication between the health

professionals and the deaf and hard of hearing patients".

The Research Day was well attended by Top Management, Tutors and invited guests.



Jeanne Hari Stadler's (right) project received an award at the Pharmacist Intern Research Day event.

SMALL DONATION FROM THE HEART



Jessica hands over money to Ms Meiring at the Breast Cancer Unit.

Jessica Senekal, a 14-year-old pupil at St Cyprians High School, donated R1 700 to the Breast Cancer Unit at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Her mother has breast cancer and is being treated at the hospital. Jessica, with the help of some friends, raised the money by selling pink cupcakes and pink ribbons at her school.

At a small ceremony to hand over the money, Jessica indicated that breast cancer patients are close to her heart. She embarked on this project to make a difference for those who have no money and have to come from outside areas for treatment.

Ms Meiring and Dr Frohling from the Unit thanked Jessica for her efforts in raising the money and promised that it will be put to good use. Jessica and her friends were also taken on a tour of the unit.

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF VANGUARD ART CLINIC

On 30 October 2009, the South African Medical and Education Foundation handed over a newly constructed ARV/TB Clinic at the Vanguard Community Health Centre to the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health. The Foundation's primary focus is to help equip regional and rural hospitals with much needed infrastructure and medical equipment.

Approximately R1 million was donated to construct and equip the Vanguard ARV Clinic. Currently, the Foundation has a contractual agreement with Provincial Health Departments in the Western Cape, Free State and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

They assist to help fulfil the priority list of critical needs by getting corporate companies to steer their Corporate Social investment funding into different areas of Health, namely: ARV/TB infra-structure and medical equipment. The role they play is an interim measure giving provinces time to secure the funding necessary for bricks and mortar buildings.

The Western Cape has a very well managed health

system, which is placed under immense pressure by the Province's ever growing population. More people make use of the health system, which requires more service points.

With the additional space provided by the newly constructed ARV/TB Clinic and medical equipment, health practitioners will be able to treat more patients, save more lives and be able to detect the ever growing problem of TB more efficiently.

The SA Medical Foundation is a public benefit organisation, whose primary focus is to help equip regional and rural hospitals with infrastructure and medical equipment, thereby equalising healthcare for all.

Their primary function for this year is to assist provincial health departments in the Western Cape, Free State and KwaZulu Natal with medical equipment and infrastructure for TB, HIV, and also help assist in getting health facilities ready for the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup.

ANNUAL HARLEY DAVIDSON ONCOLOGY WARD RXCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 27 November 2009 the Harley Davidson Club drove on more than 50 motorcycles to the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.

They handed out Christmas presents to all 115 children in the Oncology Ward who will be hospitalised over the festive season.

Every child in the ward, assisted by club members, was able to experience a ride on the motorcycles.

This had both the children and nurses beaming with happiness.



The sight and sound of motorcycles brought smiles to the faces of the patients.

TYGERBERG HOSPITAL'S SMILE WEEK

For nearly a decade, the Smile Foundation has proven to be more than just an NGO. They bear a resemblance to an excessively large family through their relationships with hospitals, surgeons, nurses, psychologists, celebrities and the smile children and their families.

The Smile Foundation has certainly travelled beyond any limitations, in order to reach the underprivileged children who are in desperate need of their help. This year alone they have travelled between Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Cape Town in June, and are now back in Cape Town to offer children with facial anomalies the surgical intervention they require.

"We were delighted to have the Smile Foundation and the children back in Tygerberg Hospital this year. There was a special vibe in our hospital during the week dedicated to children with facial anomalies. It is quite incredible to witness the smiles on the children's and parent's faces afterwards. This is a wonderful reward for everybody involved and certainly time well spent." said Dr Alexander Zuhlke, Plastic Surgeon at Tygerberg Hospital.



Mr Morgan Newman and a Smile Foundation Volunteer with patient Justine.

Supporting the Smile Foundation is a sponsor who has been around for three years. The Vodacom Foundation sponsored yet another Smile Week, in which they donated a microscope worth R900 000 to the hospital, to be used when operating any micro surgical procedures.

This equipment will definitely benefit Tygerberg Hospital and the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the future. As a result of the Vodacom Foundation's generosity, surgeons at the hospital were able to operate on thirty five (35) children. We planned for 28 children (close to 30) to be operated on during that week.

Marc Lubner, Executive Chairman of the Smile Foundation describes the relationship between their NGO and hospitals as a mutually beneficial one. He says, "It is gratifying to note that a corporate like Vodacom Foundation, values and supports the quality of medical care for children in South Africa. The relationship however, between hospitals and organisations such as Smile Foundation, has definitely proven to be unique and beneficial to all parties involved."

The Tygerberg Hospital has always welcomed Smile Foundation with open arms and provided the medical care and love that the children need. "Our children's ward is always a hive of activity when the Smile Foundation visits us. The excitement the children bring to the ward always creates an energetic atmosphere that inspires us and reminds us why we are here every day", said Dr Terence Carter, CEO from Tygerberg Hospital.

Tygerberg Hospital, The Smile Foundation and Vodacom Foundation have bared witness to another 38 children being operated on from 16 - 22 November 2009.

It is truly heart warming to know, that the week has changed their lives with something that most of us take for granted, a simple smile.