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Dr Seamusette Nolan RIP

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- Holy Cross (Belfast)
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HOSPICE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period
1 May 2002 –
31 April 2003



LERATONG

"WHERE THERE IS LOVE"



MISSION STATEMENT

With the support of the community and working with local home-based care teams,

Leratong Hospice

will provide holistic, palliative care when needed,

and

will be a centre of counselling and support for patients and their families.

Leratong will be a home for those without one.

In the community
For the community



FOREWORD Archbishop of Pretoria



On 29 May 2003, the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, I had the great pleasure of blessing the site for Leratong Hospice.

The gospel of the day spoke of discipleship, of following Jesus. On the side of that hill in Atteridgeville Township, overlooking the shacks of the informal settlement, we saw discipleship in action. A small group of people gathered to mark the beginning of the Leratong Hospice, following the command of Jesus to "Love one another."

Leratong means "where there is love" and today, with so much sickness and suffering in the world, especially due to HIV/AIDS in South Africa, there is great need for such love in action, that will care for the dying and give relief to their families.

I pray for the success of this much-needed project.

Yours faithfully





ACHIEVEMENTS



As with any project in its start-up phase, Leratong's first year was marked by some struggle and frustration, a lot of learning and ultimately a sense of achievement for what has been accomplished in a relatively short time.

Leratong Hospice Project set itself three key objectives for the past year:

- The establishment of an efficient and dedicated management team to be responsible for driving the project and for ensuring that appropriate systems and procedures are in place
- The completion of all the necessary preparatory work relating to the construction of the hospice
- The securing of sufficient funds to build the hospice

Effective Management

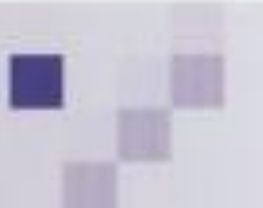
The management committee has met twice a month and has provided the skills and knowledge necessary to complete successfully:

the formulation of a constitution;

the development of a 2 year Business Plan;

the registration of the organisation as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO);

the preparation and submission of an application for registration as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO).



Preparations for Construction



The management board is very aware of the need for good financial management practices and of its accountability to all its donors. During the past year it was therefore a high priority for Leratong Hospice Management that funds received were prudently managed and that appropriate controls were in place to ensure their proper utilisation. It is therefore a matter of some pride for the organisation that at the end of its first year of operations Leratong finances have been audited by an independent auditor and a clean audit report has been received.

Under the guidance of the Board the necessary preparatory work towards the construction of the hospice was completed. A site, with planning permission for the erection of a hospice, was secured at nominal cost from Tshwane Municipality and so the hospice will be built on erf number 13799 in the Attardridgeville/Sandville township. It will ultimately be part of a complex which will also include a Church and a crèche.

With the assistance of a local architectural firm, who have provided all design services free of charge, initial plans and final drawings for the buildings were completed. The finished design, we believe, is aesthetically pleasing, while at the same time both practical and cost effective. It allows for the care of 18 terminally ill adults and includes a facility for children together with a co-ordination facility for home care teams.





FUND RAISING

Simultaneously with the preparatory work, a fund-raising drive was rolled out through which both local and international donations have been sought. This drive included the preparation of formal applications to donors as well as encouraging individual contributions through a variety of events. The details of our major donors and supporters are included in this report and contributions for the

period are reflected in our Audited Financial Statements. Although at the time of writing we still have a shortfall for construction costs, with over R2 million already raised, support for Leratong Hospice has been remarkable and we are confident that the funding gap will shortly be closed. Our success in this regard is largely due to the untiring efforts of our chairperson who never misses an opportunity to mention Leratong!

Recent Developments

Tenders were invited for the construction of the hospice in April 2003 and following evaluation of the submissions, the tender was awarded to DMG Construction, Pretoria. Mindful of the unemployment difficulties in the township it has been agreed with the company that full use of local labour will be made during construction. To mark the commencement of the building project, a sod turning ceremony was held in May 2003 and the site was blessed by Archbishop George Dasein, the Catholic Archbishop of Pretoria. At the time of printing construction of the hospice had commenced and is scheduled for completion in early 2004.



NEXT STEPS

The main focus of the Leratong Hospice Management Committee over the next financial year will be:

- Ensuring that the construction of the hospice is completed on schedule and within budget
- Ensuring that the hospice is operational and delivering a quality service to those in need
- Increasing awareness of the hospice and its facilities both in South Africa and abroad and thus building on the considerable support base that Leratong has already established in its first year.

The realisation of these objectives will involve a high level of professional engagement on the part of the Leratong Board with the construction team so that there is effective monitoring of progress. It also requires the development and implementation of an appropriate and sustainable financial and operational management system for the running of the hospice. The latter will involve considerable engagement with established hospices so that we may learn from their experiences and the on-going support and commitment of the local and international community.



