



CLUNY COMMUNIQUE
DECEMBER 2021

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

I would like to thank the Members of the Board, for selecting me to take on the role of the new Manager at Cluny Farm. I am truly honoured and so very proud to fill this position.

I have spent almost my entire working life within the disability sector and have raised two children with disabilities, this over a period of more than 40 years. I feel honoured and privileged to have been tasked to share my experience and knowledge to enhance, improve and create a sustainable Cluny Farm.

I would like to see Cluny Farm, once again become known for the various products that the residents are able to produce. In this process an emphasis will be placed on the growth, development, and sustainability of the Farm in which our residents can be gainfully occupied and earn a little income at the same time.

I welcome the challenge and aim to make sure that not only do the residents find greater fulfilment and happiness, but that Cluny develop a reputation that cannot be matched.

I am committed to seeing Cluny Farm continue flourishing and being an oasis where the residents, their parents, guardians, and siblings can find hope and understanding in this confusing and bewildering world we live in and where everyone can feel a warm sense of belonging and love.

My vision for Cluny Farm is to work towards establishing small enterprise development projects in which residents can participate, according to their abilities and strengths, and contribute towards creating both an income for Cluny Farm as well as for themselves.

This process will require skills development and the relevant training, all to be delivered at each person's appropriate levels. **One is never too old to learn new tricks.** If this can be soundly developed, we could offer the same opportunities to other like Centres and individuals too.

For Cluny Farm to comply with all that the world out there requires these days, we will be looking at increasing our diversity through greater collaboration within the community and the disability sector. This will include outreach programmes together with a transformation plan to place Cluny Farm in a favourable position in the fundraising arena.

I wish you and your families a **Blessed and Happy Festive Season** and all the very best for 2022

With love and care,
Moirá



"The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all."

Walt Disney Company, Mulan

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2021



A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

We met with the Department of Social Development to discuss our business plan for 2022 and resolve some issues that arose during 2021. We are pleased to report that the Department is extremely happy with the operations and compliance of Cluny Farm and have endorsed us for another year.

The Department has requested a few changes to some of the wording in our present Constitution, to bring it in line with current requisites. Our lawyers are busy remedying this for us.

We were audited by the Department of Social Development during the latter part of 2020 but only received their official feedback in November.

We passed the audit and despite a few adjustments that the Department have requested, we found the process beneficial, which can only add value to the operations of Cluny Farm.



SNIPPETS

After the destructive fire damage, experienced at the end of July, we have had to replace the entire fencing around the property as well as install new septic tanks. We are truly grateful that our insurance cover was sufficient to cover the costs of the damage.

We recently met with the Rotary Club of Kyalami and the young students of the Rotary Interact Club from Reddam House. We are thrilled to announce that Cluny Farm has been selected as their beneficiary organisation for 2022. We are looking forward to the interaction and events they have planned for us.

Don't forget to order our delicious biscuits, preserves and pickles. They make a delightful gift for someone as they are all made with the utmost patience, love and care. Contact the office for more information.



The Covid outbreak that occurred at the end of November resulted in five of our residents becoming infected.

The isolation period ended on 14 December, and we are very thankful that we have no more cases to report.

We know the rules and our protocol are not always pleasant to comply with, however we thank one and all for making this isolation period manageable.

We encourage any visitors to Cluny Farm to always wear their masks, sanitise and social distance.
THANK YOU



THANK YOU SO MUCH

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals, small businesses and the members of the community for their continuous generosity and support of Cluny Farm either through cash or in-kind donations.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to Drs Golden and partners from Sandton Clinic and our dentists, Drs Hawrylkiewicz, and partners and Drs Williams and partners from Lonehill, for their unselfish care, support and never ending willingness to accommodate our residents, all at their own expense. How blessed are we at Cluny Farm.

Our utmost appreciation goes to the members of *SEGA, the Sandton Ecumenical Goodwill Society*, for the most amazing Christmas gifts which they not only created, but also donated to each resident at Cluny Farm. We acknowledge their hard work and dedication and thank them for their kindness, support, and love. The members have truly made a world of difference to our residents.

We would also like to thank, Peter Gillespie, Bettina O'Grady, Susanna and all the staff at the Star Market for spoiling our residents with a most delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday 15 December. They went to so much trouble to bring laughter, smiles and happiness to each and every resident. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making our residents feel so special.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Benmore Gardens and Sandton Woolworths for their generous provision of foodstuff. Your generosity enables Cluny Farm to operate on an incredibly low food budget throughout the year. We are truly blessed.

Our fleet of vehicles are reaching the end of their very demanding life. The maintenance and repairs are becoming extremely costly, and we feel it is time to investigate the possibility of procuring some new or perhaps demo vehicles. We will of course require funding and / or assistance to take these steps.

We request that should you be able to assist us, either, through identifying possible funding avenues or providing contact information regarding affordable deals, kindly inform the office.