

CLUNY COMMUNIQUE JANUARY – JUNE 2022

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and warm. What a hectic six months we have had at Cluny Farm. I must admit that settling into Cluny's lifestyle, living with the spirit of Cluny, and getting to know the staff, families, board members and residents has been a most amazing experience for me. One thing we can all learn from disability is that it has its own time, pace, and intensity.

We all need to take time to consider how much we can learn from our own residents. Their happy and friendly dispositions, their smiles, their sense of humour and all the challenges they face and overcome daily, set a wonderful example of acceptance and love to all who meet them.

With Cluny turning 60 years old this year, there is much to reminisce over, to reflect on and to celebrate. Enjoy the catch up on our news.



We received a very nice surprise when the Department of Social Development (DSD) notified us that Cluny Farm would receive funding from them for the purchase of a Quantum Bus.

We managed to find a 2017 second hand Toyota Quantum, 2.5 diesel, in very good condition. Included was the purchase of new tyres, a tracker, a 2-year service warranty and the first year's comprehensive insurance. The branding for the Bus is almost complete.

Cluny is Truly Blessed.

Regrettably, the Board had little choice but to raise the fees from 1 April, by 7%. We deeply appreciate the support that we receive from our parents, guardians and siblings, who ensure that we receive their fee payments on a regular monthly basis.

Our main priority is to ensure the wellbeing, health, safety, care, happiness, and love of your dependent and without your financial support, this would not be possible. In the interest of every resident, we urge you to assist with your financial commitment and to contact the office should you experience any problems in order to keep us aware of the financial situation and your dependents wellbeing.

We would like to thank Mrs Mindi Hunt from Vermont Sales for her generous donation of various tools and maintenance equipment which we received last month.

Recently some of our tools went on a walk about so this donation was an absolute life saver.

MINDI YOU ARE AMAZING

The University of Johannesburg together with the Department of Science and Innovation and the Process Energy and Environmental Technology Station (PEETS), have undertaken to donate the installation of solar power to run our second borehole.

We are most grateful to them for their generosity and assistance in securing our water supply without the need for electricity.

In April our borehole pump broke down completely, and on a Friday afternoon. We were able to utilise the pump from our second borehole but we need to ensure that we have a spare one available for emergencies.

> Any help, advice or contact to repair or replace the damaged pump would be most appreciated.

Our residents from Symphony, finally got to spend a few days away at the ATKV Buffelspoort Resort. We felt the trip to Pennington, which our other residents experienced late last year, was too far and too long for the older residents, hence the few days away at Buffelspoort. Our thanks go to an amazing, kind, caring, generous "Friend of Cluny" who made this possible.

On 23 April we transported all our residents to the Irene Farm Market, in Pretoria, for a fun filled outing. A wonderful time was had by all.

Thank you to all our staff who assisted. Your help is most appreciated.

Our residents have had a great deal of fun during the last few months. Debbie Smit, a Rotarian from the Kyalami Rotary Club, has been doing line dancing activities with our residents, on the weekends. The residents all have much fun and a wonderful time participating. Thank you Debbie.

> Cluny held a Valentine's Dance in February and the residents had an exciting time dressing up, dancing and enjoying an evening of great fun. ?

Our Bakery baked heart shaped biscuits which the residents, Volunteers, and the Interact group of students from Reddam House School decorated and packed into pretty packaging. These were sold from the Reddam House School tuckshop to raise funds for Cluny. Our thanks go to Doris, our baker, all the residents who assisted, our Care Workers and the Reddam students for a happy, fun filled morning. **Thank you Interact**

The Rotarian Interact Group also held an Easter Egg hunt at the Farm on 9 April, for all the residents. Cluny provided hamburgers and salads for lunch. Although wet and rainy everyone had a wonderful time.

On 18 June the residents from Cluny Farm and the day workers from Hodnett House, in Randburg, held a barn dance in Cluny's Hall, as part of our 60th Birthday celebrations. A group of ladies provided the music and led the dancing. Together with hotdogs, popcorn, cowboy hats and cold drinks, absolute fun was had by all.

Thank you Hodnett House and all our Cluny staff

Having reached the end of their two year contract Danny our maintenance supervisor and his wife, Marlene our cook decided to retire. We thank them for their service to Cluny Farm.

We extend a very warm welcome to Marius Venter, a well-travelled and experienced Chef of many years who has joined our staff. His food is amazing as well as the platters of food he produces for some of our meetings. We are truly happy to have you at Cluny Farm Marius.

Johan Van Der Westhuizen our new Maintenance Supervisor together with his wife, Betsie, will be staying on the Farm. The residents love assisting Johan with his maintenance work and we thank Johan for his patience and understanding of our residents.

Buti Tsie, our new driver who has had many years of both driving experience and working with persons with disabilities. Welcome Buti.

WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR FARM

Our deepest and heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to Riaan and Kay and their teams from FNB, CEO's Volunteer Programme for their amazing care and support received.

They have chosen Cluny Farm as one of their beneficiaries for this year. They visited us in June bringing with them activity boxes, filled with material for knitting and crocheting, art and craft items, and books to keep our residents busy and happy.

They also provided each resident with a beautiful toiletry pack.

We are deeply moved by their interest, care, love and support.

Thank you FNB and all those involved

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Postema Family for the bequest that the Late Mr Henri Postema left Cluny Farm.

We think fond thoughts of Madelein at this time too and will ensure that our older persons programme benefits from this bequest as was requested by the family.

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The Department of Social Development (DSD) has requested that Cluny realign their Constitution with DSD requirements, to be compliant for their on-going financial support.

> This is being undertaken and once completed will be circulated and presented to the Board Members for their stamp of approval.