



THE OPEN CIRCLE 120-942-NPO

August 2020

Dear Members

It has been ages since our last communication. I hope you are all healthy in these very uncertain times.

Since the onset of the COVID 19, The Open Circle has needed to adapt to the changing conditions to ensure we keep our residents and staff as safe as possible. In accordance with the Department of Health's guidelines, safety protocols were put in place tailored to suit our unique needs. The undertaking of the day to day running of the home under new conditions has been admirably managed by Helita Mankahla, our Facility Manager, and the staff.

We thank families for complying with what has been a difficult time, particularly under the more stringent level 5 lockdown, and to the staff who have adjusted work hours and travel arrangements to meet these needs.

Needless to say, all these adjustments for COVID 19 have necessitated costs which were not in the budget.

On a happier note, progress towards projects to enhance The Open Circle has been made.

- **Vehicle:** We are the proud owners of a Volkswagen Caddy 7-seater thanks in part, to a very generous donation and a discount. This has made life much easier on many levels. We have one staff member driver and are looking for a volunteer driver with the necessary PDP (Public Driving Permit) who would consider doing weekly errands for us.
- **Containers:** Thanks to another generous donation we were able to buy 2 adapted containers which are situated at the back of the building. One will be used as a much needed occupational therapy space and the other as a storeroom.
- **Web Site:** Please visit our new website: www.opencircle.org.za . It depicts all aspects of the home. We are thrilled with it.
- **Beneficiary Cards:** The Open Circle is now a member of the MySchool card programme (www.myschool.co.za). By signing up or linking your Woolworths card and choosing The Open Circle as your beneficiary you will be raising funds for us at no cost to you every time you swipe your card. Several other businesses are partnered with the programme now as well.

We are also looking to grow community involvement in The Open Circle by inviting friends, family and colleagues to sign up for a quarterly newsletter or to sign up as a volunteer. This will enable us to widen the "circle" of awareness and community support. Anyone wanting to sign up should

contact Helita Mankahla (manager@opencircle.org.za) Please feel free to pass this letter on to anyone you think may be interested.

Members would have received a membership renewal email recently. We value your support.

In the next couple of weeks, the Management Committee will decide the best method for holding the Annual General Meeting, due to be held in September. Under current COVID conditions we may need to meet and zoom simultaneously. Members will be notified timeously.

Best wishes to you all.

Cheryl Barratt
Chairperson

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