



WHATZ-UP OC

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The last two months have been challenging, with a level 4 lockdown, taxi violence and having to implement our own short isolation period. Despite its challenges – our spirits have stayed high, and our programme jam-packed!



Our residents participated in their annual **Talent Show**, where they really sang and danced their hearts out, showing great sportsmanship and comradery. Families and supporters were unable to join live, due to our COVID-regulations, but participated via zoom and reported to thoroughly enjoy the show.



Music therapists, Kate Farquharson and Cara Smith, have resumed their services and have started with sessions twice a month. The residents absolutely love these sessions and we have seen significant improvements in communication, motor, social

and emotional skills; which assists us in reducing behaviour that challenges and provide the residents with an opportunity to express themselves. To assist with funding for this programme, please visit <http://www.backabuddy.co.za/toc-fundraiser>.

We have also partnered with **Oude Molen Stables**, who have agreed to do equine therapy with selected residents once a month. This is quite exciting for us, as the benefits of working with horses are endless, especially for our residents who are on the spectrum. All of our residents have received their first of the two **Pfizer vaccination** injections. This was no easy feat, and we are incredibly grateful to the staff at Alexandra Hospital who accommodated us so patiently.



Open Circle is a practice learning site, in partnership with the **University of Cape Town**, and welcomed two occupational therapy students for several weeks. We enjoyed having these

students who complemented our programme beautifully and will be missed by the residents. Attention was given to developing our staff, and we welcomed back Lezel Molefe, from **Molefe Legacy Consulting**, who conducted Diversity Training sessions. We are also still in the process of sending several staff members for lessons to achieve their drivers' licences.

We were also fortunate to celebrate our ladies for Women's Day, giving them a pamper session in partnership with the **Amy Foundation**, recognising the invaluable role they play in our organisation. A special thank you to the family members who donated luxuries for our staff to enjoy.



Birthdays, as you know, are very important to us and those that didn't go to family were celebrated in house. If you would like to "adopt a resident" and spoil them with something

special for their birthday, please visit <https://opencircle.org.za/how-to-help/#friends>.

We'd like to **thank Pure Legacy** for their continued support and generosity; as well as: our neighbours, **Friends Day Centre** for their donation of Pura flavoured water and the individuals who donated much needed linen and craft items. The **One to One event coordinators and WCFID** advised that the event has been cancelled again this year due to COVID, but sent some goodies for our residents to enjoy, which is really appreciated. We look forward to the time where we can join this special event again.

To see more of what we have been up to, please head over to our **Facebook page** (The Open Circle), or to our **Instagram account** (@opencirclegroup). If you or someone you know of would like to assist, please contact us at manager@opencircle.org.za or head over to our "How to Help" tab.

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