



CASA NEWS

No 80, June 2020

Casa Caritas is a Home that provides loving care and stimulation, either full-time or part-time, to people with severe intellectual and physical disabilities within our care protocol.



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A special thank you

Sister Retha Pienaar has been working longer hours for the past three months. She tirelessly ensures that the COVID-19 protocols are followed while the normal care standards for residents are maintained by the staff.

We salute you!



Update

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa's address last week, the CEO of Casa Caritas, Adri Kruger, announced that the current processes and protocols to safeguard our residents and staff will remain in place until there is a dramatic decline in the Coronavirus infection rate.

Parents are reminded of, and requested to adhere to the following visitation protocols:

- All visits must be booked at least 24 hours in advance. No appointment, no visit. We have limited space available and we need to sanitise the visitation area between visits.
- The duration of visits should not exceed 45 minutes.
- Only one resident at a time will be allowed in the visitors/sanitation area. They may be visited by parents or guardians only.
- All items brought in for the residents will be sanitised by a staff member on duty.
- Gloves and masks are always to be worn. Gloves are to be discarded at the end of the visit. Masks need to remain on for the duration of the visit, with the nose and mouth covered.

Adri expressed her empathy with parents missing their loved ones but confirmed that the health and safety of residents and staff is the number one concern.

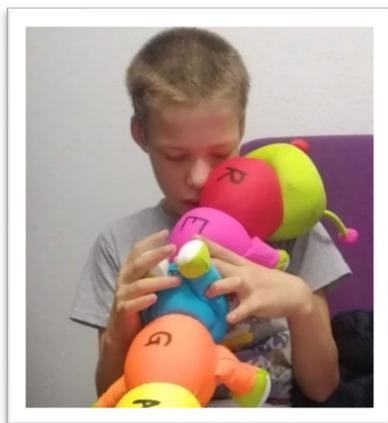
She thanked everyone for their patience and understanding during this difficult time.

The Casa Caritas Board appeals to parents to keep up with their monthly payments. The Home is continuing to provide excellent care despite the additional costs and strain caused by the pandemic. Our fundraising events have been cancelled and we rely on regular payments from parents and donations from the community.

From a parent's heart

Parents have written in to share their thoughts. Reagan Walkerley's mom wrote from Windhoek, Namibia:

In the absolute uncertain and challenging times we are currently experiencing there are a few things I would like to share. As a family that lives abroad, it is already difficult to cope with the emotions of being far from our son. The Covid-19 pandemic just brought on a lot more concerns such as whether the children, as well as the staff, will be safe.



Casa Caritas has stepped up to the challenge and outdone themselves. We were, and still are continuously reassured that all precautionary measures were put in place to ensure utmost health and safety protocols. Our children and the staff are prioritised. The isolation area was newly fitted to adhere to all regulations. Visiting hours and sanitising areas were also implemented.

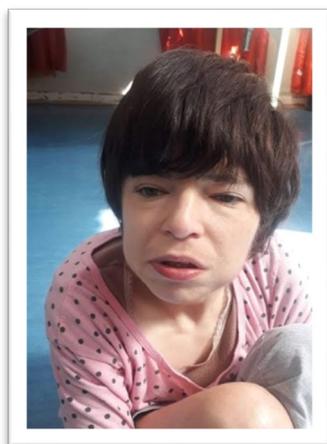
We also receive regular photos and updates on the general wellbeing of our son. This just goes to show that, although Casa Caritas is a business, the human element of empathy and understanding of a family's longing is very much present, which leaves a warm and comforting feeling in our hearts.

We would like to sincerely thank Casa Caritas for being our son's family when we are not able to, for giving him comfort and love as close to home as possible. The standard of excellence is clearly visible, keep it up!

Warmest regards, Marisa

Corne Claasen's mom, Elise, wrote (translated for English newsletter by Editor):

Our lives changed so quickly, in the blink of an eye. We have been seized from everyone and everything. We experience a stressful time with an enemy we cannot see even though it threatens humanity itself. We observe the havoc it creates with pounding hearts and raw emotion. People are losing loved ones and jobs. The economy is collapsing. We feel it creeping up and knocking on all our doors.



I think of my little girl at Casa Caritas who must feel in her heart that I have forgotten her and stopped loving her. If you could only know, my child, how mom's heart is aching and longing to see you.

Ek mis jou as die sterre skyn my Hemelkind.

Ek mis jou as die son opkom en ondergaan my Hemelkind.

Ek mis jou as dit onweer word, grys is buite maar ook in my hart my Hemelkind.

Ek mis jou elke dag, elke uur, in elke omstandigheid en in alles wat ek doen my Hemelkind.

We pray that the Lord will bring peace to our hearts and make us positive with the reassurance that He is in control. He planned our paths before we were even born and therefore, we can't lose hope now. We will find strength on our knees to withstand the power of this virus. We will be victorious in the might of our Lord.

Thank you to the angels of Casa Caritas. You will never know how much you mean to us. May God bless you richly. Thank you for the regular photos of Corne. We appreciate it very much.

With love, Elise

Stiaan Hattingh's dad, Riaan, wrote (translated for English newsletter by Editor):

Corona, Casa Caritas, Stiaan, and time standing still.

Corona became something so much bigger than ever expected for our family as for many others. Three months ago, we were prepared for a short period of lockdown which was then extended. There was a public announcement at the beginning of May that one of the companies we worked for will close permanently. We could live with all of that.



What breaks our hearts is that we haven't seen Stiaan for four months. He usually visits home every second to third weekend. We couldn't even see him for his birthday in April - Corona blocked that. Stiaan has poor immunity. With us still working and being in contact with many people every day (and believe me, Corona has knocked on our door a few times) we don't want to take the chance for a short visit at the risk of carrying potential infection into the Home. Not only for Stiaan, but also for the other residents and staff.

We deeply appreciate the strict protocols Casa Caritas implemented to protect our children. Our mobile phone batteries go flat from staring at the photos we receive per WhatsApp on a regular basis. We are thankful for each staff member who goes out of their way to stick to the rules. We see your sacrifice, and we appreciate you.

We are hanging in there and we keep hoping that we will see positive virus statistics soon. We keep ourselves busy by updating Stiaan's room to surprise him with a new bed when he can visit us again. We miss him terribly and we shed tears thinking of him. And we imagine that time is standing still, and that four months will feel like four days.

Regards, Riaan

Thank you for donations

Tony's Fruiterers, 5 Sims St, Pomona donated 10kg Shredded Spinach, 20kg Diced Pumpkin and 10kg Sweet Potatoes. Thank you very much!

ANG Group donated 100 Kg meat. Thank you so much!

Grow Fresh Produce Agents again donated various fruits and vegetables, received by our cook, Florence. Thank you very much!



Two friendly and generous young men from Nigeria, **Nelson and Osasere**, made a large donation of groceries. Thank you so much!



Gateway

The Tabitha Team from **Gateway Presbyterian Church** donated blankets for our residents for the winter. Much appreciated!



Arrow-Chem once again donated our monthly order consisting of Econo Dishwasher, Pine Gel and washing powder. Thank you!

Pure Hygiene Cleaning did the monthly sanitisation of the Home and outbuildings for free. Thank you!



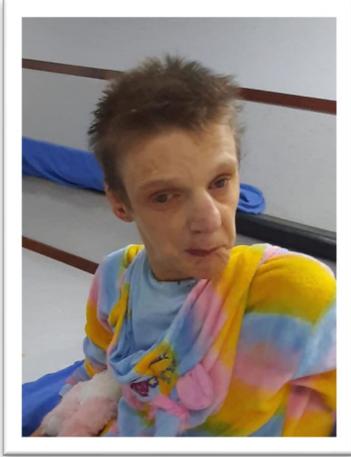
Robbie Robbertse has supported Casa Caritas tremendously over many years in various ways. He donated R120 000,00 at the beginning of lockdown, venison in May, and R30 000,00 in June. God bless you, Robbie!



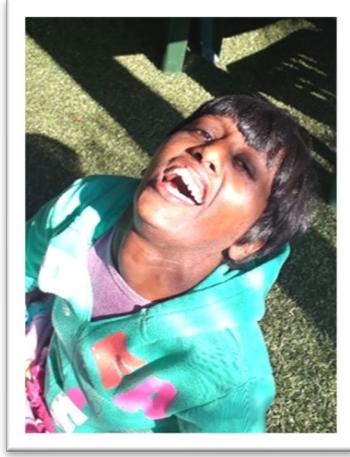
June birthdays

Happy birthday to the residents who celebrate their special day during June!

Marihona Steenkamp (44)
8 June 2020



Ronelle Pubalakan (25)
24 June 2020



Kyle Sutton (19)
21 June 2020

