



# CASA NEWS

No 117, October 2023



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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## Casa Caritas 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Casa Caritas celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event was attended by parents, board members, community supporters and other stakeholders. We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend and everyone who couldn't – thank you for your contributions in keeping Casa Caritas' standards and name high. We could not have gotten this far without you.

The late Mrs. Joan Muller founded the Home in 1973 and became the first CEO. Her son, Cornel Muller (right) reminisced about those humble early beginnings with eight day-visitors in the Maxwell Street House. Initially known as Kempton Park Home for the Disabled, the name was later changed to Casa Caritas and in 1985 the Home moved to its current premises in De Villiers Street where it has developed from strength to strength. The late Maggie Coetzee became the second CEO, followed by



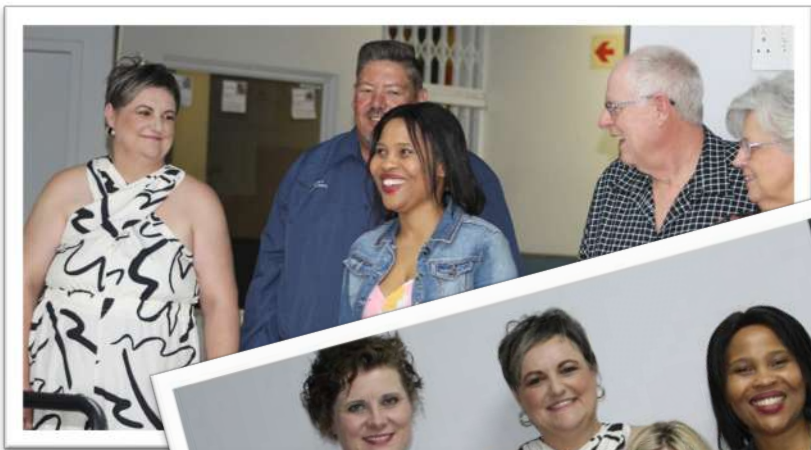
Adri Kruger and current CEO Chantell Kriel (left).



Casa Caritas celebrated its success story through the speeches of several board members. It has become a benchmark for other care facilities. The relentless work and resilience of staff, management and Board Members was

acknowledged. The loyal and generous support of local businesses and the community was also acknowledged in speeches by chairman Mark Naidoo and parents/board members Leon Grobbelaar and Claus Coetzee. The generous ongoing donations over the years have made it possible to operate, renovate, expand, modernise, and continue to give the best possible care at an affordable monthly fee.

**Our hearts are filled with immense gratitude.**

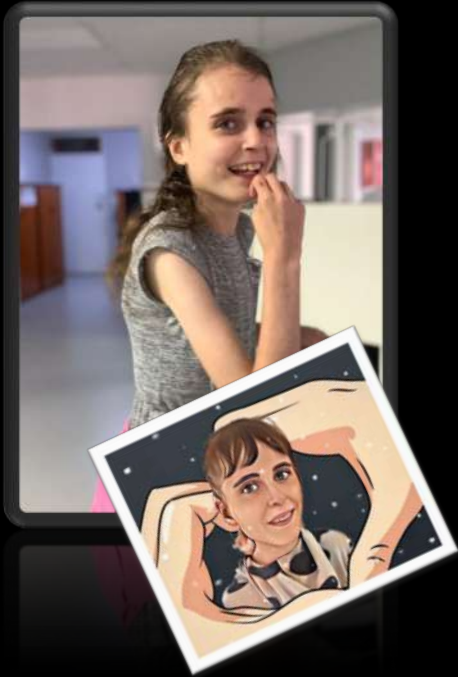




# IN MEMORIAM

It is with overwhelming sadness that we announce the loss of two dear people during the past month. Resident Lené Steynberg (19) lived at Casa Caritas since the age of four. We are missing her so much in the playroom. Sarah Chauke (59) was a Care Worker at Casa Caritas since 2000. We will always remember how much she loved the residents.

Our sincerest condolences go to the families of both Lené and Sarah.



## Welcome

This month we welcome Adelia du Toit in the position of Administrative Assistant. Adelia describes herself as a compassionate and giving person, easy to talk to and honest. She says her 13-year-old daughter is the love of her life and she deeply cares for her mom, dad and sister. She loves listening to music, doing art and watching various television series.





## Klipwep Dance

Casa kicked its 50th anniversary celebrations off in October with its 26th Annual Klipwep Dance fundraiser on Saturday 7 October 2023. We would like to thank everyone that made the evening a huge success. We were very happy with the outcome.

We would like to extend special thanks to Mr Robbie Robertse for his years of contribution for this function and always assisting with a top-class venue. Casa Caritas values the long-standing relationship with you and the effort you put into promoting our cause immensely.

## Solar energy at Casa Caritas

Last month we reported that we are up to something in our quest for the continuous improvement of our facilities. After struggling to operate during loadshedding for years, and through careful planning and budgeting, we have been able to invest in solar energy to make us less dependent on ESKOM. We need a continuous supply of electricity to bath and cook for our 40 residents, and to keep the laundry going. In winter keeping the home warm is vital. Solar energy will allow us to make our service delivery more consistent and sustainable.

The installation is in progress, and we should go live in the next week or two.



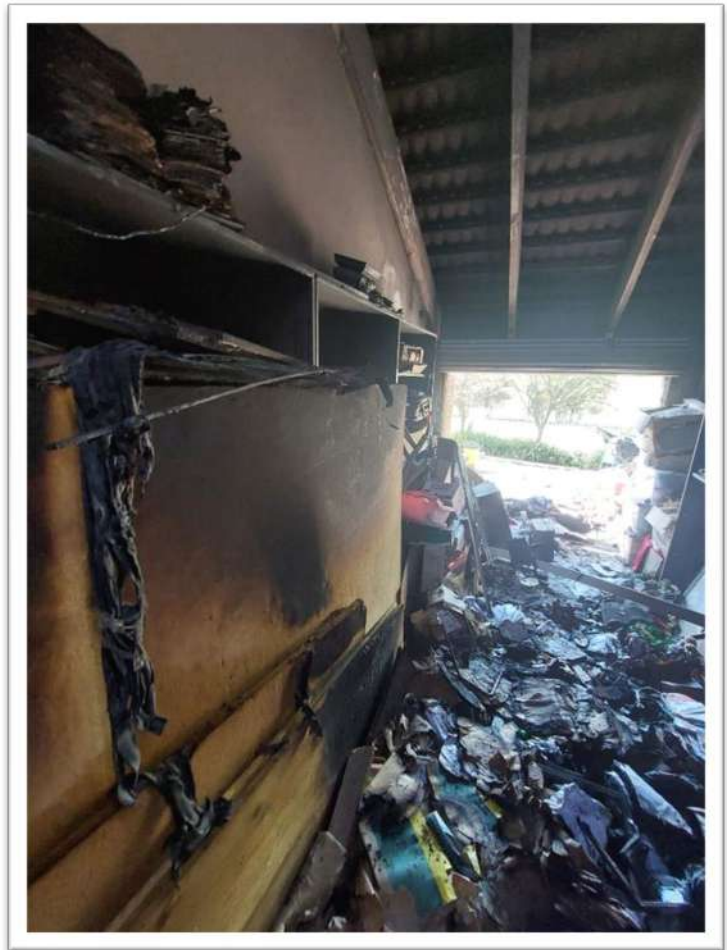
## Fire at Casa Caritas

On Thursday afternoon 19 October 2023, our garage caught fire. The Kempton Park Fire Department arrived within 15 minutes and contained the fire to the garage only.

Our residents were evacuated to the safety of the Maggie Coetzee Lapa within 5 minutes of sounding the fire alarm. We are grateful for the safety drills which prepared our staff to act swiftly to protect the residents. Our staff was debriefed by trauma counsellors on Monday 23 October.

Members of our community were on the scene within minutes and assisted us until late in the evening. They helped us to move and make beds for residents who could not return to their rooms for the night due to the potential risk of smoke inhalation.

Our second-hand shop, Something Blue, and our nappy/clothing store unfortunately took a beating through smoke and water damage. Our shop will be closed until further notice for repairs and restoration.



At the time of preparing this edition of Casa News the management team was still waiting on the official report from the Kempton Park Fire Department.

We are issuing thank you letters to everyone from the Greater Kempton Park community who came to our assistance after the fire. We tried to record all the names and numbers – if you do not receive a thank you, please bear with us. The days following the fire were chaotic. We appreciate and value absolutely everyone who came and who contributed and had us in their thoughts. We are humbled by your concern and generosity.

To everyone who came to assist us with our residents in the Lapa, thank you.

To everyone who donated water, nappies and groceries, thank you.

To everyone who assisted us with our laundry, thank you.

To everyone who lent us fans and sprayed the home with disinfectant spray, thank you.

To everyone that made donations toward fire restoration costs, thank you.

To the trauma counsellors that were here on the evening, thank you.

The nappies that were donated on the evening of the fire was a life saver after our stock got soaked. Cash donations further helped to replenish the stock. The residents' clothing and linen was soiled by smoke and water. Community members who assisted with laundry helped us tremendously to be up and running again. We asked for drinking water to keep the volunteers on the evening hydrated and we were overwhelmed by the amount of water that was received.

**Kempton Park, we thank you and we salute you!**

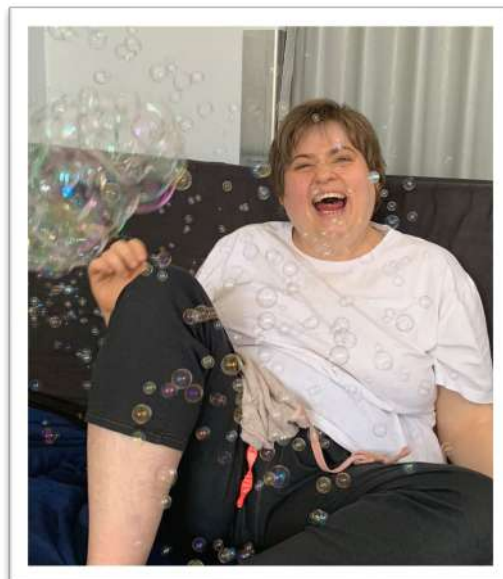
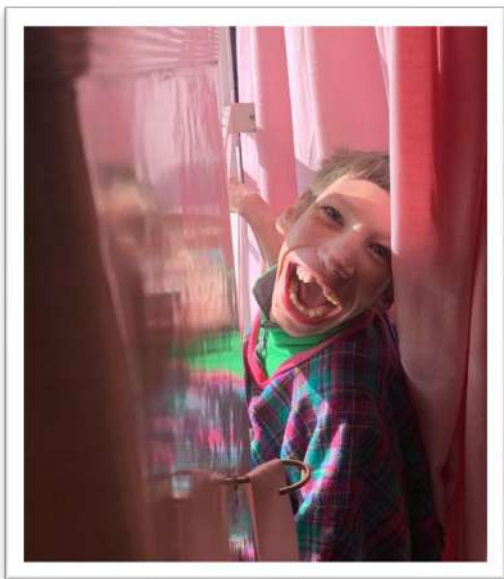


*On behalf of the parents, I would like to thank Chantell Kriel and her team of Casa Caritas employees who worked relentlessly to create and implement a contingency plan. You worked extremely long hours to keep our loved ones safe. To our Chairman Mark Naidoo and his wife Bunny who worked side-by-side with the Casa Caritas team, thank you. God bless all of you.*

*Claus Coetzee*

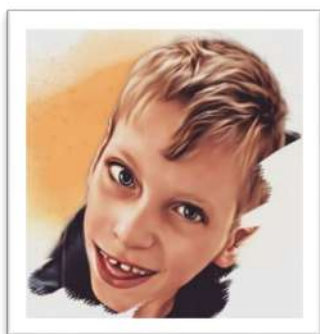
## Life at Casa Caritas

Amidst everything that has taken place during the month of October we still get to experience the unconditional love and joy that our residents bring to our lives. We look at them and realise how blessed we are, we take so much for granted. Danny Coetzee and Marzanne Grobbelaar's antics and laughs below show exactly what we mean. Our residents are content. That is all that matters.

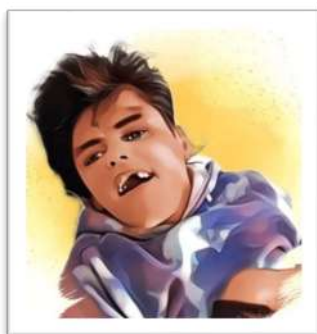


## Happy Birthday

Jaydee Holtzhausen (11)  
5 October 2023



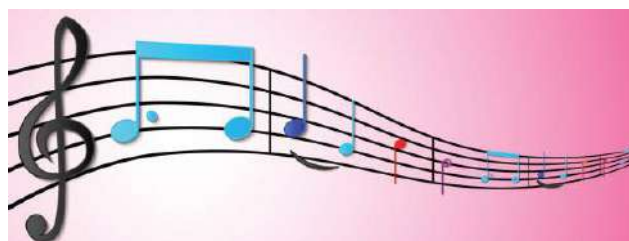
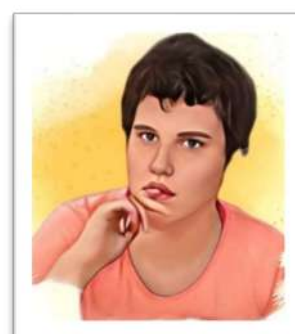
Amanda Nel (39)  
8 October 2023



Sammy Chauke (27)  
22 October 2023



Aimee Bagley (20)  
24 October 2023



## Classified advertisements

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## Angie Diedericks

### Suicide Prevention Program

**"THIS TOO SHALL PASS"**  
(King Solomon-1852)

This free program assists South African adolescents aged 12 to 18 years who have suicidal thoughts and are in crisis. It is dedicated to Angie Diedericks, who was only 16 when she, sadly, took her own life. Visit our website if you need help – you will find WhatsApp and E-Mail links to counsellors. Remember:

**ANGIE DOT ORG DOT ZA**



## VACANT ROOMS AT CASA CARITAS 24/7 CARE

We have vacant rooms for residents and open spaces for day visitors. Applicants must be 14 years or younger. The age restriction applies only to admission. Residents stay for as long as they fit into our care protocol – for most residents Casa Caritas becomes their life-long home away from home.

Applicants must be both physically and mentally handicapped. Each applicant is evaluated on merit. Apply to [ceo@casacaritas.org.za](mailto:ceo@casacaritas.org.za).

