

Special Guests, Members of the Board, Family Members and Members of Staff, Residents and Day Workers, we welcome you all to our AGM.

Jonathan Ballett – Chairman  
Clive Smedmor – Vice-Chairman  
Nomvula Nkabinde - Treasurer  
Barbara Miller- Secretary  
Philemon Komane – Vice-Secretary

As we look back on the year under review **April 2023 - March 2024** we find ourselves celebrating the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Hills Residence.**

When the property was made available for the establishment of an adult residential facility, it had become run down and neglected. It was the first lottery funding of R500 000 at the end of 2003, that made it possible to refurbish the old house, to redo the electrical installations and to upgrade the security, to provide a safe and pleasing environment for our first six residents and staff to take up residency in the old Main House on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2004.**

**“Novalis”** is the name chosen by the founder members **Freddie and Susannah Dörflinger**, when they established a home for children with special needs in 1976.

It is not clear why the name was chosen, but the definition that seemed fitting at the time of opening is **“THAT WHICH IS OF THE NEW AND WAITING FOR THE FUTURE”**.

As we look back, those who travelled along the road with us will recall the highs and lows, and the many challenges faced along the way.

Through the years, the existing dwellings were upgraded, and the infrastructure improved. In 2015, with a donation of **R300 000** from the **R.B. Hagart Trust**, the therapeutic workshop was converted into a new house for 8 residents, which increased the bed capacity to **37**. A special care unit was started, and additional staff employed, to provide a higher level of care and night monitoring for those who needed it.

The support from **NATIONAL LOTTERY DISTRIBUTION TRUST FUND** as it was known then, continued through the years for staff funding, general running costs, vehicles, generator, lawn mowers and tractor, recreational park, volleyball court, amphitheatre and workshop.

In **2017** the workshop programme was moved from Linden to Midrand to consolidate the activities of the organisation. The services of our architect, Warren Green, resulted in the beautiful design of the amphitheatre, dining hall and workshop and the approval of the existing buildings.

In **2019**, with the proceeds from the sale of the Linden property the dining hall and central kitchen was built.

In **June 2021** funding of **R 2 528 000** from the **NLC** was received, for the building of the new workshop, which was officially opened in **December 2022.**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The first subsidy from **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** was received in **2011** for the last quarter of the year. This “per capita” funding for both the workshop and the residence has continued through the years and has given financial stability to the organization.

#### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DISABILITY UNIT**

In **March 2021** – Toyota Quantum and Trailer

In **March 2023** - CCTV Cameras and solar Installation in the dining hall and workshop to ensure that the fridges and stoves remained fully operational during load shedding.

In April this year, the board of Novalis took a decision to add to this installation which now covers:

- Lights and TV plugs in Lavendar Cottage, Electric Fence – One phase, Security Lights, Office and Charity shop.

## **NOVALIS STAFF**

Although the physical infrastructure is of great importance, the compassion and the quality of care is our priority. It is the smiles on the faces of the individuals in our care that matter most. Many challenges are faced daily in this field of work, and it is the understanding and response to each one's special needs that make the difference in the lives of our people.

At Novalis we work as one team, and no-one's role is seen as less important than the other's.

It is **"On the Job Training and Support"** that helps us to understand the complexities of the work we do. It is the kind hands and words of encouragement of the carer that makes the difference in the lives of those we care for.

**We thank all the staff of Novalis** for their passion and commitment to this work.

We thank Sina, who continues to live in on weekdays and in her dual role of workshop manager and residential trainer, with her many years of experience in this field of work, continues to run the day workshop while giving support to the residential care staff in the management of difficult situations whenever necessary.

We thank the Team Leaders - Thato, Jeanette and Ethel, each one with their unique talent in this work, who see to the smooth running of the residence.

We thank our nursing sister Irene Cowley, who runs a weekly clinic and is called on when necessary for emergencies. Irene also

- Provides "in service" training of staff
- Oversees the administration and record keeping of all medication
- Advises on medical care for beneficiaries when necessary
- Provides referrals to doctors and clinics
- Accompanies residents to the doctor when necessary

Fanafuthi Pule, our social worker, joined the team in June last year. He works closely with Sina in the workshop, to gain understanding of the Novalis programs, and valuable insight into each one's special needs. Fanafuthi also provides psycho-social support services and works closely with the Department of Social Development to meet compliance.

We thank our Housemothers: Thembi and Joyce in the Main House, Salome and Elinah Yellow Cottage, Francina and Jeaneth in Lavender Cottage, Tiny, Pearl, Portia, and Nomsa in the Rose Cottage. Thandiwe is our permanent cook.

We thank our workshop staff, Rocky our Linden bus driver, who also assists with weekly shopping for the residence, submission of reports to DSD and various day to day tasks.

Joyce Zita works as an assistant in the day workshop, as well as relief housemother in the residence. Ellen, is the workshop and Linden bus assistant.

Stephen and Blessing see to the maintenance of the property, training and supervision of the gardening, recycling and home nursery team, and assist with collecting of our Woolworths donations

Rueben, Mthembu and Chris are our security team.

We welcome Ndivhudzannyi who recently joined our team as driver and general worker.

We thank our entire team for their compassion and commitment to provide a level of care that we can be proud of. Thank you to the team that has been so busy in the last few days, preparing for our meeting today.

## **THE DAY PROGRAMME**

### **WORKSHOP**

The work programme provides a structure for the day.

Some individuals love the repetitive nature of contract work. Others prefer to participate in the other activities of the day. For those who are no longer able to contribute to a full day's work, therapeutic activities are offered in a more supportive environment.

During the year under review the workshop was affected by a drop in contract sales. The sample bottles and test tube assembly work decreased after Covid, as the need for blood tests dried up and the government contracts ended.

Nedbank moved to an electronic option for the mailing of the Guide to the Economy and assembly of tap connectors is being done internally by Calibre Plastics.

The contract sales - **April 2023 to March 2024**, amounted to **R 82 930**, reflecting a deficit of **R 97 070** against the budgeted amount of **R 180 000**.

Nedbank Ltd – Mailing	1 555
Plastpro Scientific (Pty) Ltd – Assembly of sample bottles/test tubes	61 815
The Bespoke Amenities Company	19 560
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>82 930</b>

Fortunately, the work has increased **in the first six months of the current financial year**, with sales amounting to **R 86 832 from April 2024 to September 2024**, reflecting a small deficit of **R 3 168** against the budgeted amount of **R 90 000**.

Plastpro Scientific (Pty) Ltd – Assembly of sample bottles/test tubes	76 102
The Bespoke Amenities Company	10 730
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>86 832</b>

Other daily activities include:

**FOOD PLANNING AND PREPARATION:** Groups participate in the planning of the daily menus, shopping, and preparation of lunches and evening meals for the residence.

**MAINTENANCE:** Duties include watering of the gardens, raking of leaves, sweeping, and wood chopping for the winter fires.

**RECYCLING:** This activity provides education, stimulation and keeps those people busy who prefer to work outdoors.

A **GARDEN NURSERY** project has been started, propagating new plants from the Novalis gardens, to be sold in the Charity Shop or to be used to enhance the gardens at Novalis.

**SWIMMING, EXERCISES AND GAMES ON WEDNESDAY MORNINGS** –with our volunteers Janice and Bryan Maggs

### **SPECIAL DAYS**

#### **MANDELA DAY-2023**

- The management and staff from the **WOOLWORTHS STORES**, Crowthorne, Blue Hills, Cedar Square and Kyalami Corner provided a Braai and Fun Day and Food Donations.
- **HYDER PROPERTIES DEVELOPERS** came to visit and donated Blankets and Biscuits.

#### **MANDELA DAY-2024**

- **NLC** provided a most enjoyable event with **100** of their staff members attending, including the **Commissioner and CFO**. After a formal address at the Amphitheatre, a guided tour of the facility took place. A delicious lunch was provided by formal caterers, after which everyone enjoyed the music, dancing and games on the field.
- A generous donation of paint was received from **HYDER PROPERTIES DEVELOPERS** to paint the Amphitheatre in preparation for Mandela Day.

### **SPECIAL DAYS FOR RESIDENTS:**

#### **VALENTINE’S DAY BRAAI**

The Midrand Lions Club provided a great spread, fun and music and Valentine’s gifts for everyone on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

- **SPECIAL OLYMPICS TOGETHER WITH ROTARY CLUB OF SANDTON** provided a Fun Day at the Sandton Field and Study Centre. This is an annual event which is always very much enjoyed.

- **DSD SPORTS DAY** was held at Patterson Park in September this year.

### **FUNDERS AND DONORS**

We sincerely thank the **NLC** for their support throughout the past twenty years and most especially for helping us to achieve the building of our new workshop.

We sincerely thank the **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – SUBSIDY**

Funding received during this period in total – R 1 415 076

Workshop - R 336 672

Residence - R 1 078 404

The subsidy has continued during the current financial year, based on last year’s approved amounts. We sincerely thank our case manager, **Bilqeess Mohamed** for her valuable support and guidance.

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>
Fuchs Foundation	10 000	<b>Running Costs</b>
Hamish and Lorna Riddet	9 230	<b>Running Costs</b>
Kyalami Ladies Golfers	5 000	<b>Outdoor Picnic Table</b>
Woolworths Trust – Mandela Day	6 000	<b>Outdoor Picnic Table</b>
Woolworths Staff Collection-Christmas Party	5 600	<b>Running Costs</b>
Elinor Kern	3 000	<b>Running Costs</b>
Oppenheimer Daughters	2 500	<b>Running Costs</b>
Anonymous	31 500	<b>Running Costs</b>
Other	100	<b>Running Costs</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72 930</b>	
<b>STAFF GIFTS – DEC 2023</b>	<b>R 13 800</b>	

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Allocated to</b>
Hamish and Lorna Riddet	2 840	<b>Running Costs</b>
Anonymous	25 000	<b>Running Costs</b>
R.B. Hagart Trust	300 000	<b>Running Costs</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>327 840</b>	

### **FUND RAISING - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

We thank everyone for the support with the sale of tickets for the Cake Raffle - Dec 23	<b>9 635</b>
Woolworths My Village We thank our “My Village” supporters for swiping their cards when shopping at Woolworths and their partners – Builders Warehouse, Engen, Netstar, loot.co.za. Worksheet Cloud.	<b>10 512</b>
Eric and Merylyn Taylor established the Charity shop in 2019. We thank Glenda Rodd for her passion and drive to make this project succeed and together with Cathy Barrett runs the shop on Tuesdays.	<b>101 170</b>

### **FOOD DONATIONS**

- **Woolworths – Dainfern Square and Crowthorne Shopping Centre** - 2 X per week We continue to receive strong support with food waste from Woolworths, which greatly assists to provide quality of meals for the beneficiaries and staff.
- **Carlswald Super Spar Bakery** - 2 X per week
- **Johan van Staden** – Fresh farm Vegetables

## **OTHER DONATIONS**

- **GotGas** – Gas supply
- **Marion Rodd** - Christmas Cake for the raffle
- **Donald Weir** - Regular visits and takeaways for everyone
- **Fiona Scholtz** - Monthly DSTV contribution
- **Waterfall community** -Table tops
- **Harriet Steenkamp** - Beanies and Bedsocks
- **Janice Maggs** - Blankets
- **Tanc Scrubs** - Discount for staff uniforms
- **James Monteiro** – Laptop for the office
- **Various Donors** – Charity Shop items

## **VOLUNTEERS**

- **Glenda Rodd** - Charity Shop
- **Cathy Barrett** – Charity Shop
- **Mary Alden** – Nursing Sister from USA
- **Brittany Masters**– Book Shop
- **Midrand Lions Club** - Collection of donations from Spar bakery
- **Mike Rodd**- Piano on Sundays
- **Janice and Bryan Maggs** – Swimming and Games

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On behalf of the Novalis Family I sincerely thank our Board members, who are always only a phone call away, to offer guidance and support. Thank you for giving so generously of your time, for sharing your expertise, and for your ongoing commitment to serving on the Novalis board.

## **AMANDA ROODT - ACCOUNTANT**

We thank Amanda Roodt, our accountant of twenty-one years, for her valued financial and administrative advice and support.

**JOHAN VAN STADEN** – Who is managed the building of amphitheatre, dining hall and workshop and is always available to help with any maintenance needs.

## **OUR BENEFICIARIES**

We thank you for helping with the contract work, the duties, helping in the kitchen, gardens and the recycling, and helping your housemothers in your houses. Thank you also for the kindness that you show to those of your friends who need that little extra help.

It is you who show us how to be happy, despite the challenges that life gives us.

**PARENTAL BODY**, We thank you all for your encouragement and continued support, to help us to reach our goals.

**THE FUTURE** Although we continue to receive support from the Department of Social Development, the threat of cessation of government funding remains ever present. Alternative sources of income must be found to ensure sustainability should this become a reality.

The cost of human capital remains our biggest expense, but this cannot be compromised. The cost of maintaining the grounds, buildings and equipment remains high as well as the costs of our electricity, diesel costs for the generator, and security costs.

We remain focused on the growth and development of Novalis House and how to sustain the organization in the coming years, both financially and in strengthening the staff structure.

As we make every effort to find ways of meeting the ever-rising costs of running the facility, we ask you for your continued support for our various fund-raising efforts, Please help us.

- to identify **POTENTIAL DONORS**,
- to positively promote the organization, to fill the vacancies in our residence and workshop.
- to spread the word about the **CHARITY SHOP** which has enormous income potential. We welcome any donations of clothing, linen, household items, furniture and appliances etc.
- Please keep shopping and tell your family members and friends about **MY VILLAGE**. This very easy way to raise funds.
- to source suitable **WORK CONTRACTS** for the workshop. Most of our beneficiaries love this work and enthusiastically look forward to the working day when there is a steady supply of work.

#### **ANNUAL SHUTDOWN**

The workshop will close for the annual shut down on the **12<sup>th</sup>December 24** and will re-open on the **6<sup>th</sup>January 2025**. The residence will remain open throughout the festive season.

#### **YEAR END PARTY**

We look forward to our Year End Party later in the year. Once we have set the date it will be communicated to you. We hope to see you all on this fun day on our calendar.

Thank you for your attendance and thank you for your contributions to the eats for today's meeting. We invite you all to join us for tea after the meeting.

**Mary Owen - General Manager**