



Pharmacists do care!

This year SAAHIP (Cape Western Branch) again included St George's Home for Girls as their social responsibility project. The full Branch Committee endorsed this initiative and all members of the Society have been asked to contribute in various ways. We would like to thank all members for their donations of toiletries, cash and time over the past few months.—**GSB**

A PLACE CALLED HOME

There is great need in the Western Cape to assist the many children at risk. The St George's Home for Girls in Wynberg, Cape Town, is one such organisation that responded to this call. The Home has a rich legacy that dates back more than a hundred years to 1862 when the first child was taken in.

St George's Home for Girls is a registered Children's Home with the Dept: Social Development. In fact, it is currently the only residential care facility in the Wynberg District which provides for children who are abused, abandoned, neglected and orphaned. Children from failed foster placements and those with behavioural problems are also cared for.

By providing specialised care and education and teaching life skills to the girls within a secure environment, caregivers empower them with the necessary skills and knowledge to become confident individuals. Equipped with these vital tools the girls are eventually able to leave the Home and make a positive contribution to society.

In order to nurture the children, the Home strives to provide an environment that closely resembles a warm, loving and caring family home. The forty girls between the ages of two and eighteen are divided into four smaller families of all ages, each in the care of its own Child Care Worker. Overall care is provided by a Relief Child Care Worker and the Social Welfare Co-ordinator.

The girls are fully integrated into the local community. They attend schools in the surrounding areas, worship at a church of their choice, and are actively involved in extra-mural activities.

St George's Home for Girls provides a safe haven for girls in need. The Home plays an invaluable role in South African society and the staff and management remain dedicated and committed to ensuring

the continued wellbeing of the girls who have been placed in their care.

Background

During 1870s there were 200 orphans in the institution. Ms Mary Arthur opened a mission school at which some of the girls were trained to become teachers of the younger ones. On 19 December 1891 Ms Arthur died and Thomas Fothergill Lightfoot succeeded as the superintendent.

Plans were produced for additions to the St George's Orphanage and a new wing was opened by Dr William Marlborough Carter on 5 December 1917. The trustees of St George's Orphanage Cape Town sold certain pieces of land on which were situated Granite Lodge and the old St George's Orphanage, Cape Town. Granite Lodge was later used as a boarding house.

As the work grew, the institution moved from Granite Lodge to Scandia in Rosebank. HRH Princess Alice opened the Rosenbank Home. The Home moved later to Kincora in Claremont.

In 1970 the new home in Wynberg, St George's House, was opened by the Archbishop of Cape Town, Most Rev. Robert Selby Taylor. We have 40 girls at the Home at present. We are still operating from 5 Bute Road Wynberg today.

Activities

An appeal was made to members attending CPD evenings to donate toiletries for the girls at St George's Home. A similar appeal was made at the PGWC Pharmacist Conference held in Stellenbosch



on 24 and 25 August. Under the direction of Miche Joseph and Rene Lakey, members of the SAAHIP Committee and Pam Norton of the PSSA Office sorted and packed the toiletries into individual gift bags for the girls which were delivered Tuesday, 11 September.

An appeal was made to members to give 67 minutes of their time to St George's Home on 21 July, Mandela Day. A number of members led by Margaret von Zeil spent a day painting and renovating at the Home on a rainy Saturday.

When the weather had improved, our colleagues Irena Lukasiewicz and Alison Steinhaus from Groote Schuur Hospital visited the Home with Margaret von Zeil to brighten up the garden with some new plants. Margaret reported as follows:

'On Saturday 1 September, being the first day of Spring, as well as just before the start of Pharmacy Week, we spent a couple of hours gardening at St George's. We brought some pansies, compost and Irena brought plants from her garden as well, and after some digging, weeding and planting, the front entrance looked MUCH prettier, with pansies and marigolds planted on either side of the path. Two FULL bags of weeds were removed from the lawn area. There is plenty of more work to do on the lawn area and a lovely area set aside for a vegetable garden which would welcome helping hands.

'We had a great time and were pleased with the handiwork when done.'

Future activities

There are a number of appeals and activities planned for next year. These include Christmas gifts, birthday cakes, gifts and an appeal for school stationery, toiletries, clothing etc. We will keep you informed via *The Tincture Press*, newsletters and notices.

Once again thank you for your generous contributions to a good cause.

Gary S Black

Nelson Mandela Day – 67 minutes at the Home

SAAHIP and TNF ladies volunteered to clean up and paint doors and skirtings at the Home – amongst those who gave their time were Helen Hayes, Heli Moeng, Shamienga Geyser, Miche Joseph and Margaret von Zeil. It was a day well spent and one that the girls at St George's Home will remember. We hope that more members will join us for our next project.

