

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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In 2016 a group of registered surgeons in the private sector decided to launch a Mandela day initiative to honour the legacy of former president Nelson Mandela, by operating on patients desperately awaiting surgery. The hope was that this small gesture would change the lives of a few people who primarily depend on the heavy burdened South African state hospitals for relief of pain and disability.

Since 2016, this initial one-week charity drive has expanded into a full-blown Non-Profit Company. In the past 6 years, 569 underprivileged patients have been given the opportunity to experience a new, fully functioning life by receiving life-changing surgery. By doing this, we empower them to be absorbed back into the working market as contributors to our country's economy.

The procedures we perform are from various disciplines and includes, but is not limited, to ophthalmology, orthopaedics, arthroplasty, general surgery, urology, gynaecology, ENT and plastic surgery for skin cancer excisions. During 2020 we were forced to adapt due to minimal funding and our primary health care projects were born. Since 2020 our women's health clinics helped 256 women with Pap smears, contraception, and cancer treatment and during our eyecare days we screened 166 patients and dispensed 111 pairs of glasses.

Socio-Economic Development (SED) will contribute towards your company's spend for B-BBEE legislation.

Section 18a receipts are available for tax-deductible donations.

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

~**Desmond Tutu**

Where the money goes

OHH covers the expenses of the following medical services on behalf of its patients:

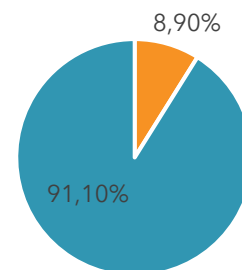
- Consultations and pre-operative workup.
- Surgery and in-hospital medication.
- X-rays and blood work-up.
- Medical prostheses e.g. hip/knee replacements, plates and screws.
- Post-operative follow-up, medication, and treatment.
- Post-operative rehabilitation, including physiotherapy or prosthetics, if required.



All the medical personnel involved, from the surgeons to the rehab teams, work pro bono while the private hospitals sponsor some of the theatre time and in-hospital stay.

The funds raised by OHH through grants and donations are used to cover consumables used, random medical expenses as well as the daily running of the project at less than 10% of the total company footprint.

Operational costs as a percentage of estimated total company footprint (financial years 2017 to 2021 combined)



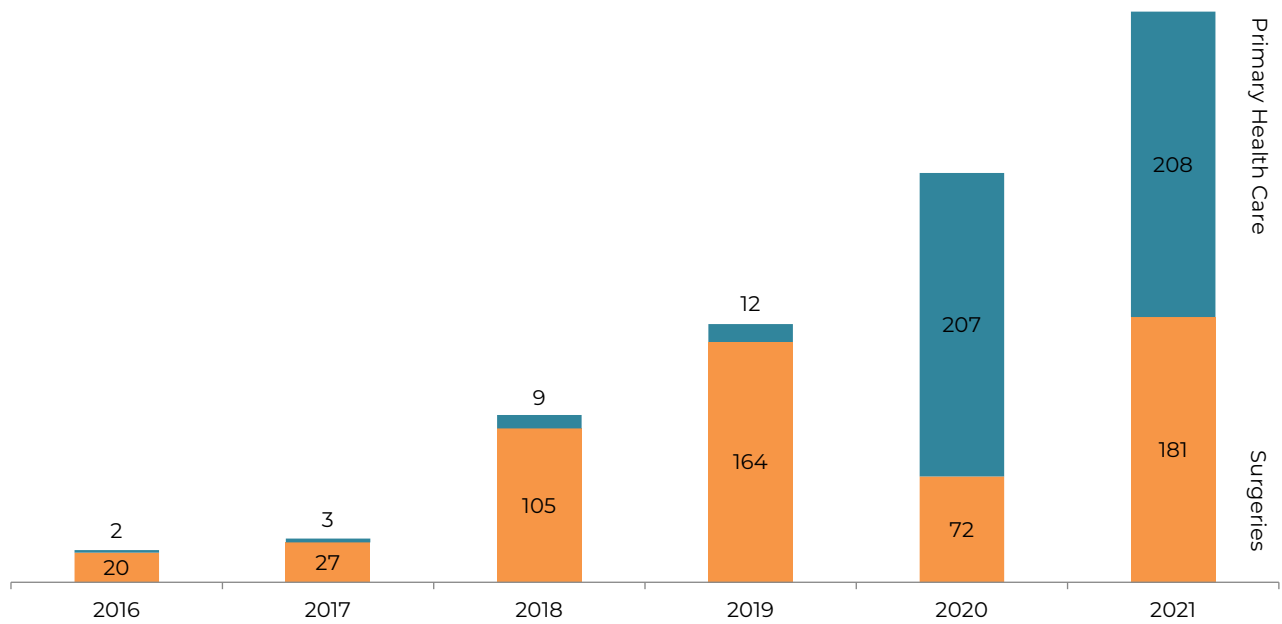
■ Company cost ■ Company footprint



“We each have our part to play in the time that is available to us, and for all of us the road of life is different. We sometimes need a helping hand and we sometimes have one to offer. No one of us can change the world on our own, but by each giving something that is available to us or within our reach, we can help change the life of someone that really needs a healing hand.” ~Dr Helene Basson, Founder and CEO

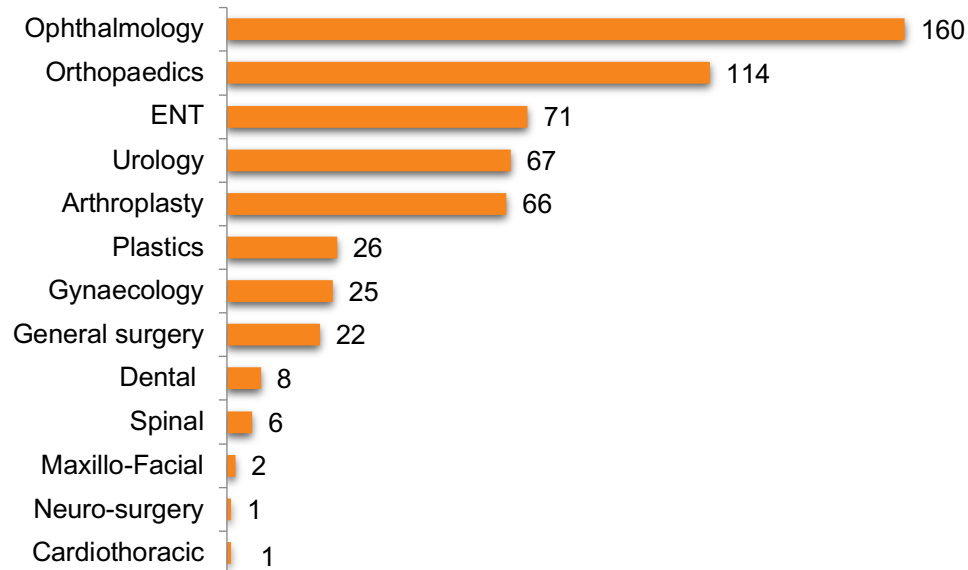
Statistics

Project growth (number of new patients)

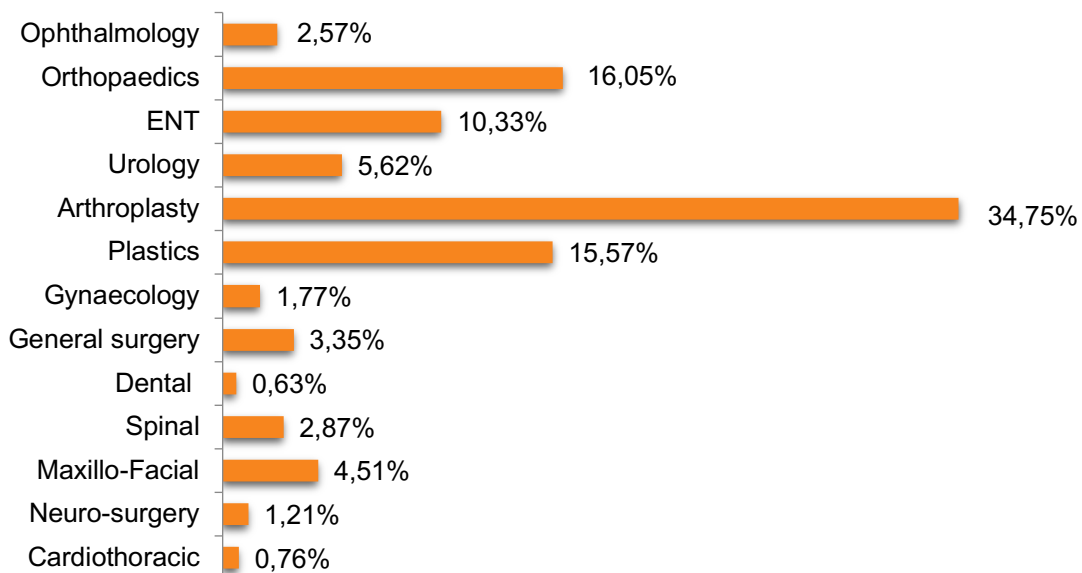


Follow-up surgeries and primary care clinics excluded

Disciplines (number of patients) since inception

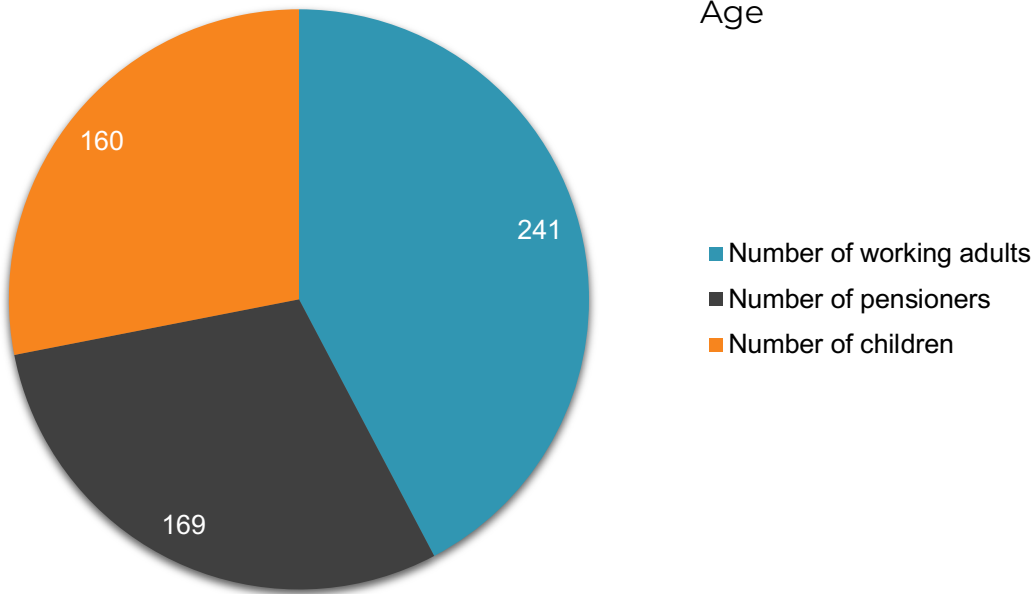


Share of spend since inception

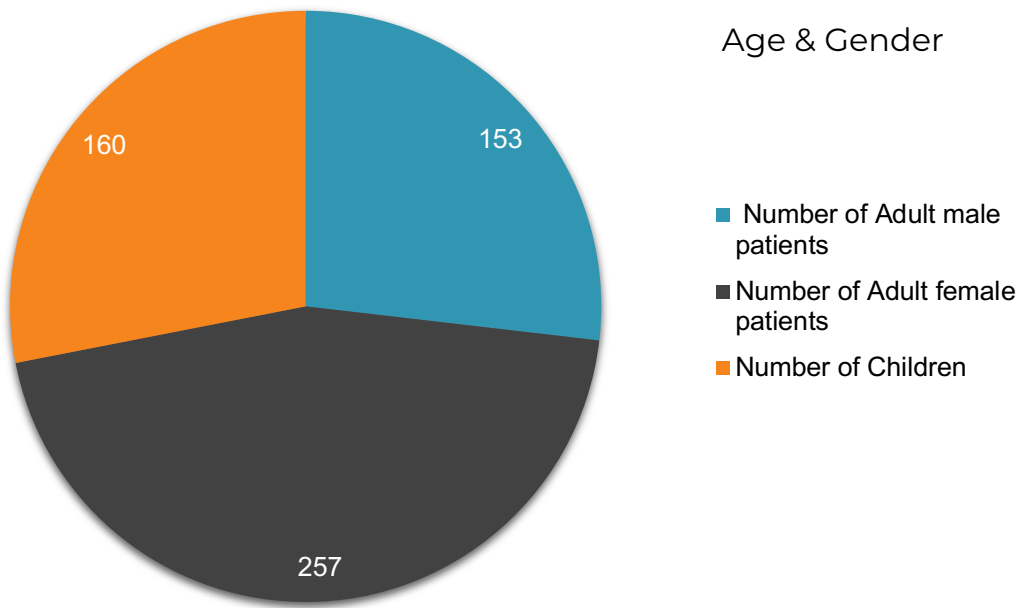


2016-2021 Statistics – Primary Care Patients Excluded

Age



Age & Gender





MP Joint Replacements Right Hand

Kerry McNamara

At 18 years old, Kerry McNamara's whole future lay ahead of her – bright and full of promise. After matriculating, Kerry planned on becoming a chef, contributing to the world by creating delicious dishes and making marvelous meals with her hands. Kerry's dreams, however, were shattered by a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis in her final year of school.

In rheumatoid arthritis, the body's immune system attacks its own tissue – including the joints. Over long periods of time, the inflammation associated with rheumatoid arthritis can cause bone erosion and joint deformity.

For Kerry, this meant that her dreams of working with her hands would not come true. As rheumatoid arthritis in Kerry's body got progressively worse, she lost function in both her hands despite medication. Not only could she not use them, but her hands hurt and living in a constant state of pain made Kerry's life unbearable. Kerry also experienced that people were unkind upon seeing her deformed fingers, which greatly damaged her psyche. However, Kerry was blessed with a fighting spirit and refused to give up. She applied to Operation Healing Hands and got approved for surgery in 2019. What a relief that was after previously being waitlisted (and having her surgery cancelled) at a government hospital. Then Covid-19 hit, and Kerry's OHH surgery became one of the casualties of this pandemic. As an organization, OHH scrambled to stay afloat in the difficult times that everyone nationwide was suddenly experiencing. Luckily, Kerry's story does not end here.

Thanks to OHH and their partners, Kerry in 2021 – at the age of 43 – finally received four MP joint replacements for her right hand's fingers.

Kerry is looking forward to a pain and embarrassment free life doing what she loves – reaching the lives of others by using her hands.



Sharlene Coopposammy

Bilateral Foot Surgery & Total Left Hip Replacement

On Friday, 16 April 2021, OHH patient Sharlene Coopposammy underwent soft tissue release and

tenotomies for her feet deformities with Botox infiltration and surgery at Zuid-Afrikaans Hospital. This was the first step in helping Sharlene get her life back after she was run over and dragged by a municipal bus for almost a block and sustained life-threatening injuries as a result. Sharlene also finally received a Total Hip Replacement on 27 September 2021 at Life Eugene Marais Hospital.

The accident happened in the Pretoria CBD in October 2019, as Sharlene was on her way to work at a sweet shop in the city. She clung to life and, after five months of care in the State Hospital, went home. The wound care was excellent, with skin grafts that healed well.

However, her pelvis, broken in three places and dislocated hip, were never mended, and as a result, she cannot bend her hip. Her feet have also been impacted, making it impossible for her to walk. As a result, Sharlene has been bedridden since the accident - unable to support herself and her pensioner mom, Sylvia Naidoo. The State Hospital has advised that it would be years before she would get the necessary surgery, and pain management is all they can assist her with. Sharlene's biggest wish was to work and earn a living again.

Without medical aid or the means to pay for private care, Sharlene would not be able to walk again. This is where Operation Healing Hands came in.

After being contacted by Jacaranda FM's Good Morning Angels, the team at OHH jumped at the opportunity to help Sharlene through multiple surgeries. Accident Angels came on board with funding, and just like that, Sharlene is on her way back to normalcy. October 2021 saw Sharlene taking her first steps in almost three years, and currently she is self-sufficient and applying for work to restart her career.



Lip Reconstruction and Flap

Lesedi Mtungwa

Four-year-old Lesedi Mtungwa was facing a future full of struggles due to injuries sustained when she burnt with boiling water when she was very little.

As is the case with so many South African families, Lesedi's family could not afford the kind of medical care their young daughter needed. Luckily, OHH and their partners stepped in and changed Lesedi's life in this case.

One of OHH's surgeons performed reconstruction surgery on little Lesedi's face on 27 August 2021, which gave a little girl back her life!

But this surgery was extra special since it was also OHH's 500th pro bono surgery since our inception in 2016. What an exceptional operation to celebrate as our 500th!



Circumcision Drive

Traditional male circumcision is regarded as a sacred, indispensable cultural rite of passage to many young South Africans. Each year, thousands undergo circumcision as part of their initiation into manhood.

Professor Kevin Behrens from the University of the Witwatersrand's Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics says many of these initiates develop medical complications. Tragically, after circumcision, many require treatment for complications such as septicaemia, gangrene, severe dehydration, and genital mutilation.

In 2019, in association with Advanced Health Day Hospitals, OHH started an initiative that provides an alternative to traditional circumcision to boys needing the procedure as part of their heritage and culture.



A simple circumcision may seem like a small operation, but it truly makes a lasting impact on the young lives of patients who can now be proud of their traditions while ensuring their safety.

The first ten circumcision patients were operated on in June 2019, with another ten helped in July, during OHH's Mandela Month campaign. Due to restrictions imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19, only eight boys were able to be helped in 2020. However, these boys' mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sister were also given the opportunity to have their health checked through our Women's Clinic.

We continued the tradition in 2021 and were able to circumcise 24 boys medically and safely with this small operation that will make such a BIG difference in their lives.

"A recent report by South Africa's Commission for Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities calculated that in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo provinces alone at least 419 boys have died since 2008, and more than 456,000 initiatives have been hospitalized with complications."

~The Guardian - Aug 2014



Left Cubital Tunnel Release

Peter Psaros

Peter Psaros is a young musician who has been playing the guitar from a very young age. Many well-known artists recognized Peter's talent and hired him as a session musician on their albums and tours.

Around that time that the Covid 19 pandemic hit, Peter developed cubital tunnel syndrome. This meant that he was losing function and grip in his hand and would therefore not be able to play his instrument. As Covid also claimed Peter's business, his only form of income at the time, he could not afford the cubital tunnel release surgery required to give him back the use of his hand and talent.

Operation Healing Hands came to Peter's aid with free cubital tunnel release surgery. After a few months in recovery, Peter was able to play like a pro again and was hired to play on the new Richard Anonymous hip-hop album. Peter calls this surgery the miracle of his lifetime.

Operation Healing Hands did not only give Peter back the use of his hand but enabled him to live his passion once again.





WALANT

WALANT is an acronym for Wide Awake Local Anaesthesia No Tourniquet. A surgery that is done using the WALANT technique is done without anaesthesia. Not only are procedures performed this way more affordable, but patients also recover from them more easily.

In the last year, Operation Healing Hands – in partnership with Triomf Clinic - changed the lives of many patients using the WALANT technique. These WALANT surgeries performed by our team included trigger finger, carpal tunnel and De Quervain's release procedures.

OHH hopes to continue the partnership with Triomf Clinic and other sponsors, who made many of these procedures possible to change the lives of the less fortunate in a less invasive way. 23 Patients, some with bilateral procedures, were helped during 2021.





Strabismus Repair

Edward Mzizi

Another young life that was changed by Operation Healing Hands this past year is that of Edward Mzizi. Edward desperately needed strabismus repair surgery for his eye to improve his appearance and avoid the cruel teasing of other children at this school.

Edward's mother could, however, not afford the procedure on her domestic worker's salary. Friends describe Edward as a hardworking and likeable young man, and a mother at his primary school took it upon herself to help Edward. She suggested that he apply for help from Operation Healing Hands and the rest is history.

Edward's surgery was done just before he was accepted in Afrikaans Boys High School, and his mother was extremely grateful that he could start high school with a clean slate.

Edward's operation took place at Advanced Health Day Hospital, where young Edward received five-star treatment - as always.

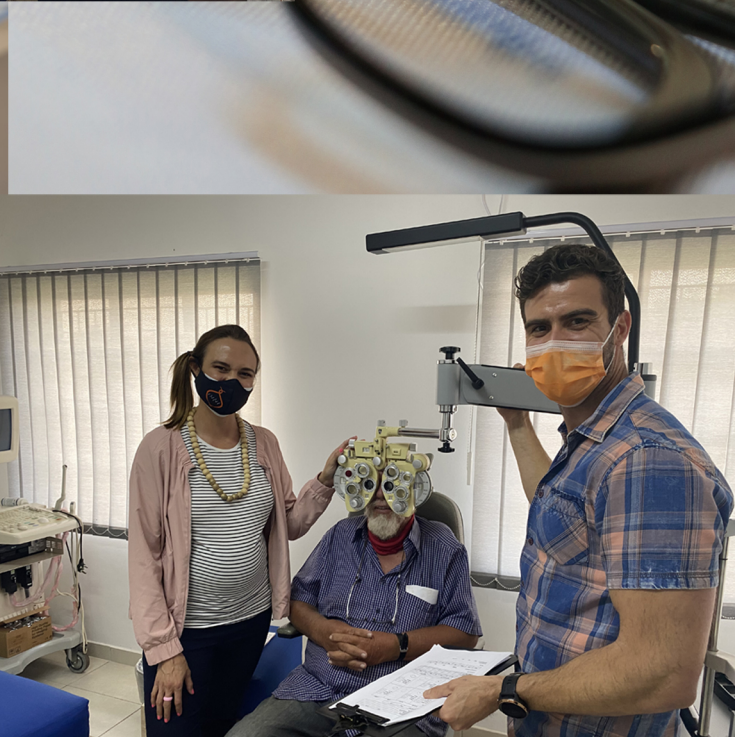
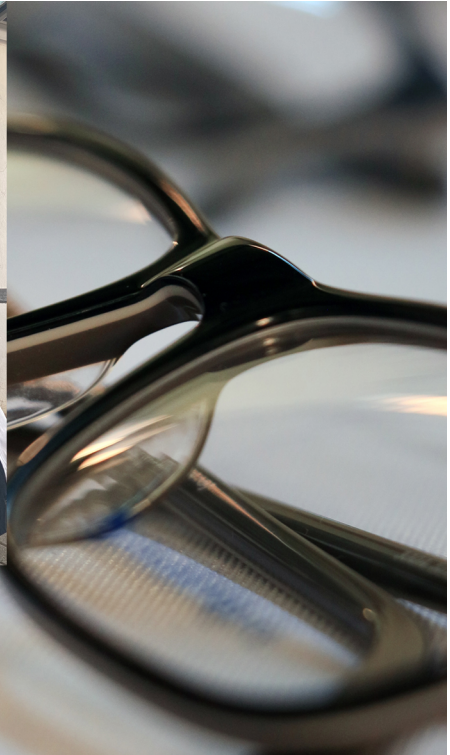




Free Eye Care Clinic

OHH's Annual Eye Clinic is fast becoming one of the organisation's great success stories. Every October, National Eyecare Awareness Month, OHH aims to improve as many lives as possible by providing much-needed eye care to the less fortunate. October 2021 was no different.

On Saturday, 16 October, OHH's free Eye Clinic at Triomf Clinic changed the lives of many. 79 Eye tests and screenings (which included basic health screenings and referrals for further help or surgery) were done, and 46 pairs of spectacles were gifted.





ENT Project

ENT procedures are one of the most needed surgeries for young children. Although these procedures are considered relatively simple, children with recurrent ear and throat infections are chronically ill and can develop hearing and breathing difficulties, making this one of the surgical procedures with the biggest impact on quality of life.

In the past year, thirteen young patients' lives were changed for the better through adenoidectomies and tonsillectomies. Ear toilets (the cleaning of the inner ear) were also performed, and grommets were inserted.

Two new partner hospitals, Club Surgical and CURE Day Hospital, joined the team for these ENT procedures. At the same time, long time sponsors Smith & Nephew and Surgical innovations stepped up to make the procedures possible.







Blood Drive

What started as a challenge to all our OHH friends and supporters to donate blood in November 2020, has now become a standing arrangement with our OHH team regularly getting together - with friends and supporters - to give the gift of life.




WE NEED HELP!


OUR CEO
Dr Helené Basson has landed herself in a bit of a pickle

**WE NEED THE BLOOD OF
TEN DONORS
TO GET HER RELEASED**

20 NOVEMBER 2021

9AM-2PM @SANBS HATFIELD



Women's Month

In August 2020, Operation Healing Hands joined the rest of South Africa by focusing on women, specifically women's health, during National Women's Month. It has since become an annual project.

The aim of OHH's Women's Month campaign is to create awareness of women's health issues and provide free care to women in need.



On Saturday, 14 August, OHH's Women's Clinic aimed to provide 100 Pap smears to women from all walks of life. A Pap smear is a procedure to test for cervical cancer in women, and while a Pap smear lasts 5 minutes, the impact of cervical cancer lasts a lifetime. By screening these women free of charge, OHH aimed to achieve early detection of any issue they might have.

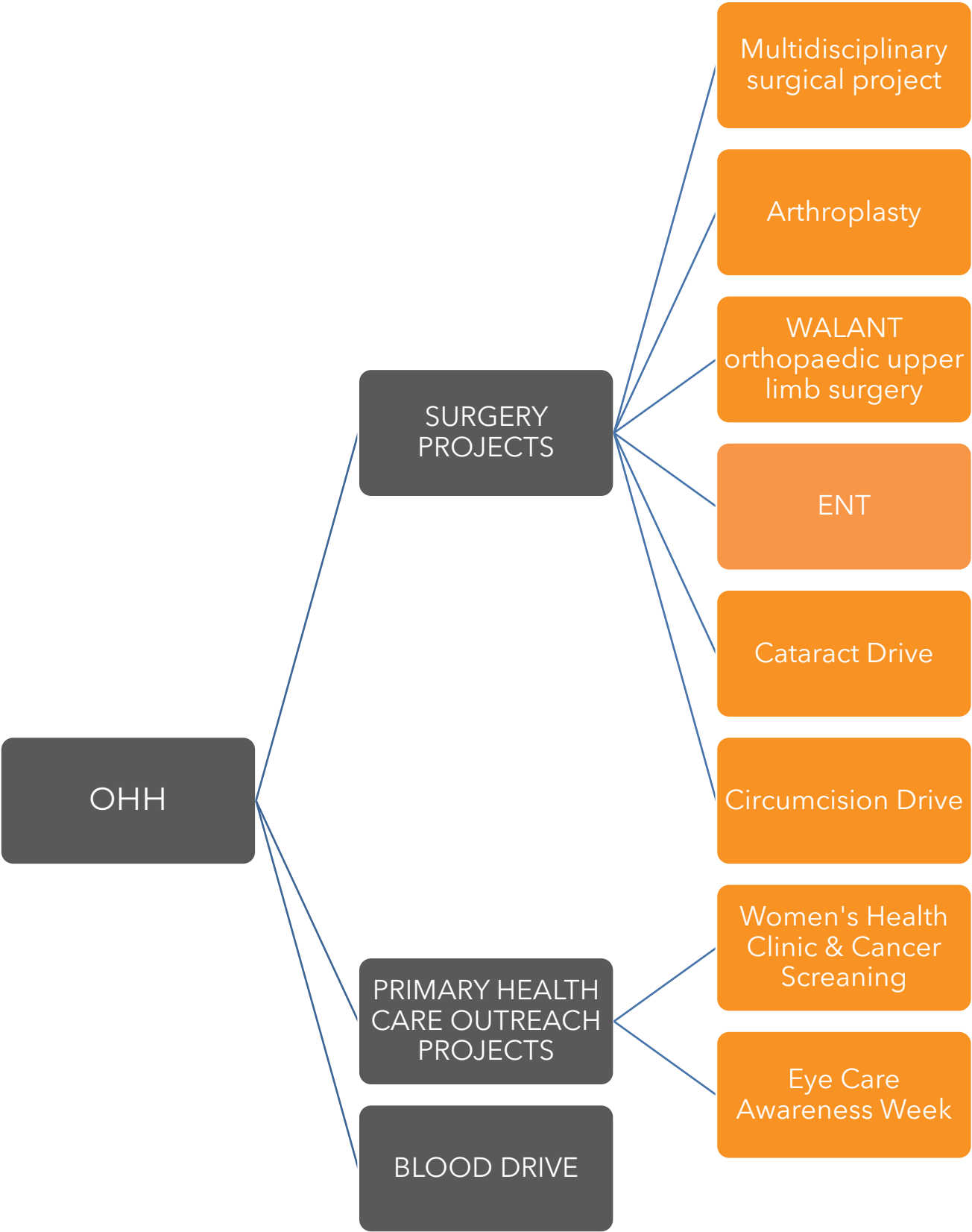
On the day, 77 women arrived, and despite the intimate nature of the procedure, there were smiling faces all around.

5 Women presented with early cancerous lesions that we were able to fully treat.

OHH intends to repeat this screening day for women's health in the years to come and make a much-needed difference in the lives of underprivileged women.

- A Pap smear is a procedure to test for cervical cancer in women. A Pap smear lasts 5 minutes. The impact of cervical cancer lasts a lifetime.
- Cervical cancer is the 2nd most common cancer among South African women. The incidence rate of cervical cancer in South Africa is reported between 22.8 and 27 per 100 000 women as compared to the global average of 15.8.
- Annually there are some 5 743 new cases reported with 3 027 associated deaths in South Africa.
- Women have a 1 in 35 lifetime risk of cervical cancer (NCR 2016).
- According to the WHO if by 2030, 90% of girls are vaccinated against HPV, 70% of women receive Pap smears and 90% of those diagnosed are treated, we can eliminate cervical cancer and save up to 2 million lives by 2040.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



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