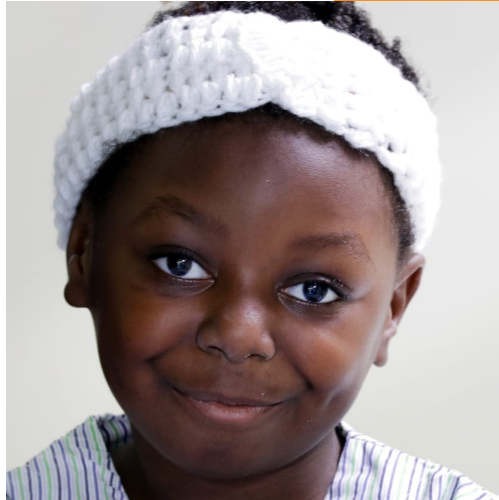


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

NPC NUMBER: 2016/180180/08 | PBO NUMBER: 930062576

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

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



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 heavily 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 7 years, 931 underprivileged patients have been given the opportunity to experience a new, fully functioning life thanks to the life-changing surgery they received. These surgeries empower patients to be absorbed back into the working market as contributors to our country's economy.

The procedures performed are from various disciplines and includes, general orthopaedics, joint replacements, general surgery, urology, gynaecology, ENT, paediatric cardiology, ophthalmology and plastic surgery for skin cancer excisions.

During 2020, OHH was forced to adapt due to minimal funding and our primary health care projects were born. Our Women's Health clinics helped 534 women with Pap smears, contraception and cancer treatment. OHH's Eye care projects saw 197 patients screened and 131 pairs of glasses dispensed.

We are looking forward to making an even bigger difference in 2024.

"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.
- In-hospital treatments, X-rays and medication.
- Post-operative follow-up, medication and treatment.
- Post-operative rehabilitation, including physiotherapy or prosthetics, if required.

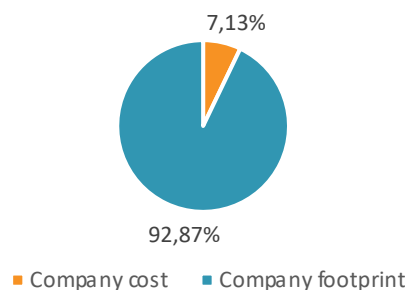
All the medical personnel involved, from the surgeons to the rehab teams, work *pro bono* while the private hospitals sponsor most of the theatre time and in-hospital stay.



X-rays, blood workup and other special investigations by respective service providers are also done for free. At the same time, relevant medical companies sponsor the prostheses such as hip and knee replacements and other implants.

Therefore, 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 (2017 to 2023 combined)

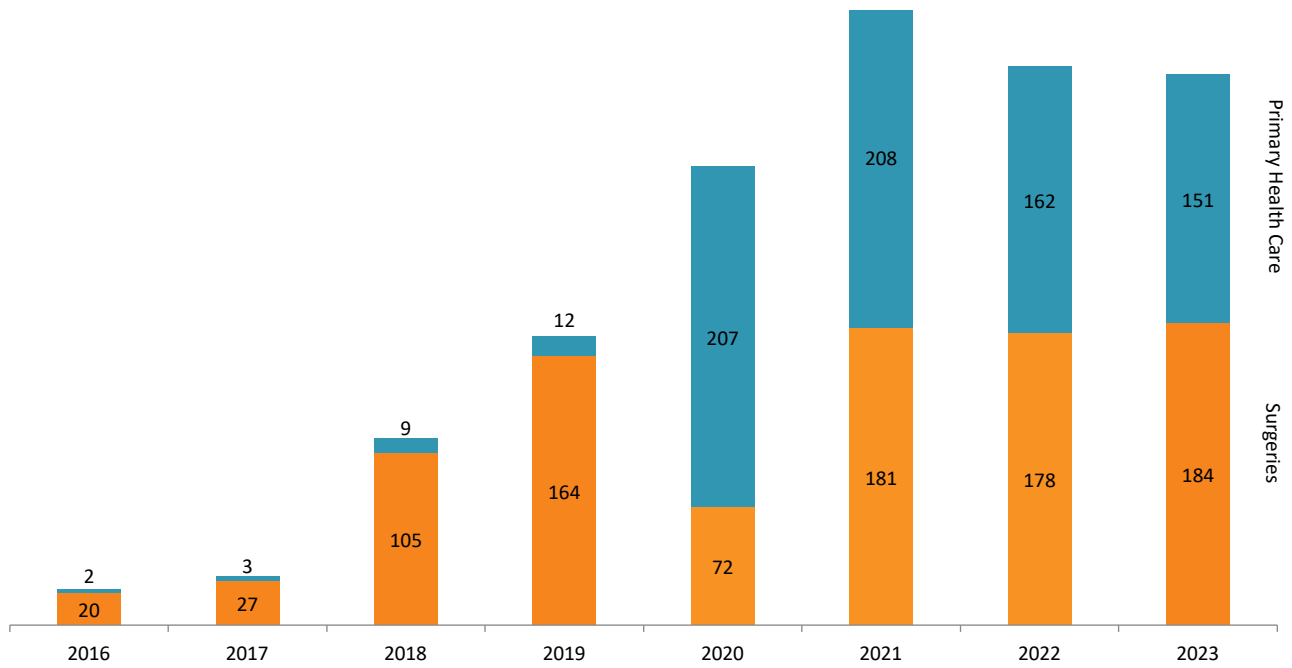


Your purpose is not the thing you do. It is the thing that happens in others when you do what you do.

~Jade Simmons

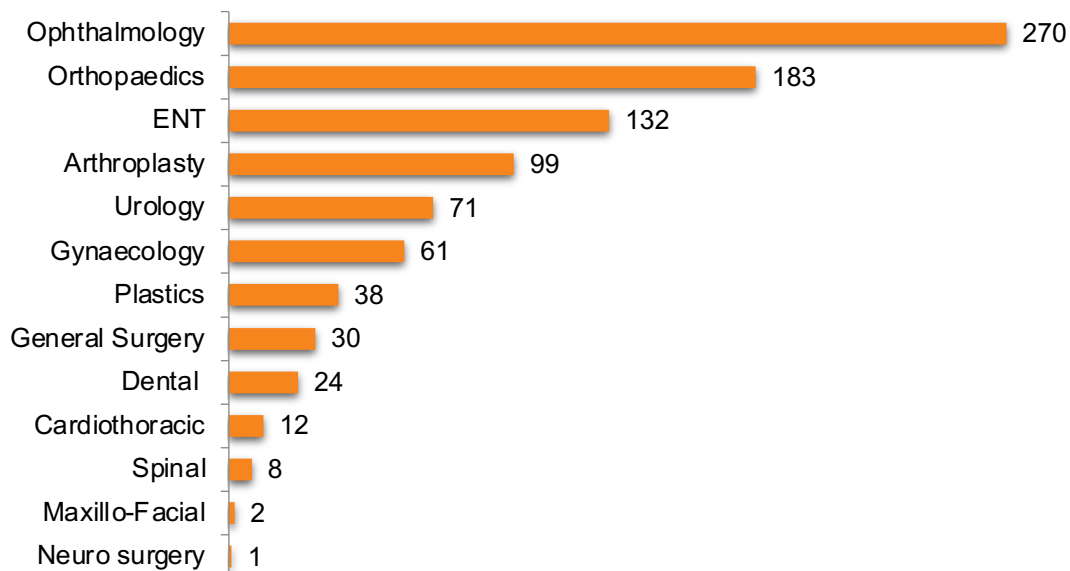
Statistics

Project growth (number of new patients)

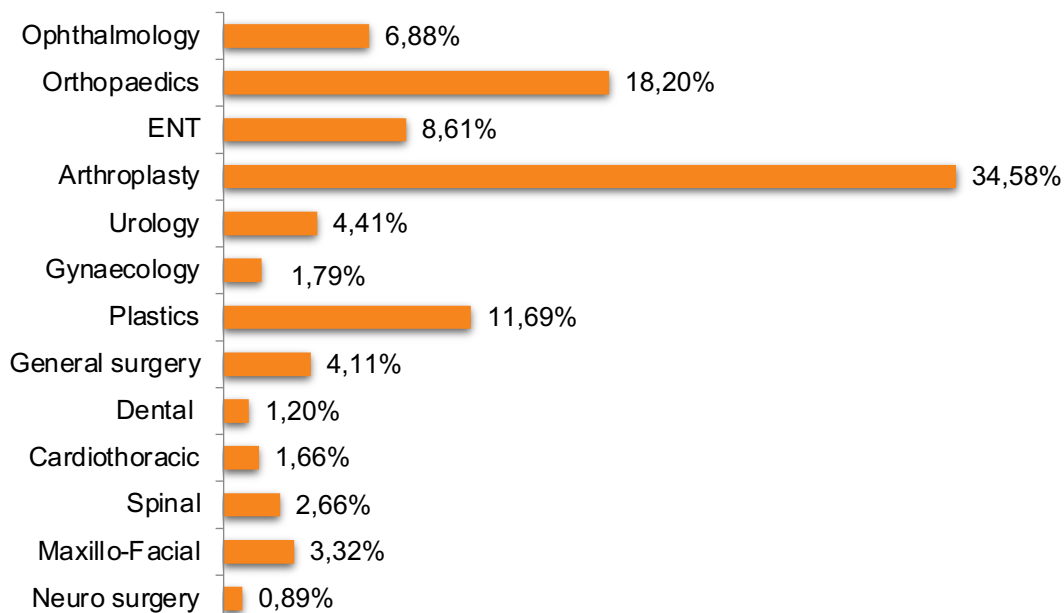


Follow-up surgeries and primary care clinics excluded

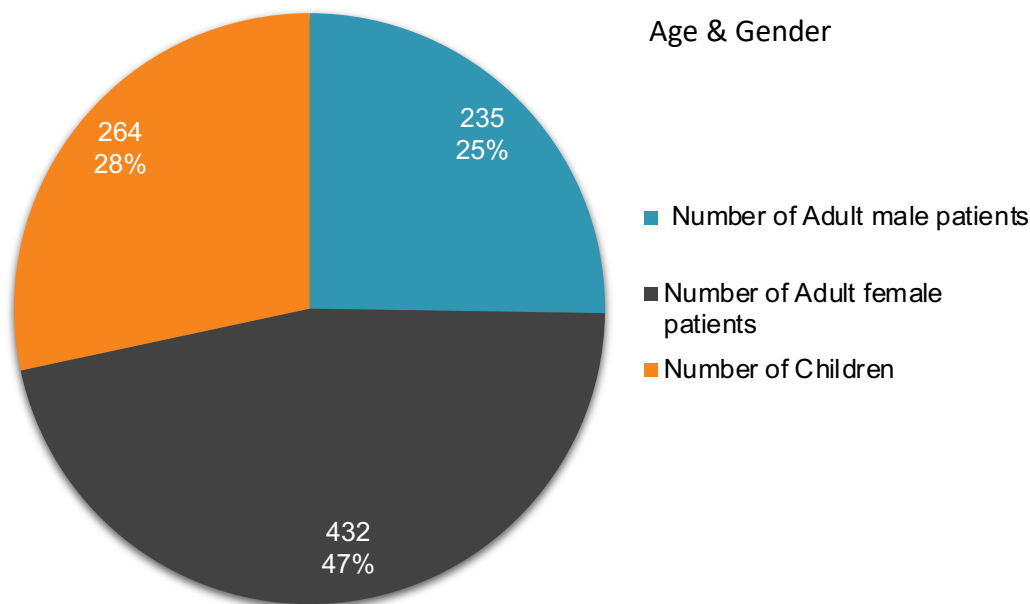
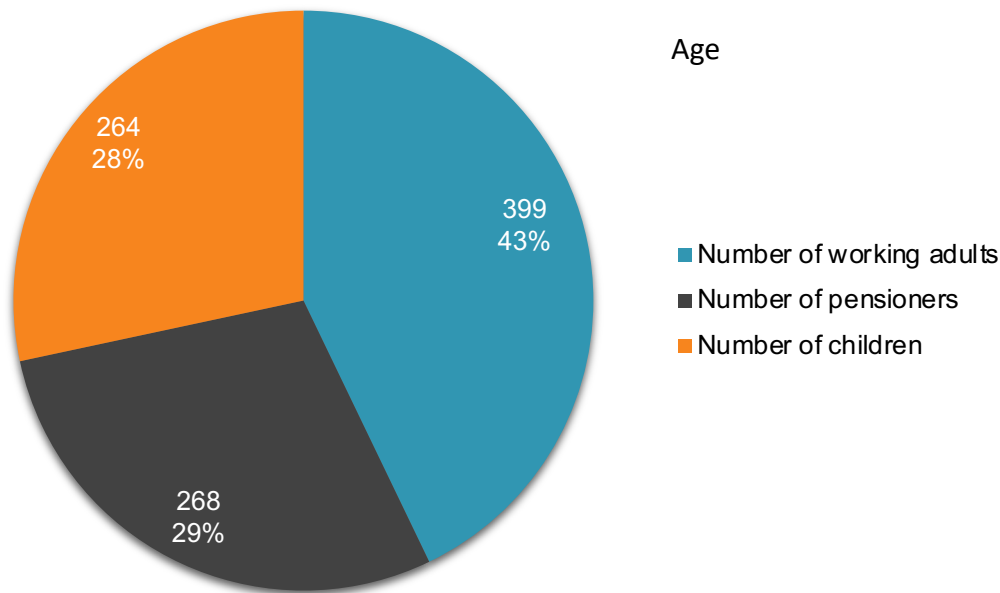
Disciplines (number of patients) since inception



Share of spent since inception



2016-2023 Statistics – Primary Care Patients Excluded





Left total hip replacement

Elmarie Bouwer

9 June 2022

My name is Elmarie Bouwer. I was on crutches and in a wheelchair for years until I got into contact with Operation Healing Hands in July 2020. I was in excruciating pain for many years. Through the owner of an Equestrian Centre in the Western Cape, I got the details of Dr. Helené Basson, sent her an email and explained my situation of not having a medical aid. I had total loss of mobility due to cartilage deterioration in my right hip and I was in extreme pain. I also informed her that I would be attempting to obtain a World Record for Wheelchair users in The Wheelchair Combi Dance World Record.

I went through the whole ethics sifting process, got accepted for surgery and then, due to Covid, all elective surgeries got cancelled, and mine got postponed. Fast forward to 12 June 2023, I was admitted for surgery to a pristine hospital with a world class team of medical professionals. My surgery was a huge success. One day post-operative, I could walk on crutches, and I experienced no pain for the first time in years.

As I am writing here tonight on the 4th of December 2023, I am once again filled with immense gratitude. I still do my rehab exercises. I walk normally and without crutches. I can drive again. I can even dance again. I have not experienced any pain at all. My energy overflows.

I salute every person and organization involved with Operation Healing Hands. No words can fully express my gratitude. You have given me a new lease on life.

Bring on those Dances for Wheelchair Users – together we will dance through life again.





Franco Wagenaar

Right total hip replacement

In January 2023, Franco Wagenaar enrolled at Hoërskool Die Wilgers as a grade 10 student. From the first day, I noticed that Franco walked with a limp and was experiencing a lot of pain when moving. When required to climb the stairs to attend classes on the second floor, he would arrive sweaty from the effort and in pain. Seeing him like this completely broke my heart, so I started reaching out to various organizations who might have been able to help Franco. Unfortunately, no-one seemed up to the task of covering everything involved in such a big surgery. I then decided to trust God and prayed every day that He might send someone across Franco's path that would be able to help him.

In November 2020, Franco was involved in a serious car accident after which he was taken to Sebokeng Hospital. At the hospital they diagnosed him with a dislocated hip which was reduced, and his leg placed in traction for 3 weeks. After this he started developing arthritis. Franco has been in pain ever since the deformity in his hip led to his one leg being much longer than the other, causing severe discomfort and difficulty in walking, especially climbing stairs at school.

I met Dr. Helené Basson - who matriculated at Hoërskool Die Wilgers in 1995 - on a visit to her alma mater when she came to discuss alumni matters. When I asked her what she does for a living, her answer 'Orthopaedic surgeon' blew me away. I could only praise the Lord for sending her my way.

Upon telling Dr Basson about Franco, she immediately got involved in his case. Her non-profit organization, Operation Healing Hands, changed Franco's life completely through a full hip replacement done at Life Eugene Marais Hospital. Because his built is very small, they even had a custom-made prosthesis sponsored and sent all the way from Europe.

Franco was admitted to hospital on 16 August 2023, and left there - a completely new person - on the 21st. Operation Healing Hands also took charge of his post-surgery physio and rehabilitation.

Finally, after 3 years of struggle, Franco again walks normally and without pain. It is a complete miracle and could only have happen through Grace. All glory to God. I believe that one day, Franco will tell the story of his miracle to the world.

Ilze Louw (Headmistress Wilgers High School)

16 August 2023

Before



After





Cataract removal

Jan Roodt

19 September 2023

Elaine Cronjé writes:

My parents have been living with us for nearly 10 years now. My dad, Jan Roodt, helps out by doing the daily school run for us. He also enjoys gardening and keeps himself busy by spending time in the garden each day.

These activities gives him a purpose in life.

In March 2023 his eyesight suddenly started to worsen, so much that soon he couldn't drive anymore. All due to cataracts. He still tried to do some gardening with the help of my mother as his eyes, but he soon became so depressed because he wasn't able to drive and contribute anymore. To see him deteriorating so was a terrible experience for me, as I knew that we would never have been able to pay for the surgery that he needed to be his old self again.

This year I saw my dad cry twice – First on the day he heard that he would be getting his surgery, and then on the day in the doctor's rooms when the eyepatch was removed after surgery.

Few people will understand what it means to get back your self-worth by having your eyesight restored.

My dad could see again.

All he wanted was to be of service, and at 70 years of age, this was all that he could contribute.

He is back on the road, driving every day – to the shops and school. He is gardening again, and I have my father back!

Thank you are words that are often used easily, but this thank you is for giving back someone's life!

The soaps on TV is now the highlight of his day as he can actually see the actors, and not only hear them!

Thank you so much. Christmas came in September for my dad.

Kendra Harmse



When Operation Healing Hands started in 2016, we received a request for help from a family with a little girl named Kendra. Kendra was born with a massive birthmark (congenital melanocytic nevi) covering half of her face and needed extensive and recurrent plastic surgery to remove it. OHH at that stage, however, did not have the funding to help Kendra.

Kendra's issue was not just cosmetic, but the birthmark also held the very real risk of developing into a skin cancer called melanoma when she was older. Luckily, the surgeons at Steve Biko hospital – where Kendra could be treated without medical aid – could assist her with multiple surgeries to excise the nevus. At Steve Biko, Kendra also underwent numerous, painful skin graft procedures to cover her face.

By 2022 OHH had developed into a stable, full-time non-profit company and when Kendra's family approached us again, we were ready and able to help.

With the financial support of our allies at Caring Daisies, we managed to start Kendra's reconstructive treatment. She received a silicone expander that was planted under the skin in her scalp. This expander is injected regularly with water and stretches the skin to create an excess that can be surgically moved to cover areas that are currently deformed.

The first reconstruction will be to extend her hairline after which she will receive another expander in her neck to create a big, vascularized flap that will reconstruct her face. All of these procedures will take time, but OHH is here for it and ready to stay by brave little Kendra through it all.

Placement of scalp expander

25 April 2023



Cholecystectomy

Liesel Bouwer

13 November 2023

Liesel Bouwer (49) suffered with abdominal pain for more than 15 years. In her struggle to feel better, Liesel tried multiple forms of medication, but to no avail. A year ago, Liesel's pain became more intense. So bad that she struggled to eat and lost almost twenty kilograms in less than a year.

Eventually, an abdominal sonar revealed that Liesel had gallstones and needed a cholecystectomy – a surgery that she unfortunately could not afford. She tried raising funds through Back-a-Buddy and even applied to numerous government hospitals for help. Unfortunately, due to the backlog of patients at these institutions, Liesel was unable to get space on any elective list for her procedure.

Through word-of-mouth Liesel heard of OHH, applied for her surgery and was approved. In November 2023, Liesel's gallstones were removed at LIFE Eugene Marais Hospital through a laparoscopic procedure, and she was discharged a mere two days later – pain free and grateful for her new lease on life!

Morelife Ndhlovu



Morelife Ndhlovu (20+), a young man with his whole life ahead of him, came to Operation Healing Hands in December 2022. Earlier that year, Morelife had sustained a skull fracture with a secondary stroke. This bound him to a wheelchair with severe contractures in his right leg and arm, and weakness in his left side. Morelife's airway was also severely narrowed due to a previous trachy application when he was ventilated after his initial injury. This rendered him constantly out of breath and completely unable to care for himself. Morelife was left without any hope or confidence. His situation was so dire that volunteers from SA Cares for Life, another non-profit company, had to take care of him in his shack in Plasticview, feeding and cleaning him.

Once brought to OHH, Morelife was referred to the wonderful neuro-physiotherapists at Life Groenkloof Rehabilitation Centre. Thanks to the majority of funds donated by EthiQal, Morelife's slow rehabilitation process and evaluation for surgery was started and he could eventually be helped through a multidisciplinary surgical approach.

On 10 July 2023, Morelife underwent tracheal dilatation while simultaneously receiving tendon releases and skin flaps on his right arm and leg. Botox was also later injected into the affected areas to decrease the contractures which limited his mobility.

After these procedures, Morelife was admitted to Muelmed Rehabilitation Centre where he spent a month learning to walk again.

When you see Morelife now, he has the look of someone who has hope for a future in which he will not only be able to look after himself but also hopefully be working in a factory for people with special needs. He still has a long way to go but we are rooting for him!

Tracheal dilatation
Right forearm and
leg tendon
lengthening and
skin flaps

10 July 2023

Pelvic osteotomy

Lower leg tendon
release

Bilateral foot
surgery

Bilateral wrist
tendon transfers



21 July 2023



Nkazimulo Mphego

Meet Nkazimulo, the bravest teenager you will ever encounter.

When she was 7 months old, she had meningitis with secondary brain damage, leaving her with severe grade 5 cerebral palsy. This meant that she had deformities of all 4 limbs and was, for all intents and purposes, a quadriplegic. The fact that she has normal intelligence adds to her severe frustration, being caught in a non-functional body and having to be fed and looked after 24/7.

She presented to OHH in 2021 with a dislocated left hip and severe pain. She also had spinal scoliosis and muscle contractures on her lower legs, and both her feet and hands had deformities. This was no small task, and we set off to gather funds for her two-stage, 7-hour reconstructive surgery. With our partners at Ndlovu Care Group, from whom she was referred, we were able to raise the necessary funds, and over the past two years, she had multiple surgeries.

We did major surgery on the left hip, literally breaking it and fixing it in a better position. Muscles were lengthened in the legs, both feet were operated on, and Achilles tendons were lengthened in the first surgery. During the second surgery, almost a year after the day, both her wrists had tendon transfers and reconstruction, after which she had both arms in casts for 6 weeks.

Surgery is only as good as the rehab afterwards, and the final bonus was when we fitted her with a custom-made wheelchair that helped her sit up and look the world around her in the eyes.

An enormous number of people and medical teams contributed to Nkazimulo's success story, and this is an excellent example of how you can change a life for the better if everyone just contributes a little bit. This child went from bedridden, deformed and in pain to happy, upright, painless, and back to school.

Her brand-new purple wheelchair is a testimony to our slogan ...passion, patients, purpose.

Reuben Ramotshela

Dear Operation Healing Hands Team

I write this letter with a thankful heart, still amazed by the knowledge that miracles still happen through the willing hands of people who use their skills and knowledge to impact people's lives.

Allow me to tell you a bit more about Ruben Ramotshela.

Reuben has been a security guard at Capital Park Primary School for many years. He is beloved among teachers and school children because of his caring and diligent nature. As a member of Capital Park Christian Church who, on a Sunday, uses the parking area of the school, I also got to know Reuben, and he also became respected and loved among the church members because of his friendliness, openness and trustworthiness. During school time, or after and before church, you will always find people congregating around him, just enjoying time spent him.

During the last year, maybe a bit longer, I saw Reuben change, he became quieter and more withdrawn. He would always wave at you across the car park and shout a greeting, but not anymore. He would only react when you were right next to him and he could recognize your voice. That was when I became aware of his challenge regarding cataracts in both eyes. I spoke to one of the administration staff, Mrs Maryke Kok, at the school, and then became aware of the severity of his condition and the consequences thereof. Reuben was in danger of losing his job and although the school was trying their best to get help for him and tried to protect him from losing his job at the security company, it was now at a critical stage.

During the previous few months, I got to know Dr Helené Basson through some misfortune of my own. During visits to Dr Basson's surgery, I became aware of OHH (through information displayed and her passionate staff talking to me about it). Soon the ball was on the roll and plans to help Reuben set in motion!

Reuben had his first operation in June under the capable hands of Dr Madikane at Hazeldean Intercare. When I took him for his follow up appointment to remove his eyepatch it was an experience that touched everyone present. At first Reuben was amazed and then this big grin came upon his face, he started laughing and saying, "it's a new world, it's a new world!" The joy of the moment had us all in tears, he grabbed me and again said "I can see, I can see you clearly, it's a whole new world!" Since that moment we had our old Reuben back, always grinning, greeting you from afar, staff and children congregating around him. He had his second operation in August, and now he has his job security back and he can be himself again.

I want to thank everyone involved, Dr Madikane and his staff, Sorette of OHH and Dr Helené Basson and her staff. Not only did you save Reuben's eyesight but you also changed the atmosphere in a school yard where different cultures and believes meet and changed it for the better.

Thank you for the great work that you do and even though you might not always get the recognition or applause that you deserve, He sees and find joy in what you do.

May you all be blessed in abundance!!

Regards

Reuben and Karen



Cataract removal

22 June & 17 August 2023



Teeth extractions & abscess debridement

Zoey Rudman

16 August 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about little Zoey and her story.

She has been in foster care with my family since May 2023. At the time of contacting OHH, and unfortunately still, the court hasn't concluded the foster parent process, and we are therefore unable to put her on our medical aid at this stage.

Zoey's been between children's homes and was reliant on the goodwill of others for most of her life. Her mother never took her for health checks or dental care, which has left her with some challenges – especially with her teeth. Luckily, we have managed to get Zoey's birth certificate and have taken her for all her immunizations. Zoey's never been to school but has started her grade R journey with us in May 2023. Although she's only had 7 months of schooling, Zoey's showing a keen interest in schoolwork and has had an exceptional report. She is an intelligent child and will reach great heights with the right support and direction.

Zoey was extremely scared of going to hospital on the day of the procedure. My daughter and I were innovative in getting her excited for her hospital procedure. We told her that she will get a special mask on her face and will be asked to blow up a balloon. We also told her that once she's blown up the balloon, she will be transported to fairyland and turn into Princess Elsa immediately. Obviously Princess Elsa is her absolute favourite. To make sure she's dressed appropriately for her journey, we put her princess crown on and her tutu. She was so excited the night before and the morning when we made our way to the clinic.

The doctors and staff at Intercare were nothing short of amazing. They are compassionate and truly want the best for their patients. Thank you to OHH and the team of amazing dentists. Zoey's teeth have been pulled and the abscess she struggled with is a thing of the past. Thank you once again for taking Zoey's case and making a difference in her and our lives.

With love

Dion, Jackie, Dante & Zoey

PROJECTS

In 2023, OHH continued with the projects that we have been involved in every year. These projects are very dear to us, and we are proud to have been able to expand them and improve them according to the needs that arose around us.

Our **WALANT (wide awake local anaesthetic no tourniquet)** orthopaedic procedures still continue under the watchful eye of Dr. Odette Koch at the Triomf Clinic in Pretoria West. Dr. Koch is in the process of publishing an article about her work which includes more than seven hundred WALANT cases. We are proud to contribute to her research and, in the process, we were able to help eighteen patients at 1% of the cost of going to theatre in a day hospital.



In the field of **Ear, Nose and Throat Procedures**, OHH now has five ENT surgeons who takes turns helping patients - mainly children - in need of tonsillectomies, adenoidectomies and grommets. Along with these, the odd reconstructive case also gets done for indications like hearing loss. In 2023, a whopping 24 ENT patients' lives were improved through ENT procedures made possible by OHH.



For Women's Day in August, we had our **Annual Pap Smear Day** with four doctors screening 72 patients for cervical cancer. Dr. Riana Malan has been running our Women's Project since 2017 and this includes doing a monthly clinic, managing birth control with different options like intra-uterine devices and implantations and treating all the cervical cancer lesions (SIN 1-3) with colposcopy in an out-patient setting. This takes a major load of the government hospitals. OHH was also able to increase the number of gynaecological surgeries our organization was involved in and we were able to start doing laparoscopic procedures in our partner-day hospitals by the end of 2023.

In 2024 our long-term goal is to take hands with one of our financial sponsors, the Dis-Chem Foundation, in more ways than one. This foundation screens 800 patients for cervical cancer each year. Through our partnership with them, patients with SIN 1-3 lesions, which would usually be referred to government hospitals, would then be helped by OHH instead. This will decrease the number of patients needing major surgeries in the long run as the lesions are then treated early and effectively.



5 AUGUST 2023



Dr Riana Malan, 374 Rossouw Street,
Murrayfield, Pretoria

Please complete the online form
to book your spot!



T&C's apply

EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

DON'T FEAR THE SMEAR





OHH's **Dentistry Project** also expanded with four dentists joining the team and a lot of our referrals coming from children's homes. In 2023 eight children were taken to theatre for treatment while seventeen other patients were helped as out-patients

One of the biggest needs that we encountered over the past two years was the constant bombarding from patients desperate for cataract surgery. It is well known that cataract surgery has the highest impact on quality of life for the least amount of money. We split our **Ophthalmology Project** as its own entity and plan to increase it this year to treating 150 patients. This mostly entails our elderly population and in 2023 gave sight back to our 250th patient since inception. In addition, we also offer eye tests and glasses for those who do not qualify for surgery yet.



Congenital Heart Defect Project

On Wednesday, 15 February, our campaign to not only raise awareness of congenital heart defects (ASD, VSD & PDA) in infants and children but also help such patients through surgery, kicked off at ZAH.

Thanks to collaborator and sponsor, Vertice MedTech, and our financial sponsors, eleven young lives were changed forever.

Wanga Khumeleni (6), Omphile Ramoba (11 months), Omphile Sekgala (2), Amogelang Madingoana (7), Lwandile Khanyi (3), Lindokuhle Mkhwebane (2), Regardt van Wezel (10), Basetsana Ndou (5), Siyanda Mkhabela (8) and Sanele Makamu (14) underwent cardiac catheterization, which is a minimally invasive procedure where a catheter is placed and guided through the blood vessels in the groin, all the way to the heart defect. The hole in the heart is then closed with a plug, so that the heart can function optimally.

Funds have already been raised, together with Jacaranda FM Good Morning Angels and OUTsurance, to help 11 more young ones with the same defect.

We plan on offering more good news on our little patients (and their little hearts) who now have BIG futures!

Congenital Heart Disease
Awareness Week
07-14 February 2023

Approximately **11,000** South African babies are born with Congenital Heart Disease every year, **4,500** of these babies need life-saving surgical intervention.

Your donation of R50 will help **save a child's life.**

QR code: Snap here to pay

SnapScan
Pay with card
Pay with instant EFT

Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week
07-14 February 2023

Approximately 11,000 South African babies are born with Congenital Heart Disease every year, 4,500 of these babies need life-saving surgical intervention. Your donation of R50 will help save a child's life.

Operation Healing Hands
passion · patients · purpose

VERTICE

ZAH
ZAKHILENI AFRICAN HOSPITAL

Finally, at Operation Healing Hands, we believe that every drop counts. In 2023 we, once again, supported the **SANBS (South African National Blood Services)** by donating our time and haemoglobin on both Valentine's and Mandela Day to help save lives through their initiative. This year was no different and everybody in the team joined in to support a good cause.

THIS MANDELA DAY
choose to
SAVE A LIFE

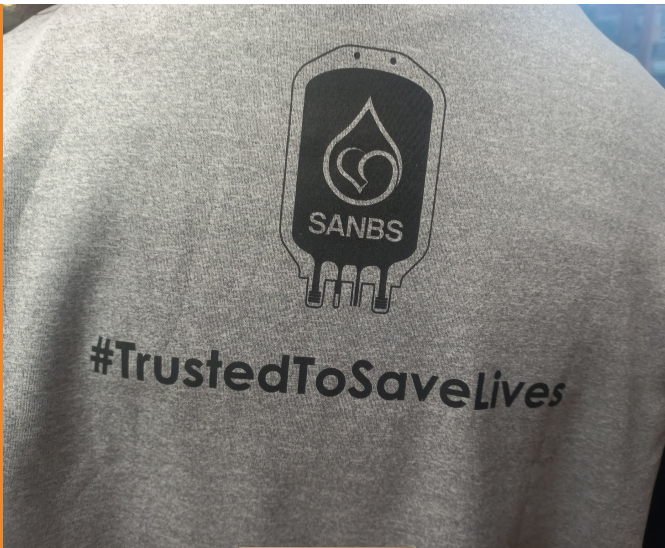


JOIN OHH FOR OUR ANNUAL

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE



18 JULY 2023
SANBS HATFIELD
4PM-6PM



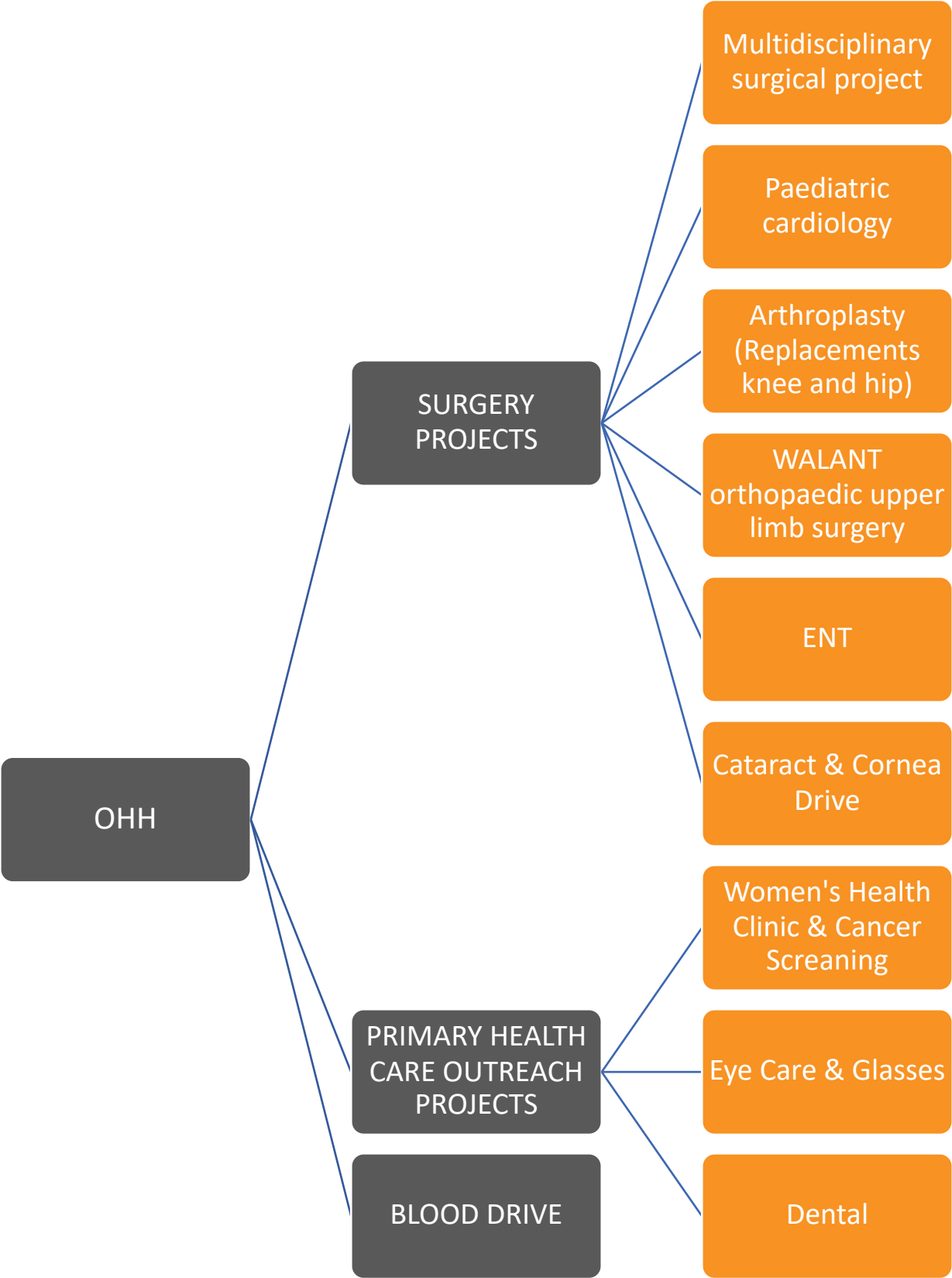
CHOCOLATES ARE OVERRATED
why not rather be unique
and give some love to a stranger
GIVE LOVE. GIVE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.



14 FEBRUARY 2023
HATFIELD SANBS
BETWEEN 4-6 PM

Important note: we will give out cookies

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



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