

OPERATION HEALING HANDS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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 8 years, 1203 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. Although this is not our main focus, we have still managed to help 785 patients with primary care, e.g. eye testing & glasses, dental treatment and women's health.

Do not be
daunted by the
enormity of the
world's grief. Do
justly, now. Love
mercy, now. Walk
humbly, now. You
are not obligated
to complete the
work, but neither
are you free to
abandon it.

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.

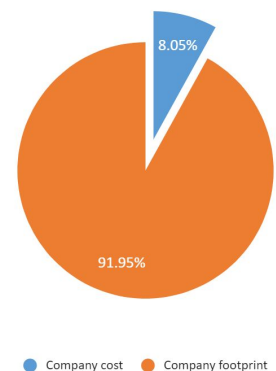
All the medical personnel involved, from the surgeons to the rehab teams, work *pro bono* while the private hospitals sponsor most of the theatre time and in-hospital stay.



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 (2016 to 2024 combined)

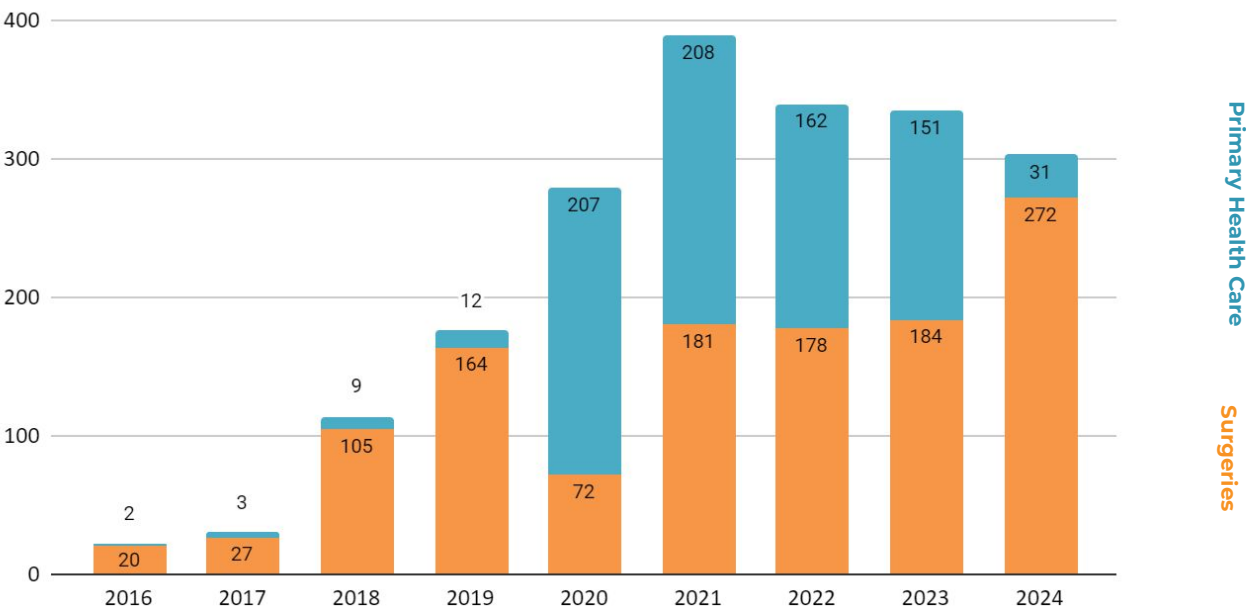


Your purpose is not the thing you do. It is the thing that happens in others when you do what you do.

~Jade Simmons

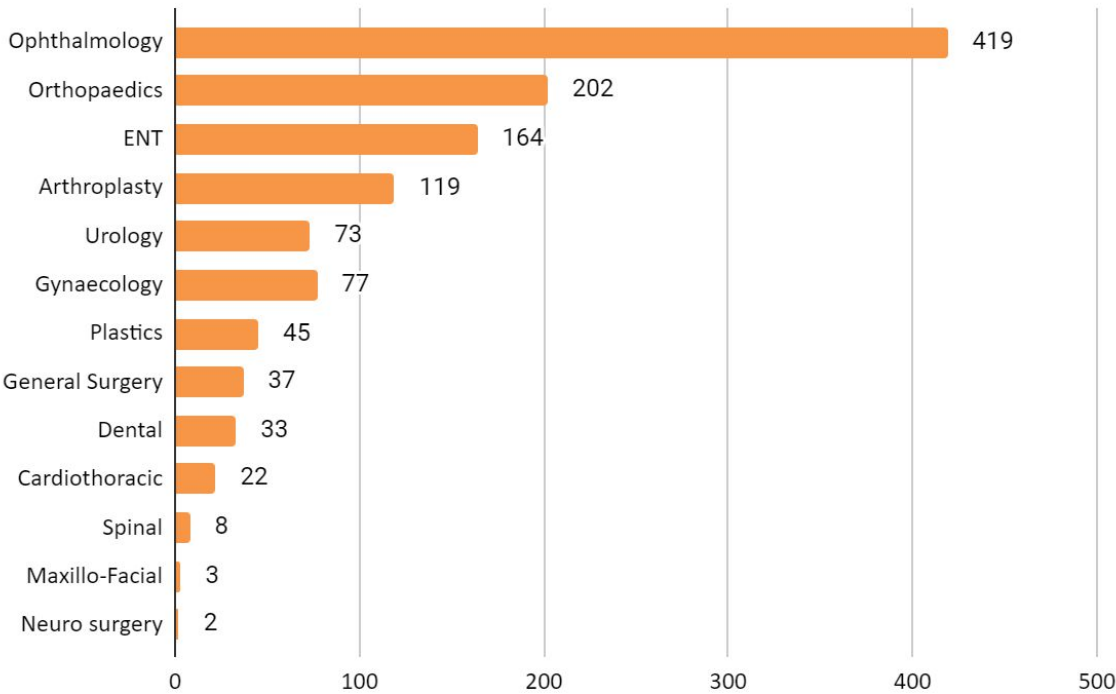
Statistics

Project growth (number of new patients)

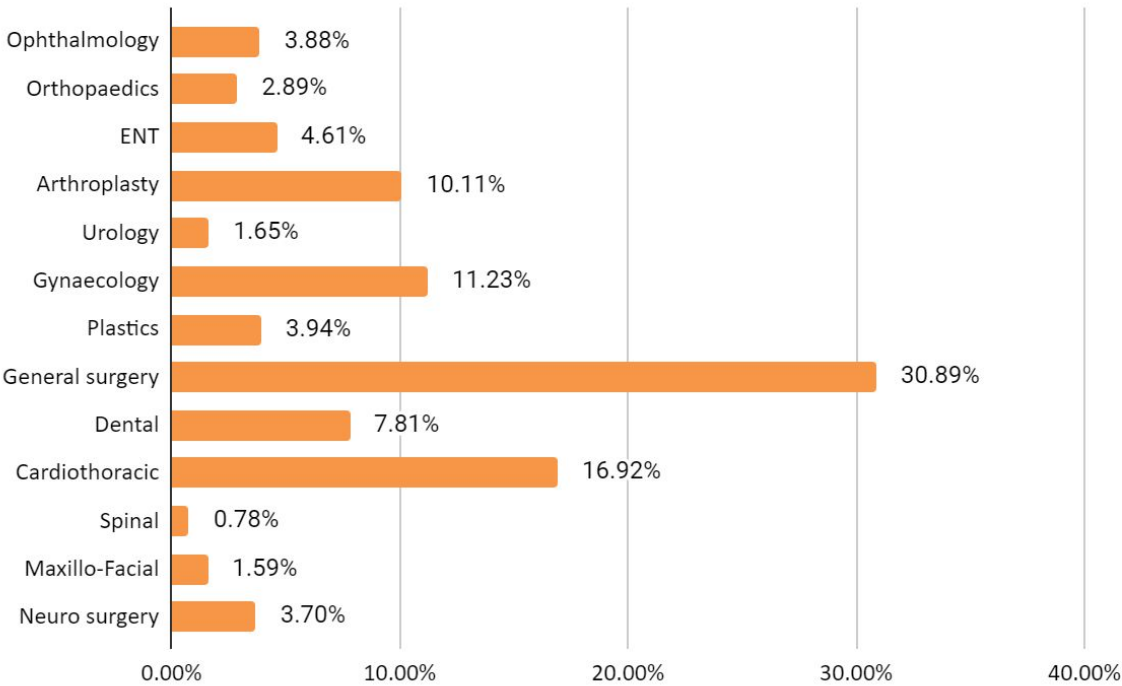


Follow-up surgeries and primary care clinics excluded

Disciplines (number of patients) since inception

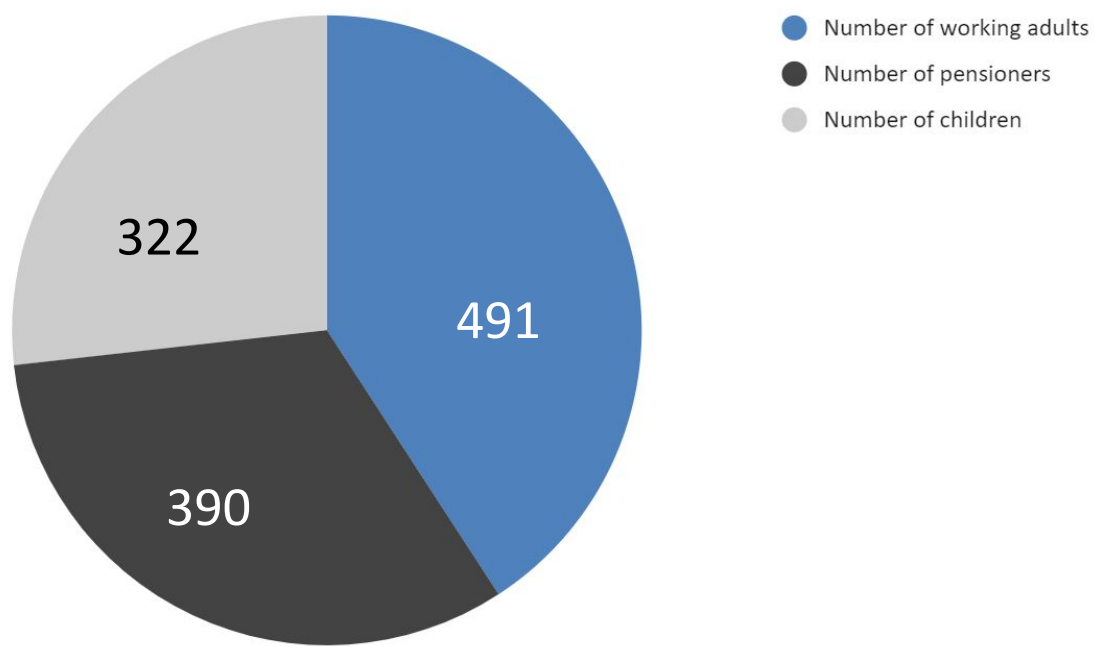


Share of spend since inception

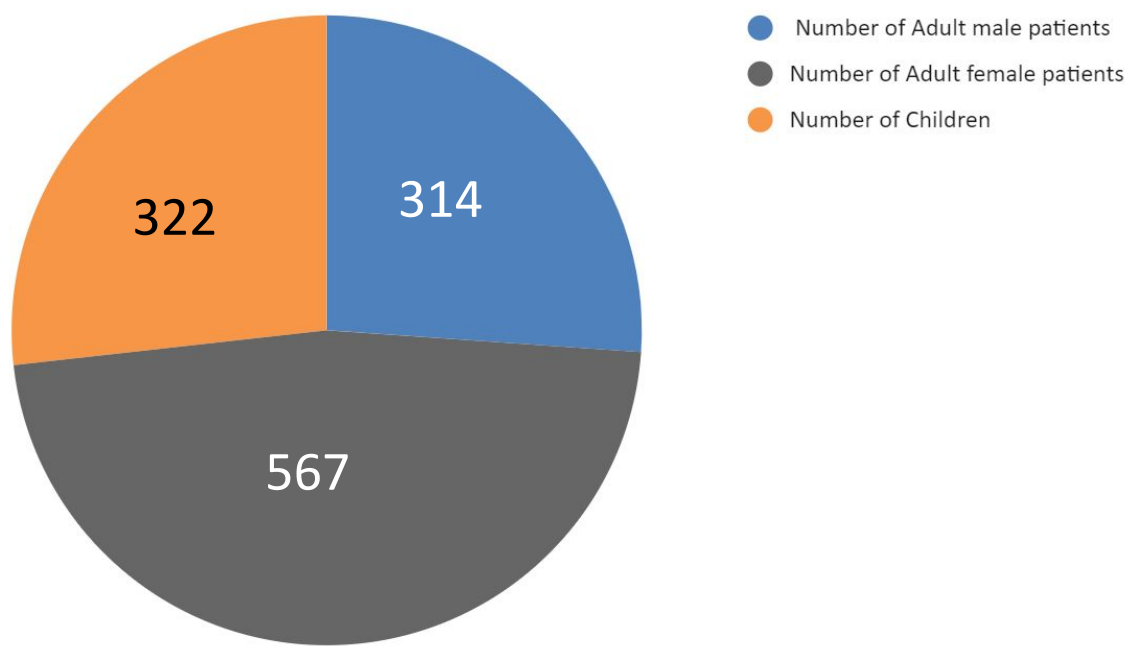


2016-2024 Statistics – Primary Care Patients Excluded

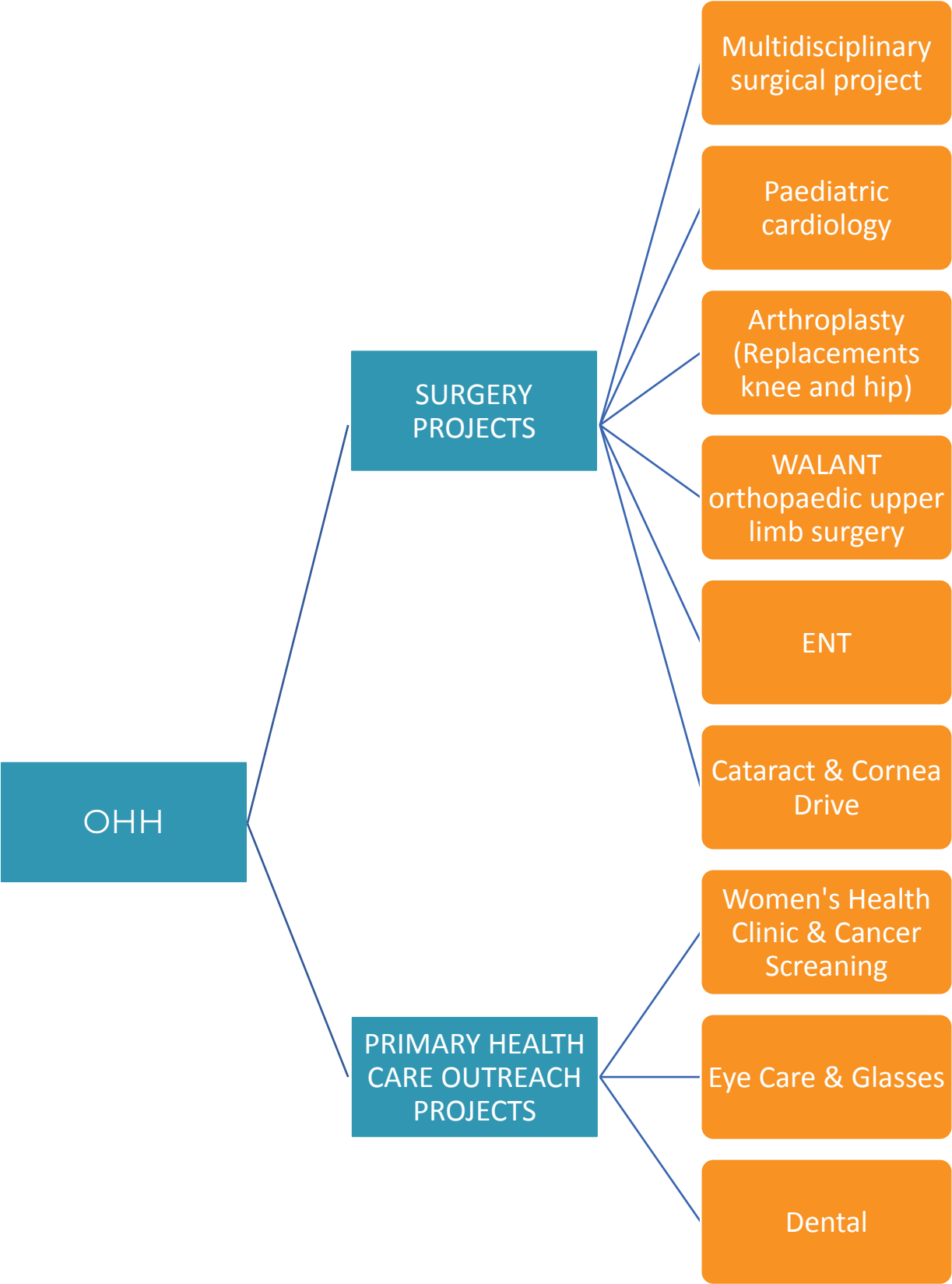
Age



Age & Gender



PROJECT OBJECTIVES





AURYN HOUGAARD

Cochlear Implant

12 November 2024

Auryn Hougaard is a bubbly, lively 2 year-old who had adapted so well to being born profoundly deaf, that it went undetected until it was recently diagnosed. After tests, it was confirmed that Auryn was a perfect candidate for cochlear implants - to get her hearing and speech to near normal. The price tag of R550,000 for one ear is daunting and her parents managed to raise R75,000 with the help of family and friends.

In partnership with Jacaranda FM Good Morning Angels, Southern ENT and Zuid Afrikaans Hospital, we booked her procedure in good faith knowing how necessary and crucial this procedure was. Needless to say, the Angels and the public came together to help Auryn hear her parent's voices for the first time, and on Tuesday 12 November she received her first cochlear implant. The device was switched on this December and is being continuously adjusted as she becomes acquainted with the sounds of the world around her!

If all goes well Auryn will be the first of a project going into 2025 with Miss South Africa Mia le Roux and The Dis-Chem Foundation giving hearing to more children like Auryn.





Bilateral Proximal Tibial Osteotomies & Taylor Spatial Frames

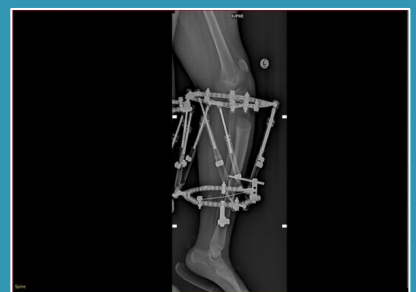
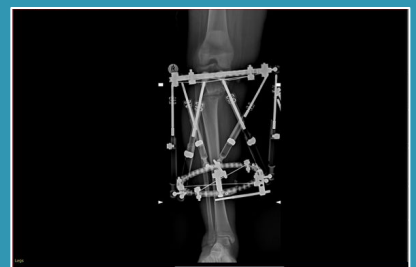
FARHANAH NDINISA

15 July 2024

This 14 year-old was diagnosed with Blount's disease at birth, increasingly worsening her bowlegs and making it very difficult and painful to walk. Blount's disease is a condition found in children that causes the growth plate near the inside of the knee to either slow down or stop making new bone.

She received bilateral proximal tibial osteotomies (surgical fractures of the bones) and Taylor Spatial Frames that will correct the deformity over time through daily adjustment of the frame settings. This process will eventually allow her to have a normal posture and gait.

Thanks to walk-a-mile centre, Ortho-Xact, SERR Synergy and the EDI trust who helped us with this collaboration!





GERT PRETORIUS

Invasive Basal Cell Carcinoma of the Nose

17 July 2024

Gert presented with invasive basal cell carcinoma of his nose which was spreading into his sinuses. A wide excision was performed where the plastic surgeon literally cut off his nose - leaving a gaping hole in the middle of his face. A large piece of full thickness skin was taken from his forehead, rotated and used to create a new makeshift nose. Once the flap had attached to the surrounding tissue and secured its own blood supply, the flap pedicle was cut and sutured. Gert now has a brand new nose! With the help of sponsors like We Buy Cars, we have been able to help over 10 patients with skin cancer this year.

Hip Replacements

1 July 2024

WILLIAM MANYATELA

William was born with underlying hip dysplasia causing severe osteoarthritis and leaving him unable to work. Because he is fit, strong and young, our orthopaedic surgeon was able to do both hip replacements in one session! We look forward to performing many more replacements with our incredible partners amongst others: Stryker and Zimmer Biomet in 2025. Together, we aim to alleviate the backlog for these types of procedures in the government sector.





LUNA-LAMEY HUGHES

Craniosynostosis Release

26 June 2024

This 3 month-old baby was suffering from craniosynostosis - a condition where the bony suture of the scalp closed prematurely leaving no room for the brain to grow. Hand-in-hand with Caring Daisies, we were able to raise enough money for this life changing surgery. Our neurosurgeons did a successful release of the scalp suture allowing her brain to grow normally going forward.

Bilateral Adductor Release & Lower Limb Botox Injections

15 November 2024

HELMARIE NAUDE

Helmarie is a tiny 12 year old girl weighing in at only 27kg. She was born with quadruplegic cerebral palsy as a result of oxygen deficiency to her brain and was struggling to walk due to various severe adductor and hamstring contractures. The first surgeries aimed to release the adductors and inject botox into her lower limb muscles. She currently has splints and continues with therapy in preparation for her future procedures. In 2025, she will receive follow-up surgery where her hamstrings will be lengthened to further improve her gait. Although she still has a long road ahead - she is a little fighter!





Mastectomy

26 June 2024

MELANIE STRYDOM

Melanie, a mother of two, was diagnosed with breast cancer. One of our stellar long-term partners, Van Heerden Pharmacy - who have partnered with us since inception, referred Melanie and assisted in catching this cancer early. Together, we were able to perform a mastectomy before this life-threatening cancer could spread any further.

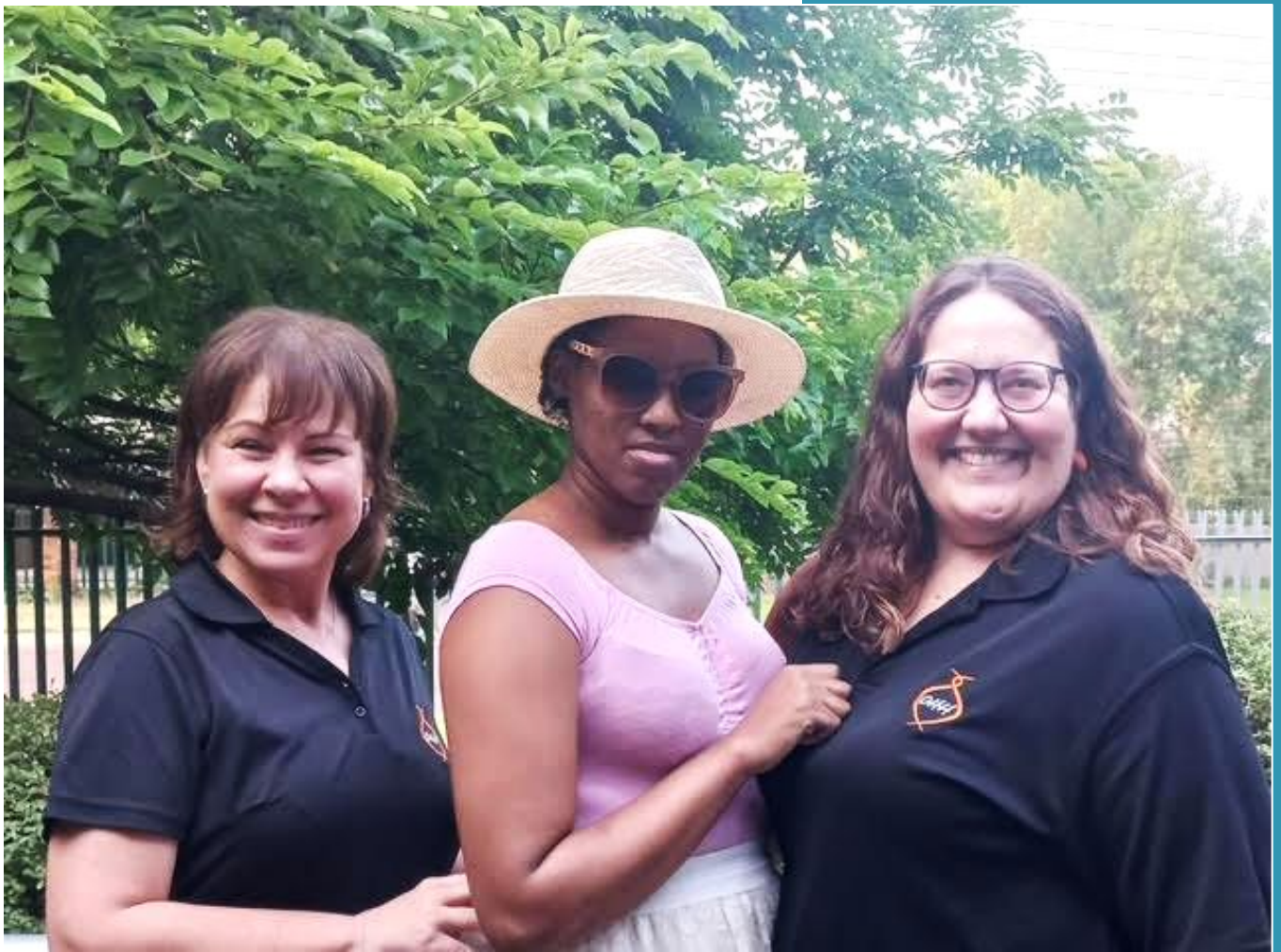
PATIENCE TEMANE

Cornea Transplant

19 August 2024

In 2024 we significantly expanded our eye surgery project and Patience was the lucky candidate to receive a cornea transplant. This unbelievably dynamic 35yr old woman, worked herself up from having nothing, to being the owner of a pre-school where she lives out her passion of giving back to the community! Thanks to sponsors like Arrie Nel Pharmacy and Round Table, our corneal transplant patients all received their required post-operative medication.





Cornea Transplant

19 August 2024

MONDEKAZI SIDLAYIYA

Our other cornea transplant patient, Mondekazi Sidlayiya, has been walking a path with OHH for three years now - trying to save the vision in her only eye. She already lost her other eye to glaucoma and her mother and son are also genetically blind. We hope that Mondekazi will finally be able to see well enough after this last surgery so that she can continue being the breadwinner for her family. Not only has she inspired us, but has also been inspired through her own story to want to make a difference!

She writes:

You once told me, "Monde, I wish you could work with people." At the time, I didn't understand what you meant, and I brushed it off. But as the months passed and I faced various challenges, I realized that I needed to share my story. God would be disappointed if I kept quiet about the impact Operation Healing Hands had on my life. You planted a seed in me, and now I must nurture it. As an insomniac, I often receive guidance from God during the night. One evening, I couldn't sleep, and a thought struck me: I needed to help others who were struggling like I was. I felt compelled to educate people about the importance of organ donation, so others could experience the gift of restored eyesight. I shared my idea with a friend, and she suggested starting an NPO focused on corneal transplant facilitation. After conducting research, I realized I needed partners. I approached two friends, and they agreed to join me. We registered our NPO, The End Of The Tunnel, in July. Although I faced setbacks and discouragement, my recent procedure has rekindled my passion. I won't give up on my community, just as Operation Healing Hands didn't give up on me. The End Of The Tunnel will be the beginning of a brighter life for many. While I'm unsure how to start, I trust that God will guide me. The public hospital waiting list is lengthy, and people often go blind while waiting. I want to change that. Even if I can help just 20 people, it will make a difference. I'm empowered to start working on this vision next year.

PROJECTS: CATARACT REMOVAL OUTREACH EASTERN CAPE

This year, we celebrated World Sight Day on 10 October with a special surgery outreach offering free cataract surgeries to 56 patients in need. This project was a collaboration with Grace Vision, where we embarked on a journey to Zithulele in the Eastern Cape alongside doctors who travelled from Cape Town to operate. The MSICS technique used, enabled surgeons to perform a minimum of 20 cataract surgeries per day. With support from The Dis-Chem Foundation, our patients rested and recovered with their next of kin by their side at the Zithulele facility in the days following their MSICS procedures. This not only ensured that everyone received the best post-operative care and follow up, but also that they were ready for discharge and able to resume daily tasks efficiently. We have performed a staggering 387 cataract removals since 2016 - with 137 patients this year alone!



OUR 1000TH PATIENT!

We've been empowering people through life-changing surgeries for 8 years! Together with many wonderful sponsors and service providers, the Operation Healing Hands team have changed the lives of so many patients who would never have been able to afford the medical care they required. This past July, we celebrated #MandelaMonth with a jam-packed lineup of special events, over 40 surgeries and of course, our 1000th patient Kendra Harmse! We were greeted with an honorary guard on the way to theatre at Eugene Marais hospital and were blown away by the incredible people that have been part of our journey since the beginning. Here's to the next eight years and beyond!





KENDRA HARMSE

Facial Reconstruction

17 July 2024

Kendra Harmse was our 1000th patient!

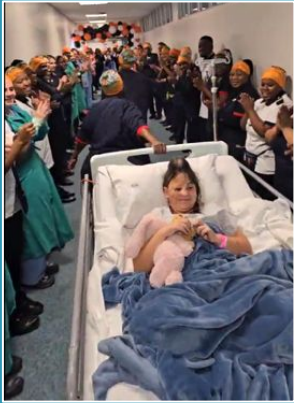
Together with Kendra we have walked a long road. This child was born with a congenital naevus covering half of her face and when she applied to OHH in 2016, our non-profit was too small to help with such a big surgery. Nonetheless, she was treated well - undergoing multiple skin grafts within the government sector institutions.

In 2023, we were able to start her reconstruction by inserting a skin expander into her scalp. The expander was filled with water on a weekly basis, consequently stretching the skin. This year for Mandela Day, she was taken to theatre to remove the expander and reconstruct her hairline in order to cover the severe facial scarring and hair loss on the right side of her scalp. Multiple small soft tissue releases were also performed around her right eye and nose area.

Kendra will have the option of reconstruction to the rest of her face once she is old enough, but for now she is a very happy child donning her new hairdo.



Our very first patient Miriam and our 1000th patient Kendra giving each other a hug.



Honour guard waiting for Kendra to enter theatre and celebrate the milestone of 1000 patients with us!



PROJECTS: WALANT

In 2024, 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.

This year The Triomf clinic, where we run our primary clinics, moved temporarily to Silverton. Although short on space we still continued with all our clinics and our **WALANT (wide awake local anaesthetic no tourniquet)** orthopaedic procedures at different available locations. Dr. Odette Koch, now the first female president for the South African Orthopaedic Association, is still running this project of ours at 1% of traditional costs. This year alone she operated on 12 patients bringing the total amount of patients helped through this local procedure to more than 60.



PROJECTS: WOMEN'S HEALTH

Slowly but surely our women's clinic grew. More than 50 patients were treated for numerous conditions like uterine prolapse and our referral system was formalized with the Dis-Chem foundation who now refers abnormal pap smear patients to us for treatment. 7 patients were cured from SIN lesions (pre-cancer lesions) with ablation and LLETZ procedures and multiple patients were helped with a variety of contraceptive devices and methods. We were also able to surgically treat more patients than last year. The women who arrive on our doorstep are desperate for help and we aim to grow this offering so we can assist even more women next year.



Laparoscopic Endometriosis & Bowel Resection

23 October 2024

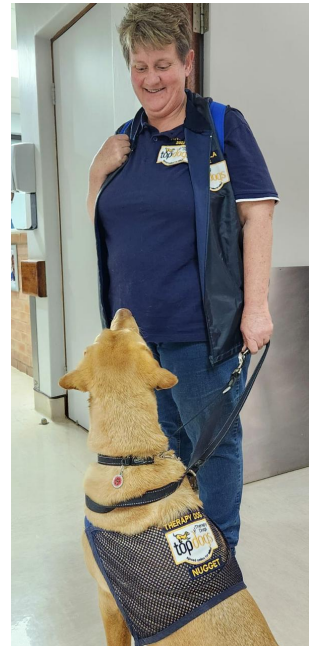
TIA BOCK

Tia has been suffering with pain for a very long time and has been on the government waiting list for years. She finally received a laparoscopic endometriosis and bowel resection after a lot of planning and the involvement of multiple surgeons, making this one of our most complex cases ever.



PROJECTS: EAR, NOSE & THROAT

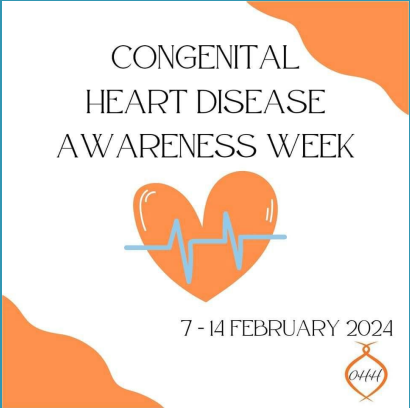
This year 31 children were helped with **Ear, Nose and Throat** procedures at our day hospitals: Club Surgical, Centurion Day hospital and Cure Midstream. This includes a variety of adenoidectomies, tonsillectomies and grommets. Nugget and the rest of his emotional support dog-friends were there as usual to support all our children from Bramley Children's home for their surgeries, turning anxiety into joy!



Jayden Koen received a more complex surgery namely tympanoplasty and mastoidectomy for cholesteatoma. This is when recurrent ear infection causes a chronic hole to form in the eardrum. The skin cells from the outer ear then migrate and grow into the inner ear, destroying the three small bones in the middle ear and with it the ability to hear. Our ENT surgeon removed the infection and the cholesteatoma and patched up the eardrum. In time we will evaluate if Jayden needs a hearing aid but hopefully not.

PROJECTS: CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS

This year our congenital heart project for defects (ASD, VSD & PDA) in infants and children completed the promised 20 surgeries we started out with in 2023 together with Prof. Lindy Mitchell and Prof Jayneel A Joshi at ZAH. We are working hard to continue with this minimally invasive cardiac catheterization project in the future together with our collaborator and sponsor, Vertice MedTech, and OUTsurance Staff Helping SA Out who helped us change the lives of these young patients forever.



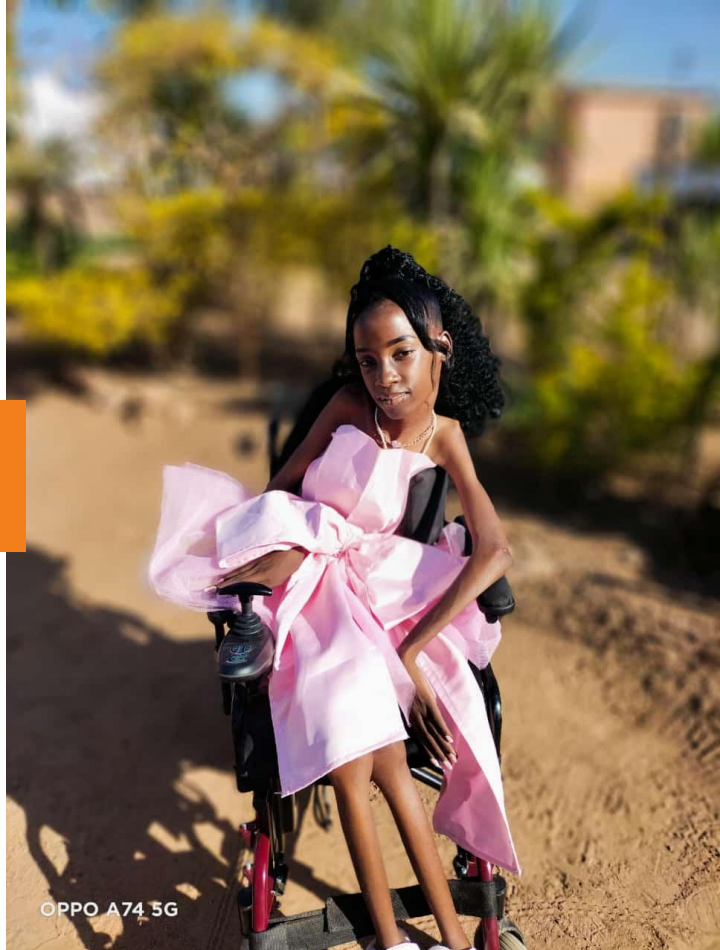
New exciting news is our first time collaboration with the Maboneng Foundation Trust. This year for Christmas Kiara Malatji received open heart surgery for a ventricular septal defect, at Sunninghill Hospital, from the paediatric cardiothoracic surgeons at the Maboneng Heart and Lung Institute. This is a venture previously beyond our reach due to the extensive costs, but finally made possible by taking hands with OUTsurance Staff Helping SA Out, Netcare and the Maboneng Foundation Trust.



Grade 5 Cerebral Palsy
Pelvic Osteotomy for dysplastic dislocated hip
Lower limb tendon release for contractures
Bilateral foot surgery to correct deformities
Bilateral wrist tendon transfers for hand positioning

NKAZIMULO MPHEGO

Where is She Now?



Just a follow up on our story of Nkazimulo....

We have been a part of this amazing teenager's journey since 2022. She received multiple lower and upper limb surgeries to enable her to sit in a wheelchair instead of being bedridden. With two years of work, 7 hours of surgery and the help of a multidisciplinary team, we fitted her with her own custom wheelchair - she chose a passionate purple colour for her new wheels! In collaboration with so many incredible partners - especially Muelmed Rehabilitation Unit, we have helped her go from bedridden, deformed and in pain, to happy, upright, painless and back to school! The specialists at Muelmed went above and beyond to measure and perfectly fit her wheelchair, ensuring that her scoliosis does not advance. For the very first time, she could look the world straight in the eyes.

Next year she will be receiving her final surgery - bilateral wrist arthrodeses to make it easier for her to write and use her wheelchair. Here she is at her birthday party riding around independently!



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