

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR HOME BASE CARE – GAUTENG
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2009**

1. STATISTICS

Activity	April 09	May 09	June 09	July 09	Aug 09	Sept 09
Total number of children	234	240	236	243	243	252
Admissions	1	6	1	10	0	15
Discharges	0	0	5	3	2	4
Referrals to Clinic	4	2	7	3	0	2
Referrals to Hospital	4	1	0	5	0	0
ARV's	190	194	190	197	195	202
Orphans	170	171	170	171	170	174

2. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Objective	Achievements	Challenges
Psychosocial Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The effectiveness of ART has resulted in an increasingly older average client base, and many of our children are now in their teens. - While this has been a tremendous achievement in health care service provision, it has presented us with new challenges, in that adolescents are more difficult to manage. - As a result of a needs assessment undertaken in April we have, in addition to individual counselling, also introduced new topics at our support groups, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dealing with teenagers ▪ Substance abuse ▪ Child abuse - During one week every month primary caregivers are giving the opportunity to update their memory books at the support groups. A counsellor and community careworker attend these sessions to assist clients if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have considered starting a support group for our adolescent clients because their grannies are struggling to manage them. However, there are logistical challenges as they all live in different areas so would have to use public transport. Also, they would only get to Cotlands Community Centre late in the afternoon as school finishes at 3.00pm., which means that they may have to travel home after dark. - Another challenge with starting an adolescent support group is that Cotlands area of expertise is the younger child, so we would need to acquire these skills. - As an alternative plan, we have contacted one of the doctors at Bara to request that some of our clients attend the adolescent clinic on Thursdays. Peer group counsellors, psychologists and social workers are available at the clinic to offer psychosocial support.

Objective	Achievements	Challenges
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A group of pro bono lawyers are assisting our primary caregivers with drawing up wills and providing them with information that will assist their families once they are gone. To date six clients have used this service. - We have once again started monthly debriefing sessions for our community careworkers. The nature of their work is traumatic and they indicated that they needed some support. A volunteer counsellor, Margie, facilitates the sessions, and the first two have been very favourable received by the staff. - Selected children continue to receive monthly physiotherapy at Cotlands Community Centre. - We have assisted one child to be fitted with a hearing aid. - The project manager has designed a weekly reporting tool that will enable care workers to record work done and to capture information on ARV and TB compliance. The tool will also help monitor care workers' home visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite regular monitoring, compliance to ART still remains a concern. Patients who have been doing really well stop treatment, which apart from the negative health impact, also increases drug resistance. - Children are more likely to resist taking treatment as they approach adolescence – a phenomenon that is reported world wide. - There is an increase in the number of referrals received where patients' treatment has been stopped due to poor compliance. Treatment can only recommence after the primary caregiver has been counselled.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susan, a volunteer psychologist from the United States assisted us with assessing and counselling children from the HBC programme. Academic and other problems were identified and plans were discussed with the team to assist these children. Not surprisingly, most of the children assessed have learning problems. - Cotlands Community Careworkers will visit the schools in their area more regularly. In this way we hope to identify learning problems earlier and get the children referred to relevant services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are finding it difficult to access remedial services in Soweto. Although we are still looking, there appears to be very few remedial schools. Some schools do have a remedial class, but these are all reportedly full. We have provisionally enrolled some of the children into new schools for 2010, but still need to resolve the transport problem, as the schools are not within walking distance.

Objective	Achievements	Challenges
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The food garden at the school is developing into a wonderful project. We have already had four harvests of vegetables from the phase 1 garden, and we are now in the process of preparing the second phase. - Our longer term plan for the food gardens is that the site at the school becomes mainly a nursery from which our clients can get seedlings for their own home gardens. - The grannies continue to make pyjamas, which we sell at events. They make around R500 a month through this project. - The second hand clothing project is currently the most successful income generating project for our clients. The mom's buy bags of clothing from Cotlands at R100 per bag, and then resell them. Some ladies make up to R600 per bag. The one challenge with this project is to ensure a steady supply of stock. - A few of our mothers are doing mosaic work under the guidance of a volunteer. These creative women have made beautiful mirrors, pot stands, coasters, etc. but the raw material is expensive and we don't have a steady market for these goods. We are trying to source donations so that they can build up there stock, but have not yet managed to get any supplies yet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have not yet registered with the tourist board which will put us on the map for tourists to visits our project. This needs to be done as soon as possible – 2010 is just around the corner.