

2016 Rotary Family Health Days



The South African 2016 Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD's) were held from 12 to 14 October. This year, the three-day program took place in all nine provinces of South Africa.

Like the majority of the other Pretoria-based Clubs, the Rotary Club of Pretoria East (RCPE) were struggling to get a commitment from any of the local Clinics that were approached. So when Chris Pretorius from the Rotary Sunrise Club offered us a chance to join them at the Ubuntu Clinic in Lethobong, we gladly accepted the opportunity.

On Thursday October 12, the event took place at the Ubuntu Clinic in Lethobong, a stone's throw away from the Home for the Needy where RCPE already has a project. Sunrise attended to the distribution of the pre-publicity posters and flyers as well as ensuring that the various official medical forms as well as the registration documentation were delivered to the Clinic prior to the commencement of the campaign.



Aiden and Rotaractor



Rotarians and Health officials registered patients



Judy, Aiden and Jan under the gazebo

The day coincided with the official opening celebration of the Clinic to mark the completion of the recent renovations that had taken place. The event was filled with a lot of fanfare and speeches by representative from the Department of Health, the Police and community leaders. Aiden attended the day mainly to observe proceedings and to familiarise himself with the plans for the next day, when RCPE would be responsible.

On the Wednesday, the campaign moved to a remote site some distance away at a more recent developing informal settlement in an area known as "Skielik". There were no formal facilities on site and all of the medical facilities needed had to be taken out in advance, or as it turned out, by means of many trips back and forth to the Ubuntu Clinic throughout the day.

We were all housed in a number of tents, gazebos and make shift structures. After a slow start to the day, the number of visitors gradually increased throughout the day and in the end, all of this kept Aiden, Judy and Jan pretty busy, particularly when the wind and dust storms picked up.

RCPE was delighted to have the members of the Hatfield Club assisting. A great vote of thanks is also due particularly to their two Rotaractors who climbed in and assisted the Clinic by manning the Blood Pressure and Diabetes testing desks.

Rotary also worked closely in conjunction with the National Department of Health's Communications Division. All-in-all a successful and worthwhile experience!



The health services provided country-wide include lifelong prevention of diseases in children by giving them polio immunizations and measles vaccines, as well as comprehensive life-saving annual screening for illnesses in adults, such as HIV, TB, Malaria, Diabetes, Hypertension.

Left & Below:

Residents at the Ubuntu Clinic in Lethobong, near the Home for the Needy, where RCPE already has a project, as well as the settlement called Skielik were the beneficiaries of our outreach during the 2016 Rotary Family Health Days.

The Rotarians on the ground are playing a critical role in relationship building, partnership acknowledgement and critical data collection in our country!

The big picture is so exciting – Rotary is being acknowledged globally and throughout the African continent for its work – the recent International AIDS (IAS) Conference was proof as all our partners were in attendance and RFHD's were acknowledged as a worthwhile programme. Rotary International also acknowledges the programme. The pilot impact study showed that Rotary are making a sustainable difference.

