

2020 BLANKET DRIVE

BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED JUST IN TIME!



The pressure on Rotarians to assist those members of the communities around us has never been greater, with the demands being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic! But, thanks to the warm hearts and generosity of the Rotarians and friends of the Rotary Club of Pretoria East, the 2020 Blanket Drive was another great success, spreading warmth to some of the less privileged amongst us. Thanks to a generous gesture by Rotarian Grant Adam who topped up funds at the end, we were able to order and collect 45 blankets for distribution. The Rotary Collaborative Blanket Drive, now in its 11th year, has negotiated a deal with Sesli Manufacturers for good quality blankets at R73 each – that is only a R3 increase.

The order was placed and knowing that a severe cold spell was on the way, Aiden and Rose made the trip to Johannesburg on Monday 9 June. They collected Pretoria East's supplies and as a special favour to the Hatfield Rotary Club also collected their 57 blankets. Altogether they managed to fit 102 blankets into the Pajero and still find a spot for them to squeeze in! Fortunately, Amanda from the Hatfield Rotary Club collected their blankets from Aiden on the same day.



Kaglego and Nomsa from Home for the Needy and some beneficiaries received blankets

On Tuesday morning 10 June, Aiden and Rose delivered 20 blankets to the Home for the Needy for distribution to the neediest families in the Lethabong community. It was always the intention to ensure that this year the blankets be distributed to those who had not benefitted in the past and we are pleased to confirm that this was in fact the case. The support from you all to assist has been fantastic thus far and our Club is making a difference, through the distribution of food to many of the needy in our midst.



The children from the Lethabong area were happy too!

However, with the Winter upon us the focus amongst these most vulnerable communities to keep warm is going to be as vital to their well-being as the food parcels! On Wednesday 11 June, the remaining 25 blankets to Sonskyn Hoekie, the impoverished settlement north of Pretoria, a few kilometres past the Walmanstal power station was distributed. However, PE Doulien had other plans and arrived with her car packed full of clothes and food donated by the residents of the Bronberg Retirement Village. There pockets of potatoes, onions, butternuts and oranges as well as a large selection of the most beautiful and colourful hand knitted children's jerseys all for Sonskyn Hoekie! Thanks, Doulien you are a star!

So, mission completed just in the nick of time before the very cold spell hit Pretoria with a vengeance on Thursday 12 June.



Delivery at Sonskyn Hoekie. The blankets and produce were stacked in the communal kitchen of the camp where the poverty and dire conditions in the area are evident.

