



**health**

Department:  
Health  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

McCORD PROVINCIAL EYE  
HOSPITAL

**EzakwaMakhothi**

**NEWS**

OCTOBER 2018 EDITION

## STAY INFORMED

### ***BRINGING SIGHT BACK TO THE PEOPLE***



#### **MCCORD PROVINCIAL EYE HOSPITAL AND BRIEN HOLDEN VISION INSTITUTE STAFF**

**O**n the 8-12 October 2018 World Sight Week, McCord Provincial Eye Hospital in partnership with local Optometrists Brien Holden Vision Institute, Al-Imdaad Foundation and The International Islamic Relief Organization of Southern Africa had a series of outreach campaigns.

The purpose of the outreach program was to educate the community about various eyesight conditions that could lead to blindness, which leads to them coming in to the hospital very late. It also encourages them to visit the health facility to have check-ups at least once a year.

Our target for this year was to visit old aged homes, childrens' homes and schools in the townships and rural areas. This could not have been achieved without the support from our local partners.

We managed to visit Verulam Day and Frail Care Centre, Bridge City Mall and Imbaliyethu Primary School during the Eye Sight Week. All three events were a huge success. McCord Management Team would like to thank Department OF Health partners and McCord staff for the team spirit and hard work.

## *An early Christmas gift to the golden oldies*

**T**he first outreach program started at Verulam Day and Frail Care on 10 October 2018. The eye screening was from 09h00 to 15h30.

Apart from eye screening there were also other stations for BP and sugar testing as well. Optometrist and Ophthalmic nurses had talks on different eye conditions. Also emphasised the importance of taking treatment as prescribed by the doctor or health practitioner.

Some clients received reading glasses as early Christmas gifts, after examination. Excitement could be seen after receiving pair of glasses which was donated by Brien Holden Institution.

The service was appreciated by everyone and the Management of Frail Care Centre. The total



**Registration station**



**Waiting for Visual Acuity reading**

number for the day was 168. Clients with severe conditions were referred to McCord Hospital and others to their local clinic.



**BP & Sugar testing**

## At Bridge City Mall

The main event for the World Sight Day was held on Thursday the 11 October 2018 at Bridge City Mall in Kwa-Mashu. On arrival we found a crowd who had been waiting from early morning because they wanted to be attended first.

The event started with a talk by McCord Hospital Ophthalmic Nurse, Sr Pamela Bhengu at 09h00 thereafter screening till 15h00.

The total number for eye screening was 175. The Optometrist issued reading glasses to some clients after testing.

### BRIDGE CITY MALL CAPTION MOMENTS



Mr T Mseleku—District Coordinator Non-Communicable Diseases thanked the

**Registration and screening in progress**

staff and also encouraged to continue to do more community outreach programs because it's part of taking service to the community.



## ***THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE***

**F**riday the 12 October 2018 we were at Imbaliyethu Primary School in Klaarwater. The warm welcome from the learners was amazing. Singing a “Happy Day” song and dancing to express their excitement about the visit.

It was the most exciting day to give a gift of sight to learners who were unaware that they needed glasses in order to be able to read their school work.

Screening station area

Phindile Mdlalose—Optometrist examining the learner



**“A smile says it all”  
The excitement in the learners faces was unbelievable after receiving snack packs, it added a cherry on top**

**A**ll the events were a huge success. A big thank to all the organisations who contributed in different ways and to McCord hospital staff for the hard work.



# Elders are important in our communities



**L –R : Zama Shangase ( Social Work Volunteer), Patience Masango ( Social Work—Tafta), Lungi Mbewe ( Social Work—Tafta), Busisiwe Mhlongo (UKZN student), Thembekile Khumalo( UKZN student)**

**E**lder abuse is a global social issue which affects millions of older people around the world and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community. According to the United Nations, with a growing population of elderly people and as longevity increases, abuse of the elderly is increasing. This is a serious problem that affects health and human rights and also causes deaths.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, the Social Work Department had an awareness campaign held at the hospital where the speakers from TAFTA which is The Association for The Aged, was addressing the patients about elder abuse.

**CONTINUED//**

The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness on elder abuse to prevent it from happening in communities. It was also to let the community know about elderly abuse in its different forms since the WHO (2015) argue that elder abuse remains one of the least investigated types of violence in national surveys and one of the least addressed in national action plans.



**Key discussion included:**

- Forms of elder abuse.
- Diseases that old people suffer from which makes them vulnerable to abuse.
- Symptoms of elder abuse.
- Services that TAFTA offer to elderly people.

Their experiences/challenges that they come across on daily basis.

The community was encouraged to protect the elder people in their communities, oppose and report any form of abuse perpetrated against the elderly.

They were also encouraged to use services in place for the aged to improve their psychosocial wellbeing.

Pamphlets with the steps on how to report elder abuse and how to access the services that TAFTA renders was distributed to the patients and the contact number. 200 patients attended the program, and there was a register circulating.

There was a time for question and answer session for the people who needed one on one. Interaction from patients showed that the information was useful.



## Photo Gallery



**Question and answer session by Lungi Mbewe**



**Social Work Team after a “job well done session”**

# McCord staff celebrated Women's Day in Style On 31 August 2018



**Dr J Mannie—Acting  
CEO**

**Congratulating Women  
on the special day**

We hosted powerful guest speakers Mrs Y.A Archer– Ngidi and Ms C Shwenn , a McCord Board Member. They both spoke very well encouraging women to speak out and take their position.

Ms C Schwenn, a attorney by profession motivated all women to equip themselves and support each other all the time.

The event was enjoyed by all staff that attended. The message was to the point and very inspirational.

Pastor S Chili—McCord Board Chairperson thanked the guest speakers and the event coordinators for organizing this special event. She said women should be celebrated everyday because they are foundation of the society.





.continued..

# Entertainment by McCord In-service Students



From L-R: Sr S Nyathikazi—  
Occ, Nurse, Ms C Schwenn—  
Guest Speaker, Mrs Y.S Archer-  
Ngidi— Guest speaker, Pastor  
Chili—Board Chairperson &  
Mrs Z R Mbatha—PRO



## ***IN MADIBA'S FOOT STEPS***



**McCord Provincial Eye Hospital staff with the donated items**

In following Madiba's footsteps and doing good for the community, McCord Provincial Eye Hospital staff went an arms length to put a smile on children and the elderly by donating toiletries and goodie bags at Abalindi Home Society at Inanda. The event took place on the 18 July 2018 where McCord Provincial Eye Hospital staff joined hands in celebrating Mandela's 100th birthday in giving back to the community.

It was fulfilling to see them singing "happy birthday Madiba" and giving blessing to staff for showing love to them.

A very big thank to all staff for the love and support to elderly persons.

**A** prepared dance item by the children for the special day and also showing appreciation.



Mrs N Sosibo - McCord Social Worker is giving a motivational talk to the children. She also thanked them for staying focussed and rising above the circumstances.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**Mrs. Z Mbatha**  
WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER & EDITOR



**Dr S Naidoo**  
SUB- EDITOR



**health**

Department:  
Health  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Physical Address:**

28 McCord Road

Overport, 4067

**Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 37587, Overport

**Web Address:**

[www.kznhealth.gov.za](http://www.kznhealth.gov.za)

**SWITCHBOARD:**

031 – 268 5700

**SWITCHBOARD FAX NUMBER:**

031 – 268 5705

*FIGHTING DISEASE, FIGHTING POVERTY, GIVING HOPE*