



St Aidan's Mission Regional Hospital

The Voice of St Aidan's Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER SUMMER
EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Acting C.E.O'S MESSAGE	1
WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION	2
CATARACT EXTRACTION PROGRAMME	3
THE LAUCH OF ST AIDAN'S GLACOUMA SUPPORT GROUP	3
MR B. SHEZI'S FARE WELL MESSAGE & PARTY	4
QUALITY DAY CELEBRATION	5
THE EDITORS CORNER	6

THE ACTING C.E.O'S MESSAGE

A challenging year! This is the only description that can be assigned for 2008. But challenges are there, to be turned around into opportunities and the staff of St Aidan's have done this with due vigour and team spirit. Challenges also allow for innovation and compel us to introspect as



**St Aidan's Hospital Acting C.E.O
Mr. P. Dayaram**

to how we do things. Compassionate patient care has been delivered as per our mandate despite limitations of resources. St Aidan's can proudly boast of its efforts to maintain high quality patient care as evidenced by peer reviewed quality inspection surveys.

We have been no different from our sister hospitals in terms of human resource needs especially in the critical areas. Special mention must be made of the medical, paramedical and nursing staff who have coped under trying circumstances.

Our achievements as a team are too numerous to mention individually. This is largely due to the ethos that prevails

at St Aidan's, that we are guided by a higher force in the form of God as we know him. In addition, attitude is an important factor for any team that wants to succeed and I believe that by far, staff at St Aidan's have succeeded in adopting a winning stance.

We are sad that we lost many staff to the "Grim Reaper" during this year. To their families, we say that may God grant you the fortitude to come to terms with your loss.

We were fortunate that at the beginning of the financial year, Mr. Brian Shezi was appointed as CEO of the hospital. He brought with him a wealth of knowledge that he readily shared. An outstanding individual are words

fitting to describe him. After a short eight months, he has moved on as you will read further in this newsletter. It is for this reason that I act as the captain of the ship, steering our way through stormy waters.

To the staff of St Aidan's, may I say, "A job well done and keep up the good work." Your toil and efforts have certainly not gone unnoticed. To the Senior Management Team, thank you for the cooperation and robust debate that we enjoy to reach sound decisions.

The silly season is upon us. The Health Promotions team at Head Office asks me to convey to you to eat healthily and to get some exercise (sic!) Enjoy your festivities responsibly and take time to rest and recharge your batteries. Hope to see you well rested and rejuvenated for the New Year. Happy Christmas and Merry New Year!

WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION AT ST AIDAN'S MISSION REGIONAL HOSPITAL

As you may be aware, the 1st of December is globally declared as World AIDS Day. St Aidan's Hospital commemorated World AIDS Day as part of the Hospital's response to the scourge. The event proved to be very successful as we had knowledgeable and experienced guest speakers who eagerly shared information and knowledge in fighting the disease. Staff members came in their numbers to commemorate, listen and get more information of this deadly disease which has killed a lot of their loved ones and families.

This was a good reflection of the hospital management and staff members to show their involvement and their accountability in fighting the disease. World AIDS day event was well planned by the team led by Ms Surie Govender, Senior Social Worker. 62 staff members participated in VCT testing.

HIV/ AIDS is a concern to every human being in the world and especially so in our country. KwaZulu Natal is the province which is still amongst the leading provinces with people infected and

affected with the disease. Our commemoration as the Hospital was to show our responsibility and concern in dealing with this deadly disease. In addition, we prayed as a hospital for the Lord to guide us in finding a solution to curbing and eliminating the disease. The Hospital Board members were physically present to commemorate with us, which brought to light their involvement with the hospital and its programmes. Candles were lit and we all observed a moment of silence in the St Aidan's Church where the event was held. HIV/ AIDS is affecting everybody in the world one way or the other.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Hospital management and staff to try by all means to create awareness and education about the disease. Health care workers are not immune to the disease and what is happening is that the disease is robbing us of skilled person-

nel that we cannot do without. The net effect is compromising service delivery in our hospitals. We can not afford to lose more staff and family members from our community. Nothing short of a moral regeneration and stopping this denial can get us out of our current situation.



Our Guest speaker Dr Sbongile Ntshanga from S.A Medical Research Council



Mr. M. Zungu and Mr. S Duma showing their commitment and responsibility as men in fighting the disease



St Aidan's Hospital Board Members being led by Rev I.S Cele and Mrs. F. Hlongwa proceeding with candles to pray in the wards

St. Aidan's Partnered with Sathya Sai Sudha Foundation to improve access cataract surgery.

The recently appointed Hospital Board partnered with Sathya Sai Sudha Foundation to improve access to cataract surgery services. This one day exercise brought back sight of about 20 St Aidan's Mission Regional Hospital patients who were on the waiting list for cataract surgery. This is in addition to the 104 patients who benefited from Vodacom Cataract Marathon Surgery conducted in October this year at our hospital.

The Saturday of the 15th November 2008 was unusually busy; 20 patients on the waiting list of St Aidan's for cataract surgery were operated on and gained their sight to lead a quality life. This day was made possible with the sponsorship of the surgical consumables to the value of R20 000 by Sathya Sai Sudha Foundation. This foundation also provided staff with breakfast and lunch on the day. This organization has committed to provide this support for the whole year. Arrangements are yet to be finalized with the hospital board.

Our hospital staff namely doctors, nurses, admission clerks and porters volunteered to work even though this day was their pay day to make sure that this project succeeded. "Keep it up St Aidan's Team! This act reflects your patriotism for our country" said Mr. Shezi, CEO with excitement for the accomplishment for the day. City Hospital also seconded staff to assist on the day. "A big thank you to City Hospital Management, and staff; this is real resource sharing for the benefit of our needy citizens. We will appreciate this venture again in the future to improve access to health care service irrespective of whether our citizens can afford or not " Said Mr. Shezi. We also acknowledge the assistance from Dr Ballim, and Dr Khan from Umhlanga Hospital who also volunteered their service.

The hospital board members were physically present to support management and staff. I am extremely excited and motivated by St Aidan's Team and our sponsors, Sathya Sai Sudha Foundation

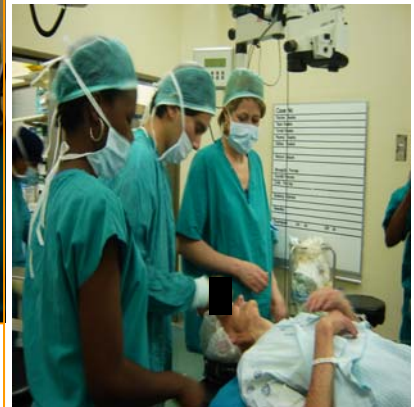
This is our first initiative as the hospital Board, I thank the foundation for partnering with us especially these days when resources are shrinking and the demand for health service is yet to achieve more results in the future. A special thank you to staff for your hard work, dedication, and compassion you demonstrated throughout the day. St Aidan's Management it is a pleasure in-deed to work with you. We appreciate your openness to ideas and the innovative strategies you employed for the success of this project". Said Mr. Shozi, St Aidan's Hospital Board Chairperson.



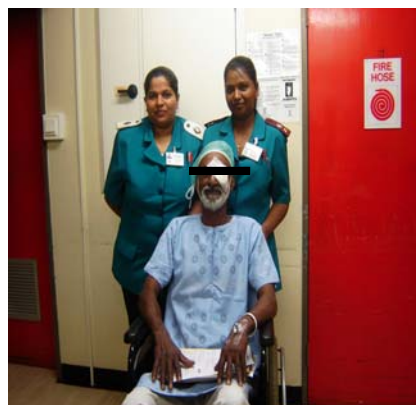
From the right Rev I.S. Cele, Mr. M. Shozi (chairman) Mrs. M. Langenberg, Mr K.P. Khanyile St Aidan's Hospital Board.



Members of the Sathya Sai Sudha Foundation



A Cataract surgery is about to commence as the doctors and nurses preparing



One of our excited patients after his cataract surgery was finished

ST AIDANS MISSION REGIONAL HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED A GLAUCOMA SUPPORT GROUP

St Aidan's Hospital officially launched the first glaucoma support group for KZN province. The support group was initiated in September 2007 by our eye clinic nurses, doctors and patients. Our staff members together with our patients saw the need to educate about glaucoma which can claim a patient's vision if not properly taken care off. On 3 December 2008 glaucoma patients and their family members came in remarkable numbers to officially launch their support group. The launch was absolutely successful due to the superb planning of the eye clinic staff members.

Our eye clinic staff and doctors

worked really hard to get the support group off the ground. Prior to the official launch there were been a number of meetings with the patients suffering from glaucoma. This was in order to spread the word about the support group and for patients to gain more information about glaucoma. Since the support group started more patients joined which meant that there is a need for the support group. Mrs. P Xaba From Ethekwini district was present to witness a sterling job which was put together. In her speech she outlined the importance of educating our patients

about glaucoma. She commended St Aidan's Hospital nurses and doctors for identifying the need of education for our patients and finding a solution towards that need. Mrs. P. Xaba also made a call to other hospitals to initiate more support groups even on other diseases which are affecting our communities. Patients enjoyed themselves on the day with music, traditional dance and an informative play which was coordinated by our staff from the eye clinic. We hope that this support group will grow from strength to strength and it will bear more support groups in the province. Our theme is **KUMNANDI UKUBONA, YILUNGELO LAKHO**



Dr Jhavy highlighted the importance of medication to patients.



Mrs. P. Xaba from Ethekwini District gave a speech and commended the launch



The Hospital Choir entertained our visitors in style.



Traditional dancers doing what they do best



An informative play relating to glaucoma



Our visitors for the day who came in remarkable numbers for their launch

Mr. Shezi Saying Good bye To St Aidan's Team



St Aidan's former C.E.O Mr. M.B Shezi

My association with you was too short than I anticipated. I would like to thank you all for allowing me to lead you and for your openness to new ideas and changes. It is unfortunate that I have leave this institution before the realization of our goals.

I have confidence on our management team that against all odds it will rise up to the challenges to make St Aidan's the centre of excellence where best practices can be benchmarked and be propagated in the department. This can still be achieved through your commitment and dedication. ***"The difference between the impossible and possible lies in a person's determination"*** -Tommy Lasorda.

Special thanks to all staff for the positive attitude, compassion and dedication you have demonstrated during my tenure. If you are to change, please change for the best. ***"Success will not lower to us. We must raise our standards to success"***- Rev. Randall R. McBride, Jr.

Lastly I thank the Hospital Board members for acceding to the MEC's call during my tenure. The standards that the board has set must maintained if not improved.

In conclusion please always keep this in mind for all your endeavors ***"We must not, in trying to think a big difference, ignore the small daily difference we can make, which over time add up to a big difference that we cannot foresee."*** -Marian Wright Edelman. Thank you.

Farewell To Mr. B. Shezi



From right Mr. V.R Dlamini, Mr. B Shezi C.E.O, Mr. P, Ramowter, Ms M Swart

Mr. B Shezi joined St Aidan Mission Regional Hospital on 1 April 2008, after being appointed as C.E.O of the institution. He was previously the Inanda CHC Manager where he spent 2 years as a CHC manager. Mr. Shezi implemented a lot of changes in St Aidan's Hospital especially in terms of governance. Our institution was so unfortunate to have spent only eight months with him as we were still looking forward to learn from him. In his farewell party he was applauded by staff members and senior management for his integrity and a diverse style of management.

His goal for the institution was "to see St Aidan's Hospital as a centre of excellence where other hospitals can benchmark and be propagated in the department". Giving his last speech Mr. Shezi thanked our staff for accepting changes that he implemented, as we know that change can be perceived as good or bad depending on an individual. .

We as St Aidan's Institution would like to bid Mr. B. Shezi farewell and wish him all the best of luck for his future career. We will miss him for his good leadership. ***"Sikufisela Okuhle Kodwa"***

QUALITY IS OUR EVERYDAY BUSINESS AT ST AIDAN'S HOSPITAL

The Department of Health is strengthening and upgrading quality in hospitals. It was therefore imperative for the department's hospitals to coordinate Quality Day. The Department is strongly highlighting the importance of quality in our service delivery. St Aidan's Mission Regional Hospital celebrated Quality Day on the 5th December 2008 and showcased the hospital's best practices. We are all aware of our financial crises but that can not hold us back in terms of best practices. This is prove that even without a lot of financial

resources we can still be innovative and use what we have at our disposal. We can not undermine our talents and innovative skills of getting the best results at our institution for our patients. Our wards were ready to showcase their stalls to very strict quality team judges. St Aidan's senior management was also present in order to give support to staff and to the quality assurance team. All those who participated worked very hard to impress the judge and take the first position. The winning stall will be presented by a certifi-

cate in due course. In all peer reviews we learn something new or how we can better our practice. The Quality Assurance Team thanks those who participated and encourages other departments to participate for the better of the hospital and our service delivery.



STALL ON INFORMATION



In the centre is Mrs. Mkhize our Help Desk Officer handing out brochures and giving information.



PICTURES FROM DIFFERENT STALLS WHICH COMPETED.

THE PRO'S CORNER



Mr. Trevor M. Dlamini
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

First I would like to thank God for the life that he has given me. I thank him for the blessings and the faith he has in me. Once again, 2008 is almost over. The festive season is in everybody's minds which means a lot of parties and happy moments. I would like to thank management and staff of St. Aidan's Hospital for giving me this platform and support throughout the year and to wish St. Aidan's Hospital staff and everybody universally a Merry Christmas and Happy new year.

This year has been a very tough year for most of us. This year we needed to put more effort in everything that we did in order to get good results. We managed as an institution to meet our goals even with limited finances. The whole year needed new ideas in terms of saving costs yet maintaining best service delivery which the Department needs. We managed as an institution to provide best service delivery even with limited resources. It is critical to commend our dedicated staff members for their enthusiasms, commitment towards service delivery. We should now look back on the year and pick our best moments for the year and learn from our mistakes for the year. I hope that all our unfulfilled goals for the year can be achieved next year. It is important of every

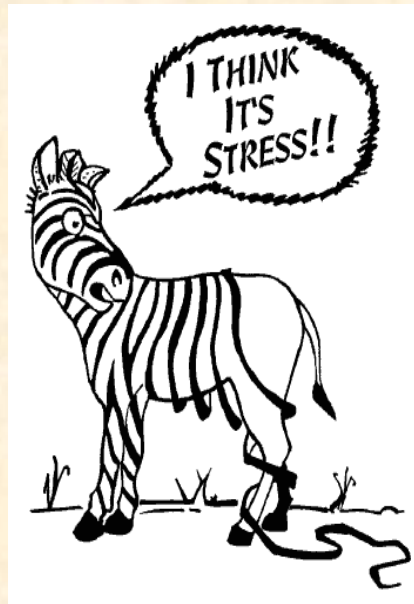
person to set his/her goal and work hard towards achieving that set goal. This is my last edition for this year, hoping the best for next year and everyone please enjoy your Christmas Holidays. Please drive safely and enjoy everything that you can enjoy responsibly. **Thank you**

Please forward your inputs and constructive criticisms in order to improve our newsletter to:

Mr. T.M. Dlamini
Public Relations Officer
St Aidan's Mission Regional Hospital

P.O Box 547
Durban
4000
Tel No:(031) 314 2224
Fax No: (031) 309 3222
E-mail:
trevor.dlamini@kznhealth.gov.za

Laughter is the Best Medicine for the Year



PLEASE
DON'T
STRESS
YOURSELVES
TOO MUCH