Annual Report Radiance Foundation

2017 to 2018

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- # MESSAGE FROM THE RADIANCE TEAM



Helen Keller said: “The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

This is what I believe makes the Radiance Foundation such a unique organization. We are a collective of people who through extraordinary vision and ideals, are trying to restore sight to those who are deprived of one of life’s most precious gifts. The ability to see your grandchild for the first time, or the colour of the sky, or the first blossom of spring.

We are still a fledgling organization and we have overcome many hurdles to be where we are, but we are forever moving forward, striving to greater heights and expanding our visionary ideas.

We will never give up and we will never let go of our vision which is to restore sight and giving *Radiance* to an otherwise dark world.

Our participation in the Mandela Day initiative was a great honour, and to be associated with an event that received its name from probably one of the greatest visionaries of our time, only inspires us to expand on the work done by the great Nelson Mandela.

We are also grateful for the donations received by the Ackermann Foundation and Santam and I believe we will continue to work together in the future to help those who are less privileged than us.

Thus our goal for the future is simple. Having vision *and* restoring sight. I think Helen Keller would be proud.

- *Dr. Junet van der Merwe*

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017 – 2018

2.1. Saturday Surgeries

Once again we had a successful year with regards to our Saturday Surgeries project coordinated professionally and efficiently by Dr. Junet van dr Merwe in cooperation with the Eersterivier Hospital Eye Clinic. We have managed to successfully conduct 60 cataract surgeries and did 80 screenings for the financial year ending 2018.

- We did our first set of surgeries on Saturday 11 March 2017 for a total of 21 patients.
- We did the Mandela Day surgeries on 15 July 2017 – see more details later.

For this financial year the costs for our Saturday Surgery project were R 156,702.35 which consisted of R 62,391.80 in respect of consumables payable to the hospital directly, and R 94,310.55 towards the salaries for the staff. We are once again thankful to Eersterivier Eye Clinic that provide us with the facilities for conducting these operations for free.

2.2. Fundraiser: Blame it on the Boogie

On 29 June 2017 we hosted a fundraiser at the Barnyard Willowbridge by selling tickets for the production called Blame it on the Boogie at R200.00 per ticket. The base cost was R16.000.00 paid to Barnyard for the Boogie, and we made a profit of R4,200.00 in total that we could deposit into our bank account to use towards our Saturday Surgeries.

In total 101 people attended and had such great fun.

We would like to thank each person that attended the event for making this the success it was and in helping us raise funds for our cause.



2.3. Donations

On the note of fundraising, we have in addition to the fundraiser secured 3 large donations this year that enabled us to conduct even more surgeries. We are immensely thankful to these donors who have helped us make our dream come true, and who have enabled the blind to see.

- The Ackermann Foundation donated R90,000.00 for the Mandela Day Joint & Sight Iniciative
- Santam made 2 donations of R6000.00 each in June and August 2017 respectively.

A massive and heartwarming thank you!!

2.4. Mandela Day 2017

In the beginning of May 2017 Dr. Junet received a call from Dr. Beth Engelbrecht, the head of the Department of Health of the Western Cape. Unbeknown to us how big the impact would be, Dr. Beth asked if Radiance Foundation will be interested in being a participant in the Department's Mandela Day Initiative for 2017. Of course we said yes. And that was the start of an amazing journey.

We partnered with the Ackermann Foundation who donated the enormous amount of R90,000.00 to enable us to conduct 40 surgeries for Mandela Day.

Saturday 15 July 2017 we had a marathon session and conducted 40 surgeries from 08:00 the morning until 17:00 the afternoon. We would like to thank Drs. Junet van der Merwe, David Steven and Pauline Lam for doing these surgeries. The staff of Eersterivier Eye Clinic did a stellar job to coordinate the flow of patients into the theatre.

Dr. Beth Engelbrecht from the Department of Health of the Western Cape made the effort to speak to many patients, did an interview for a news clip and gave Radiance Foundation invaluable exposure. We are now firmly established as one of the Department's partners in the private sector willing to take the hand of the government in an attempt to limit preventable blindness in the Western Cape.



2.5. 18 July 2017: Certificate of Appreciation

On 18 July 2017 Dr. Junet van der Merwe and Anita Janse van Rensburg as representatives of Radiance Foundation accepted an award presented by the Department of Health of the Western Cape for our participation in the Mandela Day Joint & Sight Initiative of 2017. We had the opportunity to network with other NPO's, institutions and organizations who took hands with the province in order to make a difference in 67 persons' lives in memory of Nelson Mandela's legacy.





2.6. Media exposure

Tygerburger did a news article on Radiance Foundation and our Blame it on the Boogie Fundraiser in the month of June 2017. We are very grateful to Tygerburger for the platform to receive positive exposure in their news paper. This is the second year that they gave our fundraisers such inspiring coverage.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As a non profit organisation, we are solely reliant on donations from outside of the foundation. We received sufficient funds this financial year together with the positive bank balance we sustained from previous years, to meet all out financial obligations. We keep our good standing with SARS as public benefit organisation. The foundation remains compliant on the Department of Social Development's NPO database.

4. FUTURE PLANS

Radiance Foundation would like to carry on with our efforts to raise sufficient funds to continue with the Saturday Surgeries at Eersterivier Eye Hospital. We have started this initiative with stars in our eyes, but we have also learned a great deal over the last four years. We thought we would conquer the world for blind people, but it is not in the large projects that lies the biggest satisfaction. It is in that one person we help to see her grandchild for the first time in her life, where we make the biggest difference. That is the legacy we are pursuing, and undertake to continue with it as long as we can. Of course we cannot do this on our own, so we will continue to raise funds, to challenge organisations and individuals alike to participate with us in any size and manner. We will support any initiative of the Department of Health of the Western Cape for future Mandela Day surgery projects. It is also our vision to have another fundraiser in the coming year, so keep your eyes open.