

JUNE, 2020; ISSUE NO. 9 (Final Issue of 2020)

Through the Prism of Lions, Together, We Serve More.



Ciao! Greetings from the desk of DG Alistair –



Wow, can you believe that we are 11 months into this fiscal year. Only 30 days left, and then we change the leadership at our clubs, district and multiple district. What a year it has been with new challenges thrown at us all on a regular basis throughout the year. The thing about challenges, though, is that we as Lions find solutions and overcome them, so that we can ensure that we continue serving our communities, and we continue to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Lions Clubs have been doing amazing projects this year and it is wonderful to see how clubs have adapted to meet the new demands of our "current normal" and what our communities have faced with the various lockdowns and the Covid-19 pandemic.

I hope every Lion has had an enjoyable year to date despite the challenges that we have faced and that we all look forward to growing our clubs and our organisation and serving even more people going forward.

We must however remember that we still have 1 month left in this year, and we still have lots to achieve during this period. We must not slow down, just because we are coming to the end of our terms, we must continue to strive to make sure that all goals that you have set for the year are reached.

Thank you for all that you do for your communities and please continue to serve with Passion, Respect and Integrity. Support those that need it and remember to also check up on your fellow Lions Members.

From a personal side of things I would like to give a huge thank you my family, my club, cabinet officers and way to many Lions to mention, who have supported me through this journey, without you I would not have been able to do this. THANK YOU.

Yours in Lionism Alistair Tuckett District Governor 2019/2020

Here is some info from Alberton Lions Club on the *Comfort Hearts* a project *Debbie Welman* has been doing during the lockdown, **Debbie is partner in service**, Lion John Welman wife.

Debbie saw in the UK and the States nurses had requested crocheted hearts to give to Covid-19 ICU patients. The patients that die in ICU are not allowed their family with them so they wanted to put a little heart in the patient's hand as they pass away and send a duplicate heart to the family. She found this incredibly sad but knew it could bring a little comfort to families in the same situation in South Africa. As the virus had not yet become as bad as other countries she asked our local Hospice if they would like this for their patients and they said they would love to have some. They are packaged in pairs in a Ziplock packet with a little note that reads "Here are two hearts, one for you when you can't be with your loved one, and one for them to hold snuggly in their hand so they can feel close to you. Be joined by these threads, made with love." We will continue making our Comfort Hearts and hope to be able to find more places where these can be used.

Debbie got a group of ladies to assist with making them and they have now supplied over 400 to local Hospices and an old age home.







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Benoni Van Rhyn and Benoryn Branch club.

Coach (St Georges Children of the Anglican Church) Safe House;

A request went out for face masks gloves and hand sanatizer for the staff and children, so **Benoni Van Rhyn** answered the call and donated 150 masks, 2 bottles of 5 litr sanatizer and two boxes of 100 in each box of latex gloves. This will become a project of both clubs **Benoryn and Benoni van Rhyn**) now we are one. A few left over Christmas cakes were donated to give the teenagers a bit of a treat.







We also also donated towards various feeding schemes and a few food parcels to three different organisations and two destitute families in the region of R10 000.00 Some of the hot food served on a Daily basis to destitute families of **Hope Outreach Project**. (R5000 donation towards this)

Benoni Van Rhyn responded to a plea in the Benoni City Times from *Harvest project* (Based in Brakpan) to assist in feeding the people from the Plastic City Informal settlement in Brakpan. The people here live basically hand to mouth and with no recycling allowed in the lockdown they are going hungry. We supplied R1000 worth of food towards their project. They also on a regular basis feed the children from there who attend a preschool in Brakpan which too is closed for now due to the Covid 19 pandemic.















(Above right) Benoni Van Rhyn, through Lions Brightsight, Sponsored Margaret and her two boys to a much needed eye test and a brand new pair of spectacles each.

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PORT ALFRED LIONS CLUB;

Project 1 Face masks.

We decided to have face masks made and these have given to **Huis Diaz in Alexandria**, **Damant Lodge**, **Sunset Park and Settlers Park**. The idea is for the masks to be made available to the care staff who are putting their lives at stake to assist the elderly in through this very difficult time. These very well made face masks were inspected and approved by the authorities in PE. They were welcomed by the various Retirement facilities who assured the Lions that they were very necessary and would put to good use.





Huis Diaz – Lions Dirk and Lucinda De Vos the masks to the Manager, Tania

(Left) Settlers Park.
Board Vice Chair
"Buggs" Wilmot and
Carer Rowena
Elnagar receive the
face masks from
Lion Mike Newlands.



Sunset Park present to David Underwood.





Damant Lodge -Dirk and Lucinda present to Matron Marita.

Project 2.: Food Parcels;

Port Alfred Lions entered into partnership with Loaves and Fishes who are a well known group who specialise in the distribution of food parcels to those who are in need. They provided funds at assist with the increasing number of requests due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Project 3. Joint Project with Round Table;

Port Alfred Round Table challenged the PA Lions top assist with a project which they were donating food parcels. The Lions naturally accepted the challenge, thus entering into another successful project in supporting Corona virus victims.

An appropriate way to end the year: I would like to thank **Alberton Lions** members for all their support and commitment other the past year.

It was difficult to celebrate volunteer week together so we had a virtual celebration and many members sent us their smiles it was a great way to acknowledge them for all their hard work.





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A Great achievement for the Edenvale Lions Club

On the 31st of May 2020, the Edenvale Lions hosted an online fundraiser. *Andrea Giglio, an Elvis Tribute* artist from KZN performed via Facebook live for viewers. The live stream attracted 2200 viewers from around the country and raised **R8,500.00** for **Kids Kicking Cancer** (an organisation under the paediatric cancer pillar).

Edenvale Lions would like to thank everyone involved in organising this event, fellow Lions Clubs and community members for their support and donations and Andrea Giglio for his awesome performance and his time.

A special thank you to *Lion Margie* who put this event together!



KENSINGTON LIONS CLUB;

When we first went into self isolation, the club got together and moulded antiviral, antibacterial soaps which we handed out to people who were working outside i.e. car guards, petrol attendants.

During Lockdown 5 level, we launched an online art competition for the kiddies, poster attached, and received a lovely message from one of the mom's which read "Thank you for giving the kids stimulation and thank you for the chance for them to show their creativity and love which will help shape them into respectable young adults they are quickly becoming. Stay safe and God bless." Another message we received was "Thank you for all the hard work and giving them the chance to show their worth and for activities you keep them busy with during this difficult period. May God continue to bless you all at the club". I have attached the winning posters. We only received entries in two of the three categories, I have attached the winning entries.

Our latest endeavour is our online photo competition, open to all ages and we are getting some stunning entries. *They are all on our Facebook page, "Kensington Lions Club, Johannesburg".*

We have also been distributing food parcels, unfortunately no photo's were taken but received the following messages "You are all doing a fantastic job. Don't know where we would be without people like you. THANK YOU", "A HUGE THANK YOU to you and your group, you are truly angels", "Thank you for your generosity and very kind heart".













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(Ed's Note;) This article from the Newcastle Lions is a bit long but a very interesting read. Clubs might get some ideas on how they can help their Commities as well. from it. Submitted by Nicolette Baney, Newcastle Lions.

"It is very difficult to assist the community in this time and in the beginning I was feeling very useless. Myself and other Lions ladies then slowly found organisations and businesses through Facebook and called them to offer any help we possibly could.

- 1.A local lady Ruth is very involved with the homeless community and when the lock down happened she helped move the homeless into our old casino. The homeless individuals are fed and clothed and provided beds; she is assisted by the government but as that is not always enough, we provided 20 mattresses and clothing from our store of donated clothes for our winter warmer project and we also sent blankets. Ruth is a truly dynamic lady and although she calls us whenever she has a need, we are also able to make that same call and she always pulls through to help.
- 2.Before the lock down happened we realised that a lot of children would not receive their daily meals at school through the feeding schemes. We donated R2000.00 each to the four schools we support to assist these families. These families will now be going on to our data base for food parcel assistance.
- 3.We heard that there are two communities of ladies that are making masks for the local community and the less fortunate; they also sell masks to make more when people are able to pay. We donated R3000.00 worth of material to the Masks for All group and gave elastic and whatever material gets donated to us, to the Strelitzia ladies. They have provided masks to old age homes and the less fortunate in our community.
- 4.We have also got involved with another local lady Maxine who is providing hygiene products to the young ladies who would normally get their products from the school. We received our first donation for thirty girls' packs today. Really excited for that as I think this will be ongoing.

5.Our biggest time and effort has gone into a group of local people that started a feeding project....also something that we heard about from Ruth. A local security company runs it from their offices and does deliveries through their staff and the volunteers. They have 700 families that they feed which amount to about 3500 mouths. We have assisted by calling on our contacts for food and cash donations. I have also put them in contact with the Rotary so that they are helped by all our NPO's. I have contacted Avril for *Nutrilite* of which she has managed to secure 500 for us. The *Muslim community group and Rapportryers* are also assisting. We have now created a spreadsheet on the google drive which can be accessed by everybody that is assisting with this project so that all can see address's for delivery and "black dot" anyone that is not deserving of the parcels. Also families are not duplicated and the little that we have goes further. Food and funds are scarce. This has been an absolutely Mammoth task but its nearly complete and other organisations and individuals can now access it and edit it where necessary, we are hoping to have made all involved lives a little easier with this spreadsheet.

The word spread very quickly and we seem to be busier than normal with Lions activities but I do feel we are making a dent even if it is a small one! "



(Right;) Lion Elbé, Watson from SPCA, Prospect Lion Sinta, Lions Christine and Don.



(Above, left;) The Weltevreden Lions visited the Roodepoort SPCA on the 16th of June and delivered 68 Tins of Dog Food, 96 tins of Cat Food, 50 Blankets, 14kg's of dog food and 8kg's of cat food was donated. Prospect Sinta, Lion Don, Watson from the SPCA, Lions Ilsa and Christine.



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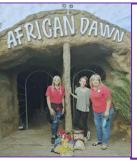


Lions of St Croix consists of two members; we thought we would share just a few projects we did in the last four weeks ☺









(Left African
Dawn needs
ongoing
assistance with
food for the
animals. We
delivered bird
seed and fruit to
them.



(Left) Food parcel and bedding delivery to assist the residents at Old Noordhoek grounds Gate 1.



(Left) We delivered clothing, shoes and appreciation packs to the ladies at Bet Sheekom Safe Haven who are assisting with the packing of food parcels during Covid 19.



(Above) Food, Clothing, masks and sanitizers delivered to Missionvale









(Above;) Meaty Samp & Beans and rolls for supper yesterday @ Sydenham Old Age Home.

(Above) Thank you goody bags to caregivers who have been on duty for the last seven weeks.

(Above) Food donations for the awesome people at Old Noordhoek grounds Gate 1

Final message from your Editor; Hello Everyone; Its so hard to believe that this Lionistic Year has passed so quicky and what an eventful one it has been! I would like to thank DG Alistair for appointing me to do his Newsletter – its been an absolute pleasure and privilege.

A huge Thank you goes to all of you who have contributed articles and photos – without you, there would not have been a Newsletter! I have learned such a lot from all of you – different projects and amazing work done by (sometimes) very small Clubs.

I don't know at this stage who will be doing next year's Newsletter, but whoever it is, I wish them as much enjoyment as what I have experienced and I would ask you to please give him/her the same kind of support that you have so graciously given me.

Once again, Thank you, Kindest regards,

Dee.

As they say in the classics,



"That's all for now, Folks!"