



"Always Needed, Always There"

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWS

March 2017

HOUTBAY IMIZAMOYETHU FIRES

Cape Town is known for its fire and flood disasters due to dense population in low lying informal settlements. In light of this SARCS is always prepared and on stand-by to provide Disaster Relief.

The fires that engulfed Imizamo Yethu informal settlement in Hout Bay, Cape Town claimed with it three lives. It destroyed three homes and killed a boy, a girl, a man and a woman, according to City of Cape Town fire and rescue spokesman. Just after midnight, the fire services were called to Mandela Park in Hout Bay.

More than 12 firefighting vehicles were dispatched from various fire stations with more than 70 firefighters. By 8am the fire was still not completely contained. First call of activation came after 8 am the Saturday (11th March) morning. SARCS volunteers were on onsite at 12pm assisting Western Cape Disaster Management with assessments, evacuations and deployment plans.

In a space of 2 hours, 50 volunteers came on board to assist with transporting of blankets, preparing food and attending to donors and the general public. Local donors like Islamic Relief assisted with the operation and Shoprite/Checkers contributed with vegetables. Meals and blankets were provided for 8000 people by 8pm on Saturday.



Houtbay Photo: South African Red Cross Society

SARCS was one of the organisations identified as the hub for donations food, and all 8000 people were provided with blankets, mattresses, hygiene materials (vanity packs male and female), baby hygiene packs, psycho social support and tents.

Ongoing partnerships as a result of this tragic event for future major disasters were established. An MOU was signed with Islamic Relief.

ALEX MALL OPENING

SARCS gave support and was at the Mall from 30th to 2nd April. We were allocated a vacant store that was branded accordingly and shoppers and the community had access to services that included testing for blood pressure, HIV and TB screening. It was an opportunity for the public to interact with the Red Cross brand and find out more information about our projects, volunteerism and membership. The App activation and distribution of flyers saw interest in the app and some downloads.

SARCS promotion and First Aid services were the highlight of the weekend. There was an influx of influential individuals, general public and media. This was a great opportunity for SARCS to promote, interact, sell First Aid kits, drive app activations and membership and educate the public about our service offerings.

“ Helping educate the public ”



Alex Mall Photo: mccomick-property.com



CSI WITH CHIPPA UNITED

World TB Day celebrated on 24 March each year, is always an opportunity to raise awareness about the burden of tuberculosis (TB) worldwide and the status of TB prevention and care efforts. It is also an opportunity to mobilize political and social commitment for further progress in efforts to end TB.

South Africa is besieged with efforts to conquer its top killer TB with more focus needed on poor communities as drug resistant strains take hold and wreak havoc with 80% of the country's young adults already infected with the virus.

TB and HIV related illnesses were the two leading causes of death among young people in 2013 and of the 77 822 people below the ages of 35 who died in 2013, 10 962 died from TB with 7890 succumbing to HIV.

In Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape), the day was commemorated in its second year running with the campaign themed: "Unite to End TB" for World TB Day. With this year placing special focus on uniting efforts to "Leave No One Behind", including actions to address stigma, discrimination, marginalization and overcome barriers to access care.

The TB event was held in Uitenhage on the 29th of March where six high schools and six primary schools rife in TB areas were targeted. The high schools undertook a debate competition touching on issues around TB and HIV, whilst the primary schools engaged in a mini 7-aside soccer tournament where the local football club Chipipa United (CSI partner) participated and shared messages with the kids on TB and HIV. Concurrently there was delivery of TB, blood pressure and HIV testing.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Vodacom Change the World, Mogalakwena Football (MFFH) for Hope and SARCS, Limpopo; in partnership with “LoveLife” and “Mosesetjane Get Them Reading” commemorated Human Rights Day under the theme “Advocating for youth Rights”. The youth as the targeted audience honoured the day in their numbers and to ensure that even those not in attendance are not left out, Dancer FM Radio captured the event by hosting a talkshow.

SARCS interacted with these different stakeholders to emphasise on good partnerships coming together to advance concerns surrounding the youth. The Department of Social Development representatives were present to support this great initiative and noted points discussed for further considerations and collaborations. Advocating for youth rights, MFFH addressed concerns about “Violating Youth Rights in accessing Sports”, which highlighted under-utilization of sporting facilities at MFFH by female youth; Vodacom Change the World advocated for inaccessibility of HIV and AIDS information and HIV Counselling and Testing Services to youth; at high schools in particular. LoveLife

advocated for inaccessibility of Health services for youth, which include Reproductive Health and HIV services, since health services operate only during periods when the youth that could benefit from services are at school or work. They proceeded to stress the point; together with Dancer FM, that parents should allow their children to use their (parents) cellphones as available to learn and access technology. Whereas, Mosesetjane Get Them Reading Youth Development advocated for unavailability of learning facilities, particularly technology and addressed matters around inaccessibility of media and technology including internet. Activities for the day included drama, music, dancing, edutainment and rounding up the day with a mini soccer tournament.

Human Rights Day Photo: South African Red Cross Society

