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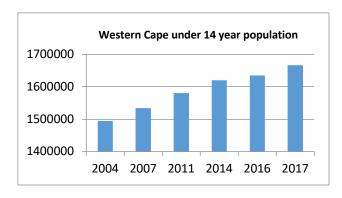
The newsletter of the Phoenix Burns Project

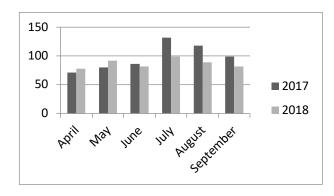
No. 16: October 2018

Phoenix Burns prevention reaches 12 000 children

he Phoenix burns prevention team has trained a staggering 12 000 children in burn prevention since its inception late last year. According to Statistics South Africa, the population of the Western Cape is estimated to increase by 5,800 people per month. Their figures for population growth of Western Cape children below 14 years of age can be seen in the figure below. During the past 2 years, the population increase for children under 14 years has been 32 257 annually or 2688 children per month. Under the current economic conditions, poverty is rife, and the burns epidemic is directly related to poverty.

Prevention is always better than cure. For this reason, our vice-President, Sean Defty embarked on a large-scale school burn prevention programme. To date, twelve thousand children in 29 Cape Town schools were educated in burn prevention and burn first aid. For the first time, Red Cross Hospital has not experienced a significant burn surge over the winter months. During the peak month of July, there were 25% fewer admissions than in 2017, despite the population growth. We will continue to study trends to see what impact our programme has on hospital admissions from the specific areas where the training was done.





The burns unit ward admissions showing a significant reduction during the winter in 2017 and 2018, despite the population growth and poverty figures in the Western Cape.

Fire Prevention Programme

Sibongile Zenzile, an adult burn survivor, is the head educator of the programme. Sibongile speaks fluent English and Xhosa and carries the prevention message over with great enthusiasm and insight.



A fire safety demonstration



Sibongile connecting with the children



Fire Safety Advice to take home



Proud "trained" fire-safety officers

EASTER celebrated with Koala bears & bunnies

Easter was made so much better for our hospital patients and their parents, with grateful thanks to the 2017 Hike and Bike participants who donated these toys. Parents appreciated the toiletries donated by the Catholic Women's League.



Staff nurse receives the Phoenix Burns Carer Award

Staff nurse, Heather Abrahams was awarded the "Phoenix Burns Carer Award" for her years of dedication and kindness to paediatric burn survivors. Phoenix Vice-President, Sean Defty presented the award to her.



Yamkela is walking again!

Amazing 7 year old Yamkela Matola who is one of the Phoenix Education Fund Recipients, has recently started walking on his prosthetic legs. This positive, delightful child is very happy with his newfound mobility.





Ward celebrations for our super-heroes

Phoenix secretary, Jacqui Lukic has made many hearts happy with her colourful ward celebrations for birthdays and major burn survivors before they return home.







Hike and Bike - Laser miracles

The 2017 Hike and Bike team handed over the new M22 laser in November 2017. The laser has changed the lives of many children and will continue to do so for many years to come.









The new M22 laser in use, transforming red, itchy scars immediately into pink, itch-free scars.

Phoenix funds ward psychosocial rehabilitation

Part of the funds raised by the 2017 Hike and Bike team is being utilized to fund the psychosocial support team in the burns unit. Nosisana Nama, Sibongile Zenzile and William Baartman play a major role in attending to patients and parents beyond the burn wounds.

These special people not only deal with the fears, guilt and heartbreak of a burn injury in one's own language and culture, but they continue to nurture, heal and bring hope. Phoenix hopes to further raise funds to keep this wonderful team going forward in 2019.



Nosisana, Sibongile and William.

The annual M&M Dinner Dance

Annie Pickering organised yet another great M&M (Michelle and Milani) Dinner Dance on the 19 May 2018. Proceeds went towards the Phoenix Education Fund supporting burn survivor school education and vocational training.









Phoenix welcomes new Finance expert

Kevin Morris joined the Phoenix committee in the Finance portfolio. His extensive experience in the financial field makes him highly suitable for this appointment.

Thank YOU, donors!

We sincerely thank all our many individual donors and the following organizations and groups for their ongoing support: Action for Burns in Children, Anne Pickering and the M&M fundraiser donors, Catholic Women's League, Catholic Bishops Lenten Appeal, St Margaret Mary Parish, Cripps Sears & Partners, Phoenix Flyers, Woodside, Total Oil, Schlumberger, Wood Mackenzie and the European Burn Association.





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