

LERATONG HOSPICE

ANNUAL REPORT
2006 - 2007



“Where There Is Love”

CONTENTS

PAGE

Foreword	1
Message from the Chairperson	2
The Year in Review	3
Audited Financial Statements February 2006	7
Board of Management	8
Our Staff	8
List of Donors and Supporters	9



Leratong Hospice

The bank account's to which contributions may be made and will be gratefully received is:

In Pound Sterling:

Friends of Leratong
Hospice
A/c No: 12779453
Bank Of Ireland
High St, Belfast
Bank No: 90-21-27

In South African Rand

Leratong Hospice
A/c No: 410036188
Standard Bank
De Handelspst, Melodie
Hartbeespoort
Bank No: 01 34 45 00
Swift Code: SB ZAZA JJ

In EURO:

Leratong Hospice
A/c No: 77360960
Bank of Ireland
2 College Green
Dublin 2
Bank No: 90-00-17

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure to write a short preface to the annual report of Leratong hospice. This is a marvellous example of local people coming together to care for their neighbours who are suffering. Now people who are sick can receive the love and care they need in a wonderful facility near their homes and their families. The work of Leratong and the dedication of the staff are well known all over South Africa and even wider afield. It is an inspiration to other communities who want to do something similar for their people. I hope that Leratong will continue to attract the kind of support it needs to continue the good work that has begun. There is still so much to do and more facilities needed to make life even better for your residents. I look forward to seeing the ongoing development of Leratong. May God bless all that has already been achieved and reward those who have contributed to such a marvellous work of love.



Fr Martin Coffey CP
Passionist Congregation Provincial Office
Mount Argus, Dublin
IRELAND

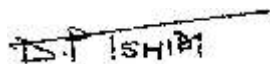


*Details from the entrance hall of Leratong hospice.
The African baskets on the wall symbolise generosity and giving.*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Three years already! As we approach our 2007 Annual General meeting it is difficult not to think of where we come from and where we wanted to be three years ago. While we must remain humble and modest, we can also rejoice in the success that represents Leratong hospice, not only in the community of Atteridgeville, but also in the palliative care community of South Africa. The last twelve months have brought their share of accolades and small victories against disease and death. The last year also brought some pain and disappointment, especially at the beginning of 2007 when our director, Fr Kieran Creagh, was violently attacked one night on the hospice premises. This was a great shock to us all, board and staff members, community members, patients and friends, and many South Africans and well wishers the world over who read reports in the press. We always saw the hospice as a sanctuary, a place where only good is possible, a place where respect, peace and generosity triumph over violence and meanness, even death. Were we wrong? The eight young men who violated the sanctity of the safe haven that is Leratong have not affected our determination to continue to deliver the most appropriate and relevant palliative care to members of our community. They have merely delayed, by a few months, the roll out of our future plans to extend Leratong's services to the community with, amongst other projects, our new out patient clinic.

While we wish a speedy recovery to Fr. Kieran, we also wish the best to the staff so that they may keep alive the spirit of Leratong in his absence. They have made us accustomed to the best, they proved it again last year, and we trust that their generosity and determination will not falter.



Adv. Dube Tshidi
Chairperson



*Fr Kieran Creagh, director
Leratong hospice*

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

It is unbelievable that we are already looking forward to the third Anniversary of the opening of the hospice and our third Annual General Meeting. Much has been achieved this year thanks to the dedication of the members of the Board of Management under the Chairpersonship of Adv. Dube Tshidi. Their leadership was especially felt at the occasion of the tragic event that shocked our community at the beginning of 2007 when our director Fr. Kieran was shot during a burglary. The emergency strategic plan they put in place to support the staff and the hospice, ensuring that our level of service remained at the highest level, was highly effective.

In the past 12 months, we have cared for 210 patients (528 since the inception of Leratong). 56% were male, 72% were suffering from HIV/Aids, 22 % from Cancer and the remaining from other terminal diseases. Accompaniment of these patients in their suffering, sharing their last living moments or seeing those termed terminal going back home to life of independency, give rich rewards to the dedicated staff. The staff's commitment to their difficult tasks remains unchanged as staff turnover is minimal. 90 % of the existing staff started with us 3 years ago and last year only one staff member resigned for personal reason. One can only commend the incredible generosity and commitments of these volunteers who are carrying out their task with outmost dedication. Recognising that our staff is our most precious resource, we are continuously supporting their skills development and support. For instance, 3 of our nurses underwent a Palliative Educational programme for one month in Pretoria Academic Oncology department and 7 nurses attended the 4th Multidisciplinary International Palliative Care conference. The psychological needs of the staff in dealing with suffering, death and dying has been met by clinical psychologist David Gonsalves. His weekly sessions were also very important in dealing with staff trauma following Fr. Kieran's shooting.



Nurses and carers look after patients at Leratong

Support to further development and ongoing growth of Leratong Hospice is received from all corners of the community, locally and overseas. We would also like to specifically highlight the contributions, financial or in kind that we have received last year. We are very grateful for the continuous support we receive. We wish to especially acknowledge the precious mentoring and support of the Hospice Palliative Care Association -of which Leratong is a member- for their periodic baseline surveys, preparing the hospice to gain full accreditation with the Council of Health Service, Accreditation of South Africa (COHSASA).



*Jim Creagh Snr and Paul Creagh
with Deputy Matron Tsidi Lekganyane*



Jim Creagh

Lastly, we are grateful for the multitude of testimonials of sympathy after Fr Kieran's shooting. Amongst them, we appreciate the ongoing support of the Government of Ireland reiterated during the visit of Minister of State of Ireland, Tom Parlon, T.D as well as the Executive Mayor of Tshwane Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa and MP Andries Nel accompanied by Ward 7 Councillor A.P. Swarts, who paid a visit to the hospice and pledged their support.



Carol Ann Creagh

Kieran's Family (his father Jim Creagh, his brothers Jim and Paul, and his sister Carol Ann) was also very present and very supportive during this time and we are grateful for their continued support and good will towards the hospice, its staffs and patients despite the tragic **circumstances**.

This year, in order to report on other aspects of the Hospice, we will let people speak and we welcome the contribution of our doctors, patients, partners and others who make Leratong such a special place and bring to Leratong that supplement of soul.

They are 3 doctors contributing to the well being and the professional care of Leratong patients. They are Dr Sonia Hickcock, Dr Sello Maladji and Dr Swanepoel. Amongst themselves, they provide precious medical care and expertise during their rounds at the hospice. They also provide guidance to the nursing and caring staff.

My association with Leratong Hospice began in August 2004, soon after I had completed an additional qualification in Palliative Medicine. Since this time I am one of several doctors who do weekly rounds at Leratong Hospice.



Dr Sonia Hitchcock

My ongoing experience of Leratong is that working at this institution is not for the lazy! But then, there have been those constant rewards.... Such as the many “dying” patients who recover and go home, witnessing the dedicated and compassionate care of those who are suffering. The friendly and positive attitudes of all of Leratong personnel, the outstanding quality of nursing, the excellent management of the matron and her assistant and finally, the unswerving love of the director for every patient and staff member.

In South Africa, there is a desperate need for the medical fraternity to improve its management of patients with HIV and AIDS and other terminally illnesses. Leratong Hospice offers an excellent opportunity for training in this regard. Since the start of 2007, we have been privileged to be able to send 5th year medical students from the University of Pretoria to Leratong Hospice. From their feedback, it is clear that their time at Leratong was truly inspirational. With permission, I quote what one of these students said: “I feel inspired. The human spirit of the generous caregivers and the courageous patients is spectacular. It would evoke hope in the most cynical. The challenge for me as a young South African doctor is to replicate the ethos of Leratong in the clinics, hospitals and hospices of the future”. I admire and encourage all who are dedicated to maintain this oasis of hope and love.

There is also a 24-hour medical doctor on site at the hospice. These doctors are provided to Leratong as part of a joint programme with the Johannesburg based NGO Rural Health Initiative Doctors for Africa. Drs Carla van Tuurenhout and Bart Hugen, two Dutch doctors who took part in the programme in 2006, wrote the following.

Being trained as tropical medicine doctors in the Netherlands, it was a logical step for us to come and work in South Africa, a country in great need of medical doctors, especially with the HIV/Aids epidemic. Through the South African NGO called Rural Health Initiative (RHI), we were placed in a small hospital in the former Transkei for 2 years. In order to familiarize ourselves with the south African context, and as part of a joint project between RHI and Leratong hospice, we spent a 2-week induction period at Leratong hospice, getting accustomed with SA medicines, treatment and care of HIV/Aids patients focusing on palliative care. In return, we provided the hospice with 24/24-doctor presence at the hospice: a real win-win situation.



RHI visiting Dutch doctor Dr Natasja Hilberink and staff at Leratong Hospice

During our stay, we learned more than in 2 ½ year in tropical medicine course! Having visited many hospitals in Africa, we were astonished by the positive attitude of staff and the level of care given by this “hospital”. Although Leratong is NOT and hospital, it is much more than “just a hospice”. By providing treatment for people living with Aids and other terminal diseases, they do what many other hospitals do but does it better. With its 16 beds, Leratong is not able to change the health care situation in south Africa, but by offering this 2 week introduction to overseas overseas-trained visiting doctors, it can at least show what best practice is about and what it is possible to do and replicate, even in poorest rural areas.

It is now 2 month we left Leratong for the Transkei. Though we were confronted with death and terminally ill patients daily at Leratong, we think about it often and fondly. We will never forget the care and the love for the patients we have witnessed. We will keep on trying to match what we have experienced at Leratong in “our” rural hospital.

It has been a privilege to stay in Leratong and to know Fr Kieran and the rest of the wonderful staff. Once again, we would like to say how grateful we are for the hospitality and the opportunity provided. Carla and Bart



For more information:
www.rhi.org.za

The foreign medical practitioners who have been inducted by Leratong as part of the partnership between Leratong and RHI include (in alphabetical order): Dr Clemens Barends, Dr Alan Benjamin, Dr Li Li Choy, Dr Elles de Vrieze, Dr Lyn Dowds, Dr Thomas Gorsuch, Dr Bart Hugen, Dr Natasja Hilberink, Dr Magnus Johansson and Ingrid Laverman (nurse) and Dr Carla van Tuurenhout.

Leratong is also committed to advocate about Palliative care and raise awareness about it amongst community members but also amongst future medical practitioners. This is the reason why Leratong has been welcoming medical Students from MEDUNSA and the University of Pretoria for a practical introduction to Palliative care.

Mathilda Chihaka is a 4th year student at the Medunsa Campus and she testifies. As a 4th year medical student, I have had the opportunity for a life changing experience at Leratong hospice in Atteridgeville. Everyone knows that death and dying are part of life. It is a given fact. We cannot change it. What we can choose to change is how this will happen. In the extremely busy hospitals and care facilities often plagued by acute and chronic staff shortages, palliative care seems often difficult to render. Many times, health care professionals are so caught up in trying to save the living that they neglect and forget the needs of the dying. Leratong hospice made me realise that palliative care is not a “nice to have” but the condition for patients to be cared for with respect and to die in dignity.

What touched me the most at Leratong is the love given to each individual dying or sick

patient, irrespective of diagnosis, creed, colour, social status, gender. It is obviously a quality that the staff share and have picked up from Fr Kieran's unconditional love for humanity, especially the sick, the dying, the poor, the neglected, the homeless in the community.

Imagine a traditional hospital providing special things that we see our treats like manicure, hair care and styling, beauty treatment, oral care (the list is endless) being offered to the critical or dying patients. That would be incredible. But what I observed and found even more incredible is the way these services are provided: not mechanically and routinely, but with deep care and concern and the deepest love for a fellow dying human being. All of that, in a clean and beautiful environment. Sadly, very few say thank you, support this cause or even realise that all that is done by dedicated staff who work there on a voluntary basis.

My experience in Leratong taught me that compassion, coupled with the genuine desire to provide quality health care for terminally ill patient, can enhance the quality of life in death. It made me realise *“how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labours of my fellow men, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received”* (A. Einstein). Mathilda

Financial Statements

Please note the full version of Leratong annual financial statements (for the year ended February 2007) is available on request from Leratong Hospice. (www.leratong.co.za)



In the kitchen of Leratong, cooks also take care of the patients.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Executive

Chairperson	Mr Dube Tshidi	Advocate
Deputy-Chairperson	Ms Helen Williams	Education Development Consultant
Secretary	Ms Tilly Mokete	Pharmaceutical Rep & Professional Nurse
Treasurer	Mr Brian Aldworth	Accountant

Board members

Dr.Sello Malatji	General Practitioner
Mr Thabo Letageng	Lawyer
Sr Adrian Murphy	Little Company of Mary
Mrs Remigia Tloubatla	Leratong Hospice Matron
Fr Kieran Creagh CP	Leratong Hospice Director

Hospice Management Team

Fr Kieran Creagh CP	Director
Mrs Remigia Tloubatla	Matron
Mrs Tshidi Lekganyane	Deputy Matron
Mrs Tiny Motau	Head of Housekeeping
Ms. Mildred Khoza	Administrative Assistant



*Mrs Remigia Tloubatla,
Matron*

OUR STAFF

In this year annual report, we have decided to introduce you to our administration team. In the following years, we will introduce you to the other teams namely, the housekeeping team (cleaners, laundresses, cooks) and clinical team (doctors, nurses and carers). The team is headed by our director (Fr. Kieran Creagh CP) assisted by Ms. Mildred Khoza (Administrative Assistant) and Mr. Shonisani Netshikweta (Secretary). Our receptionist is Ms. Cecilia Mkhondweni.

Mr. Richard Ngxulelo is responsible for the maintenance of the grounds, building and equipment of the hospice and security matters. The gardens are beautifully maintained by Mr. Joseph Mnisi and Mr. Kagiso Sebopa looks after and drives our three vehicles, including our brand new ambulance generously given by the National Lottery. Kagiso is also the Leratong “official” photographer!



Richard Ngxulelo



Cecilia



*Mildred Khoza and
Shonisani Netshikweta*



Kagiso



Joseph Mnisi

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The support and encouragement of the following is gratefully acknowledged:

Anglo American Chairman's Fund (SA)
Antonio Braz Trust (SA)
Apostolic Workers, Down and Conor (Irl)
Arg Design, (Architects), Cape Town (SA)
BDO Spencer Steward (SA)
Biddy Bollock (Mrs) (Irl)
Blackrock Supermarket, Saulsville (SA)
Broedestroom Butchery, Broedestroom (SA)
Daniel Stephen Kerr RIP (USA)
Delegation of the European Commission in South Africa (SA)
Development Co-operation Ireland, Embassy of Ireland, Pretoria (SA)
Down Patrick Third World Fund (Irl)
Eskom Foundation (SA)
Flax Trust, Belfast (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Holy Cross, Belfast (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Mount Argus, Dublin (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Tyrella, Co. Down (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Dunmore, Co. Galway (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Blessington, Co. Wicklow (Irl)
Friends of Leratong, Belfast, (Irl)
Gauteng Department of Health (SA)
Ledwaba Funeral Parlour cc. (SA)
Louis and Zelig Martin Foundation, Dublin (Irl)
Magic Rice, Midrand, (SA)
National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, Pretoria (SA)
Passionist Congregation, (Irl)
Ritrovo restaurant (SA)
Sarel Swanepoel and G.J Nel, Eurotech Construction (SA)
Sittigs Nursery, Hartbeesport (SA)
The Creagh Family, Belfast (Irl)
Tania Scintzis & Esme Muller, Thandeka Graphics (SA)
Woolworths (Centurion)



Signage for Leratong from Maunde Street, Atteridgeville



MISSION STATEMENT

**With the support of the community and
working with local home-based care teams,
Leratong Hospice provides holistic,
palliative care when needed and is a centre of counselling
and support for patients and their families.
Leratong is a home for those without one.**

*In the community
For the community
By the community*



Leratong Hospice
026-226-NPO

Physical Address: 11 Musapelo Street, Atteridgeville Ext 16
Pretoria, South Africa, 0125

Postal Address: PO Box 386, Atteridgeville, 0008, Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27 12 375 0900 *Fax:* +27 12 375 0901

leratong@leratong.co.za
www.leratong.co.za