



Leratong staff

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

*No NOT SOVE AWAY
LAST DAY*

LERATONG HOSPICE

ANNUAL REPORT
2007 - 2008



"The place of LOVE"

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Foreword	2
Message from the Chairperson	3
The Year in Review	4, 5
Patient Testimonies	6
Staff Testimonies	7, 8
Gallery	9
Acknowledgement of Donors	10



Our logo in mosaic thanks to Louis Kok

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please note the full version of Leratong annual financial statements for the year ended February 2008 is available on request from Leratong Hospice or on our website (www.leratong.co.za)

The bank accounts to which contributions may be made and will be gratefully received are:

In South African Rand
 Leratong Hospice
 A/c No: 410036188
 Standard Bank
 De Handelsspt, Melodie
 Hartbeespoort
 Bank No: 01 34 45
 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

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

FOREWORD



Colin Wrafter

I am delighted to have been asked to write the foreword to this year's Annual Report.

The role of Leratong Hospice in providing hope, comfort and dignity to those who are living with terminal diseases is truly inspiring. In my visits to the Hospice I am consistently struck by the dedication and commitment shown by all who are involved in the Hospice the Director, the Matron, the Board and most importantly the staff who provide such loving care to those who seek help at the Hospice and through community outreach to carers and those who are sick.

This past year the Hospice has faced enormous challenges - particularly in coping with Fr. Kieran's enforced absence during his recovery in Ireland. However, true to the determination and commitment which epitomises Leratong, Matron Tloubatla led her team through this trying time and ensured that the vital work of the Hospice continued.

It was with profound pleasure that we welcomed Fr. Kieran back to Leratong in October last. He was greatly missed in his eight months away and it is wonderful to see him back and leading this exciting phase in the Hospice's expansion with great courage. Irish Aid, through the Irish Missionary Development Fund, is proud to be supporting this important new development of a clinic and crèche.

I was delighted in January this year to accompany Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D., Prime Minister of Ireland (Taoiseach), on a visit to the Hospice. The Taoiseach, who was accompanied by Mr. Micheál Kitt, TD, Irish Minister of State for Overseas Development, received a warm Leratong welcome from staff and patients. The scourge of HIV and AIDS in South Africa is well documented but it is only by visiting communities and facilities such as Leratong that political leaders can get a real sense of how people's lives are affected by the disease. The Taoiseach had an opportunity to see for himself the valuable work that the Hospice is doing in the Atteridgeville community and was both impressed and moved by the care shown to patients and their families.

I warmly commend Fr. Kieran, Matron Tloubatla, the Board and staff of Leratong Hospice for the work they have undertaken this year. I congratulate all the team on their perseverance and commitment in providing care with dignity and respect to those they serve and wish them continued success in 2008/2009.

Colin Wrafter, Ambassador of Ireland to South Africa



Dear Friends

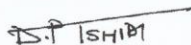
It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for Leratong Hospice for the period 2007-2008, a year that had a tragic beginning with the attack on our Director at the Hospice. It was great to see how the commitment and dedication of our staff and Board pulled us through this tragic event to grow in our mission. Special thanks to our Matron for taking up the reins at such short notice and doing such a successful job.

The Matron and the Management team are busy designing policies and procedures to prepare for applying to COHASA for accreditation as an accredited Palliative Care Centre. A gruelling process but worthwhile as we learned that we were successful in our attempt.

Meanwhile the day to day work of Leratong goes on as we give Holistic Palliative Care to our patients who are terminally ill, thanks to our dedicated staff.

We do our best at Leratong Hospice to provide top quality Palliative Care but we could never have done it without the support of you, our donors. Thanks for your continued support.

Ke a leboha



Mr Dube Tshidi
Chairman Leratong Board

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson: Mr. Dube Tshidi
Secretary: Mrs. Jackie Hlakudi
Member: Mr. Brian Aldworth
Member: Mr. Shati Kutu
Member: Dr. Sello Malatji
Member: Ms. Managa Pillay

Deputy Chair: Ms. Helen Williams
Treasurer: Mr. Simon Morulane
Member: Fr. Kieran Creagh CP
Member: Sr. Remigia Tloubatla
Member: Kenny Madhlophe
Member: Mr. Thabo Letageng



Leratong Hospice operates in the City of Tshwane and specifically targets the communities of Atteridgeville and Saulsville, two townships 20 km west of the capital. However, it is open to all patients in need of palliative care, especially the most disadvantaged.

Our year had a traumatic start when we received the news that our Director, Fr. Kieran Creagh, had been shot and seriously wounded during an armed robbery at the hospice. The Board and staff worked closely together to continue the mission of the hospice during those difficult days. We were greatly encouraged by the support we received from the community near and far and from you, our friends.

In the past twelve months Leratong provided palliative care for 177 patients, the vast majority of whom were young men and women infected with HIV/AIDS and related opportunistic infections. With HIV prevalence rate of 18.8% in the adult population the demand for palliative care continues to grow and far outstrips available resources. Despite the demands we continued to provide and maintain the highest possible standards of palliative care to all our patients.

In line with our 5 Year Strategic Plan, we made considerable progress towards achieving our goal of meeting the standards required for accreditation by the Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHSASA). The Hospice Palliative Care Association (HPCA) is facilitating this process and building on the baseline survey of 2006, undertook two surveys of the hospice in 2007 and early 2008 we did well in both.

The HPCA's vision is to have all member hospices serving as palliative care resource centres with a strong mentorship and advocacy role that influences all relevant government, community and faith-based organisations in every health district throughout the country. Leratong supported the achievement of this vision with a special hospice awareness event held in the township on 6 October 2007- World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. In addition we provided palliative care training to almost one hundred 5th year students from the University of Pretoria and almost two hundred 3rd year students from University of Limpopo. Our mentorship role in the community was recognized by the Department of Health representatives who during their monitoring visit in November offered additional funding and recommended that we should mentor other hospices.

Our holistic care system not only provides care to persons who are terminally ill, but we also provide support for their families and for patients who are discharged. Our monthly patient support groups continued throughout the year and in addition this year we set up a bereavement team composed of staff members trained in counseling.

We supported our staff in their work through the continuation of our staff wellness programme which included psychological support services and regular TB screening which we commenced in June 2007.



Leratong is always open to receiving visitors. In December we had a visit from the Mayor of Tshwane, Dr. Gwen Ramokgopa, with whom we discussed the operational and development needs of the hospice. In January 2008 we welcomed the Irish Prime Minister, Mr. Bertie Ahern, who took the time to come to Leratong during his state visit. Mr Ahern praised the work the hospice accomplishes, and welcomed Fr Creagh back to work after a six month break spent recovering from his injuries sustained during 2007.

We work hard and have fun too it benefits everyone at the hospice. We enjoyed a memorable Christmas dinner in December 2007 courtesy of Ritrovo Restaurant in Pretoria. We like to celebrate when we can, for example on St.Valentine's Day all the staff wore red and white and we prepared a special lunch for our patients and staff.

We have big plans for the further development on the site adjacent to the hospice, and this year started putting these plans into action. Work is now well underway for a new church, a clinic and a crèche on that site. These new facilities will dramatically increase the scope of services available to the community.

Another objective is the constant up-skilling of our staff, to ensure their active involvement in the running and decision making of Leratong. Some of our nurses attended the dispensing medicine license course at Medunsa and our Matron is now licensed to dispense. We further enhanced the professional services at the hospice with the addition of a pharmacist who provides drug control oversight on a monthly basis. In January 08 one of our carers commenced studies to qualify as an auxiliary social worker. Our staff were also trained in head and neck massage by the Chrysalis Healing Centre. Other courses undertaken by staff included firefighting, reflexology, and the ancient hands-on healing form, Reiki.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 28 July 2007 and while we gladly welcomed four new members to the Board we sadly said farewell to Sr Adrian Murphy and Ms Tilly Mokete, both of whom had been with us since the days when the hospice was just a dream. The HPCA provided an induction for the new Board in September 2007.



Prime Minister and Our Staff



PATIENTS TESTIMONIES

Hello, I was a patient for seven months in 2004 and now I'm a cleaner at the hospice. At first, I was not ready to come here - I felt if I did I might die. But there was nothing my family could do with me. After a few attempts Father Kieran convinced me. Once I arrived, I knew I'd heal, and would come alright. For the first time I took the necessary drugs. Before that I had never taken the fact that I was HIV Positive seriously.



Joey

Now living a positive life is no problem for me. When I get checked by the doctor for my prescription I never have any health problems. I know if I had not come here, I would have died. I was really surprised at how I healed. My fiancée was also a patient at the hospice, but sadly she passed away 2006.

I talk with the other patients now. The big problem in South Africa is that people don't accept they are HIV positive, and just carry on as before. I know a lot of people who are infected but many deny it. Some do accept it and get help in the clinic that is free. Although it was very hard to accept I was Positive, I feel great now. I take my medicine every day. I am happy here. This place can also show you how to live. I am not scared to speak about HIV myself. I can now go for training to act as a counsellor to others. Leratong is my second home; and it is my second chance of life.

Joey

Greetings, I first came to the hospice in 2006 when I was very ill. At first I confused the hospice with a TB clinic. You see I did not want to admit that I was HIV. You have to understand the stigma attached to the disease. People do not want to test because they don't want to know the result. They need to be educated about what it means and what hope there is for them. If people are willing to listen to me then I am always willing to explain how HIV can be, at first prevented or then contained and managed. I give talks to medical students who come to visit Leratong. I give them the side of the HIV Positive patient. I work at opening people's eyes to HIV. In my time of need the people at Leratong were there for me and now I want to give something back. I now have a job as a construction site manager and I am alive and kicking. You would never guess I was HIV positive. Leratong is a place of love, if a person is down and very sick then the staff work all day to help them feel better. It is a really wonderful place and if I had not come to the hospice, I know I would not be, where I am today.



Blessing

Blessing



STAFF TESTIMONIES

PROFESSIONAL NURSE

I was planning to leave South Africa and get a nursing job abroad when I heard about the hospice. I knew from the start I wanted to volunteer. I was asked to do a palliative care course for six months in Johannesburg before starting. This was after twelve years working as a surgical nurse. Palliative care is so different from curative and I find it more rewarding. At the hospital I was tending to the physical needs of the patients, but here at Leratong we look after the holistic, spiritual and psychological needs also.

Although we mostly look after the terminally ill, we do take chronically ill patients for two-weeks respite. Although it's rare this deadline is enforced as people don't want to leave. People arrive very depressed, and after a few days talking and laughing with us, they want to stay.

If the condition of a patient changes for the worse, we start preparing them and their family who sometime can't accept what is happening. Kieran looks after the spiritual part, and this really helps a lot of people who are not ready, and have unfinished business. They just relax and become more accepting of their condition.

When patients respond to drugs and get well again, they can go home. At Leratong we educate patients before going home. We explain how to protect themselves and others, how to take medication. We also have a support group for those discharged.

Tshidi

ADMINISTRATION

Ndaa! I started working at the hospice in December 2005. I live local and heard people talking about Leratong and I was surprised at the wonderful work, and I wanted to be part of it. Typically it's very busy for me at the end of the month, when there are lots of reports to do for the Department of Health, and the Hospice Palliative Care Association. So far we have admitted almost 800 patients since the opening in 2004, some of them have passed away, but it's great when some get discharge as well.

It's not all work in the office, I also go on the wards every morning to greet the patients. I get attached to talking to them, and when they pass away I feel the loss. I don't like that. But there is a clinical psychologist who can help us how to deal with such feelings.

Most of the staff live around here, it's a community based operation. I am very involved with the future plans for Leratong. It gives me challenges and it's a chance to learn. I went to college and studied IT and I use a bit of it here.

Everyday when I come here I learn new things. I have become quite attached to the place. I enjoy the interaction, the other staff have become friends, it's like a family here.

Shonisani

CAREGIVER

My day consists of caring for patients, i.e. bathing them, ensuring they take their medication befriending them etc. Today I was chatting to a patient who was very depressed, I helped her accept that if she took her medicine, she would feel better, and she did.

Some of us have trained in counselling, so we know how to help a patient with depression. Many can't talk to their own families, You become the middle person that conveys messages. When you nurse a patient, you tend to have a bond and get attached, and it's difficult when they pass away.

Although most people come here for terminal care, many get better. Since I started working here many have gone out to face the world again. If they stay at home often they do not get the care they need as their family have to go to work.

Coming here is a blessing. We get all sorts of training in-service, palliative, counselling. We also go out with other carers, and go to meetings and workshops. I started here as a cleaner and after training I was promoted to carer. At our yearly interview I was asked what I would like to do and I would like to be an enrolled nurse.

I would never leave Leratong, my father was a patient her. Leratong gave my father so much love and attention. What can I do, I must give something back to the place of love, Leratong.

Patricia

HOUSEKEEPING

Dumelang, I started here in 2004 when the hospice opened. I heard they needed a housekeeper I came here after being a teacher for thirty-two. I was a bit tired of teaching and wanted to help the community.

There are three sections to the housekeeping. The kitchen, laundry and cleaning. We are like brothers and sisters and act as a team. We strive to keep the hospice up to a high standard. We want to see the place spotless, the patients always neat and tidy, and well fed with our tasty food according to the patients' dietician menu.

It's very different from teaching and I have learned a lot. The first thing I learned was to love somebody, especially those who can't help themselves. I try to practice that at home, and in the neighbourhood. To give all the love I have to give. I have also learned to share we really share here.

Sometimes it does get tough, especially when someone you are close to is admitted to the hospice and you know they are not going to get well. It disturbs you; it is hard to know what to say to the family when they have hope.

Clara

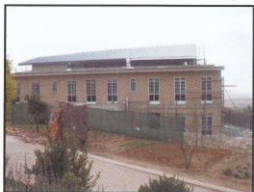




Tshidi



Shonisani



Clinic



Patricia



Clara



Creche



Church

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The support and encouragement of the following is gratefully acknowledged:

Antonio Braz Trust	South Africa
Apostolic Workers, Down and Conon	Ireland
Arg Design, (Architects), Cape Town	South Africa
BDO Spencer Steward	South Africa
Big Save, Pretoria Supermarket	South Africa
Blackrock Supermarket, Saulsville	South Africa
Broedestroom Butchery, Broedestroom	South Africa
Delegation of the European Commission in South Africa	South Africa
Department of Foreign Affairs	
Irish Aid, Ireland, Embassy of Ireland, Pretoria	South Africa
First National Bank (First Rand Foundation)	South Africa
Friends of Leratong, Dublin	Ireland
Friends of Leratong, Tyrella, Co. Down	Ireland
Friends of Leratong, Dunmore, Co. Galway	Ireland
Friends of Leratong, Blessington, Co. Wicklow	Ireland
Friends of Leratong, Belfast	Ireland
Gauteng Department of Health	South Africa
Gustav Praekelt	South Africa
Ledwaba Funeral Parlour cc	South Africa
National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, Pretoria	South Africa
Passionist Congregation	Ireland
Ritrovo Restaurant	South Africa
Sittigs Nursery, Hartbeesport	South Africa
The Creagh family, Belfast	Ireland
Tania Scintzis & Esme Muller, Thandeka Graphics	South Africa
The Gavin Family, Dublin	Ireland

Special thanks to the late Mrs. Penny Carroll, a great Friend to Leratong.

We also acknowledge with thanks contributors to the Leratong Care Centre, Crèche and Church to be opened, to be completed October 2008

Anglo American Chairman's Fund	Johannesburg
Louis and Zelig Martin Foundation	Ireland
Missionary Development Fund	Ireland
D.G. Murray Trust	Cape Town
Pontifica Mission Society	Italy
Flax Trust	Belfast
Universal Paint	Johannesburg
Friends of Leratong	Ireland
Neighbours and Friends	South Africa

Special thanks to Mary McCarthy for putting our annual report together

