



™ Abbeyfield SA  
Remarkable housing solutions for older people

No: 57 December 2012

## Dear Friends...

The last newsletter of the year takes on a different look to the past editions but is in line with the realities of 2012's reduction in funding to so many NGO's in South Africa and to the general tightening of belts that we are all experiencing. Nonetheless all the good work of Abbeyfield staff and volunteers continues and we look forward to an improved 2013 in that regard!

I have had an exciting and challenging six months here at Abbeyfield not least of which was the hosting of the Abbeyfield International Director, David Coe, in October 2012. His keynote address "Mind, Body and Soul at our AGM", in particular, his description of the effects of loneliness on the elderly, was eye-opening. The new year will see us becoming signatories to the new Abbeyfield International agreement and working towards attaining our Gold Star status for Head Office and all the houses. More about that in the New Year....

The Head Office staff had the pleasure of visiting Knysna in September to formally launch a new Abbeyfield Society. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Maureen Clunas we have no doubt that this motivated group will achieve their aims of a Knysna house in the near future.



Ethembeni in Guguletu was the first house to have their Xmas party this year. The ladies tucked in to a fabulous lunch cooked up by their new Committee. Each resident received a gift and we were very touched by the gratitude expressed to both Head Office and the Committee.



After running without a Committee for some time we offer a warm welcome to the new Guguletu Committee and wish them well with their plans for the future of Abbeyfield in Guguletu. Thank you to Lindiwe Mzo who has held the fort so ably for the past 6 months!



A workshop was held in November with the Chairpersons and Treasurers of the Western Cape Societies to discuss the challenges facing our houses and to consider possible solutions. There is no doubt that times have changed from 25 years ago when Abbeyfield was launched in South Africa and we are so grateful to our Committees who continue to work tirelessly for the sustainability of our houses and the wellbeing of our Residents.



### **October 500 Club Winners!**

Our first prize winner of R5 000 was Mr E H Engelbrecht from Camps Bay. Congratulations! Our second prize winner of R500 was Mr John Brimble of Rondebosch who has very kindly donated his winnings back to Abbeyfield. A heartfelt thank you for your generosity.

A reminder to all of you who are not yet 500 club members; [please sign up](#). For more information on how to do this, give Henriette a call at Head Office (021-447 5644).

A big thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers and especially to our loyal supporters and donors. We would ask that, in light of my opening comments, you continue to keep Abbeyfield at the forefront of your minds and our Residents in your hearts during this festive season.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Abbeyfield Head Office we would like to wish those who celebrate a wonderful Christmas and may 2013 be a peaceful, happy, healthy year for us all!