



Paediatric Renovation Project

“ There is no keener revelation of a society’s soul than how it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela



Victoria hospital founded in 1888 has grown from a cosy 38 bed unit in the early days to a busy 158 bed district hospital. We provide general, specialist and 24 hour emergency care for the southern sub-district, an area extending all the way from Wynberg to the southern most tip of Africa. We are constantly looking to make progress, this project is another step towards providing a better service to the community we



Victoria Paediatric Renovation Project



“Children are everyone’s future, to invest in the children is to invest in your future”



About us

Victoria is a teaching hospital popular with both medical, nursing, occupational therapy and physiotherapy students.

We take very seriously the influence we have on the students and young doctors training with us, believing that exposure to good practice here will bear fruit of positive change wherever they go on to invest in South Africa.

We have a tradition of providing quality healthcare in the public sector, overcoming resource constraints and going the extra mile to ensure that even the most vulnerable in our population receive the healthcare interventions they need. To do this we require more than just dedicated compassionate and skilled staff, as a community hospital, we do best with community support → partnering together with pro-active individuals, schools, NGO’s and businesses in the area to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible to all our people

In South Africa ‘the need’ can sometimes feel overwhelming.

People with a social conscience may want to make a difference but are not sure how best to be involved.

Giving time or money can often feel like a drop disappearing into an ocean.

There are so many organisations asking for support, but where will your investment be most effective and make the most difference?



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This is an invitation...

...for you/your company to join us in building something which is :-

sustainable, concrete, visible, has a clear and finite goal with lasting purpose, will make a significant, immediate and tangible difference, benefit our community for decades, an opportunity for once-off contribution with lasting impact, yet also provides potential for ongoing partnering should this be relevant for you, an opportunity to build social capital



"Sick Children need doctors, but they still need their parents"



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How?

Victoria has a 25 – 28 bed general paediatric ward, daily paediatric outpatient clinics and a 24 hour emergency/trauma centre.

We need to build facilities to accommodate mothers (or primary caregivers) of children who are admitted to the paediatric ward. Currently only mothers of breast feeding infants are able to stay overnight with their children. All other mothers must go home at night.

Besides the obvious trauma of separation at a vulnerable and bewildering time, for many this can mean days apart from her sick child as there is often no transport money for regular visits.

125 years ago Victoria was built without facilities to accommodate mothers. We now know that any focus of child health must include the involvement, empowerment and education of primary caregivers.

This is particularly true for malnourished or chronically ill children where maternal education and investment is crucial for that child's future health, development and potential to make a positive contribution to society in adulthood.

Your investment in providing accommodation for mothers in a children's ward will address more than just an obvious practical and humane need. Involving caregivers in a child's care is an opportunity to gain significant social capital. We believe these women will learn and apply good healthcare practices in their own homes and that through communication and shared ideas this influence will be felt in the community at large.

In addition, we would argue that having a loving mother/caregiver close by at a time when a child is sick or in pain is a child rights issue and not just an obvious "best practice" with positive social ramifications. The very nature of a mother is to love, provide for and protect her child and no more so than when her child is at his or her most vulnerable.





Why Now?



Space constraints and overcrowding in our children's ward, have to date prevented us from allowing mothers to stay overnight with their children.

Safety is a priority and overcrowding is strongly associated with infections. We could find no available space in our 125 year old hospital to build the mother's facilities we so desperately need UNTIL a mother helped us to think "out the box".

This mother is an architect who had recently lost her medical aid cover and at that stage was unemployed. When her newborn became unwell she sought assistance at Victoria Hospital. Her baby was admitted five days and as a breast feeding mother she was permitted to stay with him in the children's ward, sleeping in a hard, straight-backed chair next to his bed for five nights

(we have subsequently welcomed a donation of 5 lazy boy chairs which have made the world of difference to these exhausted moms!

During her stay she observed the distress caused by separating caregivers from their unwell children, and the harsh reality that so many of our parents have no transport money for visiting. For many, even if they were permitted to stay with their children, there would be no money to purchase food from the hospital cafeteria.

Caregivers should have facilities in the children's ward to prepare tea/coffee and food brought from home.

Out the box:

During her five night stay in the hard-backed chair she used her architect's eye to identify possibilities → **how could we make things better?** The problem was 'no space', we needed a solution. She pointed out the beautiful high ceilings and unutilised roof area in our 125 year old ward, and opened our eyes to the possibility of building mothers facilities there.



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Since Then:

The proposal to build a mothers loft in the roof of the paediatric ward at Victoria has been investigated and found to be viable.

We have taken the opportunity to plan a simultaneous renovation of the children's ward to provide a safe play area, a library and doctors work room.

→ We have architect plans drawn up for the renovation of the children's ward and the building of the mothers "loft" room.

→ We have provisional builders quotes

→ We have permission to proceed with building once we obtain the funding.

Estimated Costing?



Paediatric ward renovation (including the creation of a play area , toy and book library, doctors work area)

±R110.000.

“Mother facilities/loft” can be broken down into:-

Flooring, Stairs,Walls and roof,Skylights,Plumbing,Paint

± R440.000

Furnishings:-

Fridge, Microwave,
Lockers,Mattresses,Kettle/toaster,Table and
chairs,Linen

± R60 0000

TOTAL = R610 000



Victoria Paediatric Renovation Project

Building must be completed by December 2011

(before our notoriously busy “gastro season“ when every available paediatric bed in the peninsula is needed)

Therefore must start September 2011 at the latest.

We can only proceed once we have secured funding. This is an **URGENT** appeal for donors to partner with us so that we can proceed with our six week building plan in 2011.

If we are unable to proceed in Sept the project will be delayed a further year at **significant emotional** cost to our **children**, and frustration to paediatric staff, eager to provide quality health care to all who come to us for assistance.

Relevance to business



The Victoria Hospital Charity Fund is a registered Section 18A Not For Profit Organisation, NPO number 022-656.

Donations made towards the paediatric fund are therefore tax deductible.

An opportunity to invest in social capital particularly for companies with staff living in our community. Employees and families living in the Southern Sub-District will utilise Victoria Hospital as their district specialist hospital.

Donations of R50 000 or more will be permanently remembered by way of a plaque made visible in the children's ward.



Victoria Paediatric Renovation Project

Contact Details

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Emails to please be sent to : abundantlife.victoria@gmail.com

Reference: paedes building project

Account Details

Victoria Hospital Charity Fund, paediatric fund

Standard Bank current account

Branch code : **025309** (Constantia)

Account number : **071831738**

Please reference : **paeds building**



Website

www.victoriahospital.yolasite.com





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Many thanks for your interest in partnering with us in caring for our children and their families. Please contact us with any queries.

