

“Catch them young and keep them long”

Annie from Knysna Hospice celebrates the vital volunteers who make such a difference to their work.

Q UITE a slogan – but what a privilege and tribute to pay to our many and faithful volunteers: from 15 to 92 years of age.

They are old and young, tall and short, robust and slim, of many language, colour and creed and the backbone of our service. Without our volunteers, we would not exist. Come to Hospice any day of the week and you are sure to bump into one of them – planting vegetables in the garden, washing cups in the kitchen, dropping off soup and sandwiches for our Day Care, driving a Hospice vehicle to fetch our patients from out of town, pushing the children on a swing, collecting tins for street collections and counting the thousands of coins.

The jobs are endless but the labourers are many and willing. But there is always room for one more. Some come to play the guitar and share a hymn and a prayer, others come to adjust computers, hang a picture, fix a tap or just for a chat. We have shop keepers marking and selling second hand goods and catering folk who bring tasty snacks for many a different occasion.



Knysna Hospice's youngest volunteer, 15-year old Maren Seydach (left) with our oldest volunteer: Lexie Elliot, 93.

Then there are the fundraisers. This rare group of people who make our hair stand on end as they meet monthly to organise bridge days and ballet, book sales and golf days, raffles and street collections, remembrance days and car shows.

Day Care volunteers knit and sew, play dominoes and paint and lend a listening ear and a gentle touch to our Day Care patients every Tuesday morning. We have caterers and flower arrangers, fill-in receptionists and typists, caregivers and counsellors, physio and occupational therapists and, and... I know I have forgotten many. Oh yes! We also have executive volunteers – those excellent, educated and 'elderly' retired who have travelled the road of success in business careers and now offer themselves fully on a voluntary basis in top positions.

And why do we have so many volunteers? Because we want to offer the most holistic, and the best, care possible to ALL our patients.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Hospice volunteer, I would be delighted to meet you, show you around the Hospice, introduce you to some of our patients and share Hospice life with you more fully.

Please phone Annie on (044) 384-0593. You too can become an integral and valued participant in our Knysna Hospice organisation.

Volunteers, we salute you and thank you for your service.

Why God made Moms

Briefly answers given by Grade 2 school children to the following questions...

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.

2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My gran says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

WC-NACOSA wished its two moms-to-be Neziswa and Nomfundo all the best at a surprise stork party.





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We would love to hear from you. Please send your comments, views, stories or reflections to:


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