

'Charity begins at home' in Makhanda [Grahamstown]

At this time of great uncertainty and economic stress caused by the rapid spread of the COVID19 virus and lockdown a group has been formed with the aim of delivering food to people who have no food and no means of obtaining food. In Makhanda there are people literally facing starvation.

If we have hundreds of starving people, apart from the hardship, it risks social upheaval and desperate behaviour.

The government response to this problem is currently R3.2 million for the whole of the Sarah Baartman District. This only translates to about 30 monthly food parcels per ward in Makana. It's not enough.

Makhanda residents want to help more families from starving. Up to 1000 households @R175 per week will cost R700,000 per month. How can we do this?

Introducing the Makhanda Circle of Unity Food Group

A diverse group, of about 20 Makhanda residents, have been working very hard to identify the most vulnerable, to source foods as cheaply as possible and to distribute food parcels.

This is a collective headed by Helen Alferts of the Grahamstown Feeding Association, backed up by Nicci Hayes and Richard Gaybba from the Makhanda Circle of Unity collective. They are collaborating with other initiatives such as Dean Andrew Hunter of the Cathedral, Mary Birt of Food4Futures, Diocesan School for Girls and LIV Lukhanyiso, a few individuals, and street based collectives. Knowledge and expertise are being shared to make maximum use of limited resources.

The aim is to provide up to 1000 food parcels weekly for at least the next 4 weeks. The recipient list has been collated using multiple sources including school principals, the policing forum, churches and charitable organisations (NGOs) who have assisted in identifying child-headed and most vulnerable households.

On 16th April 2020 Makana Revive! Grahamstown Business Forum and Grahamstown Residents' Association agreed to use their funds jointly to pay for the next weekly round of food parcels. This uses nearly all the monies raised for such purpose.

Moving to a new level

Hundreds of people in Makhanda are being extremely generous with their time and money showing humanity and compassion for others, including maintenance of payments to staff while they are locked down.

Now we need to look across our community to everyone who has an income to help raise substantial funds. Each food parcel costs about R175 to feed a family per week. This appeal aims to cover the next 4 weeks. The situation will be reviewed and progress with the appeal and with feeding will be published for your information. Representations and bids are also being made for other funding, which will take time to show results. Right now, people starving in Makhanda need us, their community, to step forward.

The promise to you from Makhanda Circle of Unity Food Group is that every rand raised will be used cost-effectively on food and delivery (all functions are being done voluntarily).

Circle of Unity Makhanda Food Group **can't do this without you.**

Many of us, by staying at home, are spending less on ourselves. Please use those savings to help ensure that no-one starves here in Makhanda.

We realise that most of our country has been severely affected by the lockdown rules; from major business corporations to the informal trader. For those who are still on a fixed or more secure income please make a substantial donation. We are seeking donations of *at least* R1000 per person where possible.

For each R175 donated you will feed one household for one week. Ideally we will raise sufficient funds in our community for up to 1000 parcels per week for 4 weeks. That amounts to a grand total of R700,000. Any shortfall will unfortunately mean fewer parcels delivered.

You can help enormously by bringing this appeal to the attention of friends and colleagues.

Thank you everyone in Makhanda!

For donations not requiring a Section 18A tax certificate [donations from private individuals] **please donate via Makana-Revive.org.za and select the Payfast 'Donate' or, preferably pay by EFT to:**

Makana Revive Trust
Standard Bank Grahamstown
Bank Code 050917
Account Number 28 315 4012

- ✓ For all payments please put the reference: C19 Food Appeal
- ✓ Send proof of payment to makanarevive@itsnet.co.za
- ✓ If you have any questions please contact Lisa Gaybba on *084 740 6676*

Anyone needing a Section 18A tax certificate [mostly corporate donations] **should please donate via the Centre for Social Development at Rhodes:**

Bank Details for Centre for Social Development for COVID FOOD donations (note the CF in the reference)

Bank: First National Bank
Account Name: Rhodes University
Account number: 621 455 03076
Branch code: 210717
Reference: 19050 768 172 CF + your details

Proof of payments to be e-mailed to Natalie.Stokes@ru.ac.za for record keeping and also to make sure that finance allocate donations correctly.
