

Ministry Supporting Hermanus Child and Family Services (HCFS)

HCFS is doing tremendous work trying to protect and care for broken children and families in the community who are under tremendous strain. It often feels like a war for the hearts and souls of these children. Please continue to pray for the mission that is HCFS – that nothing would hinder the work being done to rescue and love children who desperately need it.

There are many practical ways that we can support HCFS – please prayerfully consider how you can get involved:

1) On-Going Need for Emergency Food and Toiletry Packs

When a child is removed from a dangerous situation, and placed with an emergency foster family, HCFS provides a food pack and a toiletry pack to make it easier for the foster family to take care of the child. These packs are made up of specific items.

Please consider whether you could make a monthly or quarterly pack according to the specified lists – these can be deposited into a marked box in the church foyer or tea room. Please contact Tracey if you have any questions about the lists, which are at the end of this document.

2) On-Going Need for Support of Children in Group Homes

HCFS is responsible for a number of children in group homes in the community. Each group home usually houses 6 children of all ages under the care of a house mother. These children would benefit so much from homework support (usually in Afrikaans), fun activities or outings, whether during the week, over weekends, or in the holidays.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and love in this way, even occasionally, please apply for police clearance in the meantime, and let Tracey know how you would like to get involved.

3) On-Going Need for Temporary Safe Care and Long-Term Foster Parents

HCFS has an on-going need for people to offer their homes and families as sanctuaries for children who have been rescued from dire circumstances. You can be a safety parent (taking in a child immediately after removal, for up to three months), or a long term foster parent to a child who cannot go back to his/her own family immediately.

Making a commitment to be a short or long-term foster parent is a big commitment, but as Christians, we trust that God will meet all of our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus – our emotional, physical, mental, spiritual and financial needs, as well as the needs of the child. We serve a great God!

Please contact HCFS directly (028 313 0830/1) if you would like more information about serving in this way.

4) Special Christmas Ministry

There are many children in desperate situations who are being supported by HCFS throughout the community. Every year, HCFS gives us the names and ages of 40 - 50 of the neediest of these children, and members of our congregation make shoeboxes for specific children with lots of love and much joy. These are distributed to the children just before Christmas.

If you would like to make a shoebox, we have a list of suggested items that you can put in the boxes. If there are siblings, we like their shoeboxes to be made by the same donor, to make sure they get similar gifts, so if you want to do more than one shoebox, we can assign you to siblings.

Please speak to Tracey to get the details of a specific child (available from mid November), and to get your list of suggested items to include in the box.

5) School Stationery Support

If you have any unwanted or unused stationery (including pre-cut book covers and A4 writing books) in good condition, please consider donating it to HCFS. We all know how expensive it is to get kids stocked up with stationery at the beginning of the school year, and this is especially challenging for families who are already in financially dire situations. HCFS tries to support these kids where possible, so any donations are gratefully received! You can place your donations into the marked boxes in the foyer and the tea room.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to these ministries which support HCFS, you can do so through the Benevolent Fund – reference your contribution BENEV-HCFS.

Thank you so much for being Christ's hands and feet in a very practical way.

Yours in Christ,

Tracey

(WhatsApp 074 147 3769)

Emergency Food and Toiletry Packs

Thank you so much for your interest in making these packs!

It is very important that the contents of the food and toiletry packs are identical, for fairness and equality among the families who receive them.

So please do take care to supply the specific type and quality of food/toiletry given on the list. However, you are free to use whichever brand you choose. Please do let Tracey know if you have any questions.

If you are not able to source a specific item, and your bag is otherwise complete, please write a little note and attach it to the bag, letting us know which item is missing.

Thank you SO much!

Tracey

(WhatsApp 074 147 3769)

PS, from experience we have discovered that the best way to pack the food bags is to use a large clear bag (eg a recycling bag) and place an empty beer box (or similar) at the bottom to keep the food packets stable while transporting and to protect them from bursting.

| Food Bag (large clear bag with a box at bottom) | Toiletry Bag (can be packed in any small bag) |
|---|---|
| <u>At the bottom of the bag, inside the box</u> | <u>Bottom of the bag:</u> |
| 2 x tins fish (pilchards/tuna) | 2 x toilet rolls |
| 1 x 1kg flour | 1 x shampoo (standing up) |
| 1 x 2.5kg mielie meal OR 2 x 1kg mielie meal | <u>Then add:</u> |
| <u>Then add:</u> | 1 x green sunlight soap |
| 1 x 1kg sugar | 1 x body soap |
| 1 x 1kg rice | 1 x toothpaste |
| 2 x 500g samp and beans | 1 x toothbrush |
| 1 x rooibos tea (40s) | Roll-on deodorants and sanitary pads are also needed, but please keep those separate as they are added to the pack according to the child who is receiving it. |
| 1 x 400g soya mince | |
| 2 sachets instant yeast | |
| 1 packet biscuits/sweets | |