

Annual Report 2023 / 2024



**“Caritas is the salt, the leaven and the light
that provides a beacon of hope to those in need”
– Pope Francis**





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**Sharing the mission of the Roman Catholic Church
to serve the poor, of all and no faiths,
and promote charity, justice &
environmental responsibility
within the Archdiocese of Cape Town**



1. WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

(Fr Paul Taylor)

Caritas Cape Town ('CCT') was brought to life by His Eminence Cardinal Brislin to help those in need which meant that it has been a busy year for all of us at CCT. Through donations both financially and in kind we were able to reach out to many people, not only within the Archdiocese of Cape Town, but outside the Archdiocese as well. One of CCT's great successes has been our disaster relief 'Hygiene Buckets' which have helped bring dignity to people in their hour of need. Our relationship with RESPOND has grown throughout this year and has led to more doors being opened through disaster relief programs and disaster relief training. We continue to work with and support parishes to enable them to start and strengthen their parish programs so that communities can see 'love in action' at local level.

I thank the Board members for their guidance in this last year and thank all those who helped CCT to grow and develop.



Finally, we thank the Lord for all the blessings bestowed on us throughout the year. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead and guide CCT in the year ahead as we carry out our work in the service of our brothers and sisters in need.

*"For there will never cease to be poor in the land.
Therefore, I command you to open wide your hand to your brother,
to the needy and to the poor in your land."*

Deuteronomy 15:11



2. OUR PROGRAMS

Parish Programs

Caritas Cape Town (“CCT”) provides advisory, capacity-building and, where necessary, financial support to effectively aid parishes of the Archdiocese of Cape Town to initiate welfare & development programs/projects in their local communities.

It does this by providing training workshops, and ongoing one on one support, to increase the capacity of individuals and groups to help identify needs in their communities and design programs/projects to meet these needs.

Following on from this, parishes are encouraged to start the process of either strengthening existing parish programs/projects or start new social outreach programs/projects in their parishes with the support of CCT.

Our Training Workshops – Part 1

On 16th September 2023 we held a workshop at our Athlone premises for all Community Engagement Leaders (CELs) on the issue of “Addressing Food Security at parish level” through community programs such as soup kitchens, food parcels, food vouchers & community gardens.

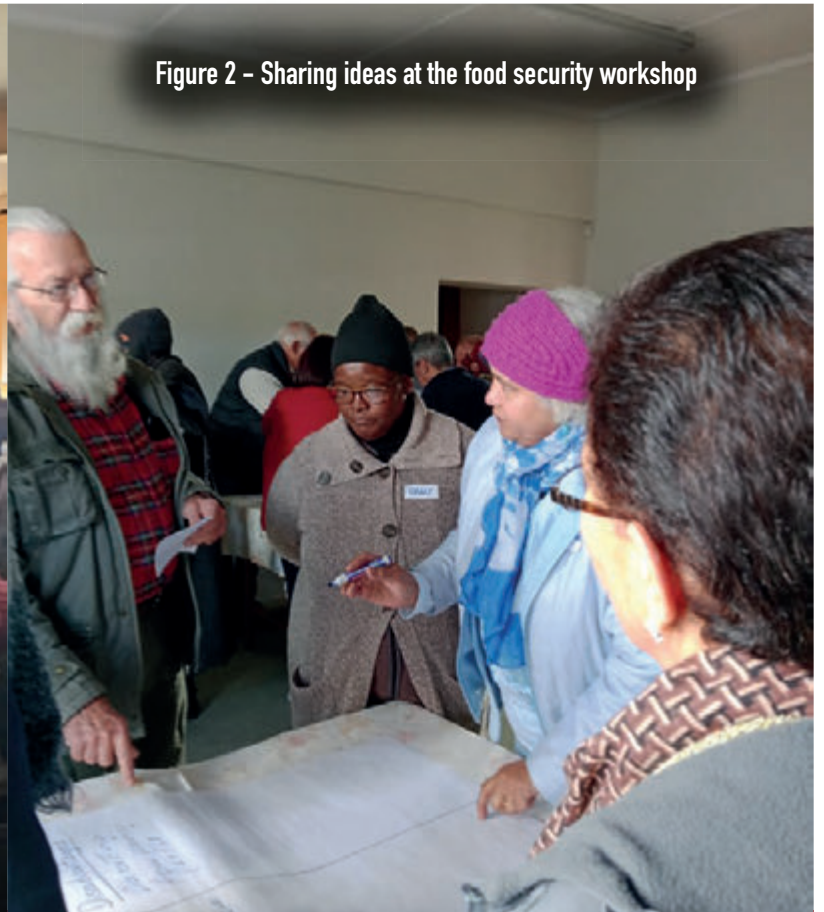
We were delighted with the turnout of 55 attendees (twice as many as was expected) and the wonderful interaction and feedback from those attending.

We hope this workshop encouraged parishes to start or strengthen programs in their parishes addressing food security and particularly community vegetable gardens to support sustainability and human dignity in line with CCT’s mission of promoting Catholic Social Teachings.

Figure 1 – Packed hall at the food security workshop



Figure 2 – Sharing ideas at the food security workshop



Our Training Workshops – Part 2

We held the first of our two-day workshop series on 10th February 2024 for all parish Community Engagement Leaders ('CELs'). The topic of the first workshop was "Identifying needs and resources in your community". The second workshop was held on 13th April 2024 on the topic of "Designing Social Outreach Programs for your Parish".

There was a great turnout with an attendance of 88 people from 33 parishes across the Archdiocese. The aim of the workshops was to encourage parishes to begin the process of starting new programs and/or strengthening existing programs in their parishes with which CCT can support them.

Figure 3 – Presenting at the CEL February 2024 workshop at Pinelands Catholic Church





Figure 4 – Parish representatives at the first CEL workshop in February 2024



Figure 5 – Parish representatives at the second CEL workshop in April 2024



Some of the parish projects undertaken this last year include:

1. In December 2023 CCT ran the annual Buckets of Love Christmas Campaign which saw parishes in the Archdiocese of Cape Town raise sufficient funds to distribute 570 food parcels (worth R250 each) and 169 food vouchers (worth R250 each) to 26 parishes. In addition, CCT purchased four bulk food parcels (with a value of approx. R6,500 each) to donate to four parishes who run community soup kitchens.



Figure 6 – One of the many beneficiaries of Buckets of Love



Figure 7 – One of the many beneficiaries of Buckets of Love



Figure 8 – One of the four parish soup kitchens who received a bulk food donation from the Buckets of Love program



Figure 9 – Our loyal team of Buckets of Love packers

2. Parish reaching out to the needy on Mandela Day



Figure 10 – Corpus Christi Wynberg and its 67 minutes drive for Mandela Day



3. A collaboration at The Pink House' Masiphumelele between CCT, local NGO Imfuneko Projects and the parishioners of St Joseph's Parish Kommetjie resulted in a revival of the community soup kitchen in early 2023. Following on from this an adjoining new community vegetable garden was planted on the CCT vacant lands which now produces fresh vegetables for the soup kitchen and for the local community who manage and maintain it themselves. CCT was happy to approve a parish grant of R10,000 to Kommetjie parish to purchase a water pump which allowed the garden to expand even further throughout 2023/2024.



Figure 11 – Water pump sponsored through CCT Kommetjie parish grant



Figure 12 – Extended community vegetable garden in Masiphumelele

4. Season of Creation, a time of new beginning, was an opportunity for parishes to showcase God's wonderful creation of new life.



Figure 13 – St Philips Strandfontein had a beautiful display for the opening of Season of Creation

5. Lansdowne parish took on the challenge of reaching out to those in its community who are homeless to help provide them with dignity through basic toiletries



Figure 14 – OLHC Lansdowne 'Hygiene Handbags' for women living on the streets



6. Seapoint parishioners opened their hearts and closets through their 'Winter Warmers' clothes donation drive over the winter months. Together with a clothes drive carried out by CBC St John's Parklands, we were able to prepare clothes packs for those who had lost everything in disasters.



Figure 15 – Donated Winter clothes packed by CCT and on their way to those in need

7. The newly established women's group in Tableview parish invited the CCT Coordinator to its meeting to learn more about the outreach work they can do at community level.



Figure 16 – CCT Coordinator speaking to Tableview parish women's group in June 2024

Psalm 41:1
How blessed is he who considers the helpless.
The Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble.

Social Development Group Network

Although primarily focused on parish-based initiatives, CCT is also aware that one of the Church's greatest treasures is the Catholic social action which takes place locally by many social outreach and development organizations within the Archdiocese of Cape Town.

In recognition of this work CCT wanted to ensure that its mandate included the bringing together of all these wonderful organizations to enable them to get to know each other better, collaborate, discuss opportunities to work together and attend workshops on topics relevant to those in the social development field.

Our 'Social Development Group Network' which began in October 2021 now consists of 19 members who meet three times a year rotating the meeting venue to those of the various members. This year's guest speakers spoke on topics such as 'Spirituality in Addiction' and "Protecting your emotional health whilst working in the social outreach field"



Figure 17– Some of the members of the Social Development Group Network at gathering on 29th November 2023 in Elsie's River

Emergency Disaster Response Program

CCT provides support and resources in cases of local and/or national emergencies or disasters. The program encourages parishes to donate funds and second-hand items to assist victims of disasters and emergencies. CCT is a member of the RESPOND network representing the Roman Catholic church. RESPOND is a collection of churches and faith-based organizations who collaborate to respond to disasters effectively.

During the last year, CCT has sought to strengthen its links with the City of Cape Town's disaster relief response efforts as a member of the RESPOND Network. CCT's Coordinator attended the COCT International Disaster Reduction Day Conference on 13th October 2023 along with members of the RESPOND network where the focus of emergency initiatives was on prevention and mitigation of disasters.

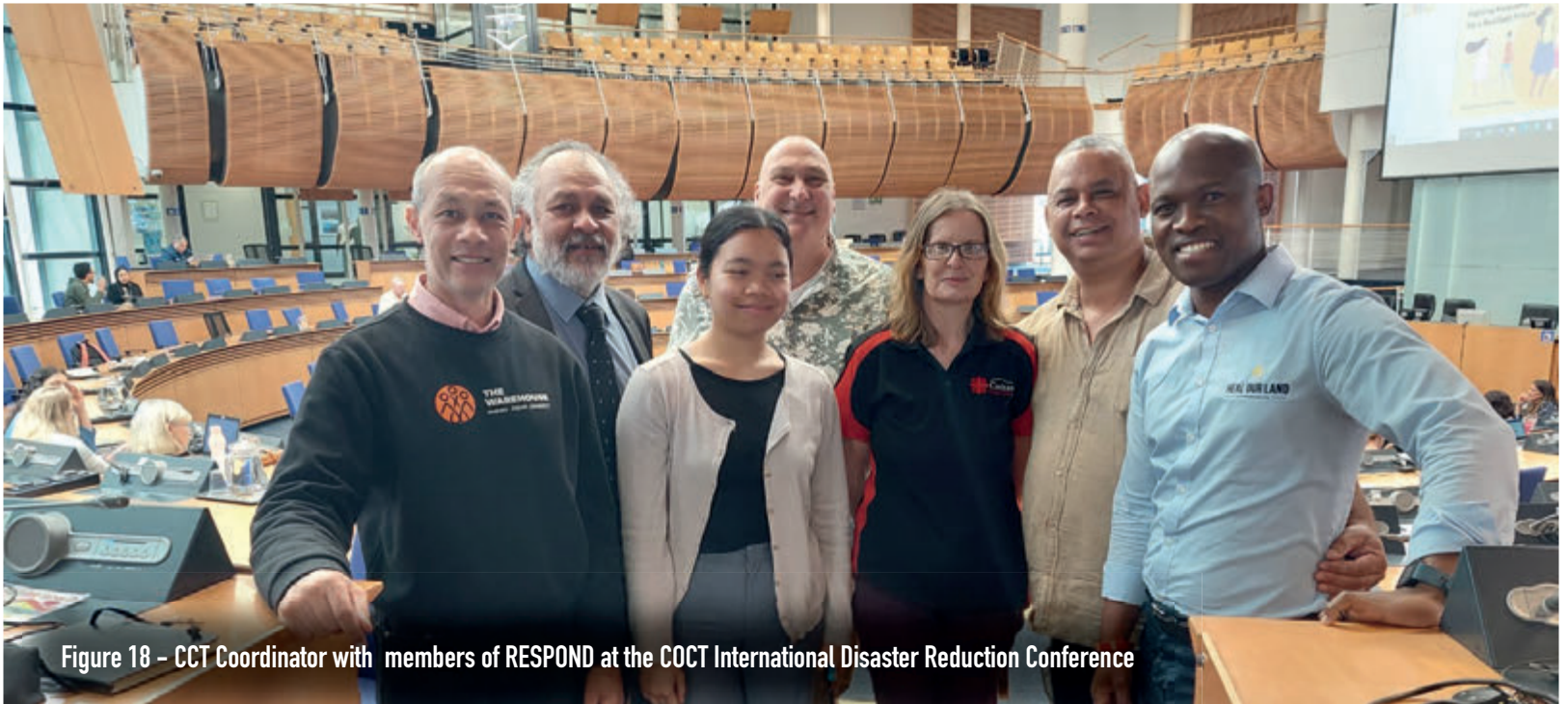


Figure 18 - CCT Coordinator with members of RESPOND at the COCT International Disaster Reduction Conference

CCT was represented by its Coordinator at the 2-day training workshop on Disaster Management hosted by COCT at the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre on 8th and 9th February 2024.



Figure 19 - COCT Disaster Training course February 2024



Figure 20 – COCT Disaster Training course February 2024

CCT also helps families affected by the smaller disasters which often get overlooked by the City authorities and larger aid agencies. In this regard some of the larger tragedies that befall our communities during the last year were as follows:

In August 2023 CCT distributed hygiene boxes and baby packs to families whose homes had been damaged by the land spout in Hanover Park. —

Figure 21



In September 2023 CCT found itself part of a large operation by RESPOND in response to devastating floods which displaced almost 12,000 people. (many of whom had been affected by the earlier June floods in which CCT also was involved).

Donations to our Program exceeded R55,000 which was an amazing response allowing us to provide 160 hygiene boxes, 70 baby packs, food and blankets to the flooded areas of Faure, Sir Lowry's Pass, Phillipi, Lwandle, Paarl, Bredasdorp and Napier. The parishioners in Milnerton parish volunteered with the packing of our hygiene boxes which we really appreciated. – Figures 22 & 23



Figure 22 – Food aid leaving CCT Athlone for Paarl



Figure 23 – Hygiene boxes on their way to the flooded communities of Sir Lowry's Pass, Lwandle and Bredasdorp

In November 2023 we delivered aid in the form of clothing, blankets, food, household items, hygiene boxes and baby packs to 65 families whose homes had burned down in a devastating fire in Joe Slovo informal settlement.



Figure 24 – Sending a van of aid resources to Joe Slovo Informal settlement

November 2023 also saw the introduction of our new aid resource the 'school stationery kit'. This is a pack for school children (consisting of pens, pencils, colouring pencils, scissors, glue, eraser, copy books, ruler, pencil sharpener, lunch box, water bottle & kit bag) which helps children to return to school after losing their homes in a disaster.



Figure 25 –The new CCT 'school stationery kit'



It came just in time to support children in a school which had burned down in Khayelitsha that month along with hygiene boxes for their families – Figure 26



Figure 26 – Delivering aid resources to students in Khayelitsha



Figure 27 – Our RESPOND partner, Beautiful Gate, collecting the hygiene buckets for Phillipi

March 2024 saw CCT swapping from hygiene 'boxes' to hygiene 'buckets' so that the bucket could be used for storage, collecting water or washing clothes. It also saw us reaching out to 200 people in the form of hygiene buckets following a devastating fire in Phillipi. – Figure 27

April 2024 was a dreadful month for Cape Town with flooding in Lwandle and Somerset West followed by storms which affected Mfuleni a week later. Thankfully we were able to get some aid relief to approximately 300 people during this time through clothing, baby packs, food parcels and bedding. — Figures 28 & 29.



Figure 28 – Relief aid leaving CCT for Mfuleni families affected by the storms



Figure 29– Lester Sedras of RESPOND helping deliver food parcel aid from CCT to flooded community of Lwandle



3. FORGING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

CCT was asked to represent South Africa and attend a week's emergency response training organized by Caritas Africa held in Botswana from 25th Sept – 1st Oct 2023.

Representatives from 7 other countries in Southern Africa also attended. Directly from Botswana the CCT Coordinator attended a 4-day training workshop on disaster & emergency relief organised by Caritas SA in Pretoria for all national Caritas organizations.



Figure 30 – CCT Coordinator and members of other African Caritas receiving their certificates on Emergency Response Training in Botswana September 2023.

The CCT Coordinator was asked to attend a 2-day Caritas World Humanitarian Conference in Athens on 22nd /23rd April representing South Africa. This was a wonderful way to highlight the profile of CCT and meet other country directors and members of Caritas Internationalis. Sixty-six delegates from Caritas organizations across the world gathered together under the one banner of 'Caritas'. The African continent was represented by 10 attendees and CCT 'flew the flag' for South Africa.



Figure 31- CCT coordinator along with Caritas members from across the world gathering in Athens Greece April 2024

4. CHANGES AT OUR HEADQUARTERS

2023/2024 was a year during which CCT undertook quite a substantial program of renovation works at its main offices in Lawrence Road, Athlone. This building which has been in the Roman Catholic church for decades, benefitted greatly from painting, new garage doors, new windows and doors, new blinds and lots more besides.



Figure 32- CCT headquarters gets a much needed facelift



When the program of works had been completed, we were delighted to welcome Neighbourhood Old Age Homes (NOAH) to occupy the building with us. NOAH is of course a member of our Social Development Network Organisation and so we knew it would be the perfect occupant for Lawrence Road. NOAH has brought such life and vitality to the building with the wonderful health, psychosocial, advocacy and employment programs that its runs for the elderly. It has even managed to turn some of the gardens around the building into a blossoming vegetable garden that its members can work in and benefit from. We look forward to a long and happy partnership with our new neighbour.



Figure 33 – Official opening of NOAH Centre Athlone April 2024



Figure 34 – NOAH vegetable garden at Athlone starts taking shape



5. FINANCIALS

CARITAS CAPE TOWN
(REGISTRATION NUMBER: 264-187 NPO)
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Figures in Rand	Notes	2024	2023
OTHER INCOME			
Donations received		698,605	601,918
Project income received		269,897	354,591
Rental income		1,201,666	962,794
Sundry income		-	58,127
		2,170,168	1,977,430
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Accounting fees		50,228	19,849
Advertising		1,004	443
Auditor's remuneration	6	32,660	25,933
Bad debts		-	20,414
Bank charges		9,857	9,466
Computer expenses		4,370	9,892
Consumables		12,143	10,213
Depreciation		29,980	35,730
Employee costs		599,679	761,142
Insurance		30,136	27,715
Lease rentals on operating lease		180,000	195,000
Loss on sale of assets		-	29,250
Motor vehicle expenses		28,146	12,473
Office refreshments		-	1,670
Printing and stationery		-	9,516
Professional fees		-	4,500
Project expenses		215,193	240,604
Repairs and maintenance		556,285	91,136
Security		18,858	17,098
Staff welfare		-	656
Subscriptions		8,000	6,000
Telephone and fax		28,516	20,415
Training		-	500
Travel and accommodation		-	38,416
Utilities		375,466	51,309
Winter disaster relief		143,798	18,465
		2,324,309	1,657,805
Operating (deficit) / profit		(154,141)	319,625
Investment income	7	25,371	12,494
Finance costs	8	(2,868)	(1,563)
		22,503	10,931
(Deficit) / profit for the year		(131,638)	330,556

CARITAS CAPE TOWN
(REGISTRATION NUMBER: 264-187 NPO)
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

Figures in Rand	Notes	2024	2023
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	2	114,941	119,921
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	3	427,857	371,218
Cash and cash equivalents	4	225,430	287,995
		653,287	659,213
TOTAL ASSETS		768,228	779,134
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		540,868	672,506
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	227,360	106,628
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		768,228	779,134



THANK YOU

TO OUR BOARD

For all their valuable guidance and support throughout the year:

His Eminence Stephen Cardinal Brislin (President)

Fr Paul Taylor (Chairperson)

Fr Wim Lindeque (Vice Chairperson)

Steven Borwick (Secretary)

Chantal Solomons (Treasurer)

Luzuko Tseku (Board Member)

Oliver Tshinyoka Mulombo (Board Member)

Theo Lekoma (Board Member)



7 Board meetings were held in 2023/2024

TO OUR DONORS

Without whose support we would not be able to do our work:

Thank you to all the individuals, corporates and parishes who so generously donated money, goods in kind and/or time to our Emergency Disaster Fund and the Buckets of Love 2023 Campaign.

A special thank you to:

- Our weekly Athlone volunteers Louisa O'Connor and Florence Elliot
- Rob Riedlinger of Monk Media who so generously assisted us throughout the year with our website and Annual Report.

We appreciate all that you do for us.

"If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother."

Deuteronomy 15:7



www.caritas.capetown



Address

146 Lawrence Road, Athlone. Cape Town, South Africa

Email Us: coordinator@caritas.capetown

Call Us: Tel: +27 69 126 4841



facebook.com/CaritasCapeTown

