

MARCH 2018

SFLL NEWSLETTER

Surgeons for Little Lives is run by a small group of Paediatric Surgeons, and ordinary people, passionate about uplifting the lives of less fortunate children needing life changing surgery.

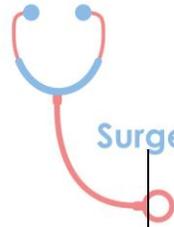
SFLL Board of Directors



It is with great pleasure that we bring you this first newsletter. In this newsletter we invite you to celebrate the achievements of SFLL with us, as well as looking ahead at some of the remaining challenges which we endeavor to overcome, with the help of our donors and volunteers. The

team at SFLL is extremely grateful to all our donors and volunteers for the giving of their time and donations towards our various projects, without whom none of this would be possible.

We are proud of our story & commitment to the needs of children through the Greater Gauteng area. The Board consists of eight members, a company secretary, the first full-time appointed employee, who is responsible for running the day to day office, an Admin Assistant, as well as a General worker. Together, we are making it possible for very sick children and their families to



Surgeons for little lives

receive a standard of care that matches the standard of skill of their surgeons in the face of enormous need and numerous challenges.

BIG PROJECTS

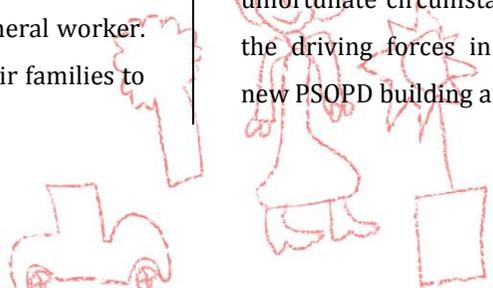
1. Paediatric Surgery Out Patient Department (PSOPD)

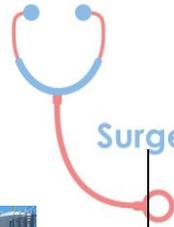


The Paediatric Surgical Ward at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital caters for infants and children up to the age of 10 years old, who have paediatric surgical conditions. Previously, patients admitted to the

ward had to remain on their own without their parents.

While some parents live close enough to visit their children, many parents live far away from the hospital and can only visit their children over the weekends, if at all. This situation places huge stress on the patient and the family unit. These unfortunate circumstances were one of the driving forces in constructing the new PSOPD building and parental sleep-over facility.





Surgeons for little lives

Construction Begins

Old building was demolished in February 2017.

Mediclinic appointed Mascini Consultants through a tender process to do the construction.

The platform was prepared, and foundation laid in April 2017.



The building was completed in November 2017 and opened on the 29th November, with the official opening with the MEC held on the 17th December 2017. 24 single beds, a fridge and a microwave for the sleep-over facility was received through the kind donation from Bedzone and Bears through Lewis.



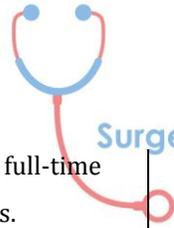
This building is now fully operational, with more than 1 871 patients seen since opening. As at the end of March 2018, 55 parents have spent between 5 to 7 nights in the facility. For more information and images please visit our website www.surgeonsforlittlives.org.



1.1 Maternal Facility House Mother

Through several CV's received, shortlisting and interviews, a house mother has been appointed on the 19th March 2018. We are pleased to welcome Miss Mbali Magubane to the organization who will be fulfilling this role. She will act as an initial point of contact for the maternal facility and will be stationed at the facility 7am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays. Whilst her focus includes ensuring





Surgeons for little lives

that the facility is taken care of, the lodgers will now also have a full-time mother who will be admitting, discharging, and attending to their needs.

2. Lactation Unit & Breastmilk Bank

This is our next big venture. We have partnered with the South African Breastmilk Reserve on this project, with the oversight of Mediclinic, and the support of the MEC from the Gauteng Department of Health. Fundraising for the project has started, and we hope to commence with the building of the lactation unit in the near future.

3. Burns Operating Theater for Paediatric Burns

Paediatric burn wounds are sadly a common injury in the Greater Gauteng area. The existent dedicated Paediatric Burns Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital currently has 8 intensive care beds, and 24 general ward beds. By introducing specialist Paediatric Intensive Care staff, amongst several other strategies, we have managed to significantly reduce the previously unacceptably high mortality rate in this unit. However, one significant hurdle remains: We share a single operating theatre with the adult burns unit.



This means that:

- Our children's access to this burns theatre is restricted to 2 days a week. Due to the nature of their injuries, they need access to a theatre 7 days a week.
- There is often cross contamination of life threatening infections, most of which originate from adult patients.

We would like to build a dedicated Paediatric Burns Theatre and Recovery Room.

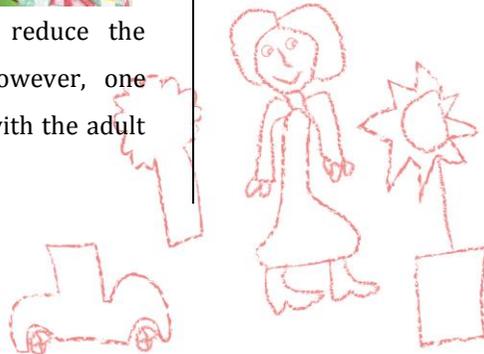
This theatre will be accessible to the children 7 days a week and will be used solely for the treatment of patients in the Paediatric Burns Unit.

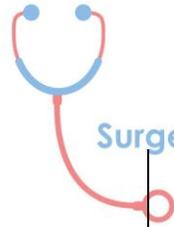
This will:

Enable us to optimize the care of the burn wounds themselves.

Have a massive impact on decreasing the rate of hospital acquired infections, reducing the mortality rate in the Paediatric Burns Unit even further.

To date Surgeons for Little Lives has received **R 500 000.00** to be allocated to this project. We are grateful to Sun International through Samantha Divaries for this wonderful donation.





SMALL PROJECTS

1. Outside Playground for recovering Paediatric Surgery Patients

Our wonderful and exciting new play area sponsored by Surgeons for Little Lives and Spur Foundation, who donated a jungle gym for the area, was completed in November 2016.

The play area launch was on the 4th of December 2016 and was combined with the Thaba 2 Bara X Mas Ride. Upon return from the cycle ride, riders and children were treated to a beautiful performance by Beautiful Creatures at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital Ward 32 play area.

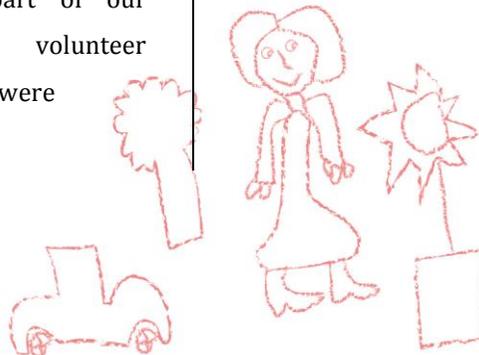
painted to be appealing to the kids who are using the playground.

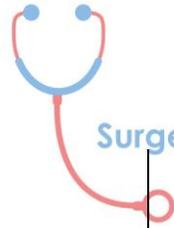


We ensure that the play area is fully utilized daily. Children from the ward play in the playground daily for 2 hours before lunch time under the supervision of the admin staff. Volunteers also come through during School Holidays to do their Community Service, and as part of the program they supervise kids and play with them. Finally, with the Outpatient department at the new PSOPD and Maternal facility, Stan, as the General worker for Surgeons for Little Lives supervises as the patients and parents wait at the play area to be called in by the doctor to avoid congestion in the PSOPD building. We work very well with the nurses and clerks of the facility in this regard.



Thanks to our wonderful donors, our play area is becoming more and more attractive to the kids. **9TH BIT Consulting (PTY) LTD**, through **Janet van Notten**, has donated four sets of concrete benches for the outside play area in ward 32. As part of our community service volunteer projects, the four sets were





Surgeons for little lives

2. Expressive Arts

Surgeons for Little Lives sponsor **Janine Rech**, is an Expressive Arts Facilitator in both the Paediatric Burns and the Paediatric Surgery Units.

This is an ongoing project aimed at rehabilitating the burns kids. Helping traumatized, injured or sick children to express their pain and fear through creativity and play helps them to be more hopeful and happy, thereby improving their immune systems so that they can heal much quicker.



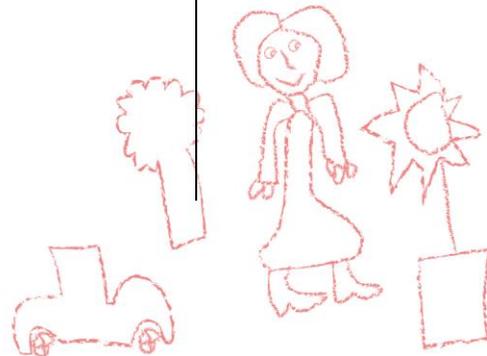
Jan has also just started at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital as the Art Facilitator for the Orthopedic wards.

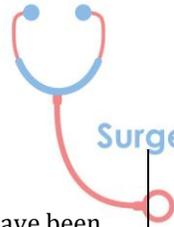


3. Admission and Discharge packs

Surgeons for Little Lives supplies each patient on admission with a pack containing basic toiletries including a toothbrush, toothpaste, facecloth, soap, moisturizing cream and pajamas. On discharge they receive a pack containing a set of clothes to go home in, small toy, stationery, coloring book and a snack.

This project has been a huge success, a big thank you to everyone who has donated towards this project. We would like to make the project more sustainable and supply each patient with an arrival and discharge pack. Ongoing donations will really be a huge help.





Surgeons for little lives

5. Music program

Community of Music Makers South Africa (COMMSA), founded in 2017, is a registered non-profit organization. Based on the principles advocated by the nascent discipline of Community Music, COMMSA has at its core the values of access, participation, diversity, and equality of opportunity.



COMMSA's first official project was the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital Music Initiative, which began in April 2017 and is still ongoing. The first of its kind at Baragwanath, this initiative sees COMMSA's musicians provide music in two wards, the Pediatric Burns Unit and Ward 32 and has been well received.

"This initiative would not have been possible without the support and endorsement of Surgeons for Little Lives, who have given us the trust to explore this developing work. For musicians who are not necessarily accustomed to medical spaces, working at CHBAH has resulted in experiences that have been novel, challenging, and ultimately rewarding"

- COMMSA

4. Volunteering

This is to thank all our volunteers; you guys have been massively amazing!!! Most of the work we do requires continuous help, and with your input, we have managed to do a lot.

If you, or anyone you know, wants to be a part of this wonderful organization by volunteering, please visit our website to sign up under GET INVOLVED or send us an email on info@surgeonsforlittlives.org and we will be in touch. The programs vary, and our Admin Assistant will provide more information on this.



To read some feedback from our volunteers please visit our website, we have some wonderful inspiring stories that might just motivate you to lend a helping hand.





6. Just Footprints Foundation & SFL Partnership

Just Footprints Foundation had the absolute pleasure of hosting a camp for Surgeons for little lives at Kwalata Adventure Centre in the Dinokeng Big 5 Game Reserve during the weekend of 17 to 19 November 2017. 32 campers, 14 volunteers/staff from Surgeons for little lives and 10 JFF staff and volunteers enjoyed a weekend of sports, swimming and loads of fun and adventure.

“It was such a pleasure to work with all and we are looking forward to a continuous partnership and more amazing camps for these amazing children.”

- Lize van Vuuren, Camp Director.

In addition to this, each camper received a ‘Super Camper Certificate’ during the camp. This is a certificate that was handed out in a fun way after every meal. Each child was recognized according to what the facilitators/volunteers

observed during camp. The camp was thoroughly enjoyed by volunteers, staff and children.

