



Registered Non-Profit Organisation

007-725

Robertson House

Robertson House, a registered Non-Profit Organisation situated in Sanddrift Milnerton, is a warm and welcome multi-racial home for persons over the age of 18 years with permanent spinal cord injuries.

Robertson House accommodates mostly persons with quadriplegia and all our residents use wheelchairs for mobility. Their spinal cord injuries were caused by diving accidents, road and motor vehicle accidents, rugby and violence related injuries.

Vision

Robertson House's vision is to provide full accommodation with 24-hour care services for persons with permanent spinal cord injuries in an environment conducive to maximal privacy and independence.

Mission

By providing accommodation to persons with permanent spinal cord injuries the organisation also strive to protect and promote the interests of the residents and to remove those physical, legal and attitudinal barriers which hinder the integration of persons with disabilities into the community.

What is paraplegia or quadriplegia?

Paraplegia means paralysis of the *legs and lower part of the body*. It involves the loss of sensation (pain, temperature, vibration and position) as well as the loss of motion. It may also include paralysis of the bladder and bowels. Paraplegia may be caused by injury to or disease in the lower spinal cord or peripheral nerves or by such brain disorders as cerebral palsy. **Quadriplegia** also involves the loss of sensation as explained above, but means paralysis of *both arms and both legs*.

The Past, the Present and the Future....

Our History

As a result of the South African Defence Force activities in Angola during 1975, Mr. Solm Yach, one of the initial founders of the Fund for Security Services Disabled and a prominent businessman realised the possibility that there would be casualties and permanent injuries amongst SA servicemen who participated in that war not out of their free will or to seek adventure. After visiting Israel, who was saddled with similar circumstances, he visited late Brig L H Robertson and his blind wife, late Bettie Robertson. They decided that a care-facility for disabled servicemen should be established in South Africa.

After several successful fundraising projects, generous donations from Trust Funds as well as the private sector, the Trustees were able to build Robertson House (named after the Robertsons) in Sanddrift, Milnerton. In 1985 the first disabled servicemen moved in, but Robertson House was only officially opened on 7 June 1990 by the then Administrator of the Cape, Mr. Kobus Meiring.

Presently

Robertson House had in the past only catered for security services disabled persons (Defence Force and Police Services), but due to the ever increasing demand and the crying need for more accommodation, the constitution was amended to allow the accommodation of any physically disabled person with a permanent spinal cord injury over the age of 18 years. Together with the above mentioned changes to the constitution, the Board of Trustees decided to change the name to The Robertson House Fund to avoid any confusion. The Home itself is known as Robertson House and is managed by a management committee of elected volunteers. The Robertson House Fund is the custodians of the Robertson House assets. Both committees meet on a regular basis to ensure that quality services are rendered to the residents of the Home and to ensure a sustainable future for the organisation.



Robertson House provides the following facilities:

Accommodation

- Full board and lodging including three balanced meals per day, 24-hour care services, cleaning and laundry services.
- Private and spacious single rooms as well as 4 flats.
- All facilities are accessible by wheelchair.
- An entertainment area is available for residents and functions.



Transport

A seatless combi, donated by the National Lottery, transports our residents for medical and personal appointments as well as for recreational outings. Some residents are also transported to their places of employment. The Quantum Bus is fitted with a hoist and clamps to secure the wheelchairs.



The Objectives of the Organisation

- *To provide accommodation for physically disabled persons in an environment conducive to maximal privacy and independence.*
- *To provide, where necessary, additional facilities such as social services, provided by Social Workers from the Cape Town Association for Persons with Disabilities. reable@iafrica.com*
- *To promote the principal that rehabilitation of the disabled has not only a physical aspect but also a psychological one of restoring self-esteem through relative independence and a "normal" rather than institutional existence.*
- *To collect funds to contribute to the expenses incurred by the house.*
- *To educate and raise awareness, encourage a greater concern, understanding and awareness among the general public about disability.*

Management

Robertson House is managed by a Management Committee consisting of elected volunteers from the public and residents of Robertson House. Monthly meetings are held to ensure the best possible service to our residents. Dedicated personnel

are responsible for the day-to- day running of the home.

Funding

Board and lodging fees paid by the residents, generate the only fixed income. Robertson House is registered with the Department of Social Development and receives a monthly subsidy towards the board and lodging fees of residents in receipt of a Disability Grant. The monthly running costs and expenses exceeds the fixed income, therefore Robertson House relies on the public for financial assistance, i.e. donations and fundraising projects.

Fundraising Projects

We have fundraising events to generate income i.e.:

- ❖ Club 500 – a fundraising project to assist residents with raising funds toward their board and lodging fees and to assist the home to provide care services.
- ❖ Dances - hosted once or twice a year.
- ❖ Casual Day - fundraising project of the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in SA (NCPDPSA)
- ❖ Annual Robbie Robertson Memorial Bowls Tournament, hosted by the Constantia Bowling Club;
- ❖ Other, smaller events hosted by the residents and committee members to generate funds and create awareness amongst the public.
- ❖ Proposals are sent to companies, Trust Funds and private donors for financial assistance toward our various projects.
- ❖ Various Service Organisations support Robertson House on a regular basis.

They are:

- Table View Lions Club, Milnerton Lions Club, De Grendel Lions Club
- MOTH's - Blaauwberg Shellhole
- Warrant Officer's Association of the Western Province
- Churches: Dutch Reformed Church Sonnekus and Milnerton Methodist Church, Kleinmond



Please contact our office to put your name on our invitation list to make sure you don't miss one of these wonderful events.

The Future

With the financial assistance from a trusted donor, The Robertson House Fund was able to purchase the adjacent property a few years ago to expand the current facility. The Trustees investigated various business opportunities and partnerships with property developers, but unfortunately, a lack of funding is currently the biggest stumble block in the pursuit of their dream.

General Information

The Robertson House Trust Fund

Chairperson : Ms. Idalise Cronje

Vice-Chairperson & Treasurer : Mr. John M Bell

Additional Members : Mr. Hans M Heuschneider
(Resident of Robertson House)

: Ms. Zanne Horrel

: Mr. Johnnie Roelofse

: Mr. Chris Walker

Robertson House Management Committee

Chairperson : Mr. Tommie Prins (resident)

Vice-Chairperson : Mr. Clive Coetzee

Treasurer : Mr. Ian Hele (resident)

Additional Member : Mr. William Stadler

Chief Executive Officer: Mrs. Christelle Pretorius

: christelle@robertsonhouse.org.za

: info@robertsonhouse.org.za

Administrative Officer : Mrs. Janine Wiggins

: janine@robertsonhouse.org.za

: info@robertsonhouse.org.za

Contact Details : 021-551-3780/6 (tel)

: 021-551-2100 (fax)

: 086 574 6900 (fax to e-mail)

: www.robertsonhouse.org.za

Address : P O Box 176, MILNERTON, 7435

: 20 Corsair Road, Sanddrift, MILNERTON, 7441.

Robertson House Banking Details (Operating Account)

Account Holder : Robertson House
Bank : Standard Bank
Branch : Milnerton
Branch code : 02-65-09
Account Number : 270469656
Account Type : Cheque Account

Robertson House Non-Profit Organisation Number

007-725

Robertson House VAT Registration Number

417 0144 754

Robertson House SARS Tax Exemption Number

18/11/13/945

Robertson House Club 500 Banking Details

(This account is for the Club 500 Fundraising Project ONLY)

Account Holder : Robertson House Number 2 Account
Bank : First National Bank
Branch : Milnerton
Branch Code : 20-33-09
Account Number : 62132753808
Account Type : Cheque Account

For more information on Club 500, a fundraising project to assist individual residents, please contact Janine Wiggins at janine@robertsonhouse.org.za .