



Church of the Nazarene Khayelitsha

Dear fellow RESPOND Coalition members

We wanted to share what we as a church community are doing and to ask if you would prayerfully consider partnering with us in various ways which we will introduce as we share our plans.

As you are all no doubt aware, Khayelitsha is one of the most densely populated areas of Cape Town - home to just under half a million people - and is also a COVID-19 hotspot. By virtue of the deep, ongoing inequality and legacy of apartheid in South Africa, this community is far more vulnerable to both complications and death from COVID-19 as well as the longer-term economic impacts of the virus on households. The need for both health promotion/disease prevention strategies as well as creative care for those infected by the virus remains more urgent than ever.

Up until this point, the Church of the Nazarene, Khayelitsha, has responded to the pandemic in practical and sacrificial ways with food parcels and hygiene packs for young girls, and with ongoing pastoral care. We are also an active member of the Khayelitsha LEAN (Local Ecumenical Action Network).

However, we see greater needs of our community at this time. The focus of our activities for the rest of the year have all been realigned to creating our immediate community (Town Two) as a Safe Zone from COVID-19. Town Two is a big block of

homes comprising around 1650 households. This number does not include the backyard dwellings, which adds around three shacks per household, so the total impact would be around 3 times the number, around 5000. The idea is that the whole area will become a 'safe' zone and procedures will be put in place when leaving and entering, to keep it a model of community health, awareness and care. The work of bringing this vision into reality can be divided into two main interventions:

1. The Church leadership and community want to show what is possible for a church to do in a community. This is going to be a model; a ground-up community-based approach to the prevention of COVID-19 – going house-to-house using the Community Health Evangelism strategy. The team will do an assessment of what the needs are in each home, log who is in each home, who is vulnerable and how the household can protect them. They will make sure each household has a way of protecting themselves, so there is less exposure and spread of the virus. This movement for equipping around prevention, shielding and care in the midst of this COVID-19 crisis is being carried out in partnership with the local community leaders and the Khayelitsha *Doctors without Borders* (MSF) team. We hope to show what can be done with a small group of committed people who live in the area and are equipped and resourced to educate, mobilise, encourage and care for the community. We are also excited to be working with young people to equip them with invaluable skills and work experience - perhaps this is the beginning of The Hub in ways we hadn't thought of prior to Covid-19. Training has already begun with 20 young leaders identified by the community leaders and we hope to increase this to 60 for the next 6 months.
2. In keeping with the call from the South African Council of Churches and the Cape Town Together coalition, for churches to open their buildings as Community Care Centres, we have been preparing to use our buildings as an in-community isolation facility - providing a safe space of care for people who do not need to be hospitalised, but *do* need care and to be able to self-isolate away from vulnerable family members. The young leaders who are trained in door-to-door Community

Health Evangelism will ask simple screening questions. Should any of the visits and screening yield people who are in need of isolation-care which cannot be safely carried out within the home, the aim is that individuals can immediately be referred to the Care Centre - decreasing infection in the neighbourhood and offering care close to their families. We see this not just as sharing whatever resources we have for the benefit of our community, but also as a prophetic witness to the holistic Good News of Jesus.



The Church was excited to launch our first training 29th July 2020, which is part of a long-term community intervention plan to share prevention, shielding and care methods with our community. With the partnership of local leaders and MSF (Doctors Without Borders) we are hosting ongoing training with a group of young people from our community who will go house-to-house sharing COVID-19 prevention and care information.

We have more information on both of these initiatives, how they interact with each other and how they fit into our larger vision. Please let us know if you would like more information and we will happily send it to you.

Opportunities to partner:

Community Health Evangelism Strategy:

- Print for us: Pamphlets for Households; Training Material & Questionnaires & Data Sheets for Volunteers
- Assemble Home Care Packs: 20l bucket, 1 litre Sunlight Soap, 1 litre Jik, 4 Cloth Masks
- Donate PPE for Volunteers: Cloth Masks (2 per volunteer) and Hand Sanitiser (60 small bottles a month)

- Sponsor the purchase of an Infrared Thermometer for each pair (30 thermometers needed!)
- Sponsor Data for our Volunteers: R100 per volunteer per month
- Sponsor small stipends/care parcels for our volunteers: the young leaders aren't being paid for this work, but would otherwise be doing odd jobs or looking for employment. At the very least, we would like to provide them with a care parcel per month for their families. Ideally, we would like to pay a small stipend as well
- Contribute financially towards the project (see payment details below)

The Church building as a Care Centre:

In order to complete the process of setting up this Care Centre, some repair work needs to be carried out on the building, specifically plumbing, windows and doors, and some added security to one of the boundary fences. A team from Engineering Ministries International have also done an assessment on the roof which needs major repairs for the building to be safe, so we are first looking for people in churches or churches in networks who would be keen to invest financially in getting this building safe, dry and hospitable. The good news is that all changes made in order to prepare the building as a Care Centre (eg. plumbing and community kitchen facilities) will also bring us closer to our ability to make The Hub a truly residential programme.

The repairs to the building (without even looking at some dreams we have for the long-term design) come to R350 000. Most of the cost is the structural repair to make sure the roof is safe (R280 000). Architects' plans, Engineering Reports and Construction Quotes can all be supplied to people if they are keen on investing in this part of the project. If you know of Church communities or individuals who would be keen to invest in this project financially, please let us know.

Although not all the costs are for materials, if members of your churches or coalitions also have business contacts who could provide building materials at a discounted price, we would love to explore that connection.

Join us:

The 'inevitable' spread of COVID-19 and the lingering of this virus in a community already under strain, is not necessary and can be avoided if acted upon quickly. There are people willing to serve households who have already volunteered and started training, there are both church and community leaders committed to managing a process of equipping and resourcing, a church available and already innovating healthy responses, a strategy (CHE) that is tried and tested and already understood – what is needed is resources to implement this fast and without delay. There is no time for months of fundraising. The needs are immediate, and time wasted is life or death for many. The human resources are available. The virus waits for nobody. Please join us in funding this initiative and saving lives and limiting suffering, in the short-term, as well as in the longer-term health and wellbeing of a community.

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Banking Details:

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T2