

Forest Farm

The development of Forest Farm began in 1968 with the purpose of creating a residential and training centre for cerebral palsied adults. During the next 19 years a bare piece of ground was developed into residential cottages, workshop, hall, kitchen and staff accommodation. Forest Farm Centre was officially opened in April 1977.

The Centre is situated in Bryanston Johannesburg, on land and in buildings owned by TACCP, and is accessible for people from all areas. Beneficiaries come from all areas and use the services, including people from Soweto, Lenasia, Midrand and Diepsloot, in particular. We have fostered good relations with a number of schools specialising in the educational needs of people with disabilities as when these children reach the age of 18 years, parents are often unable to care for them. We are trying particularly to increase the number of residents from previously disadvantaged communities and have had significant success to date.

The objectives of the project is as follows:

- * To improve the quality of life and care of ± 120 youths & adults disabled by cerebral palsy & other disabilities per annum by providing comprehensive, integrated care in a residential facility.
- * To develop the potential, skills & self-esteem of ± 120 youths & adults with cerebral palsy & other disabilities per annum by providing a structured & appropriate work & stimulation programme
- * To improve the quality of life & care of at least 150 children, youths and adults with cerebral palsy/other disabilities/ living in the community, particularly in disadvantaged areas, by providing a spectrum of services, including individual & organisational capacity-building & collaborative action.

The activities that have to be undertaken are as follows:

- * Provide & maintain accommodation
- * **Personal** care, feeding, bathing, daily meals, laundry, cleaning
- * Provide & maintain clothes, personal items. etc
- * Access specialized services, e.g. dental, medical, hospital & neurological care
- * Social work services to residents, families & staff Home visits by social worker
- * Develop effective life skills to deal with aggression, acceptance of disability, rejection
- * Transport to all venues & resources
- * Recreational, social, spiritual & cultural activities
- * Facilitate community & family involvement
- * Manage all resources, including funds
- * Train & supervise personnel, management, volunteers & students
- * Liaise with resources, support systems & families
- * Maintain buildings & grounds
- * Run library, tuck shop & book shop
- * Teach & encourage residents able to assist with household chores to do so
- * Ensure Residents' Committee functions well & interacts meaningfully with Management
- * Provide training on HIV/AIDS & normalization of sexuality to staff, families & residents
- * Market service as open to all groups & specifically reach out to other service providers

Work Opportunities:

- * Obtain appropriate work contracts (packaging, folding, etc)
- * Make items for sale
- * Reach out to unemployed & people with CP from disadvantaged areas & involve in workshop
- * Training & supervision
- * Provide transport
- * Quality assurance
- * Meet contract deadlines

Funding for the running of Forest Farm Centre is sourced from fees, disability grants, Department of Social Services subsidies and donations. TACCP participate in this funding. In past years funding has been received from the National Lottery Board on application.