

STATEMENT to explain how your donations have been used and will be used. [23rd May 2020]

What does Makana Revive do with your money?

Makana Revive! [MR!] have built a platform for citizens to contribute towards many projects and are still collecting donations for emergency repairs and works to enhance our City. MR! is not directly involved in any projects to support feeding schemes. The board of Makana Revive! have kindly agreed that their Trust account can be used for the lodging of donations for food schemes and to pay authorised invoices. To identify donations for feeding schemes each donation must be referenced Covid – Food. The MR! board are not involved in deciding how donations for Covid-Food are used.

How your money has been spent

All the donated monies spent so far have paid for food supplies for the Makhanda Circle of Unity Food Group [MCoUFG] until the end of April. MCoUFG have expanded their food parcel deliveries from less than 500 households up to 1000 households. At around R150 per parcel, that's about R150,000 per week, which has taken most of the monies raised so far. Volunteers have done incredible work which means your money has fed about 4000 people, mostly children, averaging 4 people per household. In the meantime MCoUFG submitted a bid for a substantial grant from **The Kagiso Trust**, which was successful. This means that after the last payment on behalf of MCoUFG was made on 7th May any remaining money ear-marked for food in the MR! Trust account is now available for distribution to other schemes in Makhanda.

Where will all your donated money go?

To ensure your donations are spent addressing the most acute need a new independent Funding Distribution Panel has been formed. They will report back to you about which schemes have been supported, how they've been supported and demonstrating a constant drive to achieve value for money. They are as concerned as you that sustainable answers are found which go beyond the mere handing out of food.

The panel members are:

Gunda Spingies *Grahamstown Feeding Association*

Sally Price-Smith *Grahamstown Residents' Association*

Andrew Kirk *Makhanda Circle of Unity Food Group*

Likhaya Msutwana *Methodist Shaw Community*

Nosipho Nkwinti *Rhodes University Community
Engagement Division, Project Manager*

Is the situation hopeless?

You may already be aware that there are numerous public-spirited and resourceful people within impoverished parts of town taking the initiative and helping feed the hungry in their neighbourhoods. Many are emptying their own kitchen cupboards to help. Some of them are already growing veggies, and there are plans to grow more and encourage neighbours to do the same. They are also negotiating with local suppliers to get the best deals on foodstuffs.

Here in Makhanda we are a small enough community that we can pull together and solve this crisis. The more that recipients of assistance can do to alleviate their own circumstances the more progress we, as a community, can make.

Why is more money needed when the government are giving extra grants?

Since the start of lockdown you've been asked over and over to donate money because here, in your home town there are thousands of people with little or no food. Mostly children.

In many households the carer is an aunt or grandparent, and sometimes there's no adult at all. We've all heard about the Rbillions being pumped into the South African economy, and enhanced grants. Some might think this solves the problem. In reality, with the wide-scale loss of income amongst the poorest paid workers and restriction on informal work, an additional R350 per month (where that is being secured) is not enough to off-set other financial losses. This is especially true when children are being fed entirely at home while there's no school and no school meals.

So far many of you have given generously in response to a number of appeals and that's allowed schemes such as the Makhanda Circle of Unity Food Group, Food4Futures, LIV-lukhanyiso and Covid-Care (Cathedral) to keep going and expand to meet growing crisis. There are also numerous smaller groups and individuals volunteering and donating food and materials for food deliveries and then there are the numerous Community Kitchens.

Because the economic downturn is likely to be with us for many months it will be vital, if we as a community are going to reduce the number of people suffering severe hunger, to keep funds coming in. On the positive side the long-term nature of what we all face means that we can think long-term, which means finding sustainable answers to food security.

The very people who are daily pleading for donations in order to feed hungry neighbours, mostly the frail and children, are very much aware of the need to build resilience. They often repeat the phrase: 'If I give you a fish it will feed you for a day, if I teach you to fish it will feed you for life.'

Thank you

Hundreds of volunteers are working long hours to address the most acute hunger in Makhanda, and they depend on your support. Going forward the progress made will be more comprehensively reported, and work will continue to reduce the high levels of food insecurity under the new Funds Distribution Panel. Finding ways to ensure that recipients are given the opportunities and knowledge required to help themselves is a high priority. Right now, in this crisis, people are standing up as never before with a determination to make a difference. Please carry on supporting them as far as you are reasonably able. Thank you.

For more information please email
info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za
GRA will obtain answers and provide feedback.