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Mini-Conference



The Eastern Cape provincial office hosted their first mini-conference at the Dimbaza Society for the Aged in Buffalo City, Metropolitan Municipality—a first for the organisation.

The conference was held over two days and attended by 46 delegates.

Guest speakers included the national chairperson of Age-in-Action, Rev. John Phillips; NEC member Mrs Lilian Daniels who delivered a talk on the vision of the province; Mrs. Tozama Lwana, manager for Older Persons and Special Programmes from the Department of Social Development, who addressed the delegates on the Protocol on elder abuse. Mrs. Miempie van Wyk, regional director from Alzheimer's Eastern Cape spoke on Alzheimer's disease; Sr Linda Swartz, Gelvan Park Frail Aged Home, covered the treatment of older persons in old age homes.

Ms. Babalwa Ngqakavu presented an informative talk on HIV/AIDS and ageing. Mr. Feju from the Department of Sport did not allow delegates to be idle when he presented the active ageing slot. Activities and rules which would be part of the Golden Games were demonstrated and the delegates were encouraged to participate.

While the conference was in session, members from the Dimabaza Society for the Aged netball team were practicing—an indication that this was by no means an idle service centre.

The conference ended with a sincere word of thanks by Ingrid Cupido for the warm welcome, great interaction and professional manner in which sensitive topics like HIV/AIDS were presented and discussed. She also congratulated the province on being the first one to have a min-conference, which was definitely of value to everyone in attendance.



Certificate hand over— Colchester

Age-in-Action and St John's Ambulance sponsored 9 community members to attend a community home-based care training course in Colchester, Eastern Cape.

The successful learners were presented to the community at a special ceremony. Due to the high cases of HIV infections within the community, members were encouraged to dialogue on the health status of the community .



World Health Day

Ratanang Old Age Service Club in the Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, **North West**, went the extra mile in celebrating World Health Day!

Although exercise forms part of their daily activities, club members added aerobics to their programme. Under the watchful eye of one of the members, familiar with this type of exercise, they had fun exploring activities other than Golden Games routine.



Volunteer Awards



At a special ceremony at the **Summerstrand Hotel** in the **Eastern Cape**, forty individuals from various clubs were recognized for their contribution to the care and protection of older persons in the province.

Mrs Nosipiwo Ncoyo, a

business woman and TV presenter, was the guest speaker and in her address, she honoured the valuable work of older persons in the community.

Volunteers recognized were: (a) individuals for the vital role they played in the initiation of service cen-

tres; (b) catering teams; (c) retired teachers who nurture children in the community; (d) community home based carers who tend the sick and participants in the Pretty Things for Little Things competition because their handy work brought joy to the hearts of thousands of

Outreach

This outreach held in **Rustenburg, North West**, created awareness of the opportunities, resources and support networks available to older persons.

Through information sharing ±355 beneficiaries were reached at the Bapong pension pay point, the Meso Early learning Centre and the Arekopaneng support group.

Stakeholders who partook in these visits were the local ward councillor; Meso Early Centre and community development workers from local government.

At all these visits, beneficiaries were served a meal.



Upcoming events

01 June—31 August **Pretty Things for Little Things Competition**

21 September **World Alzheimer's Day**

29 Sept – 5 Oct

Week of Older Persons

1 October **International Day of Older Persons**

5 October

Grandparents Day®

12 October **International Arthritis Day**

14 November

World Diabetes Day

1 December **World AIDS Day**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2014 in the Eastern Cape started off at the local taxi rank in **Khayamandi township, Despatch**. Information booklets on types of abuse; profiles of abusers and how to identify abuse were distributed to **200 people**.

Golden Arrows senior clubs, Age-in-Action **Eastern Cape**, Victim Support Centre and the Bethelsdorp South African Police Services raised awareness at the Bethelsdorp Old Age Home. Sgt. Jansen spoke on the role of the police and shared with the group the sad cases which he had dealt with regularly. 150 Older persons were treated to soup and rolls sponsored by *General Motors South Africa*.

At the **Kuyga Clinic in Port Elizabeth**, Age-in-Action with a Department of Social Development intern had an outreach where about 40 community members ranging from unemployed mothers and fathers, older persons and nursing staff, were made aware of elder abuse and neglect which is rampant in the area.

Individuals received purple ribbons which symbolized their solidarity with the fight against abuse.

At a major taxi rank, **Njoli Square, New Brighton**, an intersection which serves commuters to all the areas in the Eastern Cape, Age-in-Action was supported by the Uncedo Taxi Association with a pamphlet drive. 10 Older persons assisted our staff to disseminate 300 pamphlets and ribbons.

Residents and staff at the Issy Geshen Old Age Home in **Lamontville, Durban** took to the streets brandishing banners with the slogan "Stop Elder Abuse". Community members of all ages were approached en route to the local clinic to disseminate information leaflets. The impact of the march led to a promise made by one elderly lady that she *will* be approaching the old age home for counseling.

Age-in-Action Free State embarked on a door-to-door campaign. Stakeholders were the Departments of Social Development and Health, Office of the Premier, the Free State Older Persons Forum, members of the local luncheon clubs and the caregivers of the Bultfontein Retirement Village. Dressed in their WEAAD t-shirts, Age-in-Action staff together with the other role players, managed to reach out to 48 households. One child-headed household was identified and a few referrals were made.

An Imbizo was held in **Bultfontein** to give older persons a chance to raise their concerns on issues affecting them and a valuable information session followed.

A representative from the Department of Social Development expounded on the different types of abuse and where it can be reported. In the interaction between older persons and panel members the questions asked were either handled there or referred to relevant bodies. The issues will be addressed by the local provincial parliament in September 2014.

At the Imbizo in **Wepener, Xhariep**, attended by **110 older persons**, concerns were raised about the availability of medical facilities. One clinic was serving the entire community yet it had a shortage of staff. Shoprite Checkers provided warm soup and bread.

In Frankfort in the **Fezile Dabi District, Free State**, an awareness campaign was held at the Namahadi Community Hall. All stakeholders i.e. the Departments of Social Services and



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day continued...

Health, SAPS and the local municipality, pledged to combat elder abuse. **100 Older persons** were informed about abuse and received information brochures.

Age-in-Action De Aar represented the organization at an event program held in **Richmond, Northern Cape**. The MEC of Social Development, Mr M Sokatsha, together with senior officials and other key role players in the sector, visited the town.

The rape of a 72-year old lady in Louisvale resulted in a program in **Leerkrans near Upington**, attended by **110 older persons**. An interview with Radio Riverside created further awareness on older person's rights.

The community of **Campbell** joined older persons, home based carers and Age-in-Action in a march from the local clinic to the Youth Centre together with the South African Police. **50 older persons** discussed their needs and the lack of services and resources in the area.

Age-in-Action Vryburg with **230 older persons** celebrated the day in **Tlaskgameng, North West** with the Departments of Social Development and Health, SASSA and the Tribal Office. Older persons were reminded about the important role they are playing in society; the need for their protection and the importance of reporting cases of abuse. Sun City provided breakfast, lunch and towels.

Age-in-Action Western Cape reached more than 900 older persons in the five sub-regions.

Events were held in Lambert's Bay, Vredenburg, George, Bonnievale, Paarl-East and Kraaifontein. In Kraaifontein the 300 strong crowd held a peaceful march before assembling at a local hall. For many who attended the event, it was a first of its kind and they expressed their delight with being part of the function. At all the functions in the Western Cape SAPS, the Human Rights Commission and councilors from the different municipalities were in attendance, with a common goal—to sensitize older persons on the scourge of elder abuse

Age-in-Action Gauteng held events in community halls and public places in the five regions and reached out to 894 older persons .

Partnerships with stakeholders SAPS, Departments of Home Affairs, Health, Community Safety, local municipalities, Child Welfare, VEP, Cornerstone and the local and district Older Person's Forum and service users were strengthened.

Age-in-Action Mpumalanga held a march in Schoemansdal with its theme: "One person, one action, one nation United against Elder Abuse". Local communities involved were Schoemansdal, Driekoppies, Jeppes Reef, Middelploas, Schuzendal and Buffelspruit with 194 older persons in attendance. Stakeholders included Nkomazi Municipality, Departments of Social Development, Health, Victim Empowerment and Nkomazi Youth Advisory Office.

