

Distributing Goodwill

The generosity of Grandslots will enable Age-in-Action to roll out outreach programmes at pension pay points, nationally for a period of 12 months.

Northern Cape : Older persons in the Sub-Siyanda District were treated with fruit at the pension pay point. For many of the elderly, it was the first time that they ate fruit and they were extremely appreciative of the gesture by Age-in-Action!

In the Siyanda District, approximately 300 older persons from Progress and Rosedale benefitted from the outreach. These communities are characterized by extreme poverty and the older persons were over-joyed when they received soup and bread *gratis*. The left-overs were given to hungry street children at the pay point.

Mafikeng, North West : Members of Itekeng Service Club assisted with preparing soup, sandwiches, juice and fruit for the older persons at the two pay points. The Department of Rural Development sent two of its interns to assist as volunteers on the day. In total, over 500 older persons were reached on the day. They used this opportunity to encourage their peers, who are not part of a senior's centre, to join them or to form their own organisations.

Eastern Cape : Aqua Park Community Hall was the first stop for the Age-in-Action team doing outreach at pension pay points. Approximately 150 older persons received sustenance at this pay point.

At 11h00 the team moved to the Bergsig Community Hall where a total of 350+ people were served. The outreach was a huge success thanks to the support of Bergsig Seniors Club members who assisted with the preparation of the refreshments.

Free State : The groups of older persons and disabled welcomed the sandwiches and warm coffee/tea which Age-in-Action staff and three volunteers of Reddersburg Luncheon Club handed out on a bitterly cold winter's morning in July. Resources from the Reddersrus Residential Facility, Kopanang Luncheon Club and President Kruger Children's Home enabled the staff and volunteers to prepare the refreshments. A generous donation of bread by Sasko contributed tremendously to a very successful outreach.

Mpumalanga : SAVF Silverdays and Kyalami Service Centre supported Age-in-Action with their pension pay point outreach at Emgweny, Waterval Boven. The social workers, auxiliary workers and students (volunteers) were able to provide a nutritious meal to 176 older persons as well as mothers with children at the pay point.

The oldest person at the pay point was a gogo of 102 years old. She is still active and lives independently. Her comment after enjoying her meal was: "Dankie dat julle ons so mooi help. Ek is nou lekker vol van die sop!"

