



# Hout Bay Vision Project Update

19 November 2020

## **Project Background**

A pilot program conducted in March 2019 at one Hout Bay elementary school identified that almost 15% of the children had eyesight problems and needed corrective glasses, with several children also needing to be relocated in their classroom. With sight problems addressed, these children will have a much improved chance of learning and progressing through school.

In the five public elementary schools in Hout Bay, there are approximately 1100 children in the two school years we have chosen, namely Grade 1 being the first year of primary school and Grade 7 being the last year of primary school before children take up the challenges of high school. We have committed to testing Grade 1 and 7 students in these schools for three years.

## **Programme Cost**

The Vision Project is not a “single shot” intervention. Every year, new children arrive in school, some, sadly, with similar problems and needs. Annual cost of running the program in five schools is approximately R150 000 (~€8200) at current FX rate of R18.27). Through generous personal and Rotary Club donations from overseas, this project is fully funded for the next three years.





## **Services Provided**

The Vision project is manned by the Rotary Club of Hout Bay (RCHB) Community Services team members, and uses the services of expert testers and a pediatric optometrist from its Service partner, Jonga Trust. The project funds:

- screening and testing of the children
- provision and the personalised fitting of prescription glasses
- provision of prescription eye drops for chronic cases of conjunctivitis
- a short training program for the school teachers and assistants, to help them identify and deal in the classroom with eyesight problems.

HBRC Community Services team is responsible for the planning, facilities organization and administration of the Vision Project in each school. Several preparatory visits are required, and all-day on site attendance during the testing is needed, to manage the control and flow of several hundred children.

Jonga Trust ([jonga.org](http://jonga.org)) provide the specialist testers, a supervising medical sister and a visiting optometrist to attend to the needy children. They also arrange to have the prescription glasses manufactured, and bring them to the school for fitting and handover. The children have the opportunity to choose the colour and design of their frames from a selection of about 40 different types and the cost of the glasses is subsidized, being significantly less than retail at an average of R600 per pair.

At handover, each child and their parent is given a letter explaining how to care for the new glasses, and the teachers are instructed to monitor each child's subsequent behaviour and educational progress.

## **Implementation**

Screening and testing was done for Grade 1 and 7 learners as well as those in other grades who were identified by their teachers as having possible vision problems. Two schools (Sentinel Primary and Disa Primary) were completed before the COVID Lockdown froze the program in late March 2020. Delivery of eyeglasses was delayed to late September due to school and lab closures due to COVID-19. Screening and testing in the remaining three schools was completed in October (Kronendal Primary and Hout Bay Primary) and November (Oranjekloof Primary). Eyeglasses were delivered to learners in all but the final school, which will be done by the end of the month.

## **Results**

A total of 910 learners were screened and tested across the five schools, and 89 learners were provided with glasses (10%). Contagious conjunctivitis or allergies were identified in 9 learners and they were provided with eye drops. Four children required medical attention and access to medical care was arranged at no charge.



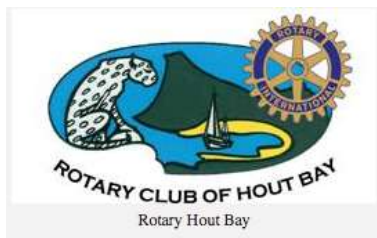


## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

### Sentinel Primary School Testing: 3-4 March







## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

**Disa Primary School: 10-11 March**





## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

### Kronendal Primary School Testing: 5-6 October





## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

### Hout Bay Primary Testing: 12-13 October





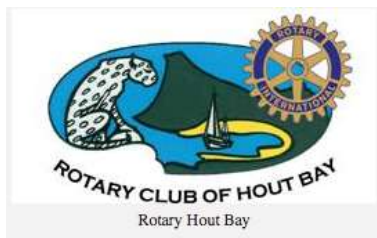


## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

### Oranjekloof Primary Testing: 9-10 November







## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

### Smiling Behind their Masks: 21 September Delivery of Glasses after Schools Reopened





## ROTARY CLUB OF HOUT BAY VISION PROJECT 2020

**More Smiles in November!**

