

## **Rotary Club of White River**

The Rotary Club of White River started a Disaster Fund for the impending shortage of food and also reached out to the universities and Swiss contacts that they had made over the years. The response was incredible with more than R 800 000 collected over a 6-week period. The Club and friends of Rotary collected well over R 100 000 while Manta Trading gifted over R 30 000 in dairy products.

A further food donation drive took place at the White River Municipal Building. Pick n Pay donated food to the value of R 1 000 000 and Albany Bakery donated over R 800 000 in bread local. A donation of Haloumi Cheese was sold to Rotarians adding a further R 1 600 to the fund, Rotary Anne's made stewed Guavas; other Rotarians helped by increasing the disaster fund. A boy and girl aged 9 and 7 made a video to challenge classmates to match their contribution of R 1 100, their total saved pocket money. This raised a further R 7 000 for the disaster fund.

The food was collected by needy families that queued outside the municipal building or by Rotarians who distributed the fruit and vegetables. Food parcels with enough food to keep a small family for one month were also made up and distributed to the schools by A1 Distributors. Hundreds of these parcels were given to the school disaster committees who in turn took them to the people in their school where there was real need. The names and addresses of all recipients were recorded.

Rotarians also made hundreds of masks, some of which were sold to raise money for the Disaster Fund while others were given to Guduza secondary school as it did not receive an adequate supply of masks from the department and the Matric students needed these to enable them to continue studying at the school. As the government was allowing children to go to school, the focus for donations now changed to Personal, Protective Equipment (PPE). Again, the Swiss contacts obliged by donating several hundred thousand rand that was used to purchase knapsacks, sanitiser, etc.

The RC of White River has been instrumental in raising over two million rand in money, goods and services. Whilst this continues, the next phase will again be food as the lockdown continues and the need for food grows. There is still R 50 000 in the kitty but will surely need more as the weeks go by.

The Rotary Club of White River stands proud of what it has accomplished through goodwill and love.

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The Rotary Club of White River has teamed up with Paediatric Care, an organisation involved in the distribution of food and emergency medical services to children in the area. The Club has donated food to this organisation for further distribution. It is also actively engaged in a project called "Ride for a Child". This comprises a group of motor cyclists traversing South Africa to raise funds for medical operations that are required by children in need. The club has already received positive feedback from other Rotary clubs who may be able to host the bikers en route.

The club has also been running a project called Camp Quality for over 30 years. Camp Quality provides a special week of quality activity to children that have or have had Cancer. Paediatric Care also supports the Club with Camp Quality. Negotiations are underway regarding their assistance and the possibility of ultimately taking over the project. However, COVID is a huge stumbling block in running the Camp this year.

In addition, the Rotary Club of White River collects expired food from Woolworths on a weekly basis for distribution to the Mashadza Home for the Mentally challenged. When the school is not operating, the food is distributed to the needy in the vicinity of the school.