



Information Sheet
For immediate release
Date : 11 November 2020

Children facing a bleak festive season

A decade ago Jakaranda Children's Home decided to give the children in their care the prosperous gift of a magical festive season filled with lights, love and laughter! They started off with 1 home being decorated with hundreds of lights for them to enjoy!

A decade later the Jakaranda Liggiefees has grown into one of the most successful light festivals in Pretoria, South Africa. Each of their 20 homes are decorated with millions of lights. In addition to the homes, the entire premises of the Children's Home is lit up with lights. It has subsequently turned into their biggest annual fundraising event.

Normally they would host the event for the entire duration of December but with the current global pandemic, and due to not receiving the legal approval required for such a public event, the 2020 Liggiefees had to be cancelled.

This places the Children's Home in an even bigger dire financial situation. The Liggiefees annually would cover the Children's Home financial loss at the end of each financial year, which ends in March 2021. The home has many fundraising initiatives that run continuously for items such as food, cleaning material and toiletries but goods in kind does not cover the day to day running costs of such an enormous operation.

"The last school term is always the hardest time for the children and staff, exam times and to see if their hard work throughout the year has paid off. The children always look forward to putting up the lights, it brings them joy, comfort and a sense of security. Now we had to put the lights away and start preparing for an uncertain future." says recently appointed CEO Charlene Grobler.

The children are placed into care of the Children's Home by the Children's Court. These children come from undesirable and unhealthy circumstances and the home takes pride in ensuring that they have everything that they need to become responsible adults and prepare them for the outside world.

With over 60 000 visitors to the Liggiefees each year, the Children's Home would like to reach out to their supporters for any financial assistance to help keep their doors open.

"We would like to appeal to the public to hear our outcry for financial assistance. It has been a traumatic time for all but we ask you to please help us to keep the lights on so that we can continue to raise and care for our 223 children." said Karin Berriman Head of Marketing.

Should you wish to make a difference please use the secure donation option via our website at <https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/jakarandakinderhuis> or contact the Marketing Department on 012 800 4700 or Karin directly on 073 844 9266.

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