

Municipality and Rotary join hands to feed those in need

Knysna Municipality and the Rotary Club of Knysna are working together to further implement the municipality's Humanitarian and Social Relief Programme. "Dependent on Rotary's ability to draw donations from their membership base and supporters, we aim to distribute up to 1 000 relief parcels per week," said Acting Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz.

"With the support of members from the Greater Knysna community, businesses, individual donations and direct payments to supermarkets, we have already been able to offer relief to a large number of residents," she said. "The Department of Local Government: Western Cape has also made another R550 000 available, which equates to approximately 1 500 additional food parcels which we aim to distribute this week."

While a function of the Western Cape Government's Department of Social Development, the municipality has set up a system and supporting structures to facilitate applications for support, systematic vetting of applications and efficient distribution of relief to qualifying applicants. There are three easy ways to apply:

- SMS the word "Aid" to 31022;
- register at <https://knysna.community.me/relief/relief.html>; or
- make use of the new functionality on the Knysna Municipality mobile application.

A data capturing team has been established, along with a call-back centre to respond to SMSs received.

Gratz explained that the municipality is making use of a voucher system. "We will distribute actual food parcels in cases where we cannot make use of the voucher system. Our food relief products are limited in number and are intended for those most in need. They will only be dispensed once an application has been thoroughly screened and found to meet stringent qualifying criteria. We are working with the information available to us to identify where the greatest needs exist, while trying to avoid relief efforts being duplicated."

True to the spirit of Knysna, various independent relief schemes are also providing much needed assistance to the community's most vulnerable members. "Thank you for supporting your fellow residents," said Gratz. "We sincerely appreciate every act of charity. I must however ask again that you share your data with us. It is crucial to ensure that relief reaches those for whom it is meant, in an orderly manner."

"We have also received a number of locally made masks from Dr Dee Richman and her team, which we have distributed along with our food relief parcels," she continued. "Heartfelt thanks are also due to every individual, organisation, company or business who has already donated to this very desperate cause."

"There is no act of kindness or charity, nor any donation too small," she concluded. "What may seem like a small donation to you, will go a long way to feeding a family. We are all in this together. If it is at all possible for you to spare any kind of donation, please do so. It means more to those who benefit from it than you might imagine."

Residents and businesses who are interested in supporting the Humanitarian and Social Relief Programme are invited to make financial donations to the Rotary Club of Knysna. More details regarding the food relief system are available on their website at <http://knysnarotary.co.za/covid-19/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/knysnarotary/>

Their banking details are:

Rotary Club of Knysna

Nedbank, Knysna

Current Account: 1089027257

Branch Code: 198765

SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ

Reference: Surname – C19 Food

ENDS

Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21, Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6430 (direct)

e-mail pr@knysna.gov.za