

ESS COVID 19 RELIEF FUND REPORT

JUNE 2020

HISTORY OF THE ESS COVID 19 RELIEF FUND

All feeding scheme programmes came to an abrupt standstill due to the lockdown regulations, leaving the most vulnerable learners of the school without a daily hot meal. The Western Cape Education Department has, however, reopened the feeding scheme programme, distributing hot meals twice a week. The huge turn up of learners on the first day of distributing hot meals at the school has completely overwhelmed the system.

Carl Orff Gymnasium (COG) in Unterschleissheim, Munich, Germany, partner school of the Drama exchange, under the auspices of two teachers Michael Blum and Steffi Hörcherl raised funds (a total of 4000 Euros) to help alleviate the hunger crisis and hence, the ESS Covid Relief Fund was established on 28 April 2020.

AIM OF ESS COVID 19 RELIEF FUND

Carl Orff has stipulated that the donation of 4000 Euros will be used to distribute food parcels to the learners and their families most affected by the lockdown.

ESS COVID 19 RELIEF FUND COMMITTEE

The following committee was established on 18 May 2020 to steer the project:

Reinette Daniels: as Consumer Studies teacher, Ms Daniels was elected due to her expertise and experience in the food industry. Ms Daniels is also responsible for the current feeding scheme programme at the school and her knowledge in this regard would be paramount for the successful execution of the project.

Jill Markram: was elected as a result of her close relationship with the partner school Carl Orff Gymnasium (COG). As chairperson she will be responsible for the writing of minutes of meetings, compiling reports on the progress of the project and communicate with COG on a regular basis.

Tyrone Malan: was elected as deputy principal and a member of the finance department of the school.

Denver Vaax: was elected due to his expertise and knowledge concerning community soup kitchens.

THE PLAN OF ACTION

The committee immediately started planning the way forward. The following is a lay out of how the rolling out of the project would be realised:

1. Food parcels would be distributed to 100 learners.
2. The content of the food parcels would include the following items:
 - 5kg Excella rice
 - 5kg Iwisa maize
 - 2.5kg Selati sugar
 - 2 packets of 500g Top Class Soup
 - 2 tins Sea Fare Pilchards
 - 2 litre Pan oil
 - 2.5kg Snowflake Cake flour
 - 2 Savlon soap bars
 - 1 Fluffy toilet roll
 - 1 packet Paddy Soup Mix
 - 10 pieces County Fair breasts
 - Onions
 - Potatoes
 - Cabbage
3. A list of 90 learners/beneficiaries was compiled.
4. Ten learners from the neighbouring school Beverley Park Primary School were identified. The principal, Mrs L Hartley has delivered food parcels to learners from Eersterivier during the lockdown period and the committee wanted to extend their hand of friendship to the school.
5. A hot meal: sandwich and coffee for first break and soup for second break would be handed out to the first grade entering the system when schools reopen on June 1st, in total 160 grade 12 learners for two weeks.
6. In order to create a safe environment for the learners to receive the food parcels and control the flow of people, money was also used to buy extra sanitisers and cleaning material.

7. Roll out of the project was planned for 1 June and a second roll out towards the middle of June.
8. A second group of learners will be identified the second time around to ensure that more learners benefit from this project.

THE ROLLING OUT OF THE PROJECT

1. On Friday 29 May various items such as the chicken and vegetables were delivered at the school and packed.
2. On Monday 1 June the final items were delivered and packed.
3. Learners (51) arrived on Monday 1 June to collect their parcels.
4. On Tuesday 26 learners collected their parcels at school and 13 parcels were delivered to learners at their homes.
5. 10 parcels were delivered to Beverley Park Primary school.
6. All the Covid 19 regulations were followed during the distribution of parcels.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

1. Initial challenges regarding the transfer of money, international banking issues were identified as a cluster of contributing factors:
 - School was closed during the time money was transferred.
 - Only the principal was given a permit to visit the school during lockdown period.
 - The principal Mr Williams and treasurer Mr Hoffman were hospitalised during this period which hindered transfer of money and authorisation of payments.
 - Appointment of acting principal Mr Olivier was only validated on 29 May.
2. Time frame for ordering, delivering and packing of parcels was not enough. However, with the knowledge gained from the first

experience, the committee is now equipped to plan more effectively. Ordering of goods and packing of parcels will be placed well in advanced.

3. Distribution of parcels: visibility of learners carrying parcels in the street attracts the wider community which resulted in the community arriving in droves at the school's gate. The following solution will be implemented: a second group of different learners will be identified who will benefit from the donation towards the middle of June.

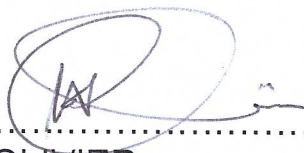
CONCLUSION

The Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown situation have exposed the disparities in the South African society, more prevalent in the Eersterivier school community. The learners who are dependent on feeding schemes have now increased and these learners' families find themselves in a dire situation. As a school we are confronted with the hunger crisis, malnutrition and suffering of our learners on the one hand and delivering the curriculum on the other hand. As educators we are acutely aware that these two go hand in hand.

This generous donation of our partner school Carl Orff Gymnasium is a crucial intervention and will literally save children's lives. The donation has not only aided in alleviating the learners' food crisis, but it has also helped to boost the staff morale thus creating a positive spirit at the school. The school is forever grateful to Carl Orff Gymnasium and stands humbled by their compassion. As schools, we realise that we are in the same boat, navigating uncharted waters. Through this donation, the saying: charity begins at home rings true in these testing times. Thank you Carl Orff Gymnasium.

SIGNED:


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J MARKRAM


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W OLIVIER

DATE: 3 JUNE 2020