

PAARL - EAST SOUP KITCHEN

Over 25 years ago, the then Paarl Lutheran St Petri congregation decided to become involved in supporting Rose Daniels, who had been running a soup kitchen in Paarl East from her home.

Initially 50 meals a week were provided which was later extended to 100 meals. Upon the closure of the St. Petri congregation, certain residual funds were used together with new donations to maintain the support to Rose Daniels.

When these funds became depleted in 2020, Bishop Gilbert Filter facilitated contact with the ELM in Hermannsburg, Germany to apply for support in to extend the soup kitchen also to the UELCSA COD congregation Paarl East. The Paarl East congregation had previously run a soup kitchen but due to lack of funds, it had been terminated. Funding by ELM was approved and provided from September 2020. Further funding was obtained by generous donations from the Friedrich Schweizer Kinderheim Trust from 2021 onwards.

With this financial support, the number of meals at Rose Daniels' house was extended to 2 x per week at 100 meals (200 weekly meals) and initially once a week 150 meals were prepared at Paarl East. Over time we have managed to increase the number of meals at Paarl East to the current 300 meals per week, for a total of 500 meals per week at the two serving points.

Further funds are raised from donations from private individuals and from special collections by Lutheran congregations. We are very grateful for the productive cooperation and support we receive from Bishop Filter and the Cape Church.

This year our budget per meal is R10 and with this we are able to provide a nutritious meal (soup/stew/sandwich with a fruit and juice/hot chocolate/tea). In addition, when funds allow it, we buy clothing, soap or stationery items for school.

For Christmas we provide a lovely meal and make up gift parcels which include educational toys, stationery and hygiene articles as well as some sweets and juice. In 2022 there were 300 parcels for children as well as 50 for families in need – these included tinned and dry food, hygiene products etc.

The prices of food and the demand for meals increase annually. We would like to provide more than just food, namely interaction and support for the children, but this has proven to be unlikely with the current participants and structure. We appreciate the helpers are providing invaluable help and support to their maximum resources and abilities.

Christa and Hermann Böhmer
Paarl
8 October 2023