

RFHD - CALL TO ACTION – 15 OCTOBER 2020

The Rotary Family Health Days have become a significant presence on the Rotary calendar each year, with some 100 Rotary Clubs across all three Districts taking part. As you know, the RFHD programme has been cancelled for October 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. However, our response to the pandemic as Rotary has been enormously significant. In our District alone, Rotary Clubs have logged approximately R11,0m worth of response for COVID19 relief including personal protection equipment (PPE) and food security. This is a remarkable achievement, for which I commend you!

Rotary Family Health Days are an important inter-district initiative which has us all working towards a common goal – that of family health. In 2019, 138,541 services to 31,989 people in all three districts throughout the 3-day campaign, with 3320 referrals were provided. Due to the cancellation of RFHDs this year, the Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention Board (RFHA NPC SA) has called us to action to become PPE warriors by providing PPE to communities that we serve through our Rotary Clubs.

What we know is that PPE is critical in the fight against COVID19, and we have a chance to make an even bigger contribution in response to this awful pandemic through this initiative. On Thursday, 15 October 2020 -when the RFHDs were meant to have taken place this year - we would like as many Rotary Clubs as possible in our district to hand out PPE to an entity in need of such, during this challenging time. This could include a clinic, hospital, frail care facility, or NGO that supports community health workers. There is no limit on who to give to, and how much to give.

On that day, we will invite representatives from the Department of Health to a number of hand-over events in our district, so that the government is aware of what Rotary is doing on the ground. We would like to encourage you to get hold of local media, both community newspapers and radio stations, to attend the hand-over of PPE and share the stories with RFHA and the District Office.

Please let me know the following information by Friday, 18 September:

- Whether you are taking part – name of Rotary Club
- Name, cell number and email address of PPE Call to Action Champion
- Name and location of anticipated beneficiaries of the PPE.

As an alternative to the above initiative, we are also talking to the “Gift of the Givers” to explore the possibility to provide ventilators to hospitals in need of such. Details in this regard will follow once we have certainty on the idea.

Let us focus our positive energy, build on what we have already achieved, and get PPE to those that need it most. I know that we can count on you!

Yours in Rotary

DG Annemarie Mostert