

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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## WELCOME MESSAGE

This edition marks the first anniversary of the Mediclinic Private Higher Education Institution's Alumni Newsletter. As stated in previous editions, the purpose of this newsletter is to stay connected with our graduates and to update you on the latest news from your alma mater.

### In this edition, you will find:

- Reflections on the 2024 academic year community projects;
- Alumni achievements and contributions; and
- An invitation to join us, be involved and contribute.

## RECENT NEWS AND INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

At Mediclinic Higher Education, we pride ourselves on embarking upon initiatives through which we give back to the community. Within the six learning centres, students develop community project proposals for the academic year. After approval of these projects, the students implement their proposals and write a reflection on the description of the activities as well as the value of the project to them and their community.

We kick off with the **Tshwane Learning Centre** community project feedback.

The Student Representative Council (SRC), consisting of representatives of each student group, visited the Pretoria Secondary School on 13 September 2024.

The students collected sanitary pads, deodorants and other personal hygiene products from their respective clinical facilities. Health education regarding personal hygiene was discussed with the Grade 8 girls. Sanitary pads were given out to the girls and hygiene products to the boys and girls.



On 19 September 2024, SRC representatives from the Tshwane Learning Centre visited the OBED More Special School in the North West Province. Students engaged with learners from the school, demonstrating hand washing techniques and discussing the use of sanitary pads with senior girls. During the visit, students donated personal hygiene products and sanitary pads to the learners.





Students from the **Nelspruit Learning Centre** visited the Mpumalanga frail care facility. They assisted patients with basic needs and gave safety training to the staff. The students also cleaned up the area outside the hospital gate.

Students from Mediclinic Emfuleni arranged a 'fun game day' at the Jeugland Old Age Home in Vanderbijlpark. The residents enjoyed a full day of games and entertainment. Health education and pamper sessions were also included in the day's programme.



Forest Farm Centre for Cerebral Palsied Adults is a special project for the **Mediclinic Morningside** students. The students interact with the residents, assisting them with daily activities and health education.



At the **Northern Region Learning Centre**, each clinical facility planned a community project.





The students from **Mediclinic Sandton** were involved in preparing food and feeding the homeless at the Tshepo Community Development Initiative.



On 17 August 2024, students from **Mediclinic Vereeniging** conducted a community engagement project at Engo Child and Youth Care centre. The project aimed to deliver health education and support to children through interactive activities and practical demonstrations. The project primarily focused on educating children regarding the stages of puberty, peer pressure, and mental health. One of the projects driven by the **Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre** students was to assist in the blood donation drive at the hospital. They did not just give their time but also donated blood for the drive.

**Limpopo Learning Centre** students engaged with the New Horizon School for the disabled as well as the Tshenga Mission School and supported an old age community centre in Tzaneen. They also hosted wellness campaigns for the Polokwane community and managed water points at a marathon.

At the **Cape Learning Centre**, the Emergency Medical Care (EMC) students are busy with a stationery and food drive, which will be donated to one of the schools and a shelter. The Diagnostic and Procedural Coding (DPC) students had a beanie drive, crocheting beanies for those in need. They donated 250 beanies to Bok Radio's Hoop project.

Educators at the **Cape, Tshwane and Northern Region Learning Centres** contributed towards the 'Jars of Hope' project, providing students with nutritious jars or bags filled with soup mixes during the cold winter.

In conclusion, I would like to add a comment that one of the students made during her reflection:

'We sometimes take things for granted and we don't appreciate what we have. As students, we learned to appreciate what we have and that things are not always what it seems. Do not judge and do not take things for granted. The people experiencing homelessness were going through difficult times with a smile on their face. They do not complain and they will share the little they have.'

### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

**Stephan Spaleck, Deputy Nursing Manager** at Mediclinic Panorama, completed his Diploma in General Nursing in 2011. He specialised in ICU and was promoted to Clinical Risk Manager less than a year later. In 2019, he became the Emergency Centre Unit Manager at Mediclinic Emfuleni. His future goal is to become a Nursing Manager and, ultimately, a Regional Clinical Manager.

**Nthute Makume** qualified as an Enrolled Nurse in 2011 and as a General Nurse two years later. His management journey began as a shift leader in the oncology unit at Mediclinic Vereeniging in 2016. In 2020, he was promoted to Senior Professional Nurse and in 2021, he was promoted to the Surgical Ward Unit Manager.

**Monique Joubert** qualified as a Paramedic in 2023. She has recently taken up employment at the Air Mercy Service in Cape Town. She was featured in a news article detailing her involvement in the retrieval of an injured motorcyclist from the Tankwa Karoo.

### STAY CONNECTED

We would love to hear from you. If you have a lead for a future story or wish to engage with us, please send an email to [ryan.wills@mediclinic.co.za](mailto:ryan.wills@mediclinic.co.za)