

Who is Flying for Life?

Flying for life is a registered Section 18A Public Benefit Organisation (2011/002050/08) that is committed to taking help, hope and healing to rural isolated communities in South Africa.

Flying for Life enables medical professionals, early childhood development trainers, social development specialists and other non-profit organisations to assist communities in need.

We develop relationships and identify different needs in these communities that are beyond the reach of reliable roads, and use aviation to bring them the solutions they need.

Flying for Life currently focuses on the communities living in the Vhembe District of Limpopo and partners with the Tshikundamalema and Ha-Makuya tribes, which consists of 46 villages collectively.

We partner with Love Trust, Pink Drive, CHOC, volunteer medical practitioners and the local tribal authorities to ensure we sustainably uplift the community according to their most urgent needs.

All of this is only possible through our dedicated volunteers, partners, and donors.

"We will be involved with the teaching of five doctors who are specialising in Ophthalmology. Most of them are from Limpopo and once qualified they will help to operate at a specialist level across different hospitals in Limpopo. Once more I want to reiterate how grateful we are to Flying for Life for their service because without the possibility to fly to the Vhembe area we would never have become involved."

Dr Polla Roux

Message from our CEO & Chairman

In 2017 we refined our projects and built partnerships with key specialists, NGOs, companies and government departments so that more rural and isolated people in South Africa could be uplifted.

Flying for Life appointed an Operations Manager and an Operations Assistant and we had a marketing intern who helped us with our social media marketing throughout the year.

Our Eye Doctors trained ten nurses from Donald Frazer Hospital as ophthalmic nurses. Our Early Childhood Development project ended well with twelve students graduating in Venda in November 2017. We built a relationship with an NPO from Mossel Bay who committed to building a new building for the disability center in May 2018, they also donated two wheelchairs and erected a Jojo water tank. The number of dental flights increased to five flights compared to two in 2016, three in 2015 and one in 2014.

We met and secured a partnership with the Department of Higher Education & Training (DHET) to do career talks and exhibitions for us in Venda.

We formed a CSI partnership with a corporate that has committed to hosting a golf day for us in May 2018.

Another highlight of the year was seeing Flying for Life rebranded and its first event take place: Fight or Flight, the art of moving forward.

We are streamlining our strategy and looking at working closer with some aviation partners in order to reach people in need in rural areas such as Venda and KZN more effectively.

We would like to thank all our sacrificial and generous supporters that enable our planes to keep flying to transform often forgotten people in the most rural and remote areas of South Africa. We couldn't have achieved all that has been accomplished in 2017 without the faithful commitment of everyone who has supported us.



Maxine Holman CEO of Flying for Life



Braam van den Berg Chairman of Flying for Life



Our Projects

HEALTHCARE PROJECTS



Eyes: Through Flying for Life's partnerships with volunteer Ophthalmologists from Pretoria and Johannesburg, patients in the Vhembe District were able to receive life-changing cataract surgeries for free. In 2017, we conducted nine flights for this project and 167 cataract surgeries.



Teeth: Many children in rural communities do not know about oral hygiene. By collaborating with the Department of Health and dentists from Johannesburg and Pretoria we saw 315 patients who were educated on dental hygiene and examined.



Training: 10 Nurses from the hospital we work in in Limpopo were trained so that they can take over the work of the nurses that we usually fly.



Disability: The lack of specialist disability services in rural communities has left many disabled people without treatment or a good quality of life. We collaborated with X-Value Logistics who worked with the Disability Caretakers and also bought a water tank for the grounds.



Cancer Awareness: Many of the clinics and traditional healers know very little about cancer and how to identify its early stages. We flew Choc who trained 44 people in cancer awareness.

Healthcare by numbers for 2017

6 partners flown

167 cataract surgeries

10 nurses trained

315 dental patients

44 examined for cancer

22 disabled people supported

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION



Teachers: We flew in LoveTrust to complete the training of 12 current caregivers from local crèches. They graudated and became registered SAQA approved teachers.



Education: One school was taken through career guidance.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Football: We flew in IQ Football, which facilitated a programme that uses brain-centred training methods to speed up and improve the mental processes of a player, including concentration, special awareness, and speed of thought. Training in this way created a positive space in working with the community.



Farming: FFL flights made it possible for Farming God's Way to reach Makuya and surrounding schools. Vegetable gardens were planted that both the school and community could benefit from.

Early Childhood and Social Development by numbers for 2017

6 partners flown

12 teachers trained

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HEALTHCARE

VISION AND PURPOSE THAT IS UNDENIABLY NEEDED



In 2017, one of our Eye Doctor Flights served to help change a young woman's life. Although cataracts usually only affect the elderly, twenty-six year old, Tendani Bele was waiting to receive her second cataract surgery. Tendani suffers from diabetes causing early onset of the development of cataracts in both eyes resulting in blindness.

Not only was she blind, but deaf too. In 2016, FLying for Life enabled her first cataract surgery on one eye. We were able to see her other eye restored in 2017. Dr Jenny Laithwaite, our volunteer Ophthalmologist had the joy of operating on her both times.

The nurses were all joyful and full of laughter despite pressure from working in a hospital such as this one. We asked them a few questions to get a better idea of their day to day lifestyles and how hard they work. We interviewed three women. These three women have been working alongside one another for seventeen years.

They told us how 'Flying for Life' has contributed greatly to the community and how they have seen many people's lives improved from the many projects being established in Limpopo.

We were informed that if 'Flying for Life' did not organise surgery for these people they would usually be referred to another government hospital where there is a long waiting list and many people never get the opportunity to receive the surgery they require. We asked the nurses what challenges they face in this hospital that probably wouldn't occur in urban hospitals and their responses were: "Many, many, many challenges!"

Our volunteers watched patient after patient leave the surgery room with a smile on their face knowing that their vision had been restored and that the very next morning they would be able to see. Despite the language barrier of English and Venda speakers, the patients were able to say 'Thank you' to their doctors.

This type of 'thank you' shot straight through the heart of anyone that heard it.

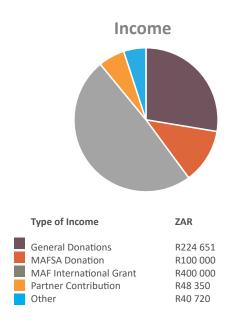
Story by Megan Van Huyssteen, Flying for Life's Volunteer Writer.

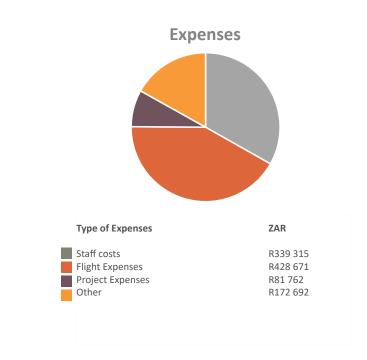
Photo by Jesse Nielsen, Flying for Life's volunteer photographer.

Flying for Life has contributed greatly to the community.

Our 2017 Financials

FFL Income and Expenses





FLYING FOR LIFE IN NUMBERS

18	flights
167	cataract surgeries performed
10	nurses trained
315	patients seen by a Dentist

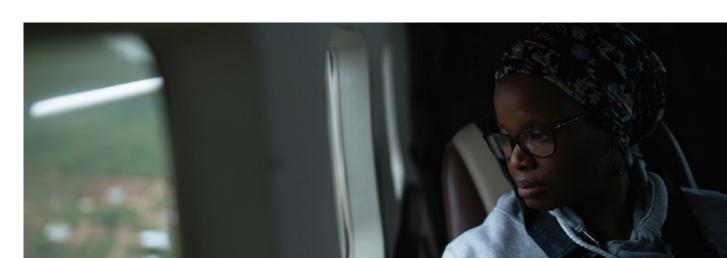
44 people were trained in cancer awareness

school experienced a Career Training Day

The Disability Centre received a water tank

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

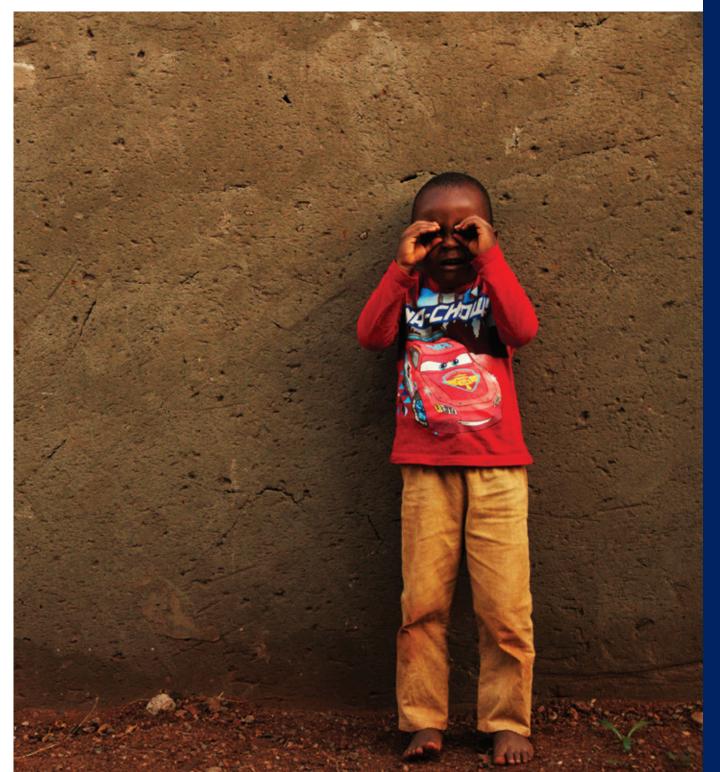
Desmond Tutu



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Our 2018 Objectives

- To raise funds for projects and to increase the number of high net worth donors
- To establish CSI partnership with airlines & aviation companies
- To strengthen the dialogue between FFL and governmental organizations
- For FFL to be marketed robustly and to increase our platforms for marketing
- To increase our number of medically qualified volunteers
- For FFL to begin more projects with regards to HIV & Cancer awareness/prevention





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