

## Media notice:

14 February 2017

### A Happy Heart Handover

*The Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA) is happy to announce the handover of a gift for the cardiac clinic patients of the Red Cross Children's Hospital.*

On Tuesday, 14 February 2017, the HSFSA will handover a gift purchased from the funds raised during Heart Awareness Month in September 2016. The HSFSA will meet with Dr Liesl Zuhlke, Paediatric Cardiologist and President of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa on Valentine's Day. Last year's Heart Awareness campaign, called Smart Little Hearts, highlighted Heart disease in children and more specifically congenital heart disease (CHD) - the most common birth defect in the world affecting 1 in 100 children.

*"The Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA) will continue to partner with key institutions, the private and public sector, and civil society, nationally, to raise awareness about cardiovascular health and the risk factors associated with the onset of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and stroke. In particular the HSFSA wants to also highlight CVD in the paediatric population as timeous detection and the correct diagnosis of the disease condition will lead to better treatment outcomes for the child"* said CEO of the HSFSA, Prof. Pamela Naidoo.

Undetected CHD in newborn babies is a significant cause of sudden neonatal death - half of those with critical CHD will die at home or in the emergency hospital unit, and in fact 1 in 5 deaths thought to be Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) are actually CHD related.

*"We can improve the detection and diagnosis of this condition, and also improve how many children have access to specialist medical care and we trust many more successful campaigns will be hosted going forward."* says Dr Liesl Zuhlke. *"We appreciate the support from the public, the media, sponsors and partners and trust more corporates will lend to the initiatives as heart disease affects a vast amount of people."*

The HSFSA will continue to create awareness around heart disease in children in partnership with the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa (PCSSA). For more visit: <http://www.pcssa.org/>

Ends

#### **About the Heart and Stroke Foundation SA**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA) plays a leading role in the fight against preventable heart disease and stroke, with the aim of seeing fewer people in South Africa suffer premature deaths and disabilities. The HSFSA, established in 1980 is a non-governmental, non-profit organization which relies on external funding to sustain the work it carries out.

The HSFSA aims to reduce the cardiovascular disease (CVD) burden in South Africa and ultimately on the health care system of South Africa. Our mission is to empower people in South Africa to adopt healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices easier, seek appropriate care and encourage prevention.

**Contact person**

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