

# Oranjehof Koshuis

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Hostel committee chairwoman: Mrs. Ansunet Strauss • 082 4170 431 • ansunet.strauss@gmail.com

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1 March 2019

As the hostel committee of Oranjehof hostel, Hopetown High School, Northern Cape, South Africa, we would like to inform possible sponsors about the challenges we face as well as necessary improvements we wish to make. We kindly request and would highly appreciate any much needed contributions.

Hopetown is a rural town situated in the Central Karoo. Although the school is called Hopetown High School, the primary school is also included. The children staying in Oranjehof hostel are from surrounding farms, some more than 150 km from Hopetown. Therefore the hostel plays an important role in accommodating the children who would not be able to attend the school otherwise.

The salaries of 6 of the 9 staff members working in the hostel are paid by the Department of Education. Other than that the hostel does not receive any financial contribution from the government to cover the yearly operating cost of approximately R2,5 million. Every time staff members retire or resign, the Department of Education refuses to continue paying for the employment of new staff. The hostel cannot afford paying the salaries of more than 3 staff members. Consequently the hostel is understaffed, and those who previously only worked as cleaners now also have to help in the kitchen. The school is in a similar position. The salaries of only 9 of the 18 teachers are being paid by the government. Therefore the school cannot offer the hostel any financial assistance. Many of the hostel's staff members are nearing retirement. Two of them, including the matron, are going to retire within the next two years. We expect that the Department of Education is not going to approve appointing staff members to replace them, leaving the hostel with a huge dilemma.

There are 60 children staying in Oranjehof hostel. The monthly residence fee is R1860 for 10 months (R18 600 per year). Although they can apply for a government subsidy, which cover only part of the fees, the parents of 10 of the children struggle to afford keeping them in the hostel. Most of the supervising staff are teachers who do not contribute to the hostel's boarding income. Because of Hopetown's location, it is difficult to attract teachers to apply at the school. Therefore we offer free residence to teachers who in return act as supervising staff at the hostel without payment.

The yearly fund raising projects driven by the hostel committee help with the hostel's operating costs, but it is not nearly enough to finance renovation and other necessary improvements. Consequently the aging infrastructure of the hostel has become problematic. Apart from the fact that it causes a lot of unnecessary expenses regarding electricity, water usage and water damage to the building, it is nearing the point of becoming a threat to the safety and wellbeing of our children. We have to do something about it right away but we are in need of external help.

Please consider our request.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards

Oranjehof hostel committee

Principal:



Superintendent:



Hostel committee chairwoman:

