

## Official Handover of the container Kitchen to Carmel Kitchen Facility in Vrygrond 6 October 2016

On 6 October 2016, the community of Carmel, located in Vrygrond in the Western Cape, was the beneficiary of a new 12m refurbished kitchen container kindly donated by Celia Cox.

Vrygrond is a socially and economically disadvantaged community situated on the False Bay coast about 20 kilometres from central Cape Town. It is the oldest informal settlement in the Western Cape – established in 1900 by fishermen who wanted to be near the coast – their source of income. Informal houses have been erected and today more than 40,000 people live here.

The people of Vrygrond have overcome many obstacles and hardships to stay in the area. Crime is high and recent findings show unemployment rate at 21,5%, parental substance abuse at 19,5% and financial difficulties at 13,8%. These factors mainly arise from the lack of education, information and support. Nearly 60% of those living in Vrygrond have been victims of crime. Drug and alcohol abuse is staggering.

Almost 20 years ago, Pastor Brian Felix opened a community-based church (Sharon Assembly of God), with the goal of uplifting the poverty-stricken community of Vrygrond. “We opened the church to everyone in need, and very soon, people from all walks of life, with a range of personal problems, came for help,” he said.



Realising that hunger was the single biggest challenge in the community, Pastor Felix and a group of willing volunteers started a soup kitchen. They also distributed clothing to the children in need. The new container kitchen will help them to prepare breakfast for the children before they go to school and provide a venue to assist with homework in the afternoons. It will provide a safe environment for approximately 150 disadvantaged children aged between 7 and 14 years.

There are also plans to start a bakery from the donated kitchen, baking their own fresh bread and selling it to the community to help to sustain the kitchen. “This is a





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dream we are working towards and we hope to have ovens fitted in the kitchen where loaves of breads can be produced,” added Pastor Felix.

Former ward councilor, Mama Albertinia (see photo on the right) expressed her gratitude and said that she could write a book about the goodness of this particular church. It serves as a multipurpose community centre, as there had previously been no place to hold public meetings. She added that she was delighted to see the new kitchen in place, and thanked Breadline Africa and Celia Cox for this gift which will uplift the community.



The opening ceremony was a happy event, and guests were joined by the principal of the Masikuhle Early Childhood Development Centre and its children (pictured left), who sang beautifully in celebration of the new kitchen



Photo (ribbon cutting): Pastor Brian and Carol Felix and Breadline Africa staff, as well as members of the church



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