

Publication: THE NEW AGE
Title: CTICC boosts LCPs with R70 000 items as it marks 14th birthday
Publish date: 07 July 2017

CTICC boosts LCPs with R70 000 items as it marks 14th birthday

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CELEBRATING its 14th anniversary, the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) has used the platform to donate thousands of rands to five local community partners.

The CTICC is a strategic asset of the city of Cape Town, the Western Cape government and SunWest.

The centre, which opened its doors on June 28, 2003, has entered into a partnership with five local community organisations, namely Ikhaya le Themba, Abalimi Bezekhaya, Foundation for Alcohol Related Research (FARR), Journey of Enrichment, and Mothers Unite.

The organisations are all non-governmental organisations operating in the Western Cape and working among vulnerable communities. The partners were asked to identify critical items they needed to enhance and improve their operations. Last week, the centre donated R14 000 worth of much-needed goods to each of its five local community

partners. The donation worth R70 000 in total, included electronic devices, kitchen appliances, furniture and catering equipment.

CEO of the CTICC Julie-May Ellingson said: "Our 14th birthday presented the ideal opportunity for the CTICC to celebrate and support the work done by our local community partners (LCPs).

"So often non-profit organisations will receive funding for projects but run the risk of not being able to fulfil their mandate because they do not have the operational resources required.

"We hope the items provided by the CTICC will allow our LCPs to not only sustain, but also extend, the positive work they are doing in and around Cape Town."

One of the organisations, Abalimi Bezekhaya supports micro-farming on the Cape Flats, and has been a partner of the CTICC for over 10 years. The organisation's social business, Harvest of Hope, also supplies the centre's catering department with fresh, organic vegetables. Founder of Abalimi Bezekhaya



MOBILE HARDWARE: CTICC CEO Julie-May Ellingson with Mabel Bokolo and Dave Golding at micro-farming organisation Abalimi Bezekhaya.

Rob Small said: "The CTICC, at 14 years old, has been walking the long road with abalimi for over 10 of those years, the road to food and economic freedom through family farming.

"We are grateful for the CTICC's ongoing support. For example, their hands-on support on Mandela Day and their birthday gift of new laptops for our

highly pressured admin unit.

"Most of all, we are grateful for the CTICC's determination and stamina to stay the course with us."

Another long-standing partner of the CTICC, FARR, works and conducts research around Foetal Alcohol Syndrome thought to affect at least 3 million people in South Africa. The foundation

now has a new projector to use in its education and project work.

FARR was extremely honoured and grateful for the CTICC's support in the important task of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder research, awareness and prevention, CEO, Leana Olivier, said.

"The CTICC adopted FARR in 2012 as one of its CSI projects.

"Since then, FARR has received numerous contributions ranging from furniture, conference bags, blankets and toys for our clients.

"Donations like these are priceless as it fills so many gaps which we cannot fund from day-to-day project funding," she said. Another partner who shared the sentiment was Journey of Enrichment, a feeding scheme operating in Cape Town that would use the catering equipment and furniture it received in its outreach programmes.

Treasurer, Tasneem Abrahams, said: "As a non-profit organisation that relies so much on community support, we have mainly operated on a word-of-mouth basis and on the generous support of

family and friends.

"Understandably, this has not afforded us the opportunity to acquire items that could improve both our visibility and ability to fulfil our aims and objectives.

"That being said, these gifts from the CTICC are a huge boost for us and an empowering contribution for our non-profit organisation."

Ikhaya le Themba, which also participated in the CTICC's Youth Day programme, received much-needed laptops for their field staff. The organisation does extensive family support and enterprise development work in the community of Khayelitsha.

Theresa Richardson, Enterprise Development manager, at Ikhaya le Themba, said: "To have mobile hardware that our mentors and staff can use in the field makes a huge difference in keeping our systems in place and reducing the amount of hours needed to do admin, allowing us to focus on the families and children in need.

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