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ROSEBANK SUNDAY MARKET TO SHOWCASE MES SHELTER CLIENTS HANDMADE PRODUCTS FOR SALE

JOHANNESBURG; 30 November 2020 – The Rosebank Sunday Rooftop Market has graciously offered Mould Empower Serve (MES) Impilo Shelter space to sell products from their COVID-19 knitting project on Sunday, 1 November.

Founded during COVID-19 level-5 lockdown by a group of shelter ladies, the knitting project has evolved to represent an opportunity for personal growth while developing valuable entrepreneurship skills. MES would like to urge the Johannesburg community to come out and support the ladies this Sunday, 1 November at the Rosebank Rooftop Market.

The MES Impilo Shelter, located in Jeppestown, was previously a hospice for the homeless. During lockdown level-5, in partnership with the Department of Social Development and the City of Johannesburg, the facility was transformed into an emergency shelter for the inner city homeless. The lockdown period has presented the shelter with ongoing opportunities to empower and reskill clients residing in the shelter.

The MES shelter has offered its clients life skills and empowerment opportunities during the time of COVID-19 lockdown. Many of the clients residing in the shelter are from different circumstances and were forced to be in the shelter during the lockdown. Through different interventions and social work services offered by MES, the time of the hard lockdown forced the clients to do a lot of personal reflection and to reignite their skills and talents that have laid dormant while they were living on the streets.

Through a generous donation of wool, knitting needles and beads from donors, the ladies started knitting, crocheting and beading to pass time during the hard lockdown.

“Our staff at MES realised that the shelter clients had tremendous talents using their own hands. This has then led to various initiatives being developed by the organisation to ensure we use this avenue as a personal development activity that would lead to a sustainable exit strategy for the clients in the shelter,” said MES Johannesburg Branch Manager, Nicodemus Setshedi.

MES reached out to its donor base to support the initiative; this led to the organisation hosting a Women’s Day event focussed on skills transfer with volunteers from Hillsong Africa Foundation, Embark Foundation, Mosaïek, Parkview Residents Association and Jenny Currie of Baby2mom Egg Donation who came through to impart and teach the clients intricate skills when it comes to knitting, crocheting, beading and even cupcake decoration.

The initial vision for MES was born in 1986 when the Johannesburg East Dutch Reformed Church started with an outreach programme that handed out food parcels to the homeless and unemployed community of Hillbrow. In 1989 the project registered as a Section 21 company (1989/004921/08) with an independent Board of Directors. Currently the organization is a registered Not for Profit Company (1989/004921/08), NPO (023 603), PBO (RG/0012/09/04) and has Section 18 A (tax benefit) status.

MES facilitates professional services to vulnerable individuals, families and communities. The core services are implemented in each branch depending on the need of the community and available resources. An integrated approach is followed ensuring holistic service delivery contributing to restoration and empowerment where a model of Intake/prevention; intervention and sustainable exit is followed.