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THE HIDDEN SIDE OF CHILDHOOD – WHEN STRUGGLE GOES UNSEEN

Children's struggles are not always obvious. Many quietly carry the effects of poverty, loss and instability while appearing to cope. At Humulani Village in Lulekani, care goes beyond meeting physical needs to helping children feel safe, valued and heard. Through supportive relationships and compassionate presence, children gain confidence, hope and a sense of belonging. This often unseen work creates lasting change, strengthening both lives and communities.

Read the full article: <https://cathca.org/the-children-who-do-not-complain/>

COMPASSION TRANSFORMS HIDDEN STRUGGLES INTO SHARED STRENGTH

For people living with HIV, the greatest challenges are often not only medical, but also emotional and social. Stigma, isolation and uncertainty can make the journey difficult, but compassionate support can make a profound difference. In places like Siphesihle Home Based Care in Tembisa, support groups provide safe spaces where people can share their experiences, find encouragement and realise they are not alone. These quiet acts of accompaniment help build confidence, strengthen treatment adherence and restore dignity.

As we reflect on the week, we are reminded that some of the most meaningful care happens away from the spotlight—in listening, understanding and simply walking alongside those who need support.

Read the full article > > >

<https://cathca.org/compassionate-presence-transforms-hidden-struggles-into-shared-strength/>



REMEMERING ADVOCATE ALAN SCHWARER

With deep sadness, we shared the passing of **Advocate Allan Schwarer** on 2 May 2026.

Advocate Schwarer played an important role in CATHCA's early development following its establishment in 1987 by the SACBC and LCCL-SA.

Together with Bishop Reginald Orsmond and Sr Shelagh Mary Waspe, he helped guide the organisation during a challenging period for Catholic health care, laying foundations that would support a growing network across South Africa, Botswana and Eswatini.



A NEW NAME, A CONTINUED MISSION

St Joseph's Children's Hospital in Cape Town has adopted a new name that better reflects its role as a dedicated children's hospital. Previously known as St Joseph's Intermediate Paediatric Care, it provides specialised, round-the-clock care for children recovering from serious illness or injury who are not yet ready to return home.

Founded in 1935 by the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, St Joseph's remains South Africa's last Catholic-owned and run hospital. The 175-bed facility offers nursing care, therapy and family support, helping children regain strength and independence in a compassionate environment.

As the only hospital of its kind in South Africa, St Joseph's provides a vital bridge between hospital and home, caring for approximately 300 children each year at no cost to their families.



PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE AMID INTERNATIONAL FUNDING CUTS

CATHCA warns HIV, TB funding cuts risk leaving “those hardest to reach” behind.

CATHCA has urged urgent action to protect vulnerable communities as international funding for HIV and TB programmes declines and South Africa assumes greater responsibility for financing its healthcare response.

While recognising the country's significant progress against HIV and TB, achieved through years of public investment, donor support, research, treatment programmes and community-based care, CATHCA warns that the transition away from donor-funded programmes must be managed carefully.

The organisation supports increased domestic funding but stresses that the priority must be ensuring that essential services continue uninterrupted and that those most vulnerable



CATHCA HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF DECLINING HIV AND TB FUNDING – SACBC

CATHCA CALLS FOR THE PROTECTION
OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AS HIV
AND TB FUNDING DECLINES

As international funding for HIV and TB programmes declines, CATHCA is calling for a carefully managed transition that protects South Africa's most vulnerable communities.

While the country has made significant progress through public investment, donor support and community-based initiatives, concerns remain about the impact of reduced funding on those who rely on outreach services and local support networks.

CATHCA emphasises that the challenge is not only financial but also about ensuring continuity of care. The organisation urges collaboration between government, healthcare providers, civil society and faith communities to ensure that vulnerable people continue to access essential healthcare services.



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