


Youth Day 2015

Article by and Photographs by: Capt J. Dorrington and Capt J. Manning

Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) celebrated Youth Day 2015 by visiting Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town on Wednesday 18 June 2015. The Regiment maintains an ongoing social responsibility programme with the hospital, and this year we once again handed over a large number of children's items to the hospital. Janine Heuvel and Heather Voigt of the Friends of the Children's Hospital Association accepted the donation from the Adjutant, Lt Matthew Ndzena. Members of Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) were among the original donors to the hospital, which was opened in 1956 and funded through public subscription as a memorial to the soldiers who lost their lives during World War II.

The toys, educational board and card games, puzzles, model trucks, and items of clothing were collected and donated by members and friends of Cape Town Rifles (Dukes). Most will be used by patients in the hospital for recreational, therapeutic and educational purposes, and others will be gifted to needy children as birthday presents. Members of the Regiment toured one of the children's specialist wards, where they met with some of the children and their parents. The appearance of the uniformed members in their ward was a highlight for many of the children, whose initial shyness was quickly replaced by excitement at meeting the soldiers.

The Regiment also supports the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital by running an annual soup kitchen on Mandela Day and by participating in the annual Remembrance Day Service organised by the Hospital Trust. The benefits of our relationship with the hospital include not only the tangible gifts of food and toys but also strengthens the relationship between the military and civic communities that the Regiment serves. These occasions provide us with a valuable opportunity to promote the role and activities of the Reserve Force, and to sensitise the Regiment to the needs of our community. 



Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) visited the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital on 18 June 2015 to celebrate Youth Day with a donation of toys and clothing to the Friends of the Children's Hospital Association. (L to R) Rfn Eunice Serfontein, Ms Janine Heuvel and the Adjutant, Lt Matthew Ndzena.



Members of the Regiment visited one of the children's specialist wards at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, meeting with other volunteers and members of the nursing staff.

