

Northcliff Rotary Club honours Community Servers of the Year for 2010

The Northcliff Rotary Club, this week honoured recipients' of service organisations that have excelled in providing community services both locally and internationally. The club recognised their unconditional dedication and efforts in making the world a better place to live in.

The recipients of the awards were:

- Mrs Pearlene Meadows from Jordan House Retirement Village, situated in Westbury which provides care for elderly people with a special focus on high care. With only a third of their income coming in from Government grants, Pearlene has dedicated herself in ensuring that donations of food, toiletries and maintenance of the buildings are secured with companies and individuals of which Northcliff Rotary Club is a regular supporter.
- Mrs Tilly Malan from St Laurence's Children's Haven situated in Roodepoort is a caregiver at the Haven and together with her husband Richard has been associated with the home for the last 25 years. There are currently 20 children that are aged between 2 to 17 years divided between the three homes. The children are placed by the Child and Family Welfare either into places of safety or foster care at the Haven. The SAPS Child protection unit also places emergency cases with the home until the court dates can be set.
- Mr Robbie Blake and Felicity Kantor from Showgroup (Pty) Ltd who is a major role player in the special events industry locally and within the African continent. In pursuit of gaining market share in a competitive industry, the company has not lost sight of it's corporate social investment obligations by supporting charity and community based organisations by contributing its services at reduced or sometimes at no cost.
- Dr Imtiaz Sooliman from Gift of the Givers is the largest disaster relief organisation on the African continent and has delivered in excess of R360 million in aid around the world and South Africa.

In acknowledging their local achievements, tribute was paid to their untiring relief work undertaken in Haiti during the recent earthquake which devastated the region leaving thousands dead and the bulk of the population homeless.

The Gift of the Givers sent in four teams of highly skilled search and rescue personnel, medical teams and essential medical suppliers. An encouraging event during the relief operation was when a 64 year old was

pulled out the rubble alive, 7 days after the event. The team was also responsible for treating thousand of patients and in the process saving may lives.

The awards were presented at a glittering dinner function held at the Randpark Golf Club on Wednesday 26 May 2010. The awardees were presented with framed certificates together with the Rotary Medal. In addition, The Gift of the Givers also collectively donated 800 blankets to some of the organisations mentioned above as part of their Winter Warmth Campaign.

Standing from left to right is Dean Gounden (Northcliff Rotary Club), Derrick Killian and Felicity Kantor from Showgroup, Emily Thomas from Gift of the Givers who received the award on behalf of Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, Pearlene Meadows from Jordan House Retirement Village, Annemarie Mostert (Community Services Director, Northcliff Rotary Club), Tilly Malan from St Laurence's Children's Haven, John Turner (President of the Northcliff Rotary Club and Dr Ursel Barnes from Yabonga who was the guest speaker for the evening.

