



## “She’s stolen everyone’s hearts – all four chambers of them”

(Sister Lizette Robbins)

**S**he’s a tiny body, permanently wheelchair-bound – but she’s made a huge impact on all those around her.

She is partially blind and deaf, with developmental abnormalities that affect her ability to breathe. She also cannot swallow, so must be fed through a tube that goes directly to her stomach.

When her foster mother died, Jennifer\* came under the care of Social Services.

Because of her poor state of health, she’d been in and out of hospital, but without the possibility of remaining there long-term.

In desperation, her social worker contacted old age facilities in the hope of getting a permanent placement for her, with no luck.

Then the Nazareth House angels opened their arms again.

Jennifer, at age nine, has become our youngest Hospice patient, where she receives the 24-hour medical care that she requires, whilst our staff from the Children’s Home looks after her social and material needs.

Jennifer’s uncomplaining sweetness has captivated all of us. And in her own endearing way she gives back in return for everything she receives.

Whilst there is no real answer to Jennifer’s future because of her



*Jennifer – safe in our circle of love – all because friends like you have reached out with your hearts, and your kind gifts. Thank you!*

uncertain health, we give thanks for friends like you, who make it possible for her to be in loving care, for as long as she needs us.

*\*Not her real name.*

### **NEWSFLASH!!**

You can now make your donation on our website. Visit [www.nazhouse.org.za](http://www.nazhouse.org.za) and click on ‘Make a donation’. It’s secure and easy – and your gift will reach us right away!

# Our children celebrate Easter – and search for eggs

**T**here's always great excitement before the children attend mass on Easter Sunday.

They know that whilst they're saying their prayers, rejoicing and singing hymns to mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ, this is the time when the Easter Bunny traditionally visits our garden to hide his delivery of Easter eggs. Somehow, that clever bunny never fails them.

Whilst the hiding places are not too difficult to discover, the real challenge is to find the Easter egg with your name on it.

Anyone else's name ... and it has to be put back for that person to find – and also without telling.

We're never too sure who gets the most fun out of this annual hunt – the children or the rest of us who can't resist 'helping'.

We certainly hope that your Easter was as joyful as ours.



*Found one! But is it mine, or will I have to hide it again?*

## It's a joy to witness the miracle of recovery

**I**t's hard to imagine, but Martin\* was found living in a manhole in a main city street.

He was admitted to a local hospital in a terrible state, with infections so severe that he could barely eat.

Diagnosed as HIV-positive, Martin's condition was so poor that the hospital authorities felt he couldn't qualify for anti-retroviral treatment, and he was referred to our St. Michael's Hospice.

We took a different team approach, encouraging Martin to take responsibility for his wellbeing and future if his circumstances were to be improved.

By way of a remote contact, we traced his son, who was delighted to be reunited with his father, visiting him frequently, and supporting him in his recovery.

We also appealed to the hospital to reconsider their decision. Happily, they

agreed. Martin's progress has been smooth and free of any major side effects.

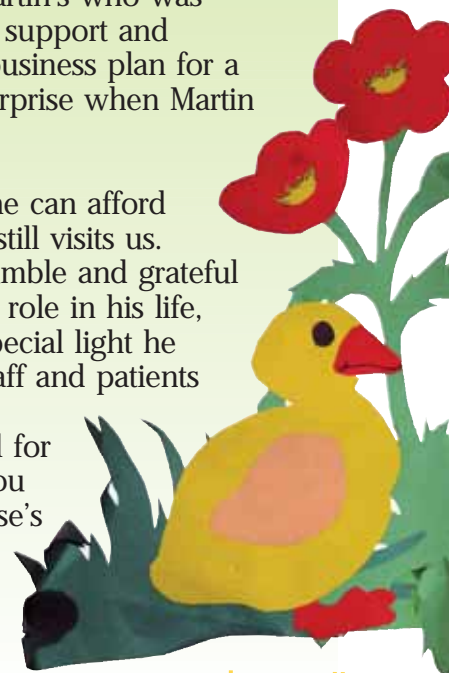
During this time we also contacted a former employer of Martin's who was himself amazing in his support and committed to write a business plan for a small car-washing enterprise when Martin was well enough.

Now in temporary accommodation until he can afford his own place, Martin still visits us.

And we're both humble and grateful to have played a small role in his life, and thankful for the special light he brought to our unit, staff and patients during his stay.

We're also thankful for the special light that you bring to Nazareth House's hospice care.

*\*Not his real name.*



# Our loss is Ireland's gain

**I**t was a sad day in early March when we waved goodbye to Sister Irene.

But we also shared her joyful anticipation of returning to her homeland, and being closer to her family. And that helped.

Without doubt, we'll miss all the wonderful work that she did here. Work that was interrupted for a while by her motor accident and her illness.

But we also know that across the sea Sister Irene will continue to share her love, as she takes up pastoral work from Nazareth House in Dublin.

We all wish Sister Irene well, and we also thank Sister Veronica for seamlessly taking over the reins in her inimitable

way, ensuring that Sister Irene could go home with peace of mind.



# Twin hearts of compassion



**W**e get many wonderful letters in the mail. But two that stood out recently were from eight-year-old Cathal, and 10-year-old Aislinn.

Both children had heard about Nazareth House from their parents. And both expressed their sadness that some children here don't have their own families.

Each girl enclosed a contribution, with a promise of more to come – from their pocket money.

Such thoughtfulness and concern for others, in children so young, gives one hope for the future of the world – and faith in the next generation of caring people who will continue to reach out to those in need.

Your kind hearts, Aislinn and Cathal, have done all our hearts good.

Thank you for caring – from all the children here at Nazareth House.

# You're so important in our lives

**H**ow I wish I could personally welcome you at our Nazareth House door in Cape Town, and observe one of the six core values of our Order.

You see, of the six core values observed by The Sisters of Nazareth: Compassion, Patience, Respect, Justice, Love and Hospitality, 'hospitality' always gives me a great deal of pleasure – and I would so love to be offering it to you.

I enjoy nothing more than welcoming visitors, brewing a fresh cup of tea or coffee for them, and if I get the chance to go into the kitchen and bake fresh scones or an apple pie to have on offer, then I feel I've fulfilled this one core value properly.

Over the years I've learnt that absolutely every person is valuable, every human being has something to offer, and will bring with them a lesson that I can learn. Here at Nazareth House, everybody

is a significant 'somebody'; and most often, everybody also carries a burden of some kind. If we Sisters can help them lay down that burden for a short time whilst enjoying our hospitality, then we've achieved something. Because life proves over and over again that the touch of humanity changes the world. The power of love is great.

And you prove both of those statements, each time you send a gift that supports our work here in Cape Town. Thank you for being the special person that you are, in all our lives.



*Sister Veronica*

Sister Veronica  
Sister Superior

# Update on our emergency placement children's section

**O**n average two children per week are placed in the loving arms of Nazareth House mainly due to abandonment or neglect.

Whether they were found in shoe boxes in public toilets or left in hospitals after birth, their fight for life is tougher than the average child.

Many of the little ones we receive need surgery or have very serious medical problems. Our most recent is an 18 month old little girl with a

genetic disorder which has resulted in severe facial disfigurement and fused fingers and toes.

Shunned by the community, her hope for a relatively normal life looked bleak. After reconstructive surgery her recovery at one stage was worrying, but she is now back home with us and doing very well and trying to crawl and play with others.

She will most likely need more corrective surgery over the next few years but we will take each day as it comes.

She is only one of the children who have received the opportunity of surgery which can allow them a better quality of life if not survival. Part of the adoption process is for each child to be tested for HIV.

Their results can take up to three months to come back and it is always healthier for a child to be placed in a loving home rather than institution. Many prospective, adoptive parents shy away from committing themselves to an uncertain life with a HIV infected child. These babies sit in limbo waiting to see if they are going to be the "lucky ones"!

*"We are each an angel with only one wing. And we can only fly while embracing each other."*

*Luciano De Crescenzo*



## Happy 70th birthday Monsignor!

**I**t was a really festive occasion – and a spiritual achievement well worth celebrating: 70 years of dedicated pastoral work.

Everyone gathered together for the anniversary tea, and there was a big cake carrying candles in the shape of '70'.

We count ourselves lucky to have Monsignor Seba living at Nazareth House so that we can lavish some attention on him after his lifetime of devotion to others.



## A safe and easy way to send your gifts

You may find it faster, safer and easier to deposit your gifts directly into our new bank account. These are the details:

**Bank:** Barclays Bank

**Account Name:** Nazareth House

**Account Number:** 70122335

**Sort Code:** 20-26-74

**Swift Code:** BARCGB22

**IBAN number:**

GB44 BARC 2026 7470 1223 35

Please use your unique donor number as reference when you make a deposit.

\* Your unique donor number appears on your reply form or above your address on the special return envelope enclosed with this newsletter.