

September 2020



Our employees have driven our Mandela Day campaign for 10 years with every action valued as a gesture of kindness that has uplifted someone who is less fortunate.

ASPEN HOLDINGS

Letter from the editor

Ten years of Mandela Day support despite COVID-19

In 2020, Aspen was set to celebrate our 10th year of participation in Mandela Day. Little did we know when campaign planning started, that we would be facing a year of unprecedented chaos and turmoil.

COVID-19 dealt the world a devastating blow during the year with many organisations, industries, families, and welfare organisations severely impacted by the pandemic. The global healthcare sector and frontline workers bore a significant brunt of this catastrophe with millions of healthcare professionals being isolated from their families while caring for severely ill patients, and in many instances, themselves succumbing to COVID-19. The loss of lives, livelihoods, employment as well as the crippling impact, and, in some cases the closure of small, medium, and large businesses, simply cannot be quantified.

Despite the significant strain that the virus placed on citizens of the world, Aspen's businesses and our employees went to admirable lengths to provide support as best was possible within a space that claimed social distancing, wearing of personal protective equipment ("PPE") and prolonged periods of lockdown and isolation as de facto during the 12 months. Many of our initiatives aimed to provide PPE and related pandemic support and we were able to assist 55 beneficiary organisations through as many projects.

The physical and psychological anguish that the pandemic caused is immeasurable, but we take comfort in the knowledge that our contributions, however humble, made a difference during a year that left the world reeling.

Shauneen Beukes ■



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Disclaimer

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Aspen celebrates a decade of participation in Mandela Day

In 2020, we will be celebrating our 10th participation anniversary in Mandela International Day (Mandela Day).

Stephen Saad, Aspen Group Chief Executive said, "We participated in our first initiative in 2011 when we partnered with the Rekopane Inclusive Development Centre based in Germiston, Gauteng. Through a multi-phased initiative we helped to improve the environment for the some 50 mentally and physically challenged children who were based at the Centre. Little were we to know at that time, that our annual Mandela Day initiative would gain such significant momentum and be implemented across our businesses in some 40 countries."

"We are grateful to each employee who continues to drive our Mandela Day campaign and it's always encouraging to see your involvement and enthusiasm as we collectively strive to make a meaningful difference in the world. Every action, irrespective whether it is financial, physical, emotional or a gesture of sincere kindness, contributes toward uplifting someone who is less fortunate."

"Although participation is voluntary, it has been widely embraced and many employees have become active contributors to worthy causes in a personal capacity since being exposed to Mandela Day. This attitude is particularly pleasing as it is so closely aligned with our ethos of displaying respect while instilling a spirit of dignity in disadvantaged citizens and it speaks so closely to our credo of Healthcare. We Care."

Despite the global ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued with our Mandela Day efforts and we are providing for activities to take place from July to December 2020. While COVID-19 may require that we have limited direct social engagement with beneficiaries



this has not stopped our employees who have adopted alternative measures, some of which include blanket drives, food relief, blood donations, the provision of educational aids and many others.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to this very worthy initiative and keep returning to

this portal to catch up on our 2020 Mandela Day activities that be published as they take place. Also feel free to share our campaign that will be published in parallel on our Aspen Mandela Day website.

Stephen Saad ■

ASPEN HOLDINGS

We Care during COVID-19



In spite of the challenges imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, Durban-based Aspen Holdings participated in three Mandela Day activities in July 2020.

As in previous years, Aspen teamed up with Key of Hope to pack and distribute food parcels. Poverty, perpetuated by the ravages of COVID-19, has contributed to a desperate need for food in many less fortunate communities in the Durban area. Aspen sponsored 60 families with a month's supply of groceries, meat and vegetables. Key of Hope is an international non-profit Christian organisation based in Durban that reaches children affected by poverty and AIDS. Their vision is to unlock the future of Africa by empowering children to be ambassadors of change in their families, schools and communities.

Aspen's Vishma Chetty joined Key of Hope on 15 July to pack and deliver the food parcels to a rural area known as Jamaica. COVID-19 regulations were strictly observed during the process, including ensuring that drop-off points were arranged in such a manner as to ensure social distancing of the families who benefited from these donations.

Long-term beneficiary, Masifundisane Pre-Primary School, which caters for children from disadvantaged communities, also received donations of PPE, sanitizing products as well as desk dividers for learners' use at the school. Masifundisane's Principal Jenny Nicholson said, "We welcomed the children back to school on 1 September and are so grateful to Aspen for the sanitization equipment and desk dividers - we are safe and blessed."

A third activity was undertaken in which employees were encouraged to participate in a much-needed blood drive. Mrs Chetty and her daughter Nicole kicked-off this effort on a personal basis by visiting the South African National Blood Service's centre in Musgrave, Durban to donate blood.



FINE CHEMICALS CORPORATION

Supporting our future generation during COVID-19

Each year Fine Chemicals Corporation (FCC) selects a worthy beneficiary to support for Mandela Day and this year we assisted Might Minds Educare located in Heideveld, Cape Town. This educational institution, like the majority of our previous beneficiaries, is situated in the heart of a gang infested community littered with substance abuse and poverty.

COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the Educare being temporarily closed, which left more than 50 learners without education, and, for some, without a daily serving of food.

Mighty Minds Educare was established in January 2007 and, prior to COVID-19, it accommodated approximately 115 learners from two to five years of age. This group of 52 girls and 63 boys was however drastically reduced due to the pandemic and, at the time of our initiative, only comprised 50 learners and 8 educators.

We are aligned to Nelson Mandela's vision and his call to, "Recommit to work towards

our common goal: A nation where all of us are winners, all of us have shelter, food and education." We are also committed to investing in future generations which will yield positive results for South Africa. Mighty Minds is striving to become recognised as a school of excellence and their educators are equally passionate about investing in their learners. They take particular care to adhere to the Early Childhood Development (ECD) curriculum and ensure that parents receive regular progress reports. Each year Mighty Minds graduates 40-45 children who feed into the local Primary School. Their standards are highly regarded and the foundation that they provide to their learners is invaluable.

One of their immediate needs included implementing stringent COVID-19 sanitizing and social distancing protocols called for by the ECD, before the center would be permitted to reopen.

Coronavirus and the associated lock-down has left many citizens in dire circumstances with vast numbers needing to take salary cuts and some losing their employment. Heideveld residents have also been severely affected and many are unable to pay crèche fees for their children. This in turn resulted in the center being unable to purchase the items needed to achieve COVID-19 hygiene compliance.



FCC's PPE-clad volunteers took extensive precautions and assisted in sanitizing and preparing the center ahead of the ECD inspection and re-opening which was scheduled to take place on 12 August 2020. Further, a Mandela Day donation of R55 000 provided for, among others, supplies of hand and surface sanitizer, wet wipes, groceries, a thermometer, a gas stove and gas tank, toiletries, stationery, furniture and mattresses.

Our team was privileged to help and we are keenly aware of the trials and tribulations faced by this community. We were equally humbled by the immense appreciation shown by the Educare's management for the small role that we have played in contributing to Heideveld's future generation.



ASPEN GLOBAL INC

Ongoing support for the Ranger Foundation Trust

In 2020 Aspen Global Incorporated (AGI) continued their partnership with the Ranger Foundation Trust for a second consecutive year.

Despite COVID-19 restriction imposed by the Mauritian Ministry, the AGI team were able to celebrate Mandela Day at the Foundation discreetly through two activities, but without any interaction with the students. The Ranger Foundation Trust is an accredited Special Needs School and Therapy Centre that provides Conductive Education and therapy for Mauritian children. The School accommodates pupils under the age of 18 who have a range of disabilities and associated difficulties arising from Cerebral Palsy.

AGI's primary activity focused on the donation of a vehicle to transport the children to and from rehabilitation facilities that are available onsite. This generous gift was applauded by the

Foundation as it will greatly assist in the task of relocating the children according to their needs.

The volunteers from the Grand Baie-based offices also initiated a gardening project to educate the children on the importance of sustainability. Timing of this awareness is more relevant than ever, as the world has learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic that human wealth depends on nature's health.

The AGI team was deeply touched by the gratitude shown to them by the Foundation which has prompted continued involvement in initiatives such as these.

Conductive Education is a holistic, movement-based Educational Therapy System designed for children and adults with motor disabilities (such as Cerebral Palsy). The programme aims to provide pro-active and effective therapy to students to enable them to overcome their difficulties so that they can lead a more independent life to their greatest potential.

#HealthcareWeCare #CorporateSocialResponsibility
#AspenGlobalIncorporated #Rangerfoundation



ASPEN IRELAND

APTL and APIL employees raise funds with a 5km virtual challenge

To celebrate Mandela Day 2020, Aspen Pharma Trading Limited (APTL) and Aspen Pharma Ireland Limited (APIL) in Ireland teamed up to host a virtual 5km walk/run in aid of the Ronald McDonald House, The Dublin Simon Community and The Light House.



The Ronald McDonald House provides accommodation and a caring and supportive environment for families whose children are seriously ill and are hospitalised or undergoing medical treatment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12.



Dublin Simon Community has been rebuilding lives for over 50 years and they offer services and support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Dublin Christian Mission's The Light House Homeless Outreach has been bringing hope to the heart of Dublin for 190 years. This non-profit organisation is open four days a week to feed the homeless and hungry community in the city. Hot, freshly made meals are provided for free, and they seek to make genuine connections with those who they feed through relationships and conversation.

We challenged our employees to go out with their family and friends and walk/run 5km for charity. Once they had completed the walk/run, they had to submit a screenshot or selfie of the challenge to show us that they had participated in this event. APTL and APIL then donated €15 per employee who had submitted a record of participating in the challenge. In order to get as many people involved as possible, we set a target of 65 participants. If our employees met the target an extra €500 would be donated to the chosen charities. Over 67 of our employees got involved which resulted in €1505 being raised for our three charities.

As a result of COVID-19, this was a different type of Mandela Day event compared to previous years. It was, however, still very meaningful and satisfying for those who participated and contributed towards raising funding for three well deserving charities who require support now more than ever.

ASPEN ITALY

Working together to feed the hungry

For the past seven years Aspen Italia has taken hands with Banco Alimentare's voluntary service at its various offices in Italy to celebrate Mandela Day.

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on the world, and, unfortunately, this health pandemic placed extreme limitations on our ability to physically support Banco Alimentare as we customarily have.

It is not within our Italian spirit to be defeated or to step back from anything that we are passionate about. As a consequence, 2020 was not going to be a year in which we broke our

partnership with this very worthy non-profit organisation who needed our support more than ever.

Banco Alimentare collects surplus product from the food industry and, after sorting and packing it, redistributes it to charitable organisations dedicated to meeting the needs of impoverished people. Established in 1989, Banco Alimentare has 21 organisations across Italy. In 2019, a total of 1878 volunteers assisted to feed 1,584,271 people by distributing 91,235 tons of foods across the country.

Although the Aspen Italia team were not physically permitted to assist with the packing and redistribution of food, we were able to support Banco Alimentare with a financial



contribution of US\$ 7,861 which was graciously accepted by them. By so doing we contributed toward their most honourable purpose of feeding the hungry while we were also able to demonstrate how much we care for those in need.



ASPEN CZECH REPUBLIC

Aspen Czech Republic

The SeneCura Senior Citizen's home in Pilsen was selected as Aspen's beneficiary for Mandela Day. This home offers social services to the elderly and focuses on providing care to those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of senile dementia.

Aspen's team of 10 employees met with SeneCura's management team and they agreed that improvements to the garden would add immense value to the Home. Visiting families and patients need a functional and pleasant outdoor environment to relax in one another's company, and this was a perfect solution for the residents.

Extensive discussions, landscape planning and procurement took place to ensure that the

selected plants and material would be delivered for the activity. The team put on their gardening gloves and set to work while enjoying a change of scenery as they participated in creating a space that is versatile, practical, environmentally friendly and inviting.

The project included planting 60 Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) trees which added substantial greenery to the gardens and which will contribute to a pleasant atmosphere for the residents who are being encouraged to spend more time outdoors.

SeneCura's management team and residents were extremely grateful for Aspen's kind gesture. The Director of the facility said that he is very grateful for the contribution which is the first step towards a complete change of their outdoor area and facilities. The Aspen team comprising Miroslava, Jana, Lucie, Tomas, Radim, Zbyněk, Martin, Jana, Lenka, Dáša as well as Denisa from Aspen Slovakia, were delighted with the improvements made to the Home.



Aspen's team planted 60 trees at SeneCura Home



ASPEN SLOVAKIA

Aspen Slovakia

A small team of six employees from Aspen Slovakia set to work at the Slovak Medical University for Mandela Day 2020.

Aspen's Denisa, Milan, Janka, Silvia, Marcela and Radoslava met management from the Bratislavian-based University to understand their immediate requirements. Discussions indicated that the University needed assistance with a study room and work environment for the medical students.

The Slovak Medical University was established in 2002. It is dedicated to all three levels of higher education and provides tertiary education for healthcare professionals such as doctors, physicians, nurses and others.

Aspen's team enhanced the study room with a new carpet and Janka, Silvia, Denisa and



Aspen Slovakia's Mandela Day team



Prof Peter Šimko, MD, PhD, Rector - Slovak Medical University

well as a desk for the room. Milan took on a handman role for the day and hung pictures and installed shelving while Marcela and Radka set up a library. Anatomical illustrations completed the decor and created a cozy yet practical environment for the students.

Rector of the University, Prof MU Dr Peter Šimko CSC, expressed his appreciation to the Aspen team and personally led them on a tour of the campus.

This team has participated in Mandela Day activities for a number of years and they expressed their ongoing commitment to serve their community where they can through this initiative.



ASPEN BRAZIL

Aspen Pharma Brazil



Although Nelson Mandela passed away 7 years ago at the age of 94, he will be remembered for his contribution in the fight towards racial equality and freedom. In line with Aspen's 10th year of participation in Mandela Day, and in honour of this inspirational leader, the team in Brazil celebrated this annual initiative with a campaign that ran throughout July.

The @aspenpharmabrasil social media platforms were used intently to increase knowledge about Nelson Mandela and related facts and activities were published on a weekly basis.

As a consequence of COVID-19 and the dire impact that this pandemic has had on Brazil, participation in Mandela Day was somewhat different as opposed to activities hosted in prior years. While retaining the focus on promoting actions that inspire positive changes for humanity, due cognisance was also taken of the hygiene protocols dictated to stem the spread of coronavirus to ensure the health and well-being of the nation.

It was therefore fitting to support the Women of the Global South. This is a social impact company dedicated to the economic empowerment of refugee women. The institution facilitates economic empowerment and upliftment to nearly 50 women who use the multicultural sewing workshop to make fabric items that are sold to the public. Aspen purchased 480 masks for its employees, which are not simply fabric masks, but rather symbols



of hope for better health against the pandemic, just as Mandela and Women of the Global South recognise the importance of being symbols of hope to those fighting for a better life.

On 17 July 2020, the Aspen Pharma Brazil team together with CEO Alexandre França, participated in a virtual meeting with Emanuela Farias, founder of Women of the Global South. Emanuela used the opportunity to share the story of the institution. She highlighted the manner in which refugee women are welcomed into it and the role that it plays in fostering their skills as seamstresses to provide financial and social support to the women, and in turn to their families, who are striving to improve their circumstances in the country.

The studio, which currently serves refugees from Angola, the DRC, Guinea Bissau, Zambia, Venezuela and Colombia also needed specific equipment. Aspen was humbled to be able to donate three sewing machines to assist with increased production as well as 20 chairs to provide comfort for the women as they work at their machines.



ASPEN CHILE

Entrepreneurship training for unemployed bakers



Aspen Chile has been actively involved in Mandela Day for a number of years. Our chosen beneficiary for 2020 was Santiago-based Fundación Alcance. This non-profit organisation drives initiatives that serve less fortunate citizens through social welfare programmes which are aimed at improving quality of life.

More than 200 Chileans have already benefited from the educational, training and entrepreneurship programmes offered by Fundación Alcance. In December 2019 Aspen

adopted this NGO as its Mandela Day partner for 2020 and began implementing various self-sustaining initiatives to positively impact lives.

Specific focus was placed on committing support to a group of 16 women who have no formal education, and, as a consequence, experience limited employment opportunities. It was agreed that these vulnerable ladies would benefit from knowledge that could complement their small businesses which sell confectionary products to local communities.

In an effort to increase their employment opportunities, Aspen Chile consequently hosted an employability workshop for the women. During the training, insight was obtained concerning their needs, the realities of the employment opportunities available to them, and the depth of discrimination

that they experience given their socio-economic background.

Supplementary entrepreneurship training and appropriate tools were also provided to assist them with the preparation and sale of their products.

The December 2019 implementation of this project could not have taken place at a better time as Aspen inadvertently provided the women with critical tools and training that stood them in good stead amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through this program, Aspen Chile has indeed demonstrated how to *take action, inspire change and make every day a Mandela Day*.



ASPEN CARICAM - COSTA RICA

Supporting palliative care patients with PPE



Mandela Day was different this year. In the midst of a global pandemic, Aspen Caricam supported the Palliative Care Unit from the National Children's Hospital in San Jose, Costa Rica. This facility provides assistance to children with limited life expectancy or terminal illnesses.

The Palliative Care Unit currently has about 1 500 patients and 25 employees and they are solely dependent on social contributions in order to function optimally.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the country which in turn has resulted in this Palliative Care Unit not being able to continue to assist patients with care activities in their customary environment. As a consequence of in-country restrictions, the facility has been temporarily closed and healthcare workers are required to travel extensive distances across the country to provide care to their patients.



In response, Aspen Caricam donated personal protective equipment (PPE) required by the healthcare workers, which has enabled them to visit patients at their homes. More than 3000 face masks were donated to protect patients, their families and employees during these visits.

Aspen's employees participated in the initiative by contributing financially towards the PPE while some also volunteered to assist with packing supplies for the beneficiary.



ASPEN MEXICO

Nothing stops us!



Difficult times have been experienced globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This, however, did not stop volunteers from Aspen Mexico, who once again showed that our spirit of collaboration continues to make a marked difference in the communities that we serve.

This year we selected the Mexican Association for Aid to Children with Cancer I.A.P. (AMANC) as our Mandela Day beneficiary. AMANC provides care and support to youth across the country who are afflicted with cancer. Their powerful vision is to be the leading institution at a national level that contributes to the survival, development and quality of life of girls, boys and adolescents with cancer. "Because we love life, we believe that cancer is a process of learning and growth, in which we transform pain into love."



Volunteers and our families participated in Mandela Day activities by giving one of life's most valuable gifts to this non-profit organisation - our time! We created a video as well as letters and messages of love to support these patients to show our empathy and how much we care about them and their families. These gifts of hope were handed over to the children and the impact was overwhelmingly emotional but, most importantly, it left the children smiling.

Despite financial strain being experienced across the country, we showed great will and generosity by raising MXN\$ 80 890 to contribute towards medicines that are not included in the standard chemotherapy treatment regime. We also assisted by purchasing ocular prostheses for patients diagnosed with Retinoblastoma cancer.

Aspen in turn presented a donation of MXN\$ 250 000 to AMANC's very appreciative directors on 23 July. We demonstrated that by joining efforts, great things can be achieved to benefit those who need it most and we believe that our contributions will help in a small way to transform pain into love at AMANC.



ASPEN MALAYSIA

A brighter future for Orang Asli children



Aspen Malaysia's team participated in Mandela Day 2020 by supporting *Orang Asli* children.

Orang Asli, as indigenous citizens are named, have always lived a simple, uncomplicated lifestyle compared to urbanised Malaysians. Despite being classified as *Bumiputra*, which signifies a Malaysian status and affords the *Orang Asli* people certain social, economic and political rights, these residents of peninsular Malaysia are subjected to hardships such as poverty and limited healthcare and educational resources.



Pertubuhan Kebajikan Rumah Mega Kanak-kanak Orang Asli is a non profitable organisation

that was established in 2017 in Kuala Lumpur. Its purpose is to shelter less privileged children from rural areas. This centre is a place of safety that provides discipline, nutritious meals, accommodation and education in an urban environment. COVID-19 has, however, made it even more challenging for the centre and for these children to attend classes and to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

Aspen's employees sourced and provided highly sought-after educational supplies and equipment to the centre. These donations included three computers that were pre-installed with the necessary software to enable

the children to participate in online classes and also to educate them about information technology. The children were also very grateful to receive Aspen's care packages containing stationary, snacks and milk. The highlight of their day was most certainly a meal from a local fast food restaurant - an exceptional and rare treat indeed.

Through this project, Aspen's team demonstrated the importance of caring for others in need, empowering them through education and thereby contributing in a small way to a brighter future for these children.



ASPEN PHILIPPINES

Continuing education during COVID-19



"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

With the rampant increase in cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines at the time of this article, the local Department of Education had resorted to distance learning options such as online learning and modular learning for the upcoming school year. However, as most public schools and students cannot adapt technologically, they turn to modular learning. Learning kits and modules were therefore needed to be printed and reproduced for these students.

In line with this approach and in keeping with the theme of providing children with access to learning resources for development, Aspen Philippines (APH) donated more than 150,000 sheets of bond papers to seven public schools in support of Mandela Day. APH helped with the production of the students' modules and learning kits, an act of kindness envisioned to impact students from poor families for months, or hopefully, for life.



On 14 July the first leg of APH's Mandela Day donation was conducted at Domingo Zuno Elementary School in Pade Garcia, Batangas where 244 students are enrolled. The following day, six schools in Bulacan received their share of bond papers which will benefit 953 students.

APH, school heads, and school representatives all worked side by side to

prepare the learning kits for the schools -- from early morning travels, to riding tricycles, to getting aboard boats to reach the islands where the schools are located. All these efforts were made to enable students who lack WIFI and electronic devices to continue with their education under circumstances presented by the new normal.



ASPEN TAIWAN

Educational, fun excursions in Taiwan

"Let's recommit to work towards our common goal: A nation where all of us are winners, all of us have shelter, food and education" - Nelson Mandela

Aspen Taiwan has participated in Mandela Day since 2014. Their selected beneficiary has been the Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) and this worthy cause was adopted to echo Mandela's calling to educate children.

TFCF accommodates children from disadvantaged families, but it has limited resources which doesn't allow for the privilege of outdoor activities. As a consequence, the team from Aspen arranged educational ecology excursions for the students. These tours included visits to the National Museum of Marine Science and Technology (NMMST) in Keelung and the Houtong Coal Mine Ecological Park in the Ruifang district.

The first part of the trip was to the NMMST, where the Museum guide provided a detailed introduction to marine science, technology, ecology, and culture. The Museum also has important exhibition ties to Taiwan's history which was shared with the students.

After a light lunch, the group was entertained at the museum's IMAX theater. *The Ultimate Wave* was screened in the theater that ensures a superior viewing experience using state-of-the-art 3D technology and high performance



stereo. The children loved the opportunity of being at one with ocean life.

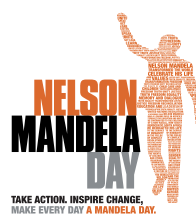
The Houtong Coal Mine Ecological Park represent the glamor of Houtong's coal mining history. This visit included a trip in a mine train into the coal tunnel, gold panning and exposure to miner's equipment. The group developed renewed appreciation for the hard work done by a coal miner and gratitude for their lifestyles

Aspen's volunteers enjoyed spending time with the children and in turn learnt much from them about their circumstances, families and school life. The gesture of support, empathy and commitment to these students made a significant impact on them and endorsed the Mandela Day call to *Take action, Inspire change. Make every day a Mandela Day.*





We've cared for some
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40 countries and regions



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