

Shoprite transforms Hagar Home for abused women and children

Cape Town, August 2017: Gertruida Maartens from Fisantekraal, Durbanville, has been living in a container for the past five years. This selfless woman has been using her RDP house to run Hagar Home, a safe house for abused women and children.

With a leaking roof, concrete floors and holes in the walls, Hagar Home was in dire need of repair.

To honour Gertruida and the incredible work she does, Shoprite partnered with [New Kidz](#) and carried out some much-needed renovations at Hagar Home during the last week of July 2017.

“Living in a container wasn’t a hassle for me because I love what I do. I love helping my community - everyone calls me *Ouma*. However, thanks to the renovations, it’s so much easier to keep my women and children safe,” Gertruida said.

Once a week at her local community centre, Gertruida also teaches women to sew. Shoprite surprised Gertruida by donating new sewing machines and material. “It’s a funny story. I left school when I was in grade 6 because I couldn’t pass remedial work. Now many years later, I’m actually teaching others this skill so they can create a better future for themselves,” Gertruida explained.

As a business with heart, Shoprite is committed partnering with remarkable women like Gertruida who act for change in their local communities.

“I work with the women and children because I understand them. I’m grateful to now be in a position where I can make a difference,” Gertruida concluded.

CAPTIONS

Photo 1 - 4: Hagar Home before renovations

Photo 5 - 8: Hagar Home after renovations

Photo 9: Gertruida keeps everyone laughing - Awonke Mbanga (Shoprite), Kelly Atherton (Shoprite), Lynne Haefele (New Kidz), Gertruida Maartens (Hagar Home), Stacey Quinton (New Kidz), Tania Muller (Shoprite)

Photo 10: Handover of sewing machines - Lynne Haefele (New Kidz), Gertruida Maartens (Hagar Home), Tania Muller (Shoprite)

Photo 11: Tears of joy - Lynne Haefele (New Kidz), Gertruida Maartens (Hagar Home), Tania Muller (Shoprite)

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