

Officers of Cape Field Artillery support the community with WINTER HOPE

Article and photographs by: Maj D. Coetzee, Cape Field Artillery

In 2004 Maj Coetzee, Acting Officer Commanding Cape Field Artillery and Lt Col Conradie, SO1 Reserve Force Provincial Office Western Cape started the WINTER HOPE initiative. Two years later, the Moths took over this annual event, but as the years went on, it fizzled out. The idea behind WINTER HOPE is to help the less fortunate. Seeing that the winters in Cape Town are long and wet, there are so many people who are in need of food, warm clothes and blankets. It is very easy to just put a bin down at the unit and make it very impersonal, but the initiative aimed to bring people together to support the initiative. The organisers then came up with the idea of inviting guests and gave them a very simple meal of bread and soup. This was done to help the guests to bring warm clothes, blankets or non-perishable foods to one location.

After about 10 years, the Officers of CFA decided to start the tradition again. On Friday 31 May 2019, the Officers held a WINTER HOPE evening at the Officers' Mess at the Castle of Good Hope and supplied soup and bread to the guests. Lt Col Conradie contacted Cpln MK Putuma, to find a suitable charity organisation to receive the donations. On the evening Rev Bonani from the Baptist Church in the Barsolona Settlement, received the donations and handed them over Miss Nolubonga Mepeni of the Unakho Childrens Home Care.

We hope to make this an annual event and to continue collecting donations right through winter at the Regimental HQ to be delivered to the community.



*The Officers of Cape Field Artillery handing over the donations.
L to R: Capt Brits, Lt Jensen, Capt Bothman, Cpln Putuma, Maj Coetzee, Rev Bonani and
Capt Rust*



Lt Col Conradie with Cpln Putuma and Rev Bonani from the Baptist Church in Basolona Settlement.



Cpln Putuma handing the donations over to Mr Sakhele Platjies and Miss Nokubonga Mepeni.