



FACT SHEET:

Moreletapark

GEMEENTE | CONGREGATION

involvement in WOODLANE VILLAGE (PLASTIC VIEW)
- the informal settlement situated next to the Congregation



1. What is the history of Woodlane Village (Plastic View)?

Many of the residents of Woodlane Village have lived in the bushes in the area where the Village currently is. One of the main reasons for people living in such circumstances in the East of Pretoria is that they wanted to be near their place of work. Tswelopele Step-by- Step NPO has been instrumental in organising the people that were already there in a formal village leadership structure in 2009 with the help of a court order. Part of the court order was that the City of Tshwane has to provide water, sanitation and security to the Village. They did very important work to teach the residents life skills, help them to organise village leadership and establish rules for the residents. Woodlane Village was the name that the residents chose for this settlement, but in time it came to be known as Plastic View.

3000 people were originally registered in 856 shacks and the rule was that people were not allowed to rent out shacks to others and that if a person moved or passed away, the shack should be broken down and the space left open. Since about middle 2016 the City of Tshwane was not able to afford a security company any more and more people moved into the Village and the area around it has become an illegal dumping ground. The original village leadership structure that has helped to organise daily life in Woodlane Village has also collapsed since the original residents have changed so much. Moreleta Park Congregation acknowledges that this situation is not sustainable and like the rest of the community hope for an outcome that is acceptable to the whole community, the residents of Woodlane Village included.

2. Who supplies the water and sanitation for Woodlane Village?

As mentioned before, the City of Tshwane is legally compelled by the existing court order to supply water, sanitation and security to Woodlane Village. The land on which Woodlane Village is, is the property of the City of Tshwane. Since that is the case, the residents are not allowed to put up any permanent structures. There are 4 water tanks in the village that are filled by the City of Tshwane on a daily basis. There are 35 toilets in the village. Just recently a new contractor has been signed for the toilets and the old sluice toilets were exchanged with new chemical toilets.

3. What is the current situation in Woodlane Village?

At the moment no clear statistics of the residents of Woodlane village exists. Because of our work with Woodlane Village, we guess that at least 60-70% of the people are from Zimbabwe, about 20 % from the RSA and the rest from Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique. When the Village started, approximately 25% of the households had one person in the household working in the area, but currently it is approximately 85 % of the households that has one person that works. The reason why this village exists is because people find work here. People say that Moreleta Park Congregation keeps the residents of Woodlane Village here with all our projects, but the people from Woodlane Village find work in the area, the community itself is responsible for "keeping the people here" with the jobs that are supplied.

Moreleta Park Congregation is not involved in the informal settlement next to the grave yard/ The Wilds at all and no projects have been extended to this informal settlement. The residents of this settlement do not come to the clinic. In the last two years we have seen about 10 patients in total from this settlement. Since the Congregation has no projects in this settlement and they do not attend our clinic and school, the question now presents itself who is then responsible to keep the informal settlement next to the grave yard?

4. How is the Moreleta Park Congregation involved in Woodlane Village?

Moreleta Park Congregation (MPC) has registered a NPO in April 2016 with Art 18 A and B status (193-318-NPO, PBO 930059625). This legal entity, "LIFT Community Development" facilitates and finances all the projects that MPC has in Woodlane Village. Lift Community Development is a self-funded/self-sustained organisation that depends on donations from national as well as international companies, and not from the Congregation.

These projects include:

- The Woodlane Village Clinic
- The Domestic Worker Training Course
- The Gardener Training Course
- The Support Group for Women
- The Veggie Project

- The Pendula Children's Store
- Needlework Project

Other projects are:

- Pure Hope School
- Shining Light Congregation

4.1 How does the Woodlane Village Clinic operate?

The Woodlane Village Clinic started on 8 February 2017 in cooperation with the University of Pretoria. The Clinic is part of the COPC (Community Oriented Primary Care) project that UP has in cooperation with the Department of Health. COPC involves clinics that are rolled out in informal settlements. UP supplies a medical doctor and Dietician that serves at the clinic every Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 12:00. LIFT has provided 3 containers where the service are delivered and manages the clinic. LIFT has also employed 7 Community Health Workers (2 are paid by LIFT and 5 are paid by UP) and a Health Professional. Each Community Health Worker (CHW) works 25 hours per week and their job is to do Household assessments in the Village using the AITA system where data is captured on smartphones. This system is used by UP in all informal settlements where CHW's are working. The CHW's also follow up on patients, share critical health information, help with pre-and post-natal care and the running of the clinic on a Wednesday morning. They have received 2 weeks training prior to their employment and receive in-house training every Thursday that is based on the Department of Health's training for CHW's. Patient's details, diagnosis and medication are captured on the national system named Synaxon. The services that are provided at the clinic are basic medical care, dietetics (children under 6 years are weighed and measured), family planning and HIV testing and counselling. Since the clinic focusses on basic primary care and screening only, many patients are referred to Pretorius Park Clinic or Tshwane District hospital. We are not able to supply chronic medicine, ARV's, draw blood, do pap smear etc. All pregnant women are also referred. We help malnourished children with supplementation for a month and then they are also referred to Pretorius Park for further supplementation. Since 8 February 2017 about 4200 patients have been seen at the clinic.

A health day for the children six years and younger is held twice per year where the children are weighed, measured, Hb tested, and Vit A and deworming are given and immunisation done in cooperation with Pretorius Park Clinic.

4.1.1 Why did LIFT start a clinic for the residents of Woodlane Village?

Pretorius Park clinic is only 3 km away from Woodlane Village, but in the past foreigners without documentation have not been helped at Pretorius Park Clinic. Since Woodlane Village clinic has started, a relationship has been built with Pretorius Park clinic and when we refer chronic patients, HIV positive patients, pregnant women, malnourished children and other patients, they are now accepted and treated at Pretorius Park Clinic. This means that sicknesses can actually be dealt with and prevented from spreading to the rest of the community.

As MPC we believe in Matt 25:35 that says: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Medical help for the people of Woodlane Village is not just given for a practical reason, but also because it is our moral and spiritual responsibility.

4.1.2 Why is the clinic important for the whole community?

Many residents of Woodlane Village work in the wider community as domestic workers, gardeners, construction workers, waiters etc. They work in our houses, restaurants, gardens etc. If they work in the community with untreated TB, HIV and other infectious diseases, members of the broader community – our family members - are in danger. The circumstances in the Village are very unhygienic and residents struggle constantly with flu, bronchitis, scabies ("vuilsiekte"), TB, ring worms etc and if it is left untreated, they AS WELL AS the wider community suffers from the consequences.

A malnourished child is not able to learn well at school. If the child cannot learn well, he/she will fail and not finish their schooling. If the child cannot finish schooling he/she will eventually become dependent on the Government or fall into crime. Woodlane Village Clinic is trying to empower children as early as possible with good health.

4.1.3 Why do patients at the clinic not pay for the services that they receive?

As stated before, the Woodlane Village clinic is done in cooperation with the University of Pretoria as part of their COPC project and the medicine is received from the government. Since this is the case LIFT Community Development (who is managing the project) does not have the right to charge for the services delivered.

4.2 What is the Domestic worker training program all about?

The Domestic Worker Training program has been presented during 2016, 2017 and started again in 2019. During 2018 no volunteers were available for the cooking classes. So far 80 women have been trained.

During the program 10 women from Woodlane Village attends 6 cooking classes of 3 hours each, and sessions on washing and ironing, general cleaning and work ethics, alcohol and drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, parenting skills and communication skills are presented. Volunteers facilitate all the training sessions. The women pay R60 each to attend the course and receive a certificate at the end of the course.

4.3 What is the gardener's training programme all about?

Ten men at a time are trained over four days in basic gardening skills. Other sessions over the four days include, health and safety issues, budgeting, how do I relate to my wife and children, as well as sharing the Gospel. Each man pays R30 to attend the training and receives a certificate at the end of the four days. Each day they receive a cup of tea and a muffin. All the sessions are presented by volunteers.

4.4 What is the Support Group all about?

Domestic violence is a big problem for the women of Woodlane Village and the support group was started in 2018 to support the women. Twelve women at a time attend the support group that is presented every Tuesday afternoon for 7 weeks. The first session uses mosaic art to help the women to relax and to get to know each other. Two sessions focus on the Father Heart of God, their value in the eyes of their Creator and sharing the Gospel. One session deals with nutritional food for the family and a cooking demonstration in our kitchen (for example how to prepare a nutritional samp and beans meal or a healthy, cheap soup). One session deals with safety in the home (we see many children at the clinic who drink paraffin or burn in the cooking fires). The last two sessions deal with domestic violence and all the kinds of abuse and how to deal with it. The women receive a cup of tea at each session and a muffin. All the sessions are presented by volunteers. Most of these women do not understand English and a translator from the Village is used.

4.5 What is the Veggie project all about?

At the Woodlane Village Clinic we have discovered that most of the children under the age of six years are stunted (to short and to light for their age). Some of them suffer from medium to moderate malnutrition. Since our policy is not to give out food, we have started with veggie gardens for 60 of the families where there are children that are stunted or that suffer from malnutrition. Since there are no space for veggie gardens each family receives two tires with soil and spinach and onion plants. Participants sign a contract to ensure that they look after their veggies and a volunteer follow up with each family every three weeks. The veggie gardens are still being extended to more and more families.

4.6 What is the Pendula Children's store?

The Grade R to Grade 7 children in Pure Hope School do recycling for six weeks in the second school semester. They receive tokens/paper money equal to what they have recycled and then they have the opportunity to spend the money on toiletries, stationary, non-perishable food, clothing, toys and sweets in a pop-up shop. Over 100 volunteers pose as recycled material "buyers", sales assistants, and shopping guides. With this event the children learn that hard work brings rewards, that if you do not take responsibility it has consequences. They learn about the value of recycling, how to do proper shopping and some other economic principles. They also learn that they can provide for their family since they also need to buy "responsible" items such as food and toiletries.

This project is just the opposite of "just handing out stuff....."

4.7 What is the needlework project all about?

The needlework project has been in existence for many years and is mostly attended by domestic workers in the area and not just women from Woodlane Village. The classes are presented on Mondays (sewing) and Wednesdays (knitting and crochet). The women are taught to produce articles that can be sold and some of them are sewing children's clothing for a company. The project is presented by volunteers.

4.8 Pure Hope Kindergarten and Primary School

The Pure Hope School is a registered NPO and will be 9 years old this year (2019). It has started with a playgroup for 7 children from Woodlane Village. Currently the Pure Hope School consists of a registered pre-primary and a registered primary school with 320 children. From 2 years old until Grade R there are 8 classes and from Grade 1 to Grade 7 there are 11 classes. There are 20 teachers, 8 assistants, 2 kitchen staff and one cleaner.

At the moment there are 75% students from RSA and 25 % are foreigners.

Only 50% of the children in the school are from Woodlane Village. The rest are from Mamelodi or children of domestic workers in this area. Since the Department of Education are very strict and the school just had an assessment from Umalusi, all the children in the school are documented.

All English schools in the East of Pretoria are full with a long waiting list, and if Pure Hope did not attend to the need for education these children would not receive any at all.

4.9 Shining Light Congregation

Moreleta Park is one Congregation with 3 faith communities/congregations. M@9, the Afrikaans Congregation; M-Connect the English Congregation; and Shining Light, the African Languages Congregation – all on a Sunday morning at 9:00 in different locations within Moreleta Park Congregation. The Shining Light Congregation is responsible for the spiritual well-being of Woodlane Village and residents are invited to attend this Congregation as well as M-Connect. Shining Light has started with a House of Prayer in Woodlane Village where the assistant pastor is available during the week. Prayer walks are done in the village and small groups are held.

5. Why does the Congregation help when shacks burn down in Woodlane Village?

During 2016, 227 shacks burnt down in Woodlane Village and 5 people died in the fire. During 2018, 62 shacks burnt down with no lives lost. Some people say the residents do that on purpose. Those of us who helped with the relief effort and saw the desperation and sadness, knew otherwise. For someone who lost EVERYTHING, 4 plastic bags of food, a blanket and a few pieces of clothing is not much and certainly not worth the effort of burning down everything you own.

There is a very clear difference between relief and development. As LIFT Community Development we try to adhere to the principles of development where a community is empowered to look after their own well-being and people are treated and trained and supported in a way that they can start to live with dignity because they take responsibility for their own lives.

Relief means that people with serious need (such as a disaster/crisis of your house burning down) are assisted and supported. Once the serious need is alleviated, the relief effort and support ends. In a crisis such as the two situations where shacks burnt down in Woodlane Village the victims were assisted with basic relief items and within three days the help was ended. Moreleta Park Congregation offered logistical help in cooperation with the Disaster Relief Department of the City of Tshwane, but at least 90 % of all relief items were donated by organisations, companies, the City of Tshwane, other Congregations and NPO's and the wider community.

As Bob Goff says in his book "Everybody Always": grace seems unfair until you need a little yourself.

6. Do the people of Woodlane receive clothing from the Congregation?

The Congregation has a Community Store and articles for the store are donated by the congregation members. The articles include clothing, shoes, toys, kitchen equipment, furniture etc. The Congregation supports 33 organisations (children's homes, old age homes, homes for the deaf, disabled etc) with the contents from the store. We receive an abundance of articles and on Friday mornings the residents from Woodlane Village, the homeless, congregation members and any one in need, can buy articles from the store at a minimal price. The money from this venture is then used to buy a part of the non-perishable food that MPC gives to 25 of the 33 organisations. Every second week on a Thursday, 4 women from the Village help to sort the clothing that are donated and then receive clothing as compensation for the 4 hours that they spend sorting. Women from the Village are used as translators for the support group or on the Children's Health Days, and for the veggie project. For their time and effort, these women receive tokens with which they can buy clothing at the Community Store.

7. What is the Community Forum?

MPC took the initiative to form a Community Forum focussed on the transformation of Woodlane Village as well as Graveyard View. The Villages are not only the responsibility of the Congregation, but of the whole community. The idea is that members of the community who want to see the Villages transformed should be represented on the Forum. Currently members from the Congregation, UP, Garsfontein Police Forum, the City of Tshwane, various Congregations, the Village leadership, Home Owner's Associations, NPO's, concerned individuals etc are part of the Community Forum. The goal of the Community Forum is to have representation from the community that can liaise with the City of Tshwane, coordinate projects and transformation efforts in the Village and find solutions for issues concerning the Village.

HOW DO WE ASSIST THE REST OF OUR COMMUNITY?

1. Our Wholeness Centre

Below are statistics for 2018 that will help to understand what MPC does for the Community:

- Allimentation and food vouchers to people in need – a total of R580 000
- (from this amount R1 500 was allocated to Shining Light and R10 400 to M-Connect)
- The 4 CMR social workers had a case load of 449 individuals (nearly 80% were white individuals and the remaining were individuals of colour) as well as 160 families (75% were white individuals and the remaining individuals were of colour). From these numbers only 4 children and 3 adults were from Plastic View. Six children from Pure Hope were also assisted.
- The counsellors at the Moreleta Park Wholeness Centre reported 3 416 hours of counselling in 2018. Until end of March 2019, 812 hours of counselling had been reported. Of these only 58 hours counselling were given to 4 children and 4 adults in Woodlane Village (Plastic View).

2. Our Community Store

Congregation members donate used clothing, shoes, kitchen ware, toys, bags, linen and furniture to our Community Store. We donate these articles to 33 welfare organisations and NPO's in our community. Each of these organisations is invited once per month to come and choose articles and clothing that they need.

Of these organisations, 25 receive a donation of non-perishable food each month. Our small groups donate a part of the food and the rest are paid for with the sales from the excess clothing in the store.

We give donations to the following organisations:

Name	
Eersterust Welfare organisation for the Aged	Margaretha Ackerman SAVF (Senior citizens in Pretoria-West)
Bramley Children's Home (in Groenkloof)	Nelmapius Worship Centre
Beyers Bytjies (Pre-Primary in Danville)	CMR Moreleta
Whispers (A centre for the deaf in Lynnwood Glen)	Pta Raad vir Bejaardes (Sonskyn Dienssentrum in Capital Park)
Centurion Raad vir Bejaardes	NG Kerk Derdepoot
Christian Faith Ministries (services to the homeless, prostitutes, street children in the midcity)	Vastfontein (Pre-primary, Primary and high school, foster care, Community service in Hammanskraal)
Harmonie Oord (Senior citizens in Sunnyside)	Pta School for the Disabled in Gezina
Horison Sorgsentrum (People that are disabled in Silverton)	Phyllis Robertson (People that are disabled in Gezina)
Huis Oeboentoe (Foster Care in Rietfontein)	PEN (Midcity and Sunnyside)
Huis Vergenoeg (Senior citizens in Villieria)	Pretorius Park Clinic
Jacaranda Children's Home in East Lynne	Danville Project (families)
Child Services (Midcity, Elandspoot, Attridgeville, Mamelodi, Eersterust)	Via Nova School (Children that are disabled in East Lynne)
Kungwini Welfare Organisation (People that are disabled in Zwavelpoort)	National Youth Development Outreach in Eersterust
General Nic Smit Primary School (in Claremont)	Wolmer Project (families)

Moreleta Park Congregation also supports PEN, Vastfontein, Ons Huis, Phyllis Robertson, Clinics4Jesus (mobile clinic), Harmonie Oord and Helpflift financially every month.

Moreleta Park Congregation has always been willing to answer any questions about our involvement in Woodlane Village. People who need more information can contact Retha Erasmus at 012 997 8006 | retha@moreleta.co.za