

Staff Contingency Fund COVID-19 Fundraiser

The Devastating Effect on Staff at Volmoed



Volmoed Retreat Centre

The Volmoed Trust (known as the Volmoed Retreat Centre) has a fantastic staff, who are grounds and maintenance staff, cleaners, and office staff. However, Volmoed Retreat Centre and the staff have been severely impacted by the **total lockdown in South Africa**, aimed to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 virus.

Due to the cancellation of bookings for the foreseeable future, there is **no income to pay the staff for the next months**.

South Africa is expected to peak in the COVID-19 virus cycle in September.

The staff have been shifted to **60% of their salaries** until bookings return, which may not be until the end of 2020. We are raising money so that Volmoed can support the staff during the next six months, and in emergencies and crises, be able to offer help. Because the US dollar is strong against the ZA Rand, a small amount goes a long way in South Africa!

\$1,500 pays salaries for all the cleaners, grounds, and office staff for one week

\$400 pays the health insurance for all staff for one week

\$250 pays the grounds and maintenance staff for one week

\$75 pays the salaries of two half-time workers for one week

The money raised will contribute to a **Staff Contingency Fund** that will help our staff through this difficult time. It means that fourteen staff and their families will have enough food for the next month and be able to pay their rent and monthly bills.

The Staff Contingency Fund will be spent on **food parcels for each family**, to ensure they have enough food over the months. If there are crises or emergencies, the funds will be available to support them.

The Volmoed Trust (known as the Volmoed Retreat Centre) is a beautiful retreat and conference centre that has been a place of healing and wholeness in the Hemelen-Aarde Valley near Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa for thirty four years. Over the years it has had a focus on racial reconciliation, as well as reconciliation within families or in relationships. Many people have found the beauty and space of Volmoed is a container that affords them the opportunity to confront and discover their differences, or their brokenness, and find resolution, wholeness, and peace.



Volmoed Youth Leadership Training Program (VYLTP) is a program of The Volmoed Trust, based at Volmoed each year. The centre offers a perfect place for the reflection, creative expression, engagement in learning and courageous conversations, art, walks and hikes, and more, of the program.



VYLTP is supporting the staff of the The Volmoed Trust, by raising money to obtain food parcels and supermarket vouchers to give the 14 staff families. To this date, VYLTP has given R10,000 (= \$540) and is busy raising more money for food vouchers.

Every \$ and small amount helps! If many of us chip in a bit, we will do this!

During the lockdown, Volmoed is committed to continue paying the staff the reduced salaries.

But the sad reality is there are no reserves to pay even the reduced salaries during the lockdown as there are no guests, we are closed and all under lockdown, so there is no income.



We are raising money through our friend networks to cover the difference in earnings and to provide funding for any particular staff needs or crises that arise during the lockdown.

Thanks so much for supporting our staff and helping to keep Volmoed going!