

Kidzpositive beads its way to health for all

CHILDREN and their mothers who are infected and affected by HIV/Aids have a champion in their corner.

Staff at Groote Schuur Hospital – who started Kidzpositive, a Section 21 not-for-profit company, in 2000 – are doing sterling work to ensure their charges are taken care of, not only at the hospital but also once they have been discharged.

Dr Paul Roux, who works in the paediatric HIV/Aids clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital, told Jellybean Journal their aim is to raise funds to assist their patients in their daily needs – for food, clothes and bus fare.

“We are raising funds project-by-project and are engaging in activities with various partners,” said Roux.

Their first project – the one-to-one ART (anti-retroviral therapy) project – is being held in conjunction with a UK children’s charity. This project has enabled Roux and his team to buy anti-retroviral therapy for 175 children and 50 mothers at Groote Schuur Hospital, Victoria Hospital and Nazareth House.

Another project – called Positive Beadwork – partnered with St Cyprian’s School and the Claremont Rotary Club, has enabled the

training of 65 mothers to do beadwork. This project has since been expanded to five other sites.

“Some of the women are earning up to R800 a month from sales of their beadwork – that’s equal to the social services grant they receive,” said Roux.

To date a bank, the Solon Foundation, fundraising societies and a graphics firm have teamed up with Kidzpositive.

“Now we need companies to step forward and offer marketing skills so we can market the beadwork products more successfully.”

And while Roux is excited at the prospect that even more funders and partners are coming on board, he said there is still some scope for ‘Beans to help.

“Through Kidzpositive, our team at Groote Schuur Hospital discovered that helping others can be fun too. You don’t have to be someone special to help other people.”

Schools can have their badges made in beadwork as well as on Christmas or greeting cards. Other designs include Christmas tree decorations and the SA flag. Let your imagination run riot. Fax orders and design requests to Kate Gray on 021 406 6169.

See Kidzpositive maze inside

