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DESIGN BEYOND EXPECTATION

# CAPE TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Straatwerk Brochure [2]

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## OPHELP-PROJEKTE

Literally translated as upliftment projects, *OPHELP-Projekte* are not job creation activities. They are a bundle of rehabilitation programmes for people who are not yet able to act productively and responsibly. The projects help desperate (and often destitute) individuals to earn cash in hand by means of honest hard work as an alternative to aggressive begging, theft or other criminal activities.

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## THE HISTORY OF OPHELP-PROJEKTE

The Straatwerk ministry began by ministering to people who were destitute and desperate (broken), operating mainly as an advice ministry. The advice was two-pronged, focusing on:

- ➔ How to live an effective and responsible life in terms of relationships (with God and with fellow human beings), and
- ➔ How to live an effective and responsible life in terms of daily activities (relating to material needs).

Through the years, it became apparent that it was not only necessary to offer the right advice.

It was essential for people to be provided with opportunities to put this advice into practice. While learning the skills relating to a responsible and productive life, broken individuals still needed to cover their material needs. They needed to earn some sort of income through the process of being spiritually trained and sustained.

*OPHELP-Projekte* started with a small opportunity afforded to Straatwerk by the Central City Improvement District (CCID) to clean the Grand Parade at odd hours over the weekend when

the City's Cleansing Department was not operational. A donation from a kind donor, as well as from the Cape Peninsula Reformed Congregation, provided further opportunities.

The CCID was happy with the service rendered. Whenever they needed extra help, Straatwerk teams were able to provide it. Other clients noticed this and started making use of cleaning services. In this way, a rehabilitation programme managed to render good cleansing services, operating on pure business principles.

### TYPICAL JOBS UNDERTAKEN:

- ✦ CLEANING LITTER
- ✦ REMOVING POLLUTION OF ANY KIND
- ✦ CLEANING VACANT BUILDINGS OR SITES
- ✦ LOADING AND OFF-LOADING OF GOODS
- ✦ GUARDING PARKED CARS FOR EVENTS

## SERVICES

*Projek OPRUIM* offers teams of workers performing unskilled manual labour. This is done under the supervision of a foreman working with the team. The foreman assumes the responsibility to ensure that workers do a good job, as prescribed by the client. Clients with particular requirements will have to provide this particular supervision.

*Projek OPRUIM* cannot offer any specified skilled labour, even if such labour is not too complicated (like cleaning homes, gardening services or painting walls), since no training or briefing of this kind is currently offered. The quality of work can therefore not be

guaranteed.

Specialised teams have developed out of the basic rehabilitation phase of *Projek OPRUIM*. Known as *Project DIGNITY* teams, they consist of workers who have proven themselves reliable and capable of specific tasks. These teams operate on a small business basis. *OPHELP-Projekte* provides the complete administrative infrastructure.

Specialised teams include those focused on graffiti removal, pamphlet distribution and dog marshals for public spaces. Although the CCID employs a Technical Team, this team is currently only available to the CCID at this stage.

## ABOUT OPHELP-PROJEKTE

As individuals participate in projects, they learn to appreciate hard work as a source of income. They are also encouraged to become disciples of Jesus and to join a disciple group. (These interventions are referred to as "the School of Life".)

*OPHELP-Projekte* takes a two-track approach:

### TRACK ONE: PROJEK OPRUIM / THE JESUS SAVES PROJECT

The English translation of "opruiim" is "clean-up". In operation since

2003, this track is aimed at potential general labourers. Workers provide a manual labour service to various clients, including the City of Cape Town, several City Improvement Districts, schools, businesses and individuals. *Projek OPRUIM* operates along normal business lines and is therefore reasonably self-sufficient. All work is done in 4-hour shifts.

*Projek OPRUIM* teams render a wide spectrum of services:

"Hot-Spot" shifts – cleaning areas where people have urinated and defecated.

Daily Jesus Saves shifts for handicapped people who cannot meet the challenges of regular shifts.

Community service shifts for those required by the Cape Town Community Court to complete community service through *Projek OPRUIM*.

Removal of graffiti and illegal posters, as well as other technical services shifts for workers with

the applicable technical abilities.

Foreman and supervisor shifts for those who prove themselves capable.

The impact is a general clean-up. As refuse and other undesirable objects are removed from the streets, so too are they removed from the lives of the cleaners. In the process, social problems are solved too. The effect is visible. Everybody notices that Cape Town is cleaner in many ways these days.

People who display

potential in the *Projek OPRUIM* track usually progress to participating in track two, *Project DIGNITY*.

### TRACK TWO: PROJECT DIGNITY

*Project DIGNITY* is for individuals who have the ability to participate in, or even manage, a small business. Straatwerk provides a coaching framework to manage such services with the aim to establish them as independent small businesses.





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