

Help Us Sustain Quality Care for Vulnerable Elders

Submitted by: Issy Geshen Lamont Home

At Issy Geshen Lamont Home, we are acutely aware that the work we do is only made possible through the commitment of our partners—those who believe, as we do, that elders deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness, not just in their prime, but even more so in their most vulnerable years.

This year marks 65 years since our doors first opened in Lamontville–Durban South Africa. It's a milestone we are proud of, not because we've had an easy journey, but because we've endured and remained relevant—through decades of changing needs, limited resources and complex realities.

Today, one of our biggest challenges lies in caring for a growing number of residents living with dementia and Alzheimer's. These elders require intensive, structured care—care that goes well beyond what our current government subsidy can support.

The truth is, we are under immense financial pressure. The cost of medical supplies, adult nappies, medical supplies, care equipment and even nutritious food, has increased significantly. Despite being registered for 68 elders with the Department of Social Development (DSD), we are caring for 69 frail elders, many of whom now live with cognitive decline. Our team of 36 staff does the work of many more—quietly, consistently and with heart. But we cannot carry this load alone.

This is why we are appealing for support to help sustain our Care to the elders we serve. Your support will enable us to provide 24 hour-comprehensive nursing care and maintain a dementia-safe environment, that every elder deserves. We are intentionally strengthening the foundation of our work—expanding our funding partnerships, equipping our caregivers for long-term impact and championing the rights and recognition of older persons at every level.

We're asking for your partnership in a shared responsibility—to protect those who cannot advocate for themselves. We know that the situation is not easy, but we also believe that solutions are possible when good people come together.

We don't claim to have all the answers. But we do have the resolve. With your support, we can continue to show up for those who have no one else to turn to.



Thank you for considering our appeal and for your commitment to ensuring that even in their most vulnerable moments, our elders are met with care, dignity and hope.



Celebrating 65 years of Impact



Watch the video to see the Impact of your Generosity:

<https://issygeshen.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/IG-April-2025-ver1.mp4>



Sustaining Dignity and Care for Elders Living with Dementia

Executive Summary

As South Africa's population ages, the demand for long-term eldercare has never been greater—yet the resources available to meet this demand continue to shrink. The Issy Geshen Lamont Home for the Aged stands as a beacon of hope for frail and vulnerable elders, offering 24-hour nursing care, dementia support and dignified living to those most in need. For 65 years, we have served more than 15,000 elders with compassion and commitment.

We appeal for support to help sustain and strengthen our **Dementia Care**, serving elders living with cognitive decline and chronic disease. The requested funding will support three key areas:

1	2	3
Specialised Nursing Care & Training – Dementia & Alzheimer's	Enhance Dementia Care Unit	Medical Supplies and Equipment

This investment directly supports our ability to meet **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**:



SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG 10

Reduce inequality within and among communities



SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms by providing social protection



The Crisis We Cannot Ignore

By 2050, Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to have **165 million older persons**. In South Africa, citizens over the age of 60 will represent **over 10.5%** of the population. Alarming statistics reveal:

86% of elders report at least one functional disability

****67%** experience cognitive decline or dementia-related symptoms

Over **50% live in poverty**, surviving on a state pension of **R2,090 per month**

Despite these realities, public funding is insufficient. Our Home is among the few in the region that provides full-time dementia care to Black vulnerable elders.

A Beacon of
Dignity & Care



Our Response: A Beacon of Dignity & Care

The Issy Geshen Lamont Home has responded by establishing a **dedicated Dementia Care Unit** in 2024. This unit offers secure, structured care for 69 elders living with Alzheimer's and dementia. Beyond dementia care, we provide holistic support including:

- 24-hour professional nursing care and medication
- Professional occupational and physiotherapy
- 3 Nutritious meals daily
- Safe and secure accommodation for 69 elders
- Psycho-social support and counselling – both beneficiaries and their families (including the local community)
- Therapeutic recreation and community integration
- Safe shelter for elders affected by abuse or abandonment
- Hospital and doctor visits
- Active Ageing exercises and various programmes



Who We Are Supporting & The Difference Your Funding Will Make

Primary – Direct Beneficiaries:

This proposal directly supports **69 frail, vulnerable and indigent older persons**, most of whom are over 70, many of whom live with:

- Chronic illnesses (diabetes, hypertension, stroke, heart disease)
- Cognitive impairments (dementia, Alzheimer's)
- Limited or no mobility, or bedbound
- Complete dependence on the Home for survival

Indirect Beneficiaries:

- Elders living in the community
- Local clinics and hospitals benefiting from reduced readmissions

The ripple effect of our care reaches over 1000 older people annually.



We CARE for the following elders:

Frail Elders in Incontinence

24 frail elders require specialised 24-hour nursing care and use adult nappies (incontinence) due to frail health.

Bedbound Elders

8 frail elders are bedbound and require constant specialised nursing care.

Assisted Living

12 elders receive care and support due to the growing demand for older persons suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke and heart disease.

Dementia & Alzheimer's

25 frail elders live with dementia and Alzheimer's.

Our Impact

The Issy Geshen Lamont Home has been instrumental in delivering comprehensive care services to frail and vulnerable elders for 65 years, leaving a lasting impact on their lives and the broader community. The outcomes and impact of the Home's services are multifaceted, addressing various dimensions of the well-being of the elderly.

Expected Health Outcomes

- Improved physical health and prevention of complications (bedsores, infections)
- Better cognitive engagement and reduction in dementia-related deterioration

Behavioural and Psychosocial Outcomes

- Reduced agitation, depression and confusion
- Improved dignity, safety, emotional well-being and trust in caregivers

Our Work | Our Mission

a. Enhanced Quality of Life

Through the provision of safe accommodation, nutritious meals, and 24-hour nursing care, the Home has significantly enhanced the quality of life for its 69 frail elders. These essential services contribute to the physical and emotional well-being of the residents.

b. Improved Physical Health

Specialised nursing care, medical attention, and regular monitoring provided by the Home have contributed to the improved physical health of elders facing chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, Alzheimer's, and other health challenges.

c. Emotional and Psycho-social Support

The Home's commitment to mental health and wellbeing addresses the emotional and psychological needs of residents, fostering a supportive environment where elders feel understood and cared for during times of distress.

d. Dignity and Respect

The Home's philosophy of providing care with love, respect, and dignity ensures that elders receive the respect they deserve in their golden years. This approach contributes to a sense of self-worth and dignity among the residents.

e. Social Inclusion and Activities

Regular social activities and educational programmes organised by the Home promote social inclusion among the elderly residents. These initiatives not only provide entertainment but also foster a sense of community, reducing feelings of isolation.

f. Community Outreach and Awareness

The Home's outreach programmes aim to advocate for the needs and challenges faced by older persons. By sensitising the younger generation and the broader society, the Home contributes to building awareness about the importance of supporting the elderly.

g. Empowerment Through Education

Educational programmes conducted by the Home empower elders by providing information about their human rights, chronic health disease risks, and health and safety requirements. This empowerment enhances the ability of residents to make informed decisions about their well-being.

h. Mitigation of Elder Abuse

In response to the rising cases of elder abuse, the Home has become a refuge for elders seeking safe accommodation. By providing a secure environment, the Home actively mitigates instances of elder abuse within the community.



i. Sustainable Long-Term Care

Despite financial challenges, the Home's appeal for support ensures the sustainability of long-term care services. The ongoing commitment of the Home and the support of generous donors contribute to the continued provision of essential services to frail and bedbound elders.

j. Extended Impact Beyond Residents

The impact of the Home extends beyond its residents to the broader community. By addressing the increasing demand for a safe and affordable old age home for the elderly, the Home plays a vital role in community development and social welfare.

The Impact of Your Support

Enables us to:

- 1 Enhance the quality of life of our elders by providing safe accommodation, nutritious meals, and 24-hour nursing care.
- 2 Improve the physical health of elders living with dementia, Alzheimers's and other chronic diseases through specialised nursing care and medical attention.
- 3 Address the emotional and psycho-social needs of our elders, fostering a supportive environment.
- 4 Ensure our elders receive the dignity and respect they deserve.
- 5 Promote social inclusion and reduce feelings of isolation through regular social activities, active ageing and educational programmes.
- 6 Advocate for the needs of older persons and build awareness about the importance of supporting the elderly.
- 7 Empower our elders through educational programmes on their rights, health risks, and safety requirements.
- 8 Mitigate elder abuse by providing a secure environment for those seeking safe accommodation.
- 9 Ensure the sustainability of our long-term care services despite financial challenges.
- 10 Extend our impact beyond our residents to the broader community, playing a vital role in community development and social welfare.

We track our impact through

- Weekly and monthly health reviews and clinical assessments
- Pre- and post-training evaluations for staff
- Resident behaviour and feedback
- Resident and family satisfaction surveys
- Annual independent audit and comprehensive impact reporting from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and Department of Health (DOH)



Project Objectives & Funding Needs

At Issy Geshen Lamont Home, we believe that no elder should journey through their final years feeling forgotten, confused or alone. For the elders living with dementia, every day presents profound challenges—navigating memory loss, fear and the slow fading of once-familiar faces and places. Yet in the midst of this decline, compassionate care can restore something priceless: dignity, comfort and connection.

Specifically, your generosity will allow us to provide:

SUMMARISED BUDGET

Priority Area	Purpose	
Specialised Nursing Care & Training – Dementia & Alzheimer’s	Equip caregivers with advanced skills in dementia and Alzheimer’s care—to deliver person-centred, trauma-informed support	
Enhanced Dementia Care Unit	Our care environment is designed to ensure safety, minimise agitation and foster meaningful engagement through specialised dementia support.	
Medical Supplies & Equipment	Provide essential adult continence products: adult nappies and urgent medical supplies.	

This funding will directly touch the lives of our elders and strengthen the quality of care we provide to all 69 elders at the Home.

We invite you to help us sustain this sanctuary of care and calm in a world that too often forgets its elders. With your support, we can ensure that every resident living with dementia continues to receive the attention, empathy and specialised care they so richly deserve.

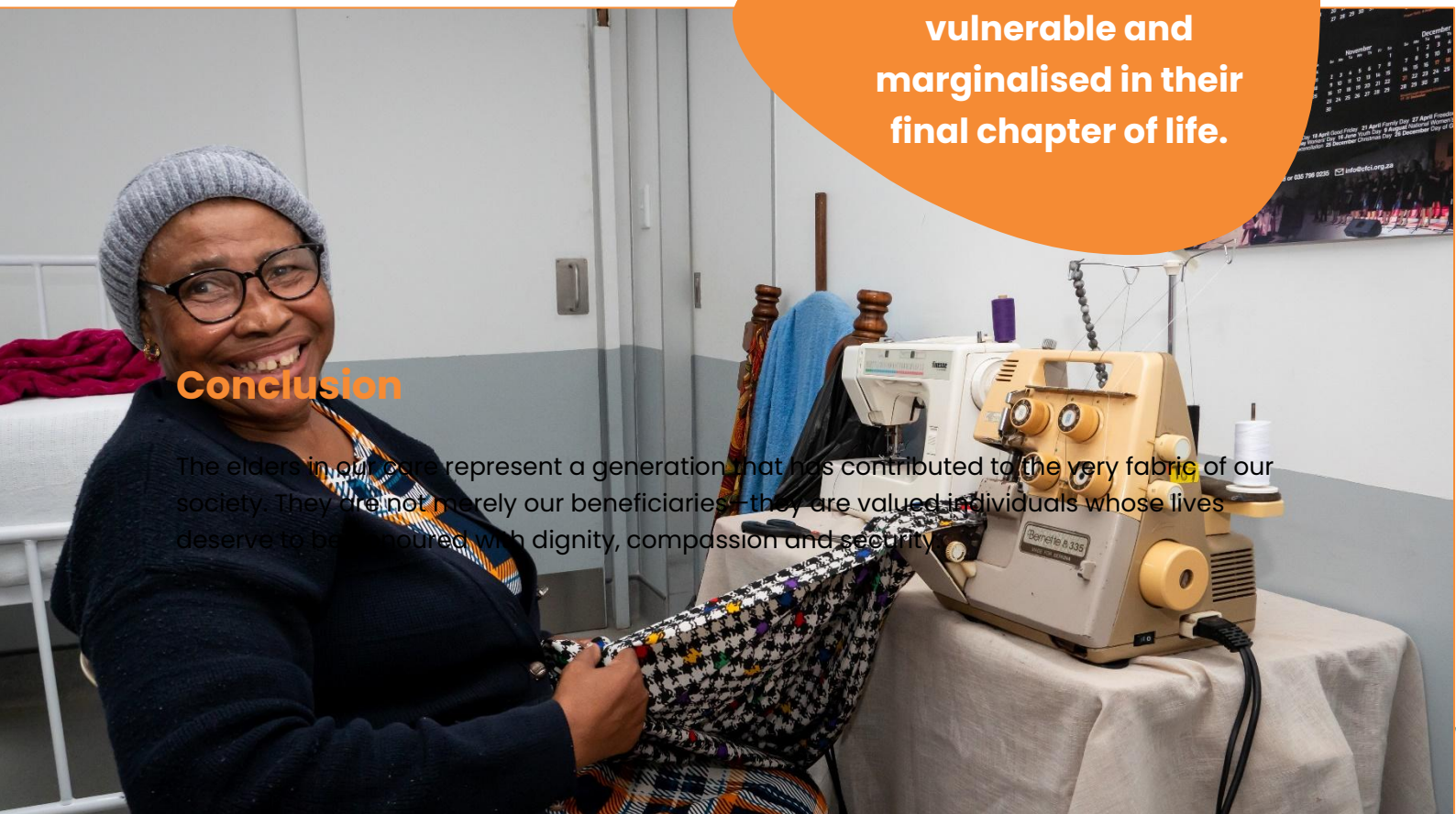




Organisational Competence & Track Record

With 65 years of unwavering service, Issy Geshen Lamont Home has earned a trusted reputation as a centre of excellence in eldercare—anchored by skilled professionals, sound governance and a deep commitment to continuous impact.

You will help us restore dignity to the most vulnerable and marginalised in their final chapter of life.



Conclusion

The elders in our care represent a generation that has contributed to the very fabric of our society. They are not merely our beneficiaries—they are valued individuals whose lives deserve to be honoured with dignity, compassion and security.

As we mark 65 years of service, Issy Geshen Lamont Home remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering quality, person-centred care to those who are most vulnerable. However, sustaining this level of care—particularly for residents living with dementia and who are bedbound—requires continued investment, collaboration and vision.

We invite you to partner with us in this mission. Your support will not only address urgent needs but will contribute to a legacy of care that uplifts lives, strengthens communities and upholds our shared responsibility to protect and serve our elders.

Thank you for considering our appeal.



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