

World Autism Acceptance Month – April



The month of April is World Autism Acceptance month.

Accordingly, Camphill Communities Hermanus, both Farm and School, would like to encourage you this month to celebrate individuals diagnosed with autism within your own communities.

In 1939, Dr. Karl Konig, an Austrian Paediatrician, together with a group of young professionals, founded a Camphill Community in Aberdeen, Scotland, in which they would care for, live and work with and educate children and adults with special needs, particularly with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a community setting. Camphill internationally celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2020.

The heart of Camphill is inspired by Anthroposophy, a philosophy of Rudolf Steiner that seeks to integrate and harmonize body, soul and spirit within the human being by providing an environment and way of life where children, young adults and adults diagnosed with special needs, learning or intellectual disability can live and work together in a mutually supportive, caring and safe environment. Today, there are over one hundred Camphill communities worldwide in over 20 countries.

Camphill School Hermanus (established in 1952) and Camphill Farm Community Hermanus (established in 1978) are two such long-standing Camphill Communities, with learners and adults from both from local Overstrand communities and further afield, all of whom have intellectual and physical disabilities of varying nature including the broad spectrum of autism.

Camphill Farm Community Hermanus provides residential accommodation and meaningful work opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities in order to support them in experiencing a better quality of life.

Camphill School is a day-school offering specialized holistic education, various therapy interventions and care to learners aged between 6 to 18 years. Each learner has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) that is suited for their conditions. The learners at Camphill School, much more for the children in the spectrum of autism, are nurtured and integrated in a healthy and sound environment with rhythm that fosters acceptance, affirmation, tolerance, perseverance, love, care and respect. They are accepted for who they are as a whole human being as we lovingly strive to accompany them in their unique life's journey towards

their full potential while recognizing and celebrating their gifts to humanity that they have unfolded in their own pace.

Both Camphill Communities operate under significant financial constraints, largely as a result of a significant number of the residents and learners coming from poor backgrounds and therefore unable to pay for the support offered to them. 96 % of the children at Camphill School are collected on a daily basis from the surrounding previously disadvantaged communities, namely Mount Pleasant, Zwelihle and Hawston, and dropped off at their respective homes after school.

We are grateful to each and every person who plays a role in supporting Camphill's vision and ethos to improve the lives of our residents and learners through programmes and projects (as funds permit) in this extraordinary environment, adding a calming and supportive aspect to their lives, however complex their individuals maybe.

For more information please contact:

Camphill Farm Community Hermanus

Michelle Van Zyl on 021 200-2230 and michellezv@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Open for Resident admissions: please contact Sally Titlestad for more information on sally@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Camphill School Hermanus

Genevieve Linney on 028 312-4949 and Genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za

Open for admissions: please contact the School directly 028 312-4949