Meeting the Need through loving Deeds
Registered as a Non-profit Organization Number: 007-316
PBO Number: 930057731
Cell: 061 548 5973 / 078 618 0394
E-mail: familycareministries.sa@gmail.com

Christmas Ideas

🎄 1. "Christmas Around the Braai" – Bring & Braai at an Old Age Home

The idea:
Create a special Pre Christmas celebration for elderly residents who may otherwise spend Christmas period quietly or alone.

FCM could partner with an old age home and host a **Bring & Braai Pre Christmas Day or Christmas Eve event**.

What the day could include:

- 🍖 Braai meat, chicken, boerewors and salads
- 🧁 Christmas sides and desserts
- 🎶 Christmas music and live entertainment
- 🎁 A small Christmas gift for every resident
- 📸 A Christmas photo corner
- 🙏 A short Christmas message/prayer
- ❤️ Volunteers sitting and eating with residents rather than simply serving them
- 🎄 Christmas decorations to transform the dining area into something festive

The important part:

Many elderly people don't necessarily need another material gift — **they need to feel remembered**.

Volunteers could be paired with residents for the day so that nobody sits alone.

Donor opportunity:
A company could sponsor the entire event, sponsor a table of residents, provide meat and groceries, donate gifts or provide entertainment.

Possible campaign message:

"This Christmas, let's make sure no elderly person feels forgotten."

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💅 2. “Christmas of Dignity” – Nails, Hair & Shaving Day

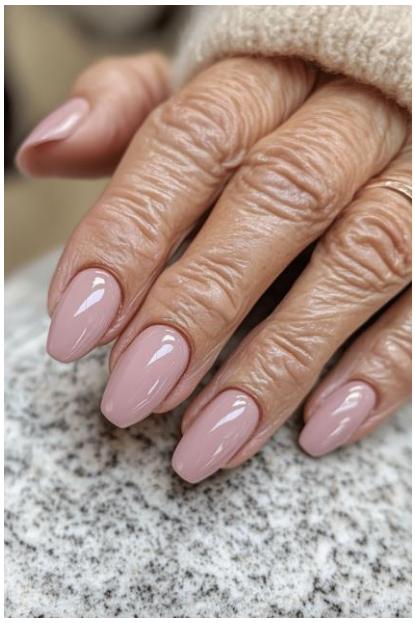
This could be a particularly beautiful FCM initiative because it focuses on something that is often overlooked: **personal dignity**.

The idea:

Take a group of volunteer beauticians, barbers, hairdressers and nail technicians into an old age home or community centre and give residents a **Christmas makeover day**.

For women:

- 💅 Manicures and nail painting
- 💇 Hair washing and styling
- 🧴 Hand creams and pampering
- 💄 Simple makeovers if appropriate



For men:

- 🪒 Shaving
- 💇 Haircuts
- 🧴 Grooming
- 👔 Help getting dressed up for the Christmas celebration

Make it an experience:

Don't make it feel like a service being performed on people.

Put on Christmas music, serve tea and cake, decorate the space and let volunteers **sit and talk with the residents**.

Then finish with a Christmas lunch or tea.

Add a “Christmas Portrait” element

After each resident has been pampered, take a beautiful photograph of them in front of a Christmas backdrop.

Give each person a printed photograph in a small frame.

Imagine an elderly resident receiving a framed photograph of themselves looking beautiful and feeling special.

Donor opportunity:

Businesses could sponsor:

- A resident's makeover
- Beauty products
- Haircuts
- Grooming supplies
- Frames and photographs
- Lunch and refreshments

Campaign message:

“Christmas isn't only about what we give. It's about how we make people feel.”

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WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is a season of sharing moments and memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Christmas is a time to see the world with eyes of love. It's a time to remember that the world is made up of people like us, and to see them for who they are inside. All have problems like we do, and hearts as fragile as ours—no matter who they are or where they come from.

🎁 3. “Christmas Shoebox of Hope” – Kids Christmas Shoebox Project

This could become one of FCM's biggest annual Christmas campaigns.

The idea:

Ask churches, schools, businesses, families and individuals to **sponsor a child and pack a Christmas shoebox**.

Each box could contain:

👕 Something to wear

- T-shirt
- Socks
- Underwear
- Cap

🧸 Something to play with

- Small toy
- Ball
- Doll
- Puzzle
- Skipping rope

✏️ Something for school

- Colouring book
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Pencil case
- Notebook

🍪 Something to eat

- Sweets
- Biscuits
- Chocolates
- Small treats

❤️ Something personal

Encourage donors to include a handwritten Christmas card:

“Merry Christmas. Someone who cares about you chose this gift especially for you.”

That personal message can be incredibly powerful.

Make it more than a shoebox

FCM could organise a **Christmas Shoebox Celebration Day** where the children receive their boxes, enjoy food, music, games and entertainment.

If possible, have volunteers dressed as Christmas characters and create a festive atmosphere.

Corporate sponsorship:

A company could sponsor **50, 100 or 500 children**.

FCM could provide the company with:

- Number of children supported
- Photographs where appropriate and consented
- A short impact report
- A thank-you certificate

Campaign message:

"You may see a shoebox. A child sees Christmas morning."

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🥣 4. “Christmas Treats of Love” – Hampers for Children & Elderly

This could be particularly effective for FCM's feeding schemes because it allows donors to provide something special to both **children and elderly beneficiaries**.

Instead of a conventional food parcel, create a **Christmas Treat Hamper**.

🎄 Children's hamper

Could include:

- Christmas sweets
- Biscuits
- Juice
- Chocolate
- Chips/popcorn
- Small toy
- Colouring book
- Crayons
- Christmas card

❤️‍🩹 Elderly hamper

Could include:

- Tea
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Rusks
- Tinned food
- Long-life milk
- Jam
- Christmas pudding or cake
- Personal-care items
- A small Christmas gift

The beautiful addition:

Every hamper should include a handwritten Christmas card.

Something as simple as:

“You are not forgotten this Christmas. Someone thought of you.”

For an elderly person who may feel isolated, that message can be worth more than the contents of the hamper.

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⭐ A Bigger FCM Christmas Campaign

Rather than presenting these as four unrelated projects, I would consider putting them together under **one annual FCM Christmas campaign**:

🎄 **FCM – CHRISTMAS OF HOPE**

Giving more than gifts. Giving dignity, connection and hope.

Then have four pillars:

Christmas Project	Who It Helps	What It Provides
🎄 Christmas Around the Braai	Elderly	Food, fellowship & celebration
🪮 Christmas of Dignity	Elderly	Grooming, pampering & dignity
🎁 Christmas Shoebox of Hope	Children	Gifts, treats & school supplies
🥁 Christmas Treats of Love	Children & elderly	Christmas hampers & personal gifts

And give donors simple choices:

R150 – Sponsor a Christmas Treat Hamper
R250 – Sponsor a child's Christmas shoebox
R500 – Sponsor an elderly resident's Christmas experience
R1,000 – Sponsor a Christmas table at the braai
R5,000+ – Sponsor an entire Christmas event or group

The actual amounts should be adjusted once FCM has calculated its costs.

The strongest message for FCM would be:

"For some of us, Christmas is a time of abundance. For others, it can be a reminder of what they don't have. FCM wants to change that — one meal, one gift, one conversation and one moment of dignity at a time."

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Community outreach - Old Age Homes and Flats		Creches
Old Age Hom (120 residents)	**Moffatview**	
Karina Place (25 ladies only)	**South Hill**	**Little eagles Eldorado Park (11 kids)**
Northem Place (25 residents Mixed)	**South Hill**	
Radio Cottages (55 residents)	**Brixton**	**Jungle tots Bellavista (24 kids and 4 babies)**
Caroline Old Age Home (60 residents)	**Brixton**	
Brixton Flats (180 residents)	**Brixton**	
Teak Court (18 Residents)	**Brixton**	**Louisa smart kids creche Moffatview (36 of kids and babies)**
Amber Court(18 Residents)	**Brixton**	
Akasia Court (18 Residents	**Brixton**	

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May this Christmas Activity Program inspire you to bring joy, hope, and practical support to those in need.

There is a meaningful activity for everyone, whether you are an individual, a family, a church, or a corporate organisation. You can participate independently or partner with Family Care Ministries to make an even greater impact.

Our activities are designed to suit every budget, from small pockets to big hearts. After all, it's not the size of the gift that matters, but the difference it makes in someone's life.

If you need any help let us know. We are here to serve.

For corporates we can handle your CSI commitment and save you tax.

BANKING DETAILS:
Family Care Ministries,
First National Bank
Cresta Branch #254905
Current Account: 62028163012

We appreciate your reference of phone number or name so we can give honour where honour is due.

Merry Christmas,
Josef Bitschnau
CEO/Chairman
Family Care Ministries
Cell: 061 5485973