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CTICC celebrates 14th anniversary by giving back

STAFF REPORTER

The Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) celebrated its 14th anniversary by donating R14 000 worth of goods to each of its five community partners.

The donation, worth R70 000 in total, included electronic devices, kitchen appliances, furniture and catering equipment.

The CTICC, which opened its doors in 2003, has entered into a partnership with Ikhaya le Themba, Abalimi Bezekhaya, Foundation for Alcohol Related Research (FARR), Journey of Enrichment, and Mothers Unite, which are all NGOs operating in the Western Cape and working in vulnerable communities.

The partners were asked to identify critical items they need to enhance and improve their operations. "Our 14th birthday presented the ideal opportunity for the CTICC to celebrate and support the work done by our local community partners," said Julie-May Ellingson, the chief executive officer of the CTICC.

Abalimi Bezekhaya supports micro-farming on the Cape Flats, and has been a partner of the CTICC for over 10 years. The organisation's social business, Harvest of Hope, also supplies the centre's catering department with fresh, organic vegetables.

Rob Small, the founder of Abalimi Bezekhaya, said: "The



■ Staff from the CTICC celebrated the centre's 14th anniversary with local community organisations.

CTICC, at 14 years old, has been walking the long road with Abalimi for over 10 of those years – the road to food and economic freedom through family farming. We are grateful for the CTICC's ongoing support. For example, their hands-on support on Mandela Day and their birthday gift of new laptops for our highly pressured admin unit. Most of all, we are grateful for the CTICC's determination and stamina to stay the course with us.

Another long-standing partner of the CTICC, FARR, works and conducts research around foetal

alcohol syndrome thought to affect at least three million people in South Africa.

"The CTICC adopted FARR in 2012 as one of its CSI projects. Since then, FARR has received numerous contributions ranging from furniture, conference bags, blankets and toys for our clients. Donations like these are priceless as it fills so many gaps which we cannot fund from day-to-day project funding.

"FARR is extremely honoured and grateful for the CTICC's support in the important task of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

research, awareness and prevention," said FARR's Chief Executive Officer, Leana Olivier.

Journey of Enrichment, a feeding scheme operating in Cape Town will use the catering equipment and furniture it received in its outreach programmes.

"As a non-profit organisation that relies so much on community support, we have mainly operated on a word-of-mouth basis and on the generous support of family and friends.

"Understandably, this has not afforded us the opportunity to acquire items that could improve

both our visibility and ability to fulfil our aims and objectives.

"That being said, these gifts from the CTICC are a huge boost for us and an empowering contribution for our non-profit organisation," said Tasneem Abrahams, treasurer at Journey of Enrichment.

Ikhaya le Themba, which also took part in the CTICC's Youth Day programme last month, received much-needed laptops for their field staff.

The organisation does extensive family support and enterprise development work in the community of Khayelitsha.

Theresa Richardson, Enterprise Development Manager, at Ikhaya le Themba said: "To have mobile hardware that our mentors and staff can use in the field makes a huge difference in keeping our systems in place and reducing the amount of hours needed to do admin, allowing us to focus on the families and children in need. These laptops are changing lives and making our organisation more effective in the community."

Mothers Unite, which is dedicated to tackling poverty in Seawinds and Lavender Hills, received kitchen appliances.

Gerry Gordon, director of Mothers Unite, said the appliances will help in furthering their aims of assisting the children and the most vulnerable elderly in the nutrition project where meals are cooked and distributed.