



## Community service in rural South Africa

**To the Editor:** It cannot be overemphasised that community service is a thoroughly worthwhile undertaking. Community service in rural South Africa is not only a vehicle for provision, it is also an opportunity to develop skills and to acquire knowledge, sound behaviour patterns and critical thinking.

It has influenced me:

- To be sensitised to the needs of people in rural communities
- To experience the challenge of making a difference in areas of need, which is indeed emotionally gratifying
- To develop a culture of endurance and survival strategies to withstand the adversity of rural South Africa
- To realise the paucity of initiatives dedicated to the recruitment and retention of young professionals in these areas of great need
- To understand that such basic amenities as good accommodation, laundry facilities, recreational facilities, access to telecommunication systems and other attractive service conditions are valuable prerequisites for the maintenance of sanity and professional integrity in these settings
- To appreciate the essential roles of the institutions' senior management and the district office in the facilitation of linkages with regional and provincial offices.

It never ceases to amaze and humble me to realise:

- The resilience of the deprived communities in our country
- The astounding distances that poor indigenous South Africans travel to enlist the expertise of professionals
- The fortitude with which they endure difficult circumstances in order to receive medical services, which we continually seek strategies to improve
- Their perseverance when faced with the unending challenges they have to tackle in their desperate need for medical attention
- The sincerity and appreciation with which they receive our services.

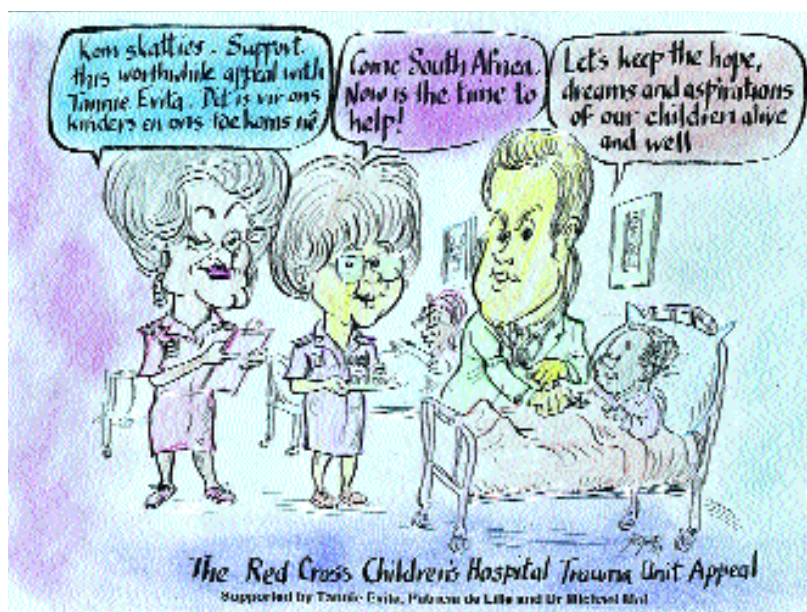
The energy of young professionals growing and working together can be harnessed to create the unimagined — a world full of opportunities and possibilities for everyone. To the young professionals in rural hospitals: never underestimate the tremendous impact that your touch transcends to the hearts of the individuals you serve

Keep up the good service!

**M Kolosa**

*Cala Hospital  
Privat Bag X516  
Cala  
Eastern Cape*

## Kom skatties! A worthwhile appeal



On 2 June 2003 the Red Cross Children's Hospital launched an appeal to raise funds for a desperately needed new Trauma Unit.

### How to give

Donations for the Trauma Unit appeal can be deposited into the Children's Hospital Trust account, Standard Bank account number 071-443 126 (Branch code 025-009). Fax a copy of your deposit slip to the Trust (021 686-7861). Pledges can also be made on a 24-hour hotline at 082 232 3022. Alternatively make a donation online at [www.kidzhospital.co.za](http://www.kidzhospital.co.za)