

UPINGTON

Raising awareness regarding FASD in Upington in a very special way!

The FARR Staff in Upington commemorated International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Day (9 September) in collaboration with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Northern Cape Alcohol and Drug Office (NADO). All present were treated to a lovely breakfast at the Baines Guest House, sponsored by DSD. All Covid-19 prevention protocols, including pre-admittance health screens of participants, the wearing of masks, as well as hand sanitization had to be observed.

Mrs Charmaine Vos, DSD Social Work Manager, as well as the Z. F. M District Director of the Department of Social Development, Advocate M. E. A. October, graced the occasion with their presence.

The highlight of the day was when the Department surprised the pregnant women in attendance with beautiful baby care gift packs. These gift packs contained a baby bath, baby clothes, as well as essential baby toiletries. This generous gesture of the Department is a true demonstration of the support and care that ought to be shown to all pregnant woman by family and friends, as well as society in general. The FASD prevention message of "No alcohol is safe during pregnancy" was delivered by Ms Grace Humphreys, the FARR Project Coordinator in Upington.

The FARR Community Workers enlightened the gathering about the symbolism of the FASD Awareness Knot. They also discuss the challenges experienced by people living with FASD, their families and care givers. The participants cheerfully participated in songs which included messages about safe alcohol and drug-free pregnancies. All present joyfully participated in doing the Jerusalema dance.

In the Days prior to 9 September, FARR Staff in Upington distributed educational information and pamphlets about the significance of International FASD Day to 19 Government Departments and NGO's, requesting them to commemorate the day in small group gatherings at their respective places of work. In doing this we collectively succeeded to raise awareness regarding the dangers of prenatal alcohol use and FASD in Upington.



Officials from DSD, NADO, FARR as well as members from the local community.



Advocat M.E.A. October delivered the key note address to commemorate FASD Day with FARR staff and community members.



FARR clients who attended the 9 September 2020 FASD Day commemoration.



Upington staff members