

THE HOPE EXCHANGE LOCKER PROJECT IN CAPE TOWN

The Hope Exchange, formally known as The Carpenter Shop, is a support organization offering skills training, second phase rehabilitation (for homeless people) and welfare services to the homeless and destitute in the heart of the city of Cape Town. The organization, founded in 1841, assists trainees to reintegrate into society and reunite with families where possible. Additional services include the development of a CV, job-seeking skills, social grant applications and life-skills (including job readiness training). Some temporary accommodation is offered and “drop-in” ablutions and laundry facilities are offered.

This year, the projects that started in 2017 with IDACA SSA student volunteers from UCT continued. A previous post about the original funding by Govind Srivastav (UCLA SSA 2017) can be found in this news section. This semester, **Liz Lawton (Boston College), Aliza Newman (UC Santa Barbara), Olivia Sorenson (Boston College) and Elena Hauser (UCB)** creatively applied themselves to interviewing, planning, fundraising for and eventually launching a medical locker facility for clients at the centre. The clients are able to store their medication, clinic cards, IDs and medical schedules safely. The locker system also provides them with a water bottle and snack to assist with taking their medication. The clients have access to a social care professional to speak to regarding their immediate needs. This new facility launched in May this year, frees up the clients to focus on improving their situations instead of worrying about the safety of their medication on the streets.

Four new IDACA SSA students will be able to continue working on a new project during the 2019 second semester. Funding through Govind and his association with the Global Development Lab at UC Los Angeles assisted in kick-starting the 2018 projects. The four student volunteers will be assisted with a small stipend to cover their transport costs to the centre in the city, the funds for which are currently been raised by Govind and the above students through crowd-funding. Funding through Govind and his association with the Global Development Lab at UC Los Angeles assisted in kick-starting the 2018 projects.