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Linda Roberts, Cynthia Gilliland, Myrtle Williams, Lerato Setai, Millisa de Beer, and Millicent le Grange from Ladies of Hope in Ennerdale.

Ladies of Hope still standing and serving the community

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The Covid-19 pandemic has crippled many organisations in our communities and some are just hanging on to the little hope they have because our communities really need their services. Ladies of Hope is an organisation which has been running for the past twenty years.

The organisation has been providing essential services to many not just in the Ennerdale community but in the Gauteng area. Services offered by Ladies of Hope include a Hospice IPU where they specialise in palliative care and a home-based care programme where caregivers go out to take care of the elderly patients in their own homes.

The organisation has a drug rehabilitation centre which provides counselling to drug addicts and refers them to in-patient rehabilitation centres if needed. On the premises

they also offer: marriage counselling, trauma counselling, pre and post marital counselling and many other community services.

Ladies of Hope has a feeding scheme which caters to the community of Ennerdale three times a week. They also have a support and shelter for abused women and children who have been affected by gender-based violence and drug abuse.

We asked the founder and CEO of Ladies of Hope Myrtle Williams about how the pandemic affected the organisation and she said: "With the initial 21 days of lockdown last year, we were going back and forth, not knowing what to do. We then closed everything down for the first three weeks of lockdown and I then joined the Covid disaster group in Ennerdale and it was then when it dawned on me that we cannot close the place down because we are the so-called frontline workers. We decided to reopen and rotate staff so that not everyone was here

together."

Even though the organisation has been operating through the pandemic, Williams added that the challenge they are currently facing is the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) because they need to protect themselves as they are also doing covid testing at the centre.

The organisation has also been struggling with the rise of people coming to the feeding scheme and are need of sponsors for groceries so that they can cook for the masses every week.

For support or sponsorships towards Ladies of Hope, you can contact Linda Roberts who is the fundraising co-ordinator on: 010 230 0046 or email: linda@ladiesofhope.co.za. You can also visit the website: www.ladiesofhope.co.za for more information on Women of Hope.