



De Beers Group donates laptops to the University of Venda



L-R: Mr Giff Chauke (SRC President); Mr Dzivhuluwani Mugari (Postgraduate Chairperson); Ms Nompumelelo Zikalala (Managing Director of De Beers Group Managed Operations); Dr Bernard Nihambeleni (UNIVEN Vice-Chancellor and Principal) and Mr Innocent Mabusela (Head of Corporate Affairs) posing for a photo with some of the donated laptops.

Read inside

- De Beers Group donates laptops to the University of Venda 1
- UNIVEN formalises its relationship with Vhembe Biosphere Reserve 3
- UNIVEN held a successful prayer service for 2020 final examinations 4
- Univen Student social entrepreneurs honours 16 days of activism against GBV with Ha- Mangilasi Community 5
- TEMS 911 is the new Emergency Medical Service provider 7
- UNIVEN successfully closed STEP 2020 activities 8
- Employee Health Solutions 9

De Beers Group donates laptops to the University of Venda continued...



On Tuesday, 26 January 2021, De Beers Group donated 270 laptops to the University of Venda (UNIVEN). The official handing over of these much-needed laptops was held at the University's Council Chambers.

In his message as the recipient, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni thanked De Beers Group for their generous donation. He said "as UNIVEN, we are thrilled to receive this support, as De Beers Group partners with UNIVEN in the University's quest to implement effective multimodal remote teaching and learning for its students."

Dr Nthambeleni said that, through this donation, the University will be able to accomplish its goal and continue working towards fulfilling its objective of providing a reasonable level of academic support to all students, as they continue with their academic activities during the lockdown period.

"This partnership with De Beers Group has come at the right time as we are implementing our new Strategic Plan and we look forward to long-term mutual beneficial successful partnership with De Beers Group," said Dr Nthambeleni.



In her handing over message, Managing Director of De Beers Group Managed Operations, Ms Nompumelelo Zikalala highlighted that, even though the diamond industry experienced some difficulties last year (2020), De Beers Group saw a need to continue making impact in students' lives. "We value education so much, hence we are here to donate, irrespective of our difficulties in the previous year."

She said, De Beers Group is aware that quality education needs to continue online hence there is a serious need for organisations to donate devices that will assist and enable student participation.

"We will continue to play a meaningful role in community development. Our purpose as an organisation is in line with developing our communities hence we donate as much as we can, even during tough times. We are exceptionally proud to be partnering with UNIVEN and we will continuously make impact in other people's lives," said Ms Zikalala.

She concluded by mentioning that this is just the beginning of their partnership with UNIVEN, and De Beers Group believes that these laptops will increase student participation during this tough time of level 3 National Lockdown. "We need to empower young people who will in turn make this world a better place. We hope UNIVEN students will use these laptops to empower themselves. As De Beers Group, we see a lot of potential in this partnership."



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations, Dr Robert Martin said he is grateful that when UNIVEN started this engagement, De Beers came to the party. "Our postgraduate students are major beneficiaries of this donation and we are hoping that this partnership will be ever-lasting partnership because this will solve some of the University and students' challenges."



Dr Bernard Nthambeleni and Ms Nompumelelo Zikalala displaying one of the donated laptops



When delivering a vote of thanks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof Jan Crafford told delegates from De Beers Group that they chose well by choosing UNIVEN because the University needs devices and data that will ensure that teaching and learning continue online. "Our masters students will be beneficiaries of this donation and I am sure that they will appreciate your donation." He thanked De Beers Group for their support and concluded his message by mentioning that the University appreciates this donation and "we believe that this is just the beginning. May this partnership continue to empower student communities."

De Beers Group is the world's leading diamond company, with expertise in diamond exploration, mining, grading, marketing and retail.

De Beers Group is aware that quality education needs to continue online hence there is a serious need for organisations to donate devices that will assist and enable student participation.



Group photo of attendees of the handing over event

UNIVEN formalises its relationship with Vhembe Biosphere Reserve



Prof Jan Crafford and Dr Lutendo Mugwedi signing the MoU

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR). This is one of the MoUs that would not gather dust because it is a journey that will be of great benefit to the VBR, UNIVEN, local, national, and international communities. This signing of MoU ceremony took place at the University's Council Chambers on Wednesday, 24 February 2021.

The MoU was signed by the VBR's Board Chairperson, Dr Lutendo Mugwedi representing VBR and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof. Jan Crafford on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Bernard Nthambeleni. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from Thulamela Municipality, Thohoyandou Botanical Garden and members of Senior Management as well as some UNIVEN staff members.



According to Dr Mugwedi, the main aim of this partnership is to bridge the science – management divide. Hence, this will be achieved through engaged scholarship, whereby co-creation and co-production of knowledge will be a vital element in this partnership. Dr Mugwedi indicated some of the expected outcomes of this partnership that are but not limited to cutting edge conservation and sustainable development solutions, knowledge, and socioeconomic benefits. He also highlighted some of the projects that have started or about to start and these are: Human – elephant conflict management using chillies, Tshumisano Women's group (Bende Mutale) planting chillies for conflict management and sale – funded by United Nations Development programme and Global Environment Finance; climate risk and adaptive capacity building in South Africa's Biosphere reserves (sustainable water and ecosystems management).

This project is led by the UNESCO's Office in Harare – funded by Government of Flanders; Assessment of governance models implemented in Biosphere Reserves: move towards sustainable social – ecological systems – funded by the National Research Foundation.

Dr Mugwedi further indicated that working together in this relationship will enhance the lives of our people. The Vhembe Biosphere Reserve (VBR) is the sixth South African Biosphere Reserve and the third in Limpopo Province. The VBR aims to conserve the area's uniquely bio-diverse environment, while simultaneously supporting and promoting much needed sustainable development.

... some of the expected outcomes of this partnership are cutting edge conservation and sustainable development solutions, knowledge, and socioeconomic benefits.



On behalf of UNIVEN, Prof Jan Crafford shared with the delegates a long journey travelled as far back from 1990s. He told the delegates that VBR was proclaimed a biosphere reserve by UNESCO in 2009. The NRF Research Chair in Biodiversity Value and Change was awarded to the University in 2013. The status of Biosphere is all about stakeholder engagement and he is sincerely hopeful that the status of the Vhembe Biosphere will be extended for another ten years. Prof Crafford said UNIVEN must be an anchor institution not only in Vhembe region but nation-wide.

The research function of the VBR is managed by the Research Chair in Biodiversity Value and Change held by the then Professor Peter Taylor at the University of Venda and now by Professor Stefan Foord who is the interim Chair.



The University Registrar, Adv Edward Lambani proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked everyone for making this event successful. In closing, he proudly said that the whole Biosphere has put UNIVEN and Vhembe region in the international mark. Adv Lambani urged all the relevant parties to ensure that the MoU should exist and not gather dust.



In welcoming the guests, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Corporate Services, Dr Robert Martin indicated the level of excitement as UNIVEN was about to sign this MoU. He said the University is looking forward to strengthening the relationship between the two institutions. He further indicated that this is the second MoU that the University is signing since the implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2021-2025.



The signing ceremony between UNIVEN and VBR was facilitated by the Acting Director Legal Services, Adv Eric Nemukula.



Prof Jan Crafford and Dr Lutendo Mugwedi exchanging the signed MoU

UNIVEN held a successful prayer service for 2020 final examinations

On Friday, 05 February 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN) held a University Prayer Service to pray for the 2020 academic year examinations scheduled to take place from Monday, 08 February to Wednesday, 17 March 2021. Owing to COVID-19 challenges, the University would conclude 2020 academic year at the end of February 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the prayer service took place on UNIVEN FM from 10h00 to 11h00.



In his Message, the University Registrar, Advocate Edward Lambani said that UNIVEN management is extremely encouraged by the commitment demonstrated by both staff and students in embracing technology as a mode of teaching and learning. He continued to say that this pandemic impacted our ways of operation tremendously. "However, COVID-19 enabled staff and students to advance to new ways of learning, ways that when thoroughly considered, provided more effective ways of learning than was thought".

Advocate Lambani told students that examinations are not a punishment to be endured, but a joyous thing to celebrate all the periods of learning. He further reminded them to always follow the rules and regulations that have been put in place by government and the University to minimize the spread of COVID-19. He wished students best of luck during the upcoming examination.



When delivering the sermon, Apostle Dr Maxwell Masakona of Calvary Christian Church advised students to work hard and smart. "Your work must be well organised. Always strive for a pass, not just a pass but with good marks."

His sermon was on 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 verse 8 and 9 and his sermon was about 'Passing all my modules against all odds.'

In his sermon, Apostle Dr Masakona continued to advise students to prepare for the upcoming examinations because

unpreparedness leads to confusion. "It leads to loss of focus. Prepare yourself, chose group work and learn from others. Be ready to learn from others because this will help you to remember some of the things that someone explained to you." Apostle Dr Masakona said he is holding a PhD because he has also learned from others. "Teamwork strengthens your weaknesses."

"May God give you the grace and the strength to pass this upcoming examination," concluded Apostle Dr Masakona.



In his words of encouragement, UNIVEN SRC Minister of Housing, Mr Musa Mokgobi said that staff and students are tasked with a very difficult assignment, which is to save lives and the academic year 2020. He said that this assignment is not easy, it requires strong soldiers with determination. Mr Mokgobi also encouraged the University community to help each other where necessary.

He said, as UNIVEN SRC, they are working very hard to respond to these academic challenges caused by the global pandemic called COVID-19. "We are supporting students because our new normal is that everything regarding teaching and learning should be done online, hence the UNIVEN SRC has donated over one million rands for students without funding. This is to buy data that will assist them to be able to do their work."

He indicated that most students are now studying from home and this is the reason why they were working hard in making sure that all students are covered in terms of gadgets and data. He thanked De Beers Group for donating laptops for postgraduate students and further thanked people who are assisting students without funding with food parcels.

"As UNIVEN SRC, we encourage all students to remain focused and pay attention to details." Mr Mokgobi is a UNIVEN Bachelor of Education final year Student.

**We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed;
we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down,
but not destroyed.**

2 Corinthians 4:8&9

Univen Student social entrepreneurs honours 16 days of activism against GBV with Ha- Mangilasi Community

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. It was initiated in 1991 by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, held by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University and has continued to be celebrated since 1991.

GBV has been viral in South Africa that some have named it 'The Second Pandemic'. Research shows that educating communities about GBV and issues surrounding it such as Victim- Blaming, reporting a case and available victim support services can help reduce GBV. Many people who are affected by GBV are afraid to speak out, creating spaces where people can openly talk about GBV and seek for help is very important and that is what the founders of Aphrodite Global and Vhembe Youth Empowerment Programme (VYEP) Miss Lindokuhle Zwane and Ms Susan Ravuku respectively had in mind when they planned and organised the event guided and supported through the UNIVEN- Community Engagement Directorate

Various institutions and organisations such as Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Program (TVEP), Department of Social Development (DSD), Ha- Mangilasi (Nesangani) Royal Chieftaincy, SANCO, Vuwani Ward Counsellor, Swike, Bornwise and University of Venda-Community Engagement Directorate and Vuwani SAPS came together to educate the community on GBV and mitigation strategies. In line with the theme of the day #Kwanele (enough is enough), people expressed their views on GBV through drama, dance, music and poetry. The event took place on the 10th of December 2020.

The audience was entertained in between speakers from various institutions who were

present to raise awareness of issues in line with the purpose of the 16 days of Activism against GBV.

Struu Artzz Entertainment founded by the winner of EDHE 2020 National Student Entrepreneur and Best 2020 Existing Social Impact Business awards Mr Promise Nyalungu stunned the crowd as they performed an activism production that addressed GBV and the gaps in the justice system through mob justice. The drama exposed the violence and irrational behaviour as consequences of alcohol and drug abuse, one scene was about a drunk man who came home to abuse his wife and an adopted child until the community got tired of witnessing the abuse with no help from the police and took justice in their hands by stoning and burning the man alive. The drama ended with a soul moving monologue that emphasised that removing alcohol and drugs in the streets could do South Africa a lot of good.

Opening the conversation on reporting GBV cases it was explained by Vuwani SAPS Warrant Officer Muhanelwa Mushungwa that more than 50% of the rapes reported from Ha- Mangilasi community were child rapes. He spoke to everyone present from the perspective of a parent that the pain that comes with discovering that your child has been or is being abused and the strength it takes to raise the child with the psychological aftermath. He urged the participants not to create monsters out of each other because "all that we do now will haunt us through intergenerational trauma".

Echoing the SAPS on the importance of reporting cases, Ha- Mangilasi drama club play highlighted patriarchal behaviours that need to change as well as the importance of anger management especially amongst men. The drama urges people to report abuse even when it is not happening to them and speak out on their emotions to avoid taking them out on vulnerable people such as women and children".

Linking poverty to GBV the Department of Social Development Social Worker

Ms Mmatwa Mudau emphasized the importance of empowered communities. She said creating a culture of black supporting black will assist. She stated that education is also an essential part breaking the cycle of violence because there is a difference between the actions of one who is learned and one who is not.



Mr Maanea Maluma, TVEP Legal Officer related to drama performed

The keynote address by TVEP legal officer Mr Maanea Maluma covered various aspects of GBV such as the causes and types in relation to two dramas performed and also his line of work when he explained that although GBV can happen on all genders it is most prevalent to women and children. "Approximately 100 cases of GBV are reported to us every month and most are child rapes with victims as young as 6 years old". He also spoke on intimate partner violence which is common in relationships and urged the participants to leave toxic relationships and abusive partners. "Most people cannot speak out especially in cases of intimate partner violence because the abusers tend to sweet talk the victim or buy them expensive gifts promising to change," Mr Maluma said. He stated that abusers are very manipulative to the extent where everyone else from outside sees a healthy home or relationship making it even harder for the victim to speak out in fear of not being believed. The keynote address opened a dialogue facilitated by Aphrodite Global founder Miss Lindokuhle Zwane as the members of the community and students asked questions and engaged with the speakers.

Mr Balibali Tshisamphiri, Ward Counsellor under Makhado Municipality talked on youths' employment

Reiterating the words of DSD official, Ward Counsellor Mr Balibali Tshisamphiri spoke of creating employment especially for the youths to get them out of the streets as his vision for the area is to turn it into an agri-city. This will ensure that young people have jobs. "This will be achieved through projects, namely: Vuwani Policing Department for safety and the security company will decrease GBV in communities". Another project he talked about is Vuwani TV which was present at the event that will curate and create content for TV addressing various issues that will help the community be a better place. With the Ward Counsellor was former convict who shared his experience of 21 years in prison due to a GBV related case and he said "prison is a dangerous place filled with darkness and death and do not take for granted the freedom of being outside, act right for your own sake".



Miss Lindokuhle Zwane facilitating the engagement

One of the comments directed at Vuwani Community Policing Forum clarified was 'blaming saying that it is unfair to tell a victim that they should have not walked at night following the CPF representative suggesting that maybe women attract GBV through certain behaviours'. The dialogue continued as questions were posed to all speakers which further covered important aspects in line with the event theme #Kwanele.



Ms Susan Ravuku, founder of VYEP and former Muvhango soapie actress expressed words of gratitude

Ms Susan Ravuku, founder of VYEP expressed her gratitude for everyone who came. "Reflections from attendees confirm that the event was a success one," she said. In her conclusion, she said she did not regret being part of the collaboration, as such, she looks forward to more collaborations in GBV regard.



Drama performance at the event

AMBULANCE

PRIMARY

PRIMARY

SITUATION

HEALTHCARE

DAMAGE

MEDICINE

NOTICE

Kindly be informed that, **TEMS 911** is the new Emergency Medical Service provider at the University of Venda from 01 March 2021.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

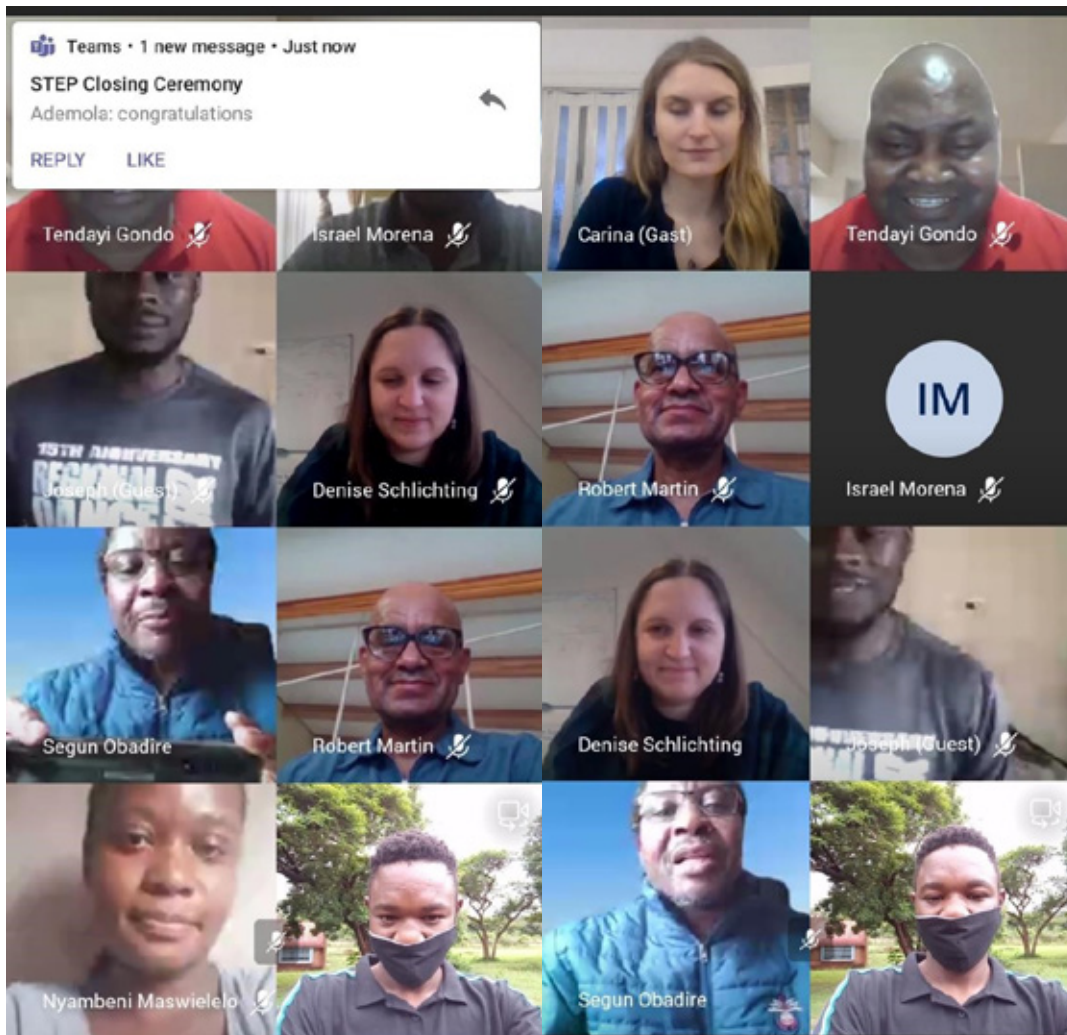
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UNIVEN successfully closed STEP 2020 activities



Pictures of some of the participants at the closing function

On Friday 29 January 2021, the University of Venda (UNIVEN); Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany; Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Germany and South African National Commission for UNESCO jointly hosted UNIVEN Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) closing ceremony virtually on Microsoft Teams. This programme has provided more than 100 students training on how to start and sustain their own businesses. STEP is co-funded in

partnership with UNESCO, Germany and BASF Stiftung (German-based charitable foundation).

In his official welcome and opening remarks by Dr Robert Martin, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Operations, delivered an insightful message of encouragement and urged all participants, colleagues, and University community to all play a role on the journey of making the University of Venda to be at the centre of entrepreneurship.

A representative from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Germany, Ms Denise Schlichting expressed kind remarks to all colleagues who assisted in making STEP Programme a success despite all the challenges that prevailed. Mr Marcus Makumela, Manager, SEDA Vhembe, gave assurance on the continued support from SEDA and further encouraged more collaborations with the University on their future programmes. "The Small Enterprise

Development Agency (SEDA)'s mandate is to facilitate the formation of small new businesses. The University is going to produce more skilled business people in which new ideas are going to be implemented during the training, and the availability of funding which completes the role of SEDA," said Mr Marcus Mukumela, who also said that they support the STEP initiative and they will be available when needed.

Ms Carina Bohlayer from Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany before handing over certificates and awards to all participants explained that the objective of STEP programme is to train students on how to start a business and to sustain it. More than 32 students were awarded certificates during the ceremony. Ms Mudau Fholisani, who was a Student of the STEP programme gave words of gratitude and shared her experience of participating in the Programme. A closing remark was given by Mr Tendayi Gondo, one of the facilitators for STEP, who commended the efforts of the organisers, beneficiaries and those who have made the closing function a success. The closing function was anchored by Dr Segun Obadire, the Acting Director International Relations.

We would like to hear from you!

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Nendila editorial committee:

Dr Takalani Dzaga
Chief editor

Ms Welheminah Mabogo
Coordinator

Mr Peter Mashishi
Contributor

Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi
Preservation (Library)

Send your contributions to:
Welheminah Mabogo,
Nendila Coordinator
University of Venda,
Private Bag x5050
Thohoyandou, 0950

Contact Details:
Tel: 015 962 8525
Fax: 015 962 8494
e-mail:
welheminah.mabogo@univen.ac.za

Physical:
Office number 24,
First Floor
Main Administration Building
University of Venda

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5. Fraud and corruption.

5 WAYS TO STAY MOTIVATED AT WORK THIS YEAR



- ☒ **Set** achievable milestones for your goals.
- ☒ Remember your **purpose** at work.
- ☒ Know when to take a **break**.
- ☒ Rethink your **approach** to work projects.
- ☒ **Celebrate** your wins, even the small ones.

For more information about staying motivated, visit www.mywellnesscompass.co.za

For confidential assistance on psychosocial matters, contact your
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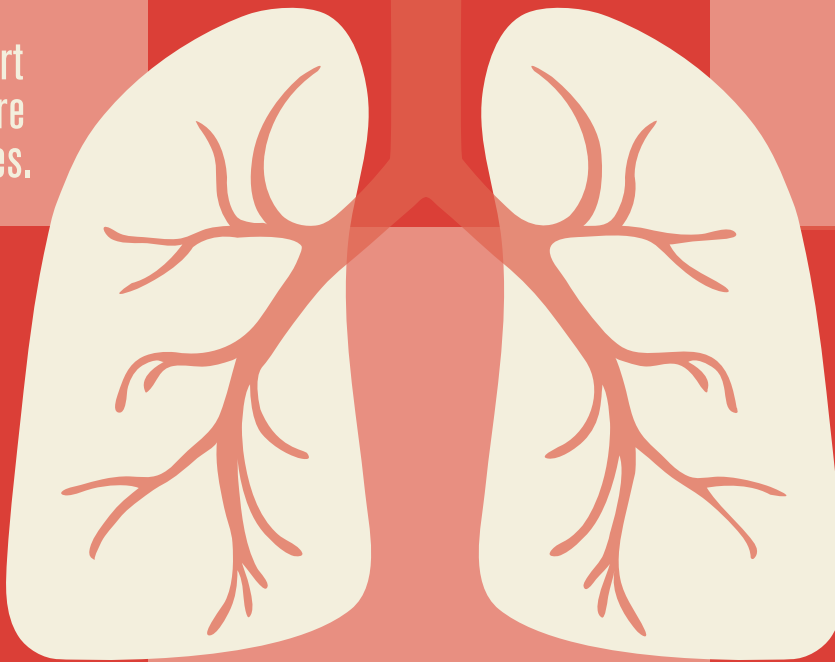
Join a support group to share your challenges.



Ask your loved ones for assistance.



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