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Use Your Life O Heroine Kerrin Black's Hope for Our Future

The founder of the Faces of Hope Foundation chats to O about using her own life to make a positive difference for others.

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O: As Oprah says, "The big miracles we're waiting on are happening right in front of us ... Open your eyes and heart and you'll begin to see them." Do you agree, and why?

Kerrin Black: Absolutely – I believe that in every moment there is an opportunity to make a difference and stimulate possibilities. I believe there is a movement of people that choose to use what they have, with passion, power and conviction, to create positive change.

O: How did the Faces of Hope Foundation start?

KB: When two of my closest friends were diagnosed with cancer, one with lymphoma and the other with breast cancer, I witnessed the debilitating financial and emotional strain the disease puts on its patients. I started Faces of Hope with the vision of assisting cancer patients with financial assistance for treatments; not to be a replacement for medical aid, but to cover potentially large excess costs that are often not covered by insurance. I also want to inspire others and create awareness around the lesser-known cancers like lymphoma, leukaemia and pancreatic cancer.

O: What are your future goals for the foundation?

KB: I want the organisation to be self-sustainable through the various projects we're working on, and to be able to assist as many patients as possible. We're in the process of looking for international funding, which will help us grow.

O: Is there any way that O readers can help?

KB: Well, we have a variety of great products on sale on the Faces of Hope website. For example, we have a handcrafted ring and pendant made out of argenteum silver by Schwartz Jewellers. We receive a percentage of the sales, and also urge individuals or teams to take part in sports events like the Comrades Marathon, the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon or the 94.7 Cycle Challenge, to raise funds and awareness. People can also create events through Given Gain or they can donate directly through our website visit facesofhope.co.za

O: Has building this foundation always been a dream of yours?

KB: It was inspired by my friends and by amazing individuals, like Oprah, who make a difference to people's lives. If you can give of yourself to one person, you've already made a difference. The one thing I know for sure is that people will never remember you for all the materialistic things you acquired, but they remember you for what you gave in this life – no matter how big or small.

O: Tell us about the ways in which SA celebrities have supported this foundation.



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**KB:** The biggest celebrity support is South African artist based in New York, [Conor McCreedy](#) . He's really someone who endorses the Faces of Hope ring and pendant. We also have a wonderful experienced blogger, Little Miss Mission Impossible (Little MMI), who has an incredible following, inspiring people to embrace life with enthusiasm and laughter. She is a big supporter of Faces of Hope.

**O:** *Are you living out your best life?*

**KB:** I would like to think I am, but I know that I have so much to aspire towards.

**O:** *Lastly, what do you know for sure?*

**KB:** When you give, with passion and love, you leave a legacy of making a difference. This is what will be remembered for generations to come. I find so often that people ask, "What's in it for me?" instead of, "What can I do for someone else?" The most incredible feeling is to be able to see someone smile, and know you're part of something greater than yourself.

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Interviewed by Lauren Mc Comb

**Image credit:** Courtesy of Kerrin Black



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- Enjoying warmer days
- Delicious, fresh seasonal foods

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