



MaSiBaMBiSaNe

MCDC NEWS NUUS

February 2010

YES for Peer Education



*I am unique because God made me my own person.
Rejoicing youngsters at a Peer group meeting.*

“We try to make the meetings enjoyable with lots of activities and fun. The idea is to teach the youngsters life skills and moral values in a playful manner.” they say.

Teenagers coming from child headed households in very poor villages have no extramural activities.

The enthusiastic response of the teenagers provides a significant opportunity to reach our Orphans and Vulnerable Children and teach them values they do not get anywhere else, because they have no parents and no family life.

The program was started after MCDC learnt of the success that was achieved in Uganda, when the government sponsored churches and organizations to start groups like these to try preventing the spread of HIV/Aids, rather than constantly working with the results of the pandemic. Because of a radical change in peer group pressure researchers have reported that HIV prevalence has come down from 26% to 6%.

“We are very encouraged with the way our youngsters seize this opportunity to take charge of their own lives. We are going to have a refresher course and train more facilitators by the end of March,” says Dr Buys.

The MCDC Peer Group Education program which was rolled out early this year was received with open arms by teenagers and schools.

“We expected to get groups of 10 to 12 youngsters together at schools and churches, but at one school we now have nearly 80!”

The first group of 22 facilitators for the program was trained in November last year.

Two Dutch volunteers, Eva Niemeijer and Anna Bosch, who have experience in peer education, are helping the facilitators to get the groups going.



Girls in child-headed households are the most vulnerable. If nothing is done to empower them, 50% are at risk to die of Aids before they are 30.

MCDC bank details:

Account Name : MukhCDC

Bank: Standard Bank – Montana

Account No: 022578862

Branch Code: 015945(local)

Swift No: SBZAJJ (International)

“ We urge our donors to invest in this life-changing and life saving program for the youth of our country and to help turn the tide for our Kids,”

Baseline study brings better insight

MCDC commissioned a scientific baseline study in 2009 in Vlaklaagte ext 2. The reason for this study was to find out, in detail, the suffering of the community in this area. As CEO Flip Buys has put it: "We wanted to find out where the community really itches, so we know better what to do to help. It doesn't help to scratch your head if your back is itching."

Vlaklaagte 2 is an area where MCDC has no centres and has done very limited Home Based Care projects. The baseline data from this untouched area will help MCDC over the next five years to assess to what extent our work is impacting the community over the next 5 years. The research group was made up of 14 to 35 year olds.

Some disturbing facts that came out of this research:

4 out of 10 people in this area die of Aids

30% of the children in the community are orphans

63% are single.

94% of them had more than one sexual partner in the past year

76% go to churches regularly but churches do not help them

Child-headed households are increasing.

The pool of infected people is growing.

Only 25 % of the people in this area has access to health care

These challenges have assured us of the desperate need for MCDC's services. We now have to prioritize the most crucial points, and then start 'scratching where the community itches most'.

A team from the Communications Department of the University of South Africa, under the leadership of Julie Reid will assist MCDC to do follow-ups on this first baseline study. They will also train a MCDC team to update this survey regularly, so that the data can help us to assess our impact.



Visitors

Keith Brown and his family from the Friends of Mukhanyo in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, visited MCDC to see how the Mukhanyo Christian School is progressing. These friends are main sponsor of the school. They were deeply involved in setting up the Trinity Christian School in North Carolina some years ago, and gave MCDC sound advice to roll out and run our project of establishing an independent Christian school, offering high quality education.

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Artist



Ivan Mosupe, the artist who is currently working on all MCDC buildings, decorating them with Ndebele patterns and the MCDC and centre logos.

Ivan also wants to give our OVC's art lessons in future, as he is a knowledgeable painter, especially in portrait painting.