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GENERATION OF LEADERS DISCOVERED www.goldpe.org.za

2011 Issue 1

 GOLD-Peer -Education-Agency

Heart of GOLD

Reflecting on the start of 2011!

We at GOLD are so excited to see the possibilities for change being realized in all our implementing communities. We are humbled by the perseverance, endurance and enthusiasm of our partners, in spite of facing very real challenges in these tough economic times.

Across Zambia, Botswana and South Africa, GOLD Peer Educators are making the GOLD message their own. They are looking into their communities, applying what they have learned from GOLD and coming up with innovative responses to particular challenges. Without YOU, the GOLD facilitator, Peer Educator, Programme Manager and Stakeholder, these possibilities would never be realized.

GOLD ... Shine!



Far left CAWO Programme Manager: Chantal Harrendover, ISC Director: Shane Eggy, YFC George Director: Estelle Erasmus and Ukuthasa Programme Manager: Charmaine Etson. All enjoying a snack during the Facilitator Celebration which was held in Cape Town (Western Cape, South Africa) late last year.



Lead Peer Educators from ISC, Ukuthasa, CAWO and YFC George (Western Cape, South Africa)



Facilitators from different Implementing Organisations in the (Western Cape, South Africa) connecting with each other.

Western Cape (WC) Facilitator Celebration !

We decided as an office that we wanted to end the year with something very special for our Western Cape Implementing Organisations (IO's), in the form of a very special, memorable Peer Education Forum. This was based on various requests we'd had from Implementing Organisation staff and on our own desire to build stronger, better relationship with our partners. This event focused on the people who make the GOLD programme come alive on the ground. The IO's each presented their experience of 2010 in some creative form (multimedia, dance, or drama) and Thuli Zuma (President Zuma's daughter) was our guest speaker. The whole event was a great success and I believe we achieved what we set out to achieve.

Ian Walton, WC Provincial Manager



WC Team and the president's daughter Thuli Zuma who was the guest speaker at the event.



The late Siphe Ngqondi
CAWO Lead Facilitator

A tribute to a GOLD Champion!

Siphe Ngqodi's role models were his father, Grade 12 Teacher and High School Principal. He had a love for Information Technology and an appreciation for Financial Management.

- he firmly believed that **"the message giver is the strongest message"**.

On the 5th April 2011, Siphe's life tragically ended while fighting for the future he desired to see become a reality within his community. His funeral was held at CAWO building in Kraaifontein a week after his death.

Siphe started out as a Junior Peer Educator in Grade 10 with Christian Assembly Welfare Organisation (CAWO) - a GOLD Implementer in a community called Kraaifontein in the WC where he was a Senior and a Mentor in Grade 11 and 12. After Grade 12 he became a Lead Peer Educator. It was his dream to become an attorney, and was planning to pursue a LL.B degree with a full Scholarship from the University of the Free State this year.

Siphe was a philosopher, a problem solver, son, brother, mentor and friend. His life allowed others to experience what would be possible when we choose to be the change we want to see. He was an agent of change! He believed in standing up against the problems within his community and addressed the root causes behind HIV and inadequate education. He was a fighter! He loved his family, friends and Peer Educators. He had the desire to see those he led weave dreams for their futures and live their lives to achieve those dreams - He was Inspirational! It was his dream to see those he led 'today' take over 'tomorrow' - He was a Champion!

Think about it: what would Africa be like if we all had someone to look up to, a Siphe - A GOLD Peer Educator! Our continent would be transformed, and the world would have an example that says - Yes, It can be done! Africa is no longer a place with only poverty, disease, crime and corruption. It's a place where GOLD is being mined so that our communities and continent owns a present and future generation of young African leaders discovered to change the world! Siphe, we salute you!

“”

Siphe loved his community and always wanted to do something to benefit his community He encouraged us to always do better.

- GOLD Facilitator

A few quotes from the funeral....

"I loved Siphe and he was an inspiration to me in more ways than he would ever know. He was a man of integrity, he was loyal, courageous and loved people. One could not engage in a conversation with him without leaving with a sense of conviction that the generation of young people growing up today have what it takes to bring this community, into its full potential. Siphe believed that young people are our future. Often, people tend to think of young people only in terms of their value to society at some later time... or just their ability to program a DVD or to set fashion trends. The fact that young people have a wealth of energy and enthusiasm that already benefits society is often overlooked. Let Siphe's example to us of leadership, be another light to all of us today to re-define leadership and set a standard for the world to follow. Don't let your vision fade, let death make us only more full of the common vision we have!"

- Susannah Farr , CEO of GOLD

"Siphe loved to make jokes and was a people's person, even if things were tough he would laugh. He was one of the people that I could count on as he always had a good advice. He once said that a person needs to know where they are going and need to have a plan. It is hard for me as I have lost a friend but whenever I think about him I will think of the smile that he always had"

- Past Peer Educator, CAWO WC (South Africa)

"This is such a great loss for us. A gold has been taken away from our hands. Siphe was trustworthy, a gentleman , a leader and a person with high integrity. He has touched a lot of people's lives. All his peers should be encouraged to continue doing what you have all been doing as he has paved a way for you."

- Pastor, Kraaifontein Community, WC (South Africa)



Siphe (wearing a black and white hat) and other Facilitators from different WC IO's during last year's Track 2 training in Campfaraway, (Western Cape, South Africa)

Outcomes Report

At the end of 2010, GOLD's Quality Assurance department released an Outcomes Report. The report was based on initial exploratory research conducted to investigate progress towards the GOLD Peer Education Model realizing its developmental outcomes. The report shows evidence that GOLD aligned programmes are perceived by youth and other stakeholders as contributing to meaningful attitude and behaviour change. While the primary area of change has been within the Self Development module, there is evidence across all the 4 research projects that GOLD peer education programmes are contributing to behaviour change across all 6 GOLD module outcomes.

Peer educators are acting as role models to their peers, and are sharing information with their peers. In addition, peer educators are mentoring and supporting their peers in behaviour change and are becoming effective leaders in their schools. In addition some peers of peer educators have said that having made positive changes in their own lives they are now motivated to be agents of change to even their peers and be both role models and educators to them. The influence effect is far wider than initially perceived by GOLD.

Some areas of change in youth that were most often identified relating to significant Health, Education and Leadership outcomes were:

- Increased self esteem.
- Increased knowledge of life skills.
- Increased value in education and own future.
- Decrease in substance abuse.
- Increased levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS and pregnancy prevention.
- Increased delay in sexual debut or increased commitment to secondary abstinence (i.e. choosing to not have sex in the future if already had sex).
- Increased self-confidence and value in own opinion.
- Increased perceived sense of standing up for beliefs.
- Increased number of peer educators assuming leadership positions.
- Increased ability to communicate with others effectively.

This is very encouraging for everyone who has worked so hard to realize the vision of GOLD over the last few years. Well done! You are making a difference, every day.

The report has also helped identify challenges and areas where improvements can be made. Please look at our website to download the report www.goldpe.org.za

Statistics from the research:

Surveys with peer educators showed that :

- Youth had increased their knowledge of life skills. (92.5%)
- Youth had shown improved attendance at school. (73.65%)
- Youth had increased in levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS as a result of input from the GOLD programme. (85.95%)
- Youth had increased knowledge about transmission. (through oral sex) 97.7 %
- There was a decrease in number of peer educators who said men are allowed to beat their partners. (81.8%)
- There was an increase in number of peer educators going for HIV testing. (102%)

Research Quotes:

"I was not sleeping at home every weekend and I ended up dropping out from school. And I met someone (peer educator) and she told me about GOLD peer education programme, which is helping teenagers who have a problem that I was also facing. And now I can go to school"

- (Peer)

"There has been a tremendous decrease in teen pregnancy and drug intake"

- (Site survey respondent)

"I now know how to protect myself from HIV/AIDS. This has inspired me to pursue a social work career. My community is confronted by poverty and HIV/AIDS is destroying our generation today, but I made a decision that I want to make a difference to my community and in my country as well"

- (Peer educator)

"I started smoking and drinking. I was friends with the wrong people. I was always at the wrong places at the wrong time. All this got too much for me and I turned to suicide. I cut myself and drank pills and so on. Life began to get hard for me. Then I decided to join the peer education team and ever since then my life changed. I became a better person and I lived a good and clean life"

- (Peer educator)



Crossroads Mentor Peer Educators during a workshop at Paradise Valley where they also had a hike. [Kwazulu Natal, South Africa]



GOLD Peer Education Curricula 2011-2013

After an extensive three year curriculum and programme research project, gathering global best practices together with deep insights and learnings from facilitators, peer educators and implementing organization leadership, the GOLD Peer Education Curricula 2011-2013 was released.

Thank you to all our partners for the hours of input you have invested into making this robust product what it is. The start of 2011 has seen thousands of revised peer educator training manuals and peer educator portfolios (with an added peer curriculum) going out to the Southern African GOLD sites across Botswana, Zambia and South Africa.

We believe that your facilitators and peer educators have been given access to the most relevant information and interactive content to make an even greater difference in their communities. We're excited to begin to continue to research how new media platforms can further strengthen how we share the GOLD message and content going forward. Despite the many challenges faced in getting the product out, they went out! GOLD is sorry for the delays and thanks you for your patience in waiting.

Training and Support

Across GOLD's countries the start of 2011 has seen the Training and Support teams working hard to roll out a number of trainings. These include Equip to serve Master Training providing crisis counselling skills. An exciting pending milestone has been the GOLD Accreditation. GOLD is the first organisation in South Africa to have accredited assessors for the new Peer Education Unit Standards. Well done to all of you!



Society for Poverty Eradication Peer Educators on their graduation ceremony. [Zambia]

Resource Mobilization

The RM team has served tirelessly in working alongside IO's in applying for funding through writing proposals. Western Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Mpumulanga Implementing Organisations were assisted to apply for funding from the **Australian High Commission Direct Aid Program (DAP)**. Funding which was requested to go towards the running of camps. Mpumulanga IO's were assisted in applying for funding from the **Wheat Trust** which would go towards stipends for Facilitators.

Zambia Fire Baptised Church and Mwaiseni Home Based Care applied for funding from **PEPFAR Prevention Small Grants** which was requested for the continued roll out of the GOLD Peer Education Programme.

Finance team

The Finance Team at GOLD Head Office has undergone a few changes recently. We welcomed Melani van Niekerk to the team, in a new position entitled Finance and Sub-Grant Officer and Ovuyo Mduyana as the new Bookkeeper. They have been great assets to the team. We are excited for all of these changes and look forward to growth and further streamlining of the finance team as we refine our systems, looking at incorporating new systems, and look to the next 5 years in developing a highly sustainable finance function built on excellence and integrity.

The programme is proven to work. It is evident with our school as 90% of our prefects are peer educators.

**- Mr Oatweng ,
Bokamoso CJSS, SAPPSSI,
Botswana**

We are seeing a difference in children's behaviour through Peer educators.

Lead Peer Educator, Ukuthasa, Western Cape

We had to work in a primary school called Marvin Park Primary, where we implemented the 'Think twice' programme as part of our elective as Lead Peer Educators.

We received 3 different Grade R classes, to work with: 1 English and 2 Afrikaans classes. The teachers told us that they had been having problems with some of the children and that they had noticed that they were acting inappropriately in school. Since starting the Think twice programme the teachers have reported back to us saying that they have noticed a huge difference in the children's' behavior.

Champions for Children!

Hope to Educate, Kwazulu Natal



Hope 2 Educate is very excited to be awarded as the best NGO in the Champion for Children Campaign in Kwa Zulu Natal by Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. They see this as the most positive and life changing Achievement for Hope 2 Educate this year. This marks a period of growth in the life of their organisation and they want to thank all their stakeholders and partners for their support and contribution for making all this possible.

One day without shoes

Crossroads, Kwazulu Natal

The Crossroads peer educators joined the One Day Without Shoes campaign to direct the spotlight on children who cannot afford to buy a pair of school shoes. The goal was to motivate their peers to show compassion for the less fortunate.

Crossroads facilitators and presented new pairs of school shoes to each child in the Ekukhanyeni, Mjosi and Thumbela Primary Schools. By the end of the campaign the peer educators were elated as they felt they had made a significant contribution to underprivileged children.



Crossroads peer educators without shoes. (Kwazulu Natal, South Africa)

I have become more positive about life and encouraging others to do the same.

Senior Peer Educator, Society For Poverty Eradication, Zambia

My name is Joseph, I'm 14 Years old and am in Grade 9 this year at Intulo Basic School. I joined the Peer Education programme last year in 2010. Benson my friend encouraged me to join after doubting the programme because I had a lot of negative things to speak about myself. When I joined I had my own expectations, but one day our facilitator was sharing on self esteem. This was the session that brought me a lot of hope and today I am looking for positive things for my life. Now I am able to assess myself and see where I am able to contribute to my life. My life is now more focused and I have a positive future. I am now well positioned and open to discussions with a number of friends about being the centre of a change in the community. I have formed a small group where we meet weekly to encourage each other to have a focused mind and to share our challenges and expectations.



Orphan finds relief for herself and her siblings

Mentor Peer Educator, Siqongweni, Isaac, Kwazulu Natal

In 2009 when this programme was introduced to me, I was like, maybe this can help me in many areas of my life because it deals with social issues. I was in grade 10 and the only adult in my home as both my parents had passed away.

I was very confused and had a lot of responsibilities. I had to make sure my little sister and a brother had something to eat. It was not an easy job because I had to attend school and take care of them at the same time. I was always stressed and under achieving at school in my tests and exams.

So I went to speak with the facilitator who referred me to a local social worker and they organised a course on how to deal with my loss and grief. Those sessions really touched my heart and made me realise that there is still hope. I thank the programme for empowering me to take the initiative and to speak to someone I trust if I am having problems. Due to their referral to the social workers they were able to assist us, some times with food parcels which was quiet a relief.

Young leader to present South Africa in Canada!

Lead Peer Educator, YFC-Knysna, Western Cape

Fiona, 20 years old and is a Lead Peer Educator this year. She grew up without her biological parents. She has proved to be a very reliable person and despite her difficult upbringing she has persevered and pushed through everything to become a strong motivated individual. She uses her spare time to invest in the lives of younger kids through her involvement in a project called Project Colors which strives to better the living conditions of young children from impoverished communities. Through her dedication she was chosen as a young leader to represent South Africa in Canada for 6 months from July this year. She dreams of becoming a nurse and plans to start with her studies next year once she has returned from Canada.



ISC Lead Peer Educators during Training (Western Cape, South Africa)

I know where I'm going

Peer Educator, Masoyi, Mpumalanga

My name is Noluthando. I'm 17 years old and in Grade 1. I've been in the programme for 2 years now. Joining the GOLD programme has helped me a lot, because I used to be a girl with no dreams and goals. I had low self-esteem and didn't believe that I could stand in front of a crowd and talk. Since I have been in the programme I learned how to set my own goals and stick to them. I also have positive self-esteem in everything I do. I can now stand in front of a crowd and address them with the issues that are affecting the youth. I've also learned to respect my teachers and everyone around me, do my school work and submit in time and study hard everyday. I am choosing good friends we can help each other in doing the right things. I now walk, speak and dress up with pride knowing who I am and where I'm going in life.

Earth Day celebration

Crossroads, Kwazulu Natal

Peer Educators from Wood view and Forest haven Secondary Schools handed out flyers within their schools and communities on affordable ways people could "Go green" at home. The Peer Educators at Palm view Secondary raised awareness by holding an exciting recycling competition at their site. They were able to organise the collection of 348 bin bags of paper and plastic for recycling. In addition to this, learners at Palm view and Forest haven Secondary Schools presented speeches at assembly encouraging learners to conserve energy.

Peer Educator POWA!!

Gangster to School President

17 years old, Grade 12, Mentor Peer Educator. Isaac, Kwazulu Natal.

During my time in grade 10 I was not very focused. My class mate and friend of mine helped me join the GOLD programme, I was hesitating because the facilitators were always motivating us to think positively while I was negative and a gangster in school, smoking drugs and abusing alcohol. I remember I went home to tell my parent that I was selected to be in the programme and they ask me if am ready to take the challenge because they knew that I am very rude even to them and how can they take a person like me so I am wasting the GOLD resource. My mother said that to me. I don't want to be a liar because many join the programme because peer educators go to camps and workshops. I was still not focused in life generally living two lives pretending to my facilitator that I am a good boy but knowing that I am not. There was a time we went to camp and I was excited to go as well but I didn't know that my life was going to change completely, The session we did "WHO AM I?" Made me realise that I am a leader but a bad one because I was influential to the other learners in a bad way. I changed all that to influence positively.

I started to listen to other people and quit smoking and alcohol which was not easy but I told myself that this is my life and I have to do something about it. My mother noticed that I changed and started to support me and showed me how much she values me, and I also realised that people had commented good things about me, I also improved my academics in school and from there I never went back. Up until now I am a proud mentor peer educator. Now I am the President in my school because of good behaviour and the great leadership skills that I have of which I learnt from this amazing programme.

I will keep on shining because there is GOLD inside me. (GOLD SHINE!)



Masoyi Peer Educators during an Awareness march on the 16th of June different stakeholders such as SAPS, teachers and parents were present to support the event. (Mpumalanga, South Africa)



April

Health Awareness Month

- 7 World Health Day
- 7 Q2 PEF WC
- 12-13 Track 1 Training (ZAM)
- 22 Good Friday (South Africa)
- 25 Africa Malaria Day
- 25 Family Day South Africa
- 27 Freedom Day (South Africa)

May

- 1 Workers Day (South Africa)
- 8 World Red Cross Day
- 10 World Move for Health Day
- 18 Election Day (South Africa)
- 23-29 Child protection Week (South Africa)
- 25 Africa Freedom Day (Zambia)
- 28 International day of Action for Women's Health

June

National Youth Month

- 1 International Childrens Day
- 7 PEMS KZN
- 16 Youth Day (South Africa)
- 17 Track 4 Advocacy and Media Workshop KZN
- 22 Government Stakeholder Workshop MPU
- 20-24 National Youth Health Indaba
- 20-26 SANCA DRUG Awareness Week
- 26 International Day against Drug abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking

July

- 1 Sir Seretse Khama Day (Botswana)
- 6 Heroe's Day (Zambia)
- 7 Unity Day (Zambia)
- 12-15 ETS Training KZN
- 15 -30 Mid Year Assessments WC
- 18 Presidents Day (Botswana)
- 25-30 M&E Training MPU
- 28 PCM KZN
- 4-8 PEF and M&E Training (Botswana)

August

National Women's Month
Organ Donor Month

- 1-12 Mid Year Assessments WC
- 1-30 Mid Year Assessments MPU
- 9 National Women's day
- 11 Stakeholder Management Training (KZN)
- 12 International Youth Day
- 12 Educator Workshop KZN
- 12-17 Mid Year Assessments (Zambia)
- 18 PEF (Zambia)
- 22-26 Educator Workshop MPU
- 22-26 Mid Year Assessments KZN
- 24-26 Advanced PEMS and M&E WC
- 25 Stakeholder Management Workshop MPU

September

National Heart Awareness Month

- 6-9 Track 2 WC
- 12 World Oral Health Day
- 14 PEF KZN
- 21 World Alzheimer's Day
- 21 PEF MPU
- 22 PEF WC
- 24 Heritage Day (South Africa)
- 24 Independence Day (Zambia)
- 25 World Heart Day
- 30 Botswana Day



Crossroads Peer Educators during Earth Day Celebration (Kwazulu Natal, South Africa)

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