



Editorial - Talking Point

Reading through the GOLD Implementing Organisation quarterly reports I was so impressed.

In spite of the challenges of the teacher's strike that brought education to a standstill for weeks leading up to the mid year holidays, you, our implementers, have managed to do so much in the second quarter!

There have been camps and meetings with teachers, parents and Learners Representative Councils. Peer educators have been addressing assemblies, holding talk groups with their peers and visiting old age homes. Even Junior peer educators are talking about how their lives have changed after being part of the programme for only 6 months. We have recovering drug addicts excited about opening rehabilitation centres in their communities and peer educators hosting support groups for single mothers.

I recently visited the Hector Petersen Museum in Soweto and was humbly reminded of the amazing power of youth determined to secure their future and that of their nation.

The struggle for life and freedom in the face of poverty and HIV/AIDS that our peer educators face today echoes the struggle of the youth of 1976.

Our peer educators are at the forefront of the battle for their lives and those of their peers. It is such a privilege to compile this newsletter which tells your stories and those of our courageous peer educators. You really are changing and shaping your world, one youth person, one community at a time.



Monique with the GOLD Team and Western Cape implementers at the LFA Matrix workshop

The GOLD Team extends their deepest sympathy to the NOAH team on the death of facilitator, Petros Khanyile. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Jacqui Latimer
GOLD Marketing and PR Coordinator



TRIBUTE PETROS KHANYILE

Petros was a GOLD facilitator based at Mcothoyi High School in KZN, working for NOAH. Petros sadly passed away on Sunday 22nd July 2007 after being hit by a vehicle.

Petros was a wonderful inspiration to his peer educators and an incredible person. What he achieved in a short period of six months is amazing. He will be missed dearly by all at NOAH and Oaktree, but he has left his mark on everyone he worked with and has inspired many to positive change.

Miranda Fajerman
Oaktree Schools 4 Schools Coordinator

GOLD GOINGS ON

The various departments at GOLD have been working hard this last quarter to support you, our implementers in the implementation of the GOLD Programme.

M&E team works towards a generic programme framework

Monique and Sharon held a very successful LFA Matrix workshop for Western Cape implementers. "It was wonderful to get everyone together to come up with a generic framework for the GOLD programme across the different regions," says Monique. "Once we have a generic framework, GOLD will work with each region to come up with a regional implementation strategy."

The monitoring and evaluation team has also been busy collating the information from the Quarter 1 summary reports and sending out feedback. They would love to know from you how helpful you found this feedback or any comments you have about the feedback process.

Training team travels

Roz and Gerald have been traveling quite a lot with two trainings in Gauteng and an assessment visit to Botswana. Track 1 training in Gauteng happened in April and was followed in May by the Equipped To Serve counseling course. June was the month for camp training and August will see the training team busy once again with assessments.

Supporting Stakeholders

Bulelwa has been conducting on site meetings and has started training implementing organizations on how to get the most out of the new curriculum with Andree. She also assisted Monique with the M&E training and discovered a whole new computer guru side to her personality.

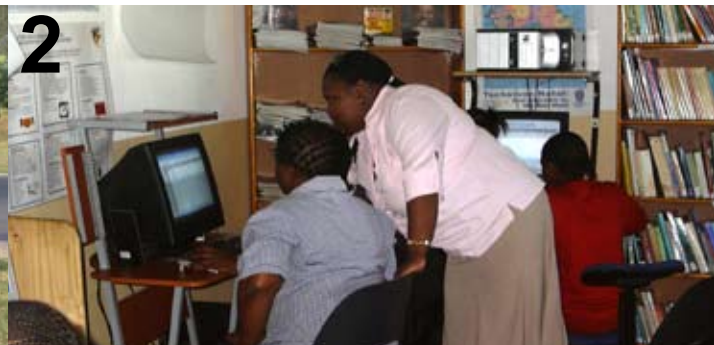
Su declares war on cockroaches

Besides being the Executive Director of GOLD and a keen runner, Susannah also seems to be quite handy with a can of DOOM. The cockroaches in the GOLD offices have fled in the wake of her "Coackroach Termination Strategy" which is usually implemented at around 7am in the morning when she arrives at work.

This quarter she and Thando signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western Cape Department of Education after lengthy negotiations. She has also had stakeholder meetings with Departments of Education in Mpumalanga and KZN and their district coordinators together with the implementers.

Her other focuses have been writing funding proposals, meeting with potential supporters and trying to recruit a Regional Manager who will be passionate about our implementers.

Su also organised the 2 day GOLD strategic planning. The whole team enjoyed spending time together to clarify goals for the future and ways of working more effectively.



1. Monique with Sethani facilitators during a break in training. 2. Bulelwa shows her computer muscle during M&E training. 3. Nathalie, the GOLD Fundraising Coordinator and Susannah make sure all points will be covered during GOLD strategic planning. 4. GOLD Administrator, Luleka, smiling during a break on strategic planning. 5. GOLD Financial Manager, Scott, looking relieved that the venue was free during strategic planning.

From the Frontlines

YFC KNYSNA IS CAMP CRAZY

YFC Knysna held two camps for their Junior peer educators at Harkerville Forest Lodge last quarter where most of the Juniors received their badges. Many of the inspired YFC Junior peer educators also attended a Youth Day Rally in Plettenberg Bay on 16th June.

The Senior peer educators have been busy as well, with a group assisting in handing out blankets to the poor at Dam-se-Bos and others joining the YFC team at Knysna Prison to present a drama for inmates.

The senior and mentor peer educators enjoyed a braai together at the YFC Centre as a mentoring session and one of the students from Knysna Senior Secondary School remarked, "Wow, we had an amazing time! Both the one on one times as well as a group question and answer session led by the facilitators were great. We have a deep understanding, of how things happen in the GOLD program."

YFC MPUMALANGA RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

YFC in Mpumalanga has been confronting challenges head on. When they realized that communication between teachers and learners was a problem, they met with the Learners' Representative Council (LRC) as well as with the Teacher Liaison Officer (TLO).

Peer educators, youth from the community and other learners had a discussion around things that affect youth at school and in the community. Issues discussed included discipline,

peer pressure and negative influences. The peer educators invited the whole school to come and join support groups that they have set up in the afternoons for young mothers and guys.

Assemblies have been used to spread the message of peer education, with one peer educator making a speech about choices and influences and another talking on discipline and responsibility.

Youth day saw more activity, with a community event at the local stadium with the THEME of "What's killing us now!" The peer educators presented dramas about abstinence, living a positive life, drugs and alcohol, choices and influences, HIV/AIDS, street kids, prostitution and going back to their roots. Stakeholders including social workers and counselors, were invited to the event where the peer educators collected food tins for the local home based care organization.

SETHANI GETS PRACTICAL

Sethani in KZN is another first year GOLD implementer that has been facing challenges head on. They have identified tuberculosis as a big problem in their area and are working to improve facilitator and peer educator understanding of this disease that affects their community. They have visited the local clinic and are trying to gather information about prevention and medication. GOLD has requested information from a GP for Sethani, but if any other organizations have helpful resources on TB, please contact Debbie Wells on Debbie@sethani.org.

The Sethani facilitators also really enjoyed the GOLD camp training in Midrand.



1. Facilitators enjoying GOLD camp training in Midrand
2. Sethani peer educators proudly showing off their portfolios



1. Peer educators smile for the camera at the OIL camp



2. OIL peer educators with the staff and children of The Valley Development Project in Ocean View.

NOAH FULL STEAM AHEAD

First year GOLD implementers, Noah, are wasting no time getting their peer education programme into full swing. They identified teen pregnancy as a big problem in their community and have initiated relationships with the local clinic and McCords hospital on which they intend to build. Crime within the schools was another problem identified and discussions were held with the schools' governing bodies to advocate for the reconstruction of fencing within schools.

A feeding scheme has been initiated in partnership with local businessman and corporate sponsors and some students have been exempted from paying school fees as a result of the intervention of facilitators.

Peer educators took part in a workshop conducted by Hope World Wide on HIV and Aids and have also been busy delivering lesson deliveries to their peers.

Educators are full of praise for the programme

“Since the introduction of the GOLD Programme in the school, learners have shown a positive interest in the aims and activities of the programme. Peer educators have a sense of responsibility and confidence in themselves. They really enjoy themselves when explaining issues to other learners.”

M.S. Luthuli, Principal

“It would be great if all the schools in UMLAZI could run this programme. It will definitely benefit the youth as is already doing so in these schools.”

Mrs Magwaza, SEM Schools Inspector

OIL TRACK 1 CAMP REVIEW

An integral part of the OIL Reach Out programme is its focus on a cross cultural team. In June the Track 1 peer educators from all four schools joined together on a camp to help promote this focus. The camp was a chance for these future leaders to harness their skills as peer educators and forge friendships with the teenagers from the other schools.

For all this to happen the OIL facilitators needed a little help from the community to run the camp and have the greatest impact during the four days the camp was run. Nine absolutely incredible volunteers came to the aid of the facilitators, giving them a chance to focus their time on the teenagers. Overall the teenagers and volunteers alike walked away having learnt something new and more challenged to make more of an impact in their communities.

OIL GIVING BACK

OIL Reach Out believes that in order to change the community one needs to start with oneself. This belief is something that has become part of the Peer Educator's lifestyle. For the OIL Track 2 Peer Educators they wanted to make a tangible impact in their communities. To do this they collected clothes from friends and their schools.

The Valley Development Project (VDP), in Ocean View, works closely with those in need. For the Peer Educators VDP was the perfect choice for their initiative. Touching the hearts of not only those at VDP the Peer Educators and OIL Reach Out have decided to make this initiative an on-going project with the hope of reaching the rest of the communities in which they work.

YOHO SKILLS TRAINING SUCCESS

The YOHO team is delighted that the skills training sessions are really serving their purpose. These first year GOLD implementers say that based on the peer educators responses during sessions they seem to understand what the programme is about and are excited about having started on a journey of self-discovery.

After only 1 mentoring session a real sense of security and safety was created between peer educators and facilitators. Building relationships with teachers has also been a great achievement and has allowed facilitators to negotiate for more time for peer education in the schools.

INSTITUTING CHANGE

The Institute for Social Concerns team held a successful Junior Camp and are busy planning assembly badging ceremonies within each school for all peer educators who attended the camp and have met minimum requirements.

The senior peer educators have been excelling at Talk Groups, a forum where peer are invited to discuss a topic of interest to youth. The Talk Groups have given the peer educators a great opportunity to discuss important issues with their peers and improve their facilitation and critical thinking skills.

A community event was held where the facilitator team and peer educators targeted youth between the ages of 11 and 13 within one of the surrounding communities. The focus of the day was to inform youth about making the right choices and the importance of understanding the consequences of making the wrong choices. Drama, music, dance and interviews with PE's were used to communicate the message.



MASOYI peer educators deliver a session during the HIV/AIDS workshop

MASOYI CONDUCTS HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP

On the 30th June 2007 Senior Peer Educators were invited to run a girls workshop teaching younger learners from various primary schools around the Masoyi area about HIV/AIDS

One hundred and sixty eight younger learners attended the workshop conducted by 30 peer educators. Fifteen groups of 2 peer educators delivered the session to the learners.

The learners really enjoyed the workshop and had time to ask questions. The peer educators also asked the learners questions to make sure they had understood the material.

"As a teacher I am often confronted with situations where children face challenges from their home background. When I see the peer educators giving information to the younger learners I know that this is adding value since some of the learners are looked after by their grannies who don't talk to them about HIV and AIDS. It also gives hope for the next coming generation," says a teacher who attended the workshop.

Masoyi programme manager, Angel Mndawe, says, "It's so good to see that peer educators have gained knowledge and skill. The group work was so effective and the way they delivered the lesson has confirmed that they really gained knowledge from the programme."

OAKTREE ROCKS IN KZN

The Oaktree Foundation is an Australian youth run aid and development organization. Its mission is to empower young people around the world to raise funds and awareness to support community based educational projects in developing communities.

Since the beginning of 2007, Oaktree has partnered with GOLD implementers in KZN. The Oaktree volunteers work to support the delivery of GOLD peer education in the province.

Oaktree, Sethani and NOAH celebrated the beginning of their partnership through an Advocacy Through Music day at an Umlazi NOAH Ark on Friday 13th July. MTV Australia, Aussie Rock Band Evermore and chart topping hip hop artists, Bliss n Eso joined a group of peer educators in a music workshop day.

The groups worked together to create songs about HIV/Aids and Youth at Risk and later performed these for local orphans and vulnerable children. Everyone had fun and learnt a lot. MTV Australia filmed and recorded the songs for the peers and facilitators to remember the day.

Success Stories

Behaviour change isn't easy. GOLD peer educators know that behaviour change amongst their peers starts with change in their own lives.

These stories of peer educators who have turned their lives around and are role-modelling positive behaviour change to their peers show young people living out the belief that personal transformation leads to group transformation leads to community transformation.

Names of some peer educators have been changed for the sake of privacy.



SELF ESTEEM HELPS ME SAY NO

**Hilda Mndawe
SENIOR PEER EDUCATOR,
MPUMALANGA**

I am 18 years old in Grade 11. I am from a family of 9. We are a poor family. Last year both my parents did not work. This year my father is working and my brother and sister are helping out with money.

Before the GOLD program my life was a mess. I was easily influenced, doing whatever my friends said. I was disrespectful to family and teachers. I was drinking even though I was from a Christian family.

When I became part of GOLD I began to get myself sorted out with the sessions on values and self-esteem. I developed values and was able to say no to the influence of my friends. I also decided to say "No" to having a boyfriend although I had a boyfriend before. I was no longer disrespectful to my teachers and one of my teachers even commented one day that I had changed. He said that I wasn't running around the classroom any more and noticed I was doing my class work.

At the GOLD camp the facilitation sessions equipped me to work with my peers and I gained knowledge of facilitation skills. I also learned a lot from the talk show on abstinence and how to share this knowledge with others. When I returned home from the camp I used a free period at school and asked a peer to come and do a mock interview with me about HIV. I learned from the talk show how to be creative in my facilitation and sharing knowledge with others.

I am facing a lot of pressure from my friends because I am abstaining from sex. My friends are talking about sex a lot, telling stories and comparing. I was encouraged at the camp to see that I am not alone in my decision to abstain.

In my heart I desire to see my community and my peers change their attitudes when they see my example. I want the younger ones to see me and desire to decrease the rate of HIV by abstaining from sex until marriage. My neighbors and peers are already coming to me for advice and I am encouraged to see that I am becoming a role model in my community. This is one of the foundations of the GOLD program and I feel I have been successful in this area. I know that now I have values and goals for life and I am confident in them.

ORPHAN ADVOCATE

JUNIOR PEER EDUCATOR, KZN

Neliswe is an orphan who lives with her grandmother. Both her parents were lost to HIV and Aids. Neliswe has displayed excellent leadership skills by being proactive throughout the programme.

In the first month of her participation in the programme, Neliswe approached the local council to make facilities available for her to conduct a support group for other peers that had lost parents to the virus. Many of her friends relocated and the group fell apart, but she is trying to form another group. Teachers have commented on her performance since she joined the GOLD Programme and have indicated that they are able to see in her a level of confidence that is unshakable.

Lesson deliveries and talk groups have created an ideal platform for Neliswe to hone her skills on advocating for children's rights and social

development. She delivered a talk on Reasons, Choices and Influences at a community event which was so successful that it was recommended for a debating event in which she participated. "GOLD has been the key to unleash my potential," Neliswe explains as she continues to pursue her dream of campaigning for the social needs of her community at local and governmental levels.



ROTARY HONOUR

**Nelson Mabukane
PEER EDUCATOR,
KNYSNA, WESTERN CAPE**

A learner from Wittedrift High School near Plettenberg Bay was chosen to represent his school in Cape Town as part of a Rotary Citizenship Program.

The five day trip included a visit to the High Court where a debate took place about the Death Penalty. The debate was led by Judge Dennis Davis who also presents a TV program called "Judge for Yourself". The group also visited the Catholic Welfare and Development Association in Khayalitsha, The District Six Museum, The Waterfront and Parliament.

Nelson says the highlight of this tour was when they had lunch with the Mayor of Cape Town, Hellen Zille. He was fortunate to have been selected from his peers to sit at the same table as the Honorable Mayor. He also gave feedback about their trip to her on behalf of the group. He described her as approachable, down to earth and having a keen ability to remember names.

The main lesson he learnt from his experience was how to be a responsible person and a proud citizen of South Africa. He also returned enthusiastic to share information gained on his trip with his peers and other learners.

The Youth for Christ Knysna team are proud of Nelson, and believe that our Gold Peer Education program does indeed benefit the students we work with. Here's to the leaders of tomorrow, Their future, Our passion.

BUILDING BRIDGES

**JUNIOR PEER EDUCATOR,
STELLENBOSCH, WESTERN CAPE**

Suzaan is in Grade 10. She recently went into Khayamandi for the first time and played with the children. It really inspired her and she says she wants to go and paint the office where the children play.

RECOVERING ADDICT INSPIRES HOPE

JUNIOR PEER EDUCATOR, KZN

Bongani is 19 years old and in Grade 10. Before being nominated as a peer educator, he attended the Siyaphila Rehabilitation Centre due to his substance abuse. His parents have supported him through the programme. Many of his friends passed away last year because of substance abuse and this prompted him to turn his life around.

Bongani has been a positive example to his peers by showing them that making the right choices can affect your future. Being part of the GOLD Programme was one of the best things that could have happened to Bongani and has turned his behaviour into positive peer pressure. He has successfully won the confidence of his peers and teachers who are supporting the programme.

Bongani was responsible for securing a room for facilitation and ensuring that the room is clean and tidy. The school principal says, "We have seen such a change in him since he has joined the programme."

Bongani discovered an old age home that needed support and proposed that volunteer activities be conducted there. He also arranged for Lesson Deliveries and Talk Groups to be done at the neighbouring school. Since joining the GOLD Programme, Bongani is convinced that his future lies in establishing his own organisation or safe house to assist peers with substance abuse problems.

NO, MEANS NO!!

**MENTOR PEER EDUCATOR,
SOMERSET WEST, WESTERN CAPE**

Angie is in her final year at school and has shared her story with the rest of the class. She was challenged about being in a relationship with a guy much older than herself who had a new car and earned a lot of money. She said it was not easy for her to say no, but when she thought about her future and what she had learned about taking the long road instead of shortcuts, she managed to say "no" and that "no means no!"

She says her future is important and wants to complete her studies and is thinking of going either to varsity or college. She commented that no one is perfect and that you can make mistakes but you can aim to change and hopefully you will change those around you.

Diary 2007

August

National Women's Month

- 9 National Women's Day
- 24-30 Cerebral Palsy Week
- 24-30 Deaf Awareness Week

September

National Heart Awareness Month

Women's Health - Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

- 9 International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day
- 26-30 Older Persons Awareness Week
- 30 World Heart Day

October

Women's Health - Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

- 1 International Day for Older Persons
- 9 Partnership against AIDS Anniversary
- 11 World Sight Day
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 8-12 Eye Care Awareness Week
- 9-13 National Nutrition Week
- 15 National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 World Trauma Day
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- **19th October 2008 WC PEF**

What people are saying about peer education ...

“Our Chief, Mr B.H.Bhengu, said peer education made the difference in our community. It was the first time that Youth Day (our planned event) was supported by all young people and parents. That means that peer educators have reached all the community and that shows that peer education is important to our community.”

Sethani, KZN

“A staff member from the old age home that Luckhoff peer educators visit said that it is good to see young people offer up their time to make a difference in the old age home.”

UCSA, Stellenbosch

“We are grateful for the peer educators that are instilling a culture of morality and values amongst our learners. We can see the difference.”

N. Ntimbane

Secretary, Swelihle High School, KZN



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1. Roz, Monique, Thando and Scott take a break during GOLD strategic planning.
2. Facilitators present during camp training in Midrand.