



Editorial - Talking Point

The first part of 2008 has been a time of welcoming new faces to the GOLD team, which is now made up of not one, but four regional and one head office team. Interviews in KZN, Botswana and Mpumalanga yielded a wealth of applicants and from these talented individuals GOLD selected regional staff whose primary focus will be to serve and support you, our implementers.

Beverly Govender joined Desire Peters in the KZN office as the KZN Research and Assessment Officer. The Mpumalanga team of Nondumisa Xulu and Marcia Matodzi Bugana are currently based in the KZN office, but will be setting up the Mpumalanga office later this year. In Botswana GOLD welcomed Billy Kgosikwena and Tshepang Kombani and in the Western Cape, regional manager Ruche Jackson was joined by Samkelo Mehlala as the WC Research and Assessment Officer and Siseko Ngqoza as the WC Training and Support Officer. We're confident that with teams positioned in the regions GOLD will be able to take our support to a new level.

The regional teams hit the ground running as the intrepid Head Office training team of Roz and Lloyd visited the regions for training and on site coaching. Monitoring and Evaluation and Curriculum Messaging were the main thrust of regional workshops and focus groups and these were followed by Programme Visibility training and the counseling course, Equipped to Serve.

The regional teams assisted on the various trainings, to learn how to deliver these trainings in their areas in the future. The Programme Visibility training was fun and challenging and had programme managers and facilitators learning about concepts like marketing and resource mobilization as well as brushing up on computer skills useful for customizing their own marketing materials. The Head Office regional team also conducted first ever programme manager

workshops with the GOLD programme managers from the various implementing organizations.

Annual events are also being planned in the regions and it sounds like they will be very exciting, with partnerships with regional stakeholders being forged to ensure maximum impact. Ruche is working with the City of Cape Town in the Western Cape and Desire has had discussions with the eTwekweni municipality.

We recently launched our new website, with a colourful look, photos and success stories, as well as a lot of information about the GOLD programme which is now available to stakeholders on the internet. Check it out at www.goldpe.org.za. If you have folk that need to know more about the GOLD programme, you can refer them to the site.

On a sad note the GOLD Team would like to pay tribute to a wonderful young man who passed away last month. Kurt Hendricks was a past peer educator who touched many of our lives and will be deeply missed.



TRIBUTE

Kurt Ian Hendricks
4 December 1987 - 27 May 2008

Kurt passed away on 27 May 2008 due to injuries sustained in a car accident. Kurt was studying at UWC, after having been a peer educator with OIL, where he also did his Track 4 year. He was a bright, enthusiastic and warm person, with a great sense of humour. During his Track 4 year, he accompanied Susannah to London to address a HOPEHIV fundraiser and met with senior UK businessmen and politicians, including Gordon Brown. Kurt still kept in touch with the GOLD family and visited Susannah for advice on his studies only a few months before he died. We miss this bright boy, this pioneer of GOLD peer education deeply and hold his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

The GOLD Team



LEFT TO RIGHT - Luyanda from GOLD and Busi from OIL at Programme Visibility Training. The Club Coffee Bar Team at Programme Visibility Training. YFC Southern Cape peer educators on camp.

ear to the ground

News and stories from GOLD implementing organisations

Together we can do more

CAWO, Western Cape

On the 29th of February Hector Peterson's peer educators decided to launch peer education in their school for the year. The reason for this was that they wanted to inform the educators as well as the learners what peer education was about. They invited the five other CAWO schools, namely, Bernadino Heights, Bloekombos, Masibambane, Scottsdene and Scottsville. Each school had to present an item.

Poetry, dancing and dramas were the order of the day. The peer educators really let their talents shine! Ruche and Sharon joined us and Ruche informed the educators as well as the learners what the GOLD programme was about. We as facilitators were very proud of our kids because it showed that peer education at CAWO really works. The day was a great success.

Most of our Senior Peer Educators are doing lesson deliveries at Rehab centres and at teen clinics and we often get positive feedback from these stakeholders. We have very good relationships with most of our stakeholders and when community events are held we work hand in hand.

"I have seen through these lives that human beings can alter their lives through altering their minds."

Mr Shozi, Community Member, KZN

Advocating for change

NOAH, KZN

Noah peer educators have been blazing a trail, with peer educators from Siyabonga High School exceeding their targets for lesson deliveries and strategic chats. The peer educators also identified the need for a mobile clinic during group discussions when reviewing common case studies from stat chats. With the help of their facilitator, the peer educators have written and informed the City Health department of ETHEKWINI and the Department of Health, regional office, KZN about the need for a mobile clinic.

"No one ever believed in me. They all think of me as someone who is a lunatic but when you smiled at me and asked me what I was doing, for a moment I thought you were going to send me out of the classroom. Then you took my drawings and said WOW! This is so amazing! I felt as if I was dreaming. Thank you for making me feel like I am an important human being and for giving me hope. Now I believe in myself and no matter what they may call me, I am an orphan and proud of being the person I am."

Noah Peer Educator

Strengthening the referral base

PPASA, Western Cape

PPASA peer educators have been busy strengthening their referral base. They have started volunteering in places where they refer their peers to maintain good relationships with the service providers. When Senior and Mentor peer educators identify needs within their peer group, they are proactive in organizing workshops to address these needs and they also do presentations in and out of school with the support of the Juniors and facilitators.

A place for peer education

MaAfrika Tikkun, Western Cape

MaAfrika Tikkun held a very successful camp where sessions and other fun activities were well received by peer educators. The facilitators report that they are enjoying using the revised curriculum. They say, "The curriculum is very simple and guides us to follow proper planning and we are able to achieve our goals and objectives. What is more important is the fact that we can use our method as well and still reach the objectives."

The organization has also negotiated with their schools to have a classroom set aside for peer education, where one of the facilitators will always be present. This will help the smooth running of the programme and the peer educators can have access to information to help from facilitators to plan for their community projects. This classroom will also be used as a meeting place for peer educators to get together and help each plan their community upliftment activities.

Tackling Substance Abuse

OIL, Western Cape

After identifying substance abuse as a big problem in their community, Ocean View teenagers decided to plan a workshop to address the issue. They invited grade 8-10s and shared their personal struggles around drug use and workshopped ways drug abuse can be prevented. Peer pressure was identified as the biggest cause of drug use amongst youth.

Our Community Day this quarter targeted Primary School children living in the Ocean View area. It was held on the 15th of March and headed up by Ocean View High Peer Educators. The theme for the day was "Decide to decide right". Their programme consisted of HIV/AIDS talks and games for each age group. They wanted to create awareness around HIV/AIDS and abuse. Between 100 to 150 children attended the event, which was a great success.



MaAfrika Tikkun peer educators have fun on camp

Living it, Loving it

YFC MPU

YFC Mpumalanga reports that assembly presentations were particularly successful this quarter and that their Junior Peer Educator Camp was a hit and well attended. They did 8 sessions on the Camp and various other fun activities including candle wars, a corn race, a balloon fight, a fashion show and a marshmallow braai.

Peer Educators have been doing well presenting lesson deliveries, with the Choices and Influences session being adapted to be relevant to the local community. Talk group skills have also been sharpened, with everyone being given a chance to be involved in these discussion groups with peers.

Through self development sessions, learners were helped to differentiate between love and infatuation. They were also taught about healthy and caring relationships and explored issues of trust and openness.

Community upliftment sessions were conducted to prepare the peer educators for the planned community upliftment event which will focus on Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Peer educators also looked at how they can make use of the media to reach out to people for such an event.



LEFT TO RIGHT - YOHO Peer educators enjoy a skills training session outside and a SAPSSI peer educator presents the advocacy tree to her peer educator group.

RESPECT

MASOYI, Mpumalanga

Peer educators from all tracks worked together to plan and deliver an assembly presentation that had a good impact in terms of updating the school about the program and raising programme visibility among teachers and students. The topic of respect was addressed and peer educators handed out gifts to all the teachers to thank them for their support and for showing them respect.

It has been encouraging to see the impact on the programme as we have built strong relationships with teachers and school principals. We also held a camp, which was a great success.

Leadership Starts With Me

SAPSSI, Botswana

Senior peer educators from all the SAPSSI schools have been involved in community projects this quarter. One school has an ongoing community garden project where the produce is given to a home based care organization. Another school ran a clean up campaign in the vicinity and another school donated clothes to a needy family in Mogoditshane.

Mentor peer educators have been very active volunteering in a number of different organizations such as churches, the Botswana National Youth centre, Lifeline and Mopane kids clubs.

March was the Month of Youth Against Aids Commit To A Zero Transmission Lifestyle, The theme was Leadership Starts With Me. Blue couch talk groups were conducted in 10 schools around Gaborone including the four implementing schools offering the GOLD programme. We

invited musicians, Miss Stigma Free, an abstinence activist, businessmen and a University of Botswana volunteer. Pressing issues were discussed such as knowing your status, abstinence, substance and drug abuse and youth leadership. Peer educators played an instrumental role in the demonstrations for the month of Youth Against Aids. This activity has helped greatly in terms of programme visibility around Gaborone

“With such a program by vision 2016 we certainly will be an informed and educated nation. If only your program could role out to the rural areas where they have less access to information and resources our children there would also be driving towards our aim of vision 2016 ”

Grace Sekwababe, SAPSSI parent, Botswana

Enabling environment

YOHO, Botswana

YOHO reports that their Skills Training Sessions have been going very well and that the peer educators have developed a great understanding, appreciation and ownership of GOLD and what is expected of them. This has been achieved through games, verbal and written reflection and open discussions which allowed peer educators to address each other and shared examples that made the lessons more personal.

The GOLD programme has been welcomed with open arms by both the peers and the teachers and this has been a big factor in the programme’s success.



LEFT TO RIGHT - YFC Knysna Camp, YFC George peer educators on an outreach in Great Brak and Club Coffee Bar peer educators with their local SAPS representative.

SUCCESS STORIES

Stories by peer educators. Sometimes names are changed for reasons of privacy.

Self esteem helps me reach out YOHO, Botswana

I am a 14 year old peer educator. The GOLD programme has taught me a lot of interesting and exciting things. At first, I thought I did not have the potential to join this exciting program but when I joined I learnt something that very same day - SELF-ESTEEM.

I learnt to have a high self-esteem. GOLD has taught me to be a good role model, to be trustworthy, reliable, responsible and honest. Because of GOLD, I have learnt to build up my peers, school and community through advocacy, raising awareness of youth issues, and acts of service. I am available to those who need my help and seek not to rescue them, but to empower others to help themselves with their problems. Now I have a passion to lead by example and be a nation builder.

Back to School against the odds YFC, KZN

Thando is a highly motivated and inspirational twenty-four year-old peer educator. In 2001, Thando dropped-out of school because his parents were struggling to afford his school fees and materials. He worked for four years as a gardener, and in 2005 returned to school to start Grade 8, financing his education with the money he saved from his years as a gardener.

He is a hard-working student and an active class participant. Like many of his peers, Thando used to take drugs. However, since becoming a GOLD peer educator, he has stopped indulging in risk-taking behaviours and takes pride in now role modeling positive behaviour, setting an example for the younger students who look up to and respect him.

He has used his experiences and GOLD teachings to encourage his peers to stop taking drugs. He is one of his school's most committed peer educators and is passionate about creating change in his community. He is particularly concerned about the issues of drug and alcohol abuse and teenage pregnancy, and encourages his peers who have not finished school to return and complete their education.

His goal is to pass his matric, become a policeman and tackle the issue of drug and alcohol abuse in his community. He would eventually like to become a government minister and help change South Africa at a policy level.



Peer educators from YOHO in Botswana



LEFT TO RIGHT - Peer educators from Institute for Social Concerns, YOHO peer educators and YFC Southern Cape peer educators on an outreach in Great Brak.

Empowered to help PPASA, Western Cape

I am a mentor peer educator from a disadvantaged background. My mother is the bread winner and she is a volunteer at Red Cross Hospital for babies who are HIV positive.

The GOLD program helped me and my group because we can now do lesson deliveries and strategic chats and have a referral system. We are also doing a lot of events in our school, like rape awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness and other public events on the school property. My group and I also went to an HIV/AIDS based organisation called the "Treatment Action Campaign" where we did a community activity and we also visited the Police station and other non-governmental organisations. I'm a leader now in my community, I'm a role model to other people and I want to say thanks to GOLD and PPASA as well. My dream is to be a social worker because I want to help other people.

I can be a leader Sethani, KZN

I am a 14 year old peer educator. Before I was a peer educator I knew nothing about being a great leader. I thought leaders were rich people like the president. I didn't think that one day I could be a leader. GOLD has taught me to have boundaries, vision, and smart goals. Now I feel much safer because I have my own boundaries to protect myself. I think everyone should have their own boundaries if they are in a relationship because they limit what you want and

feel comfortable with in relationships. Using the GOLD philosophy and skills I've learnt that we have to dream, have visions and goals and we should make sure that our goals are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely then they will come true.

Hope through hip hop UKUTHASA, Western Cape

Tyrone and Mark are 15 year old peer educators from a community where teens are exposed to many negative influences like gangsterism, drugs and violence and where there are too few recreational facilities for youth. Many teens also come from families where social and economic circumstances make it difficult for them to express themselves freely at home.

Tyrone and Mark joined the peer education programme as they wanted to make a difference. At first, they were very quiet, but after a few weeks they opened up and really starting to share and enjoy the sessions. They belong to a 7 member hip-hop dance group in the Macassar Community. The group is drug free and alcohol free and has been chosen to participate in the National South African Competition in Rustenburg.

These young guys have so much talent and just listening to how they talk eagerly about the GOLD programme and their dance, is an inspiration to others. Their peers see that you can do what you love and be a good role model to your peers. The track 1 facilitators are so proud of them and Ukuthasa is supporting these peer educators to be THEMSELVES. They want to show their peers that even if you are young (some of their members are only 11) you can change the world through your dance.

"Due to the work which is being done by peer educators, it is clear that they are empowered. The way in which they conduct themselves in the community shows that they are leaders. The services that are rendered by peer educators in my ark at Sithokozise Noah is an eye opener to the community. It shows that they care about the community and shows that charity begins at home and that leadership begins when you are young. Poverty and mental starvations have been destroyed in the lives of these young leaders – nothing can get them down."

Mr Sipiwe Miya - Noah Ark Manager

Making a difference

PPASA, Western Cape

I am 16 years old and in Grade 10. I started in this programme in 2007 and I'm very proud to be a senior peer educator. I'm from a strict family and live with my aunt and two cousins.

The GOLD programme helped me and my group because most of the guys in my group were criminals but after they joined the peer education programme, there was a lot of change in them. Even their attitudes changed. This programme has changed our lives and I'm happy about that.

We're also impacting our peers. We have held a beauty contest: Mr and Miss Peer Education, we've done lesson deliveries at different classes and a debate as well. We've also done community activities around HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and other social issues and they were well organised.

I don't want to boast, but before I joined this programme I was very shy but now I can stand and talk in front of a million people. My dream is to be a share trader because I'm business minded.

"I wish I could have the whole school in this programme because I can see that it is about changing lives."

**Mr Naidoo, Principal
Masibambane Secondary School
CAWO, Western Cape**

Positive sharing

Sethani, KZN

Nelisiwe is a 15 year old peer educator who was approached by a peer who wanted to disclose her HIV status. The girl said she was scared to tell anyone else as she was nervous they would tell the whole community. Nelisiwe told her not to panic and that she would not tell anyone and shared information about living positively and told her that HIV is not a death sentence. She advised the girl to visit the clinic to have her CD4 count checked and explained that if the count was below 200, she would need to start on ARVs. After a month, the girl felt ready to talk to her family about her status.

poetry wall

IN YEARS TO COME

I see myself as a friend of children
I see myself as a trophy that needs to be won
I see myself as the rain that spread

In years to come, I see myself as a role model of presidents
I see myself as a great king of kings and queens
I see myself as a youth that will put his country in a good position

But let me not waste my time with drinking alcohol,
Alcohol and having sex, then become a victim of HIV/AIDS

In years to come I will see myself as a BETTER person

LIFE

It is not about abilities
It is not about negativities
It isn't even all about opportunities
It's about love

Love is sadness and love is a part of life

If love is sadness
No one wants sadness but everyone wants love
Does that mean no one wants life
Confusing!!!

Everything has it's own ups and downs
One moment you are happy the next you are sad
One moment you fight the next you hug
Isn't it?

Well that's life.
Live it responsibly.
You will probably understand it.

By Sinethemba Madllongwana
Masibambane High School
CAWO



LUYANDA'S STORY

It all started in a crowded high school classroom in a small township called

Masiphumelele, which is in the heart of the Fish hoek valley. I, Luyanda Mbi, a 14 year old girl living in this township, was introduced to peer education. Honestly, when a group of facilitators first came to our school, I wasn't quite sure what these people were talking about. I decided to join the programme only because we were going on a camp.

There we were on our way to camp all expecting to have fun and enjoy ourselves, but when we got there this camp was different. We did sessions and topics such as peer pressure, sexuality, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS were covered. The problem was I was just a naïve 14 year old girl who didn't know anything about these things. I'd been raised in a very religious home and all this was news to me. I liked what I was told and had learnt on camp so I decided to stay in the programme.

School terms went by and years passed and as I was developing and maturing into a young woman all these teenage issues I had learned about as a peer educator started being a part of my everyday life. I experienced peer pressure, I had pregnant friends, I started dating and realised how important it is to have good and realistic boundaries in place.

Now I am 19 and finished high school. I am doing an internship with Gold Peer Education and I wouldn't say my teenage journey has been a walk in the park, but having the knowledge I gained from being a peer educator has made it easier. Peer education gave me options and equipped me with decision making skills.

Peer education has taught me to be proud of who I am and to work hard and reach for my dreams regardless of my background. I would recommend anyone try this programme, because I personally think it is the best way to reach young people.

In 11 years time I will be 30, graduated as a journalist, probably getting married and planning on starting a family soon and you know what I will be saying? I am here because of the decisions I made when I was a young person.

GOLD DIARY

July

- 1-9 Mid year assessments WC
- 11 World population day.
- 15-18 Mid year assessments BOTS
- 21-22 Mid year assessments KZN
- 24 Mid year assessments MPU

August

- 9 National Women's day
- 19 Programme Mngt QA Workshop BOTS
- 20-21 Programme planning Zambia
- 22 Peer Educator Forum KZN

September

- 1-5 Deaf awareness week
- 2 Programme management QA workshop MPU
- 3 Quarterly PEF MPU
- 15 Programme management QA workshop KZN
- 24 Heritage day
- 29 PEF MPU