

Tragic death of a young WhizzKid

Over the years we've witnessed some terrible tragedies with the youth we aim to serve. This however, is a very disturbing story and one we share because I think it further empathizes the need for WKU and your support. HIV not only takes the lives of individuals including babies, children and adults but it decimates family cohesion and tears at the very morale fiber of society. This story is simply horrific.

This week in Lamontville Township, SA, home to our WKU Youth Counseling Centre, a young girl & her cousin (both WKU Graduates) were attacked and raped by their **brother/cousin**. The sister managed to escape but the cousin was not so lucky—she was raped and then strangled to death. The 17 year old boy was under the influence of drugs at the time (though this is not offered as any excuse) and is now being held in police custody. WKU will be attending the funeral this Saturday and assisting with funeral costs for a family left completely devastated. Our work is vital if we hope to change the mindset of young people and help counsel the youth to become morally upstanding citizens. We need YOUR support to help stop these all to frequent atrocities.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Thabsile Sithole whose precious life was taken away from her at the tender age of 13.

4th National SA HIV/AIDS Conference

Late last month when every one was eagerly awaiting the March edition of Ebhohleni we were actually exhibiting at the National HIV Conference at the ICC Durban. Hence no newsletter for which we humbly apologise! Instead, having earned an exhibition stand courtesy of The Compass Project we were busy meeting and mingling with over a thousand delegates who were eager to hear all about WKU and our part as a network member of streetfootballworld. The event far exceeded our expectations as people queued up to take part in our very own 'Spot the Ball' competition or take a shot in our penalty shootout. We met a lot of organisations who were keen to learn more about youth development through football and this was an ideal opportunity to introduce them not only to WKU but organisations from around the world—all part of the streetfootballworld network—using football for the good of mankind. Many thanks to streetfootballworld for their support and we look forward to the next exhibition. Special thanks to our neighbours at the Conference RHRU and their beautiful staff!

WKU Health Academy



Foundations being dug for the new Health Academy

At last—WKU Health Academy has been approved by the Department of Health (DoH) and is now under construction—the first new building at Edendale Hospital for over 30 years! We have entered in to a unique agreement with the local DoH whereby we build the Academy and along with our Life Skills trainers the DoH will staff it with nurses, counselors and a doctor. Building work will be completed mid July and early August the doors will open to offer one-on-one counseling, HIV testing (VCT) rape counseling, ARV management and STI treatment and much more. This is really exciting news for the team.

WKU Centre of Excellence



WKU Centre of Excellence

WKU has at last secured a new Head Office in Durban. Not only will we have increased workspace but the office comes with its very own football pitch! Partnering up with Clarence Primary School, whose offices and pitch we are leasing, we will be putting their kids through the Life Skills and Peer Education programme each day. We will be recalling all our field staff individually for a week to come and work with groups of kids so we can then monitor and evaluate their abilities as WKU Life Skills trainers. This ensures continuous assessment and professional development. We will also use the the new site as a place to train partner organisations in delivery of our programme.

WKU expands to the North West Province of RSA

WKU has now partnered with One to One Children's Fund. One to One Children's Fund works at a grassroots level, in partnership with local communities, professional services and volunteers, to create programmes that empower local people, contribute to long term sustainability and introduce new ways of improving the welfare of children and families. Together we are working with 2 000 kids over a one year period to put them through our Life Skills and Peer Education programme. In addition we will be adding a new dimension to our programme by working with youth in Correctional Services. These kids are at a very high risk of HIV and poverty. We hope to give these kids hope for the future.

Volume 2, Issue 7
23 April 2009



Life Skills training with WhizzKids in Lamontville

Newsletter Spotlight

4th National SA HIV/AIDS Conference

WKU Health Academy

WKU Centre of Excellence

WKU partners with One-to-One Children's Fund in North West Province



The WhizzKids United exhibition booth— finest at the conference in our humble opinion!



The winner of 'Spot the Ball' receives her prize—Ms. Thabitha Masemola

