

Soccer Training with Team USA

On June 11th, ten WhizzKids from Rustenburg took part in a soccer training session with the US National Team, who are in South Africa for the Confederations Cup (and have subsequently qualified for the finals!)

The kids were recent graduates from the Life Skills programme and 'won' the chance by giving speeches in a school assembly as to why they should be chosen to go! The kids watched a 90 minute training session with stars like Landon Donovan and Tim Howard before getting the chance to meet the players, take pictures, get autographs and talk to them about our programme!

It will definitely live long in the memory of the kids and their signed shirts will be the envy of all their classmates.

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WKU graduates discuss the programme with soccer stars from Team USA

WhizzKids feed back about their goals

Learners in grades 6 to 9 at Bantu Vukani Primary School in Lamontville, a poverty-stricken township outside Durban, were asked to write down their life's goals before taking part in the WhizzKids United Life Skills programme. Over the next few issues we will highlight some of their responses!

The first question was to establish their occupational goals. In total there were 54 different careers which the kids aspired to. The ten most sought-after were, in order: doctor, police officer, football player, pilot, businessperson/entrepreneur, teacher, social worker, nurse, lawyer and actor. Perhaps the most obscure occupational goal was that of 14 year-old Nombuso Mpanza, who aspired to be a sematologist. If you are not sure what it is, then do what we did and look it up!

At Africaid we make it our mission to see to enable these kids to remain HIV-free and achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

Rustenburg Update

The WKU Life Skills programme has received glowing reviews from teachers and students in Rustenburg. Mrs. DeWet at Tshirologang Primary School said about the programme, "This is exceptional. The children enjoy their lessons tremendously. They do not just play, they are taught valuable and challenging skills. The ladies who teach it are also of the best quality."



WhizzKids from Bantu Vukani Primary School in Lamontville



WhizzKids taking part in the Life Skills programme in Rustenburg

2008 National HIV Survey results released

The National HIV Survey is carried out every three years in South Africa to assess the status of the epidemic, and results of the 2008 Survey have just been released. They estimate that nationwide HIV prevalence has stabilized at about 10.9%. KwaZulu-Natal (where WhizzKids United is based) remains the hardest-hit province with a prevalence rate of 15.8%.

There are, however, encouraging signs amongst youth, as the prevalence rate for the 15-24 age group fell, both nationally and in KZN. This was attributed to youth HIV prevention programmes and particularly their positive impact upon condom use. However, the report also showed that intergenerational sex (in particular between young girls and older men) has risen sharply, that girls are having their sexual debut earlier, that young people's basic knowledge of HIV has dropped off, and that there has been no progress in reducing the rate of multiple partnerships.

In summary, then, the report has yielded some encouraging signs of progress against the spread of HIV, but the battle is far from over. WhizzKids United is in the front lines and needs your continued support.



The future is looking brighter for South African youth, thanks to HIV prevention programmes like

WhizzKids selected for provincial team tryout

Sma, a WhizzKids United Life Skills trainer in Lamontville, is coaching three basketball teams made up of WhizzKids (two girls' teams and one boys' team). Recently, three of the girls and two boys were selected for a final training squad from which the KwaZulu-Natal provincial team will be selected. They have been asked to participate in a tournament next month in Vryheid. We will keep you posted on their progress!



Sma Biyela, WhizzKids United Life Skills Trainer

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