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10,000 kids and counting...

August saw our 10,000th kid come through the WhizzKids United programme! Defining the exact name of the kid is not actually possible, as we are running many programmes simultaneously and kids graduate in groups. What we do know is that he or she came from the area where it all started, KwaZulu-Natal! This milestone emphasises our commitment and also our growth this year.

WKU expands into Western Cape



On August 17th, WKU ran a five-day 'Train the Trainer' workshop, in partnership with the West Coast Community Foundation (WCCF), on a farm close to Malmesbury, 70 kilometres north of Cape Town. Eighteen eager volunteers from four local municipalities attended the workshop, as well as WCCF programme co-ordinator Margaret Gabriel. The "Bobby Robson" trophy for best trainer, kindly donated by Mike's Sports in Cape Town, was won by Tashville Daniels. The trainers will run the life skills programme with children in local schools, at after-school programmes and in football clubs.

New partnership in KZN

Africaid staff were again busy the week of August 24th, with Programme Manager Paul Kelly and Master Trainer Zanele Khanyile running another 'Train the Trainer' workshop in rural Maphumulo, KZN. This time Africaid partnered with Medical Care Development International (MCDI) and the uMfolon'gashi Youth Academy (UYAKA). UYAKA has started a boys' and

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▲ **A few of the 10,000
WhizzKids United graduates**

◀ **WKU Life Skills
coaches in Malmesbury,
Western Cape**

Newsletter Spotlight

**10,000 kids and
counting...**

**WKU expands into
Western Cape**

New partnership in KZN

sOcket Pilot Study

**Lamontville WhizzKids
speak out about their
goals (Part 3)**



girls' league for u-13s, u-17s and senior teams and WKU has harnessed this enthusiasm to recruit some of the coaches as trainers to deliver the life skills programme to 140 players in these teams. Africaid and MCDI hope to launch a longer-term roll-out with schools in nearby municipalities in 2010.



▲ WKU Life Skills Coaches in Maphumulo, KZN

sOcket Pilot Study

Jessica Lin, a Harvard student, spent the first two weeks of August piloting her new concept sOcket. This innovation is a soccer ball with the capacity to harness the energy of interaction with the ball during game-play for later use as a power source. This supplemental electricity can improve health and environment and promote education and community building. SOcket ran their pilot study in partnership with WhizzKids United! The prototypes were tested at Edendale, Lamontville and Clarence Primary where the kids were able to provide really constructive feedback. Jessica commented 'It was wonderful to see and feel the power of soccer and the excitement for next year's World Cup! Thanks very much again to WKU for all their help and insight on the project!'



▲ Intrigued children examine a sOcket power-generating soccer ball

Lamontville WhizzKids speak out about their goals (Part 3)

Continuing our series, we will look at some of the athletic goals expressed by WhizzKids from the impoverished township of Lamontville on their goal worksheets.

Many kids desire to excel in a particular sport. By far the most popular sport in this regard – for both boys and girls – was football or 'soccer'. This is clear from our World Cup tournaments that we run for every graduate of the programme. As soon as the kids have a football, it is hard to get them to do anything else! Other sports mentioned included basketball, netball, tennis, cricket, auto racing, running, volleyball, golf, diving, weightlifting and karate.



▲ Lamontville WhizzKids in a penalty shootout

The key to our programme is that football is not just a hook to get the kids interested and then teaching them life skills in isolation. Our course is fully integrated, with each lesson including football drills and football analogies that are related to a particular life lesson. We are currently working on developing our materials further as part of our continuous assessment of our programme.



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