

Dear Readers,

This month we've focused much of our energies on further developing youth programmes to run from our WKU Health Academy which will be launched in February 2010! All programmes are designed to create healthy behaviour change amongst youth which is key to decreasing incidence of HIV in South Africa. Therefore we either develop our own interventions or (preferably) partner with organisations already offering the best in a particular field. I'm thus delighted to introduce our new partner 'Shaping The Future' who are dedicated to exploring career options with young people and then developing career pathways. Their teaching tools for kids are really fantastic and Shaping The Future will certainly go a long way in helping us to focus youth on their long term goals whilst helping them to achieve them.

Warm regards, Marcus (CEO)

FIFA Fair Play focus at tournaments

Over the last two weeks we had over 2300 kids take part in our WhizzKids tournaments, a day of celebration to mark their graduation from our programme. It is a day of fun, rather than teaching, with a strong focus on FIFA's fair play initiative.

All matches are self refereed by the kids, which can bring about mixed results and a number of challenges! The kids can be relied upon to set their own rules, play within the boundaries of the pitch, award free kicks and pick up their opponents when they fall down!

The biggest issue is keeping score, as all kids want to win, which sometimes results in conflicting scores at the end of the game! This is solved by a mediator discussing the kids' opinions and 99% of time they can come to an agreement!

The kids are a great example to follow, and the negotiating skills they develop in the tournaments will serve them in other areas of life. That's WhizzKids United—**Bringing football to life!**TM

Pilot study shows alarming views on gender violence

Africaid recently ran a pilot of its new Life Skills questionnaire in four grade 7 classes in different communities in KZN. Although pilots are preliminary studies, we already found some interesting results. In the plots below you can see responses to the statement, "It is okay for a man to hit his woman if she disobeys him." Nearly all of the girls (right) disagreed strongly or disagreed

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▲ **Shaping The Future will be offering its excellent career guidance programme at our new Health Academy in Edendale**

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FIFA Fair Play focus at tournaments

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Programmes humming along from coast to coast

Coutdown to new website launch

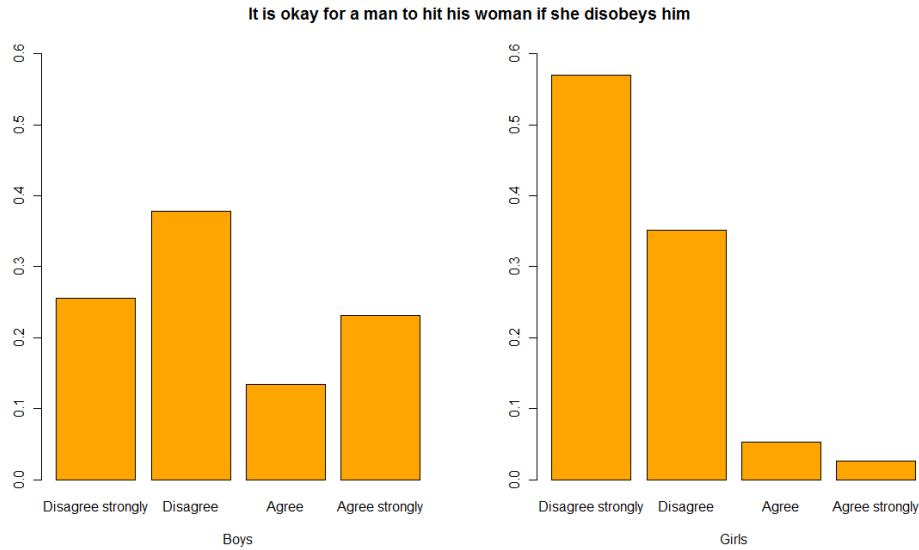


▲ **A goalkeeper anxiously waits to face a penalty**

low you can see responses to the statement, “It is okay for a man to hit his woman if she disobeys him.” Nearly all of the girls (right) disagreed strongly or disagreed, but over 1/3 of boys (left) agreed or strongly agreed!

▲ A goalkeeper anxiously waits to face a penalty in a semi-final shootout at Caluza Sports Ground

Numerous academic studies have established the link between inter-partner violence



and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women victimized by inter-partner violence are less able to protect their sexual health by, for instance, insisting that their partner use a condom.

These results support the need for interventions like WhizzKids United to change the attitudes and gender norms that drive the spread of HIV. It is important that these interventions reach kids early in adolescence before patterns of behaviour have developed, which is why we are WhizzKids United programmes with kids as young as 10.

Programmes humming along from coast to coast



First follow-up visits were conducted with Medical Care Development International (MCDI) in Maphumulo, KwaZulu Natal and West Coast Community Foundation (WCCF) in Malmesbury, Western Cape. These programmes are run with schools, out of school clubs as well as football teams, and despite some challenges, all trainers have reported that the kids and teachers are enjoying the programme.

A film crew from Germany joined Paul, WCCF Programme Officer Margaret Gabriel and one of our new volunteers to shoot some video of the life skills programme in action. The kids were delighted to be on camera.

▲ WKU volunteers at a follow-up training workshop in Malmesbury

The Life Skills programme has started with Esigodini Primary School in Edendale as well as Kanana Primary School in Rustenburg. The Peer Education programme has also started at two schools in Edendale: Caluza Primary and Edendale Primary.

Countdown to new website launch...

WhizzKids United volunteer Stefan Kunze has been hard at work developing a dynamic new website which is just about ready. You will receive a special e-mail in the next few days to notify you of the launch!



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