

Dear Readers,

As you probably all know by now we are fortunate to be taking a team of eight young WhizzKids from KwaZulu-Natal at the start of December to participate in the launch of the first FIFA Football For Hope Centre in Cape Town, to be managed by our colleagues Grassroots Soccer. Last week I joined the kids to see how well they played football as a team. As ever, I was impressed not only by their footballing ability but also how well they tried to play as a team and support each other. We introduced the concept of 'FIFA Fair Play' to the team whereby, rather than refereeing the match, the kids decide on rules beforehand and then implement them throughout the match. We're always deeply moved by how honestly and fairly the kids then play the game. If one kid accidentally commits a foul he or she will hold their hand up and award a free kick to the opposing side and even help the opponent back up.

Although there has been some controversy surrounding the ongoing call for technology in football, we now know the 32 teams that are coming to South Africa next year. We are very excited and eagerly await the draw in Cape Town on the 4th December!

Warm regards, Marcus (CEO)

Cape Town here we come!

We held two training sessions this month for our kids heading to Cape Town for the opening of the Football for Hope Centre at the beginning of December.

The Kids were picked up from two townships, Edendale and Lamontville, for a day of briefings, practice and fun. You could sense the excitement in the cars already, with most of the kids never having left their own city, let alone been on a plane!

Even though we are in the midst of a South African summer, it did not stop raining the whole day, so we needed to adapt our plans. We held a WhizzKids re-

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This photo shows a sobering contrast: Whizz-Kids enjoying their tournament in the foreground, while workmen dig a grave in the background. Edendale is running short of graveyard space due to the high HIV/AIDS death rate so graves are being dug right next to this sports ground!

Newsletter Spotlight

Cape Town here we come!

Maphumulo tournament a great success

Excerpts from interview with Grade 7 student

Website stats show promising beginning

Visitor from Canada



fresher course in our board room, before taking the kids for some indoor football training. Then it was back to the office for some traditional Zulu dancing and some interview practice.



The 'elite eight' in training for their trip to Cape Town

The kids were great and we are sure they will do their families and WhizzKids United proud next month.

Maphumulo tournament a great success



Dudu Sibiya, Best Player trophy winner, with Programme Director Paul Kelly

On Nov 21 we held a tournament in rural Maphumulo, KZN to congratulate the kids who have completed WKU Life Skills there in our 2-month pilot project in partnership with Medical Care Development International (MCDI) and Umfulongashi Youth Academy (UYACA). This tournament was smaller than most with 90 players, but according to Programme Director Paul Kelly (himself a former professional football player), this was the highest level of football ever seen at a WKU tournament!

We were especially impressed with the girls' ability, and in fact the Best Player trophy went to a girl, Dudu Sibiya, whose fancy footwork helped vault her side into the finals. We are looking forward to expanding our work in this district next year with the help of our partners.

Excerpts from M&E interview with Grade 7 student

Here at Africaid we are committed to providing stakeholders with the best possible Monitoring & Evaluation. Realising that qualitative information (testimonials, anecdotes, etc.) is just as important as quantitative (figures, statistics, graphs, etc.), we have developed a new interview tool to investigate outcomes of the WKU Life Skills course.

The very first pilot interview was conducted with a girl in grade 7 at Edendale Primary School. Here are a couple of excerpts from that interview (translated from Zulu):



A WhizzKid being interviewed about her experience of the programme

Q: What was the most important thing you learned in the programme?

A: My favourite part of the programme I loved where they teaching us how can we do if there is someone wants to sleep with you by force, they teach us how can we do say NO! Do agree or not agree to sleep with him, they teach us how can be able to say no if there is someone wants to sleep with you."

Q: How have you changed as a person from participating in the WhizzKids United Life Skills programme (if at all)?

A: Yes, it happen I've been changed yeah... There is something that I don't do it now I've learned from the WhizzKids how we can do it [pause]...

Q: Okay do want to talk any more about that?

A: Okay, just like as if there is somebody wants to block me so I can... [Repeatedly], I would tell him/her I don't like what you I doing or if there is a person who wants me to take drugs I would able to say to her/him I don't like what you are doing.

Website stats show promising beginning

Our website www.whizzkidsunited.org was re-launched 12 days ago and we have received very good feedback, which shows that our visitors like the new website. Not only the look is new; we have also a lot of new analytical tools. These will help us to improve the website according to what our visitors require. Let's have a look on who have been our visitors so far (as of Nov 24):



World map showing countries which have visited our new website the most

- 434 visitors came from 28 countries. The most unexpected, but not less appreciated countries are Georgia, Paraguay and Bahrain
- Top 3 countries: South Africa (122 visitors), United Kingdom (121), Germany (72)
- Top 3 most popular pages (other than the front page): About WhizzKids United (218 clicks), WhizzKids United staff (210 clicks), WhizzKids United programme (149 clicks)
- The average visitor remains 4:13min on our website (40 times longer than the average of all websites listed on google)
- 2526 single pages have been seen by all our visitors
- That means the average visitor watches 5.82 pages (2.5 times more than the average of all websites listed on Google)
- And at last: the most popular staff profile is of course Marcus' profile: 12% of all clicks are for him

All in all that is an impressive start for our new website. Help us to make it even more popular by send the link to your friends: www.whizzkidsunited.org

Visitor from Canada



Canadian visitor Dan Farrar with some of his South African hosts

We had a visit from Tom's cousin, Dan Farrar, who gave up his holiday to come to South Africa to learn more about our programme. We are always looking at new fundraising opportunities and he is looking to spread the word in Canada, with a view to securing funds from new sources. We would like to thank him for his time. Please visit our blog, updated every Friday, to hear about his experience:

<http://www.whizzkidsunited.org/blog.php>



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