

APRIL 2006
EQUIPPING YOUTH...
TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES



Richard

A NOTE FROM RICHARD

Youth: our future lies in their hands. They are our leaders, our creativity and our hope of the new South Africa. Yet our country's greatest resources are facing tremendous challenges: unemployment, the scourge of HIV and Aids, violence and crime, amongst others.

How do we ensure that teenagers are making decisions that will help them reach their dreams, despite these problems? When they are reaching their dreams, we know that the change they experience in their lives will bring hope to those around them. This spirit of positive growth will filter through their communities and into future generations.

Richard Lundie

That is what OIL is all about - teenagers taking Ownership of their lives, Investing in their lives and Living their lives.

Four Peer educators speak out about the three years with OIL...



Weyers

FISH HOEK HIGH

You get two kinds of people in this world: One who jumps on the bandwagon and expects the rest of the world to do something about the problems facing our society, and then one who chooses to keep walking with the ones facing the problems and equip them to deal with it. The latter is an OIL Person, they do not jump on the bandwagon... and they taught me to do the same

in the three years I was an active peer educator.

Being a peer educator had a dual purpose in my life. Firstly, it gave me a chance to put back into my community what it had given me, to be part of the process which created leaders amongst my younger peers, help my peers when they were faced with problems and did not know where to go and help put out the message that our youth is powerful and are already leaders of tomorrow. Secondly, it built a lot into my own character. I was exposed to many different people and media and was equipped with knowledge I consider imperative to my success as a young adult in the world today. OIL fulfilled their vision in me: they equipped me with the necessary skills and knowledge to make decisions today to better my tomorrow.

So what does all this mean? Well, OIL was instrumental in helping me find myself as a person, teaching me how to set and secure boundaries for myself, building on my self-esteem and confidence. They also provided the platform to test out all the new skills I had been equipped with. OIL put me on a stage to present forums for youth by youth, they put me in promotional videos to promote our vision for Africa, and they put me on radio and national TV, giving me the chance to speak out on behalf of my fellow youth! These were invaluable opportunities that not only changed my life drastically, but also the lives of others.

The chances of me being the confident, balanced secure and independent young man I am today are very slim, had not OIL played a three-year part in my life. Otherwise, I might well have jumped on that bandwagon...

Weyers Marias

MASIPHUMELELE HIGH

My name is Busiswa Ndlalankulu, a 19 year old girl from Masiphumelele High School. Being a teenager, I had to start making decisions on my own, knowing whether I am doing the right thing. Yet I face these challenges and decisions each day by searching for the consequences before taking a step forward. Other challenges I take as an opportunity to become a stronger person. Of course there are people who are trying to bring me down, but I don't hate those people. Without them I would not be able to know the other side of life and I wouldn't be as strong as I am today.

Peer Education has changed my life in so many ways. It has taught me to be a better person who is willing to work hard and set my goals to be able to follow my dreams. It has made me realise that in life, no one is responsible for you more than yourself and that the decisions that you make today will have an impact on your future. Therefore, make sure that you make good decisions today without forgetting that each and every thing you do, you will have to face the consequences tomorrow. In our society, we need people who know themselves, where they came from, where they are going and why they are going in that direction.

I love being a peer educator more than anything else in life because it has helped me to know my value and how important I can be to my friends, my community and my family.

Busiswa Ndlalankulu

SIMON'S TOWN HIGH

My name is Kurt Hendricks and I am 18. Three years ago, my future was not looking great. Even staying in school was a challenge. By the time I was 13, research showed that by 2010 half of my peers would already be HIV positive. In a situation like that it can be hard to have hope for the future of your generation.

Fortunately in 2002, I was selected by my peers to join a peer education programme with OIL, which runs over three years at my school. As part of the programme I helped to build homes for some of the poorest in the community, I spoke out on behalf of the rights of orphaned children to our parliament and organised events for other teenagers to raise awareness about these issues. I now have a vision not only for my own life but also for the community in which I grew up. OIL's commitment made that possible. They believe that, with support, we can be part of the solution to the challenges facing our continent today. We don't want hand outs, just a chance to make a difference to our own communities. OIL has given me the skills to start making that vision a reality.

Kurt Hendricks

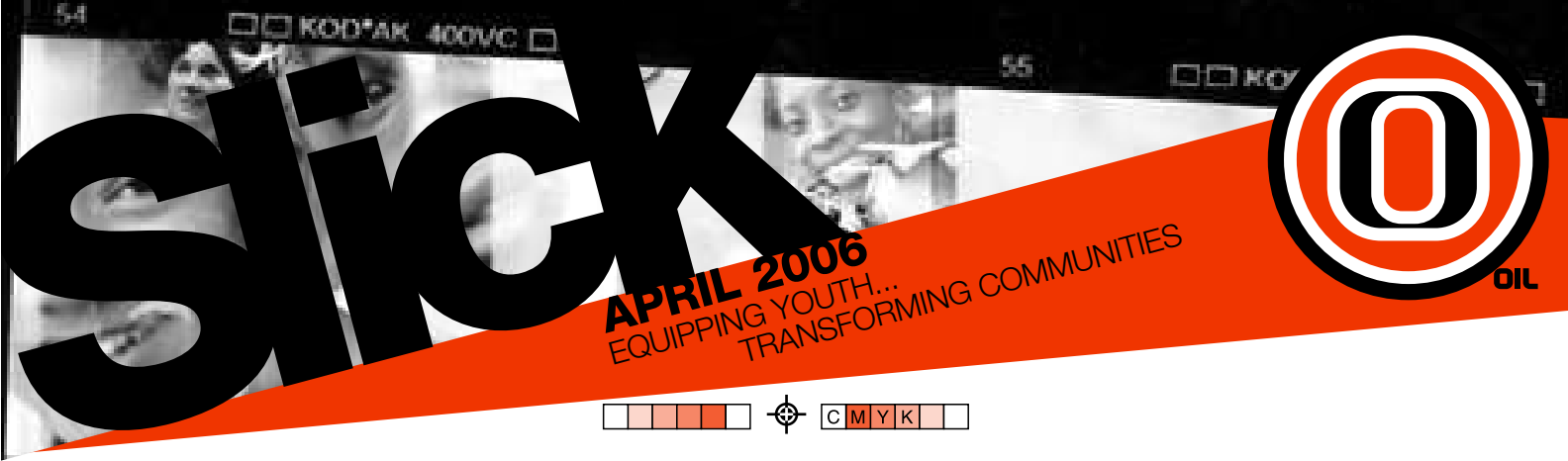


Busiswa



Kurt





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Ricardo

OCEAN VIEW HIGH

The question is: What do you as young people need to make sure that your life is safe and unharmed by diseases and even sometimes physical abuse? The answer to this is that you need to seek help with OIL. Three years has passed and yes, I miss it so much. This small organisation is where you get the one-on-one contact with someone fit to do the job but most of all even though it's professional they

would really want to be your friend.

OIL is totally about making sure that teenagers are equipped to recognise problems and handle them, as well as tutor their peers about how to face challenges such as HIV/Aids. I have learnt to ask GOD what I can do for him. He can become your strength even when you struggle and then when you know that you've tried your best, it's not a loss.

Ricardo Herdien

WORLD AIDS DAY

Youth living in the Masiphumelele present one of the biggest paradoxes facing our country. Peer educators at Masiphumelele High school decided that enough is enough and planned to celebrate World Aids Day differently. They called the project Ikamva Lethu (Our Future). They celebrated the day by thanking caregivers from HOKISA for the work they do for orphans and vulnerable children in Masiphumelele. They also encouraged other teenagers get tested so that they can know their status. They handed out flyers that advise them where and when they can go for help.

RECRUITMENT

Every year we have in-coming and out-going peer educators. The way in which we facilitate the process that introduces in-coming teenagers to our programme is called recruitment.

We recruit Grade 10s in the 1st term via a class by class selection. During this time teens either volunteer or get nominated by their peers onto the programme. We recruited approximately 150 peer educators.

INTER-TRACK DAY

Inter-track days were absolutely awesome!!! The aim of our inter-track day is to lay a foundation for teamwork for the rest of the year and to begin the mentoring process with them. This can only be done once the different tracks get to know more about each other. Here is some feedback from peer educators from all four inter-track days. .

What I liked or learned today:

- “because everyone got to work together as a team”.
- “**How to work as a team**”
- “mentoring - I got to express my views”.
- “**I learned that people must work together to achieve something**”.
- “to respect each other's ideas”.
- “**I have learned how to be independent**”.
- “I learned how to express myself”.
- “**That even when you really think something is impossible there is a way to solve it**”.
- “I leaned about new cultures and different points of view”.



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