



A NOTE FROM RICHARD

“Impossible is a word to be found only in the dictionary of fools”

March 2005 held great challenges for OIL. The bulk of our funding had been withdrawn and we were faced with making tough decisions. The only way that we were going to survive was to shrink our budget by having a smaller staff. This decision was not taken lightly and it was with heavy hearts that we said farewell to five of our staff members.

Even with the smaller staff complement, the board of directors and the fundraising team had to work hard to make OIL sustainable. Thankfully, we have managed to source funding to allow us to continue functioning. We have had a time of reshuffling and organising and have brought on board several new volunteers. It has also been a time of consolidation – bringing together what we have and letting the cement of our foundations dry again.

As managing director, I am lucky to have such a dedicated staff. They have been working incredibly hard in building into the lives of the teenagers in the Fish Hoek Valley even in the face of financial crisis. They are to be applauded. We have also felt the support of the community in our financial crisis. We have had the backing of the schools, businesses and other organisations who have helped us in various ways. We thank you for your support.

I would also like to express my gratitude for the support of our Peer Educators. Their belief in what we do and the hours they have put in to help fundraise has been an incredible encouragement to us.

There are 206 Peer Educators who are actively involved in the programme and we continue to work to equip them with skills to bring about the positive changes necessary to turn this valley right side up. Working with teenagers has always been greatly encouraging. They have such enthusiasm, energy and passion. It is in the channelling of these three things that we hope to bring about community transformation. You may be wondering: why do you do what you do? What are you about? Our vision is our heartbeat. **We see a generation of Africans uplifting their communities and imparting vision and purpose to future generations to do the same.** Believing this, and seeing the incredible potential of the teenagers with whom we work is reason enough for us to continue with what we are doing – and that is bringing positive change and hope to the teenagers of the Fish Hoek Valley.

ON THE FRONTLINES

The OIL peer educators had a second term that was packed full of activities. The academic side of things was just as intense, with the mid year exams being a heavy burden at the end of an already hectic term.

FISH HOEK HIGH

Fish Hoek Senior High has seen an enthusiastic group of new Track 1's into the programme this year. They are full of life and not afraid to let you know what they are thinking. We have had a great 1st and 2nd term with them in the school, tackling topics such as HIV, Sexuality, Self Image, Boundaries, Relationships and many more. On June 15th the Track 2's organised a social for the local teens. It all came together and they had great fun organising it and attending it. We have had a good 1st and 2nd term with them too, meeting every two weeks. The group has shrunk a bit in numbers, but it is great working with those who are committed and excited about what they are doing and learning.

Thank you to all the Peer Educators' parents as well as the staff at the school for their continued support of the teens and the programme.
Michelle Fitzpatrick

MASIPHUMELELE HIGH

The first half of the year was very exciting, recruiting new Grade 10's for Track 1 with the assistance of the Track 2's. This group is filled with energy and is not afraid to ask questions. Meeting every Tuesday has been an interesting time to get to know them very well. A challenge that we face is not being able to see the Track 2's & 3's as much as we would have like because they have been so busy with school work and activities. We had to meet around their schedules.

Thank you Mrs Radebe, Masiphumelele High, Headmaster, Miss Daweti, Liaison teacher & Miss Sidlayi, the school secretary, for all your assistance.
Siphokazi Mngxali

SIMON'S TOWN HIGH

At the beginning of the year we recruited 32 new Grade 10's. They are an amazingly diverse group, full of energy and very outspoken. The Track 2's have had a very busy first term. They organised an event on Human Rights Day. The Peer Educators that managed the project were Bianca Abrahams, Yonda Ndiki, Simphiwe Maqutyana, Mark Qolombeni and Kurt Hendricks. This event took place at the Ocean View Multi Purpose Centre. The objectives for the day were to celebrate that we have rights and to highlight certain rights to make teenagers and children aware of it. They invited a wonderful guest speaker, Namhla Mniki, from the UCT Children's Institute. The programme offered information as well as fun filled entertainment. The Track 1's and 3's were also active with planning and participating in the event. The Track 3's have been amazing with supporting us with Track 1 and 2 lesson deliveries. They bring a fresh and lively dynamic to our team.

Thank you to the Peer Educators and the school that supported us during our crisis. Without your support we would not have had the strength to pull through.

SLICK

JULY 2005



OCEAN VIEW HIGH

The first half of the year has simply passed by in a blink. We started off the year by welcoming a new group of 30 teenagers from grade 10 into our programme and the continued support of our grade 11 and 12 Peer Educators at Ocean View Secondary. We would also like to thank Mr. Klein for his continued support of the programme.

Although some of the challenges faced included a brief spate of protesting/riots and finding enough time to complete all our modules with the Peer Educators, the first half the year has been amazing. The Peer Educators thoroughly enjoyed the Lube Lounge held at the beginning of the year, where they had the opportunity to mingle and chat with teenagers from other communities as well as listening in on some inspirational words from our guest speakers.

In all the last six months have been great and I look forward to spending the rest of the year with the Peer Educators from Ocean View.

Lynette Martin

COUNSELLING

We offer counselling services after school at Ocean View High on Mondays, Masiphumelele High and Fish Hoek High school at the schools on Tuesdays and Simon's Town, counselling is offered at the OIL offices. We offer Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV at the local clinics. Please contact us to make an appointment. Any teenagers that would like to chat to someone please do not hesitate to contact us at our offices.

CAMPS

We ended the term with two 3-day camps at the N.G. Kerk Campsite in Noordhoek. The first one was for Masiphumelele High & Ocean View High that was from 21st - 23rd June and then Simon's Town High and Fish Hoek Senior High from the 28th - 30th June. It was a great experience and gave the Peer Educators time to build cross-cultural friendships. They learned more about the critical issues they are facing in their own and other communities. They also looked at possible ways to try to resolve these issues together as teenagers.

Shan Prinsloo



FUNDRAISING

You can help us continue with our work by making donations to the following account:

Account: OIL Reach Out

Bank: Standard Bank

Branch: Rondebosch

Branch code: 02 5009

Account number: 071477551

Your donations would be greatly appreciated!



Kurt Hendricks, a Track 3 Peer Educator from Simon's Town

"Peer education doesn't tell you what to do differently but changes you as a person, so that you can do things differently. I think it is probably the best approach imaginable when dealing with young people"

Contact us...

TELEPHONE 021 782 0700
FACSIMILE 021 782 0704
EMAIL info@oil.org.za
Please feel free to contact us at any time. To keep costs down we prefer sending emails, but should you prefer to receive a print version please phone the OIL office on 021 782 0700 or forward your details to info@oil.org.za