

# Slick

NOVEMBER 2005



“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”  
**Eleanor Roosevelt**

## A NOTE FROM RICHARD

OIL has been working in the Fish Hoek Valley since 2002. We have been delivering something called Peer Education in the Masiphumelele, Simon's Town, Fish Hoek and Ocean View high schools. You may be wondering: what Peer Education is all about? In short, it is a vehicle of community transformation.

There are very few people in South Africa who have not heard about HIV or Aids and how it is contracted. Yet the infection rate is increasing. Why? Surely if people knew the dangers of high risk behaviour, they would change? This is not the case. Knowledge alone does not change behaviour.

Human beings are social creatures. Social acceptance is a crucial part of our lives and we often view ourselves in the way our friends see us. This social aspect holds the key to bringing true behaviour change. If our friends change their behaviour, we are more likely to change ourselves.

Peer Education aims at bringing about change in individuals who are leaders in their communities. Through sessions with OIL facilitators, adolescent peer educators are trained with the knowledge and skills to make positive personal decisions regarding their values, attitudes and behaviour. As their friends watch how these decisions lead to a healthier lifestyle, they too are challenged to make similar choices.

Change in communities starts with a few individuals. As more lives are changed, it spreads until we have community transformation. If you meet an OIL peer educator, ask what they have been doing in their community. You will find that they are bringing the change to the community that is so desperately needed.

## FISH HOEK HIGH

The second half of the year is always a short one as the peer educators have September and November exams to write. We continue to see the Grade 10's, who prove themselves as young people who have thoughts and opinions regarding the topics we tackled with them. They have settled nicely into their roles as peer educators. We haven't seen the Grade 11's as much as we would have like to, as they have been very busy, but we are proud that 12 out of the 15 new SRC members are OIL peer educators. Congrats to all of you and we hope we will still see you in the future.

## MASIPHUMELELE HIGH

The second half of the year felt very short but busy and exciting. The peer educators were preparing for exams and we did not see much of them. Grade 10's completed their lesson deliveries in their classes, indicating what they have learned throughout the year. Good news is that Masiphumelele High School will have a new building next year. We are very excited about it and are looking forward to recruiting new peer educators next year.

## SIMON'S TOWN HIGH

Once again we have come to the end of the year. This was a very interesting year for all of us - it had its ups and downs, but we've made it through.

The Simon's Town School Liaison had to step out for maternity leave so the peer educators, Liaison teacher and the Headmaster had to adjust to getting to know a new School Liaison in the second term which is easier said than done. We managed, however, to tackle this with great prowess.

We had 22 track 1 skills training sessions this year and some of the peer educators have a very good attendance, well done guys.

## OCEAN VIEW HIGH

This term has been awesome! Even though our peer educators have been gearing themselves for their end-of-year exams, they have had loads of fun as well! Our highlights included the huge success of our community day (Women's Day) in Ocean View. I would like to extend a special "YOU ROCK" to all the peer educators who participated in the event. You guys really showed your heart for the community and for community service providers within Ocean View. I'm so proud of you!!!

Lastly I would like to congratulate Lester Kok and Nic Klazen for their appointment onto the Ocean View Secondary RCS. Well done guys!!!

## INTER-TRACK DAY

OIL hosted 4 intertrack days during September and October. They provide an opportunity for teenagers from each of the 3 tracks in the school to get together and grow as a team. peer educators spent a full day participating in:

- >> Team-building
- >> Learning more information about services in their community from people who work at the police station, clinics, hospital and home care centre.
- >> Planning towards the community projects for next year.



The orange team at Lube Lounge



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## LUBE LOUNGE

Lube Lounge is a forum where trained teenagers interview celebrities and role models. On the 26 August 2005 we had an opportunity to invite community leaders to be interviewed. Guests included Lynda Lamb from VDP, Lungelo Nqojana from HOKISA and Debra Gonsalves from the Ocean View Centre for Persons with Disabilities. The teenagers attending were greatly challenged by these community role models.

On the 12th of October 2005 we had a great evening. Our teenage presenters interviewed Zolani Mahola & Kyla-Rose from Freshlyground, General from Chiskop and a local Fish Hoek band called Singletrack. Included in the performances was a group called Imbizo produced by General. With Imbizo and Singletrack playing the place was rocking. If you weren't there you missed out.

## COMMUNITY DAY – WOMEN'S DAY

This year Ocean View peer educators decided to approach "Women's Day" differently. Instead of focusing on the social and economic problems women constantly face, they focused on praising women for all their hard work - women who have contributed to the broader community and in the home.

As part of our 2005 Women's Day campaign, various service providers nominated women they felt deserved to be recognised for their contribution in the community. These service providers included:

- >> The Ocean View Police Station
- >> Ocean View Secondary School
- >> Ocean View Clinic
- >> Ocean View Centre for persons with Disabilities.

Many amazing women were nominated and every single one of them received a small gift as a token of the peer educator's appreciation. Their response to our surprise-visits was wonderful: tears and beautiful smiles were the order of the day. Two women in particular stood out as they received the most nominations. They were chosen for their unflinching commitment to better the lives of those around them. These women are Debra Gonsalves (manageress of the Centre for Persons with Disabilities) and Sageda De Klerk (Ocean View Secondary School secretary).

## THANK YOU'S FROM OIL STAFF

- >> To all the Headmasters for their support and allowing us to use the resources in the school.
- >> To all the liaison teachers and secretaries that assist in making communication better between OIL and the school.
- >> To all our guest speakers that took time out of their busy schedules to come and talk to our teenagers.
- >> Last, but not least, to our wonderful and hard working peer educators that helped organise events and attend training sessions even under difficult circumstances.

## POEM FOR WOMEN'S DAY

You are No Man.  
You lay a hand on a Woman  
You are No Man.  
You hit and abuse a helpless female soul  
You are No Man.  
To protect, love and obey, if you don't do that for her then  
You are No Man.

You hit and break down her hopeful spirit  
then You are No Man.  
She cries and lives in fear, because of you.  
You are No Man.  
She dreads going, because of you.  
You are No Man.

What happened to cherish, honour and love till death do you apart?  
She'd rather die, than live like this with you  
a day longer because  
You are No Man.

But the heartache and tears make her stronger  
And she realises she can't continue this  
a day longer  
She speaks up and moves out.  
She looks for a better tomorrow  
because she is a Woman.

By Ziyanda Luke  
Simon's Town Peer Educator

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