

YES PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT: 1 APRIL 2010 – 31 DECEMBER 2010

The Soccer World Cup venue being located close to the Institute resulted in the closure of the project from 11 June – 11 July as we could not guarantee transport for learners during that time. As a result of the closure we could only offer 4 courses during 2010.

Aim of YES

Youth Employment Skills (YES) is a Salesian Institute Project that empowers disadvantaged youth who have a minimum Grade 9 education and who are between the ages of 18 and 26. Through sponsored training we offer them:

- A three week compulsory, interactive life skills programme.
- A five week basic skills training course for readiness into entry level employment, comprising;
 - Tiling
 - Bricklaying
 - Computer Literacy and Office Management
 - Computer Maintenance and Repair
- Assistance in obtaining gainful employment.
- Continuous support and assistance through maintaining and updating our employment database to enhance their employability.

By being employed, youth will be financially independent and positively contribute to society.

Life Skills

The 3 week Life Skills component remains the backbone of the programme and comprises three phases; Personal Development, Self Empowerment and Business Skills. As many of these youth come from backgrounds where drug abuse, domestic violence, alcoholism and a general feeling of despair prevails, the youth need the knowledge and skills in order to question their choices and to change their behavior where necessary.

The feedback from the students on completion of life skills reinforce our belief that lessons learnt during these sessions are just as important, if not more important, than the skills learnt during the Hard Skills Phase.

Bricklaying

37 students attended the 3 courses between April 2010 and December 2010. Acute poverty still remains the main reason for dropouts from this class.

Students living on the street have been able to live in the Don Bosco Hostel for the duration of their course. Place is then found at the various shelters in and around Cape Town on completion of the course.

Computer Literacy and Office Management

73 Students completed training during this period. This course remains the most popular; there are names of hopeful students on waiting lists at the beginning of each course.

Tobella Magazi replaced Edgar Lennich as facilitator at the beginning of the 3rd course. She speaks Xhosa, English and Afrikaans which has been a great help to the Xhosa speaking learners.

Tiling

54 Students attended the course during this period. Students living on the streets while attending this course have been able to stay in the Don Bosco Hostel for the duration of the course. Place is then found at the various shelters in and around Cape Town on completion of the course.

Students coming to class under the influence of Tik or Dagga have proved a challenge during 2010. These learners are mostly youth referred by organizations working with youth at risk. We have requested a comprehensive report on each of these youth before acceptance into the programme.

Computer Maintenance and Repair

A total of 46 students completed training during this period. There were no real challenges during this time.

Training/Job Placement

2010 Has been successful with regard to job placement. We have maintained and increased our database of employers and made contact with agencies that provide their services to the various SETA's for recruitment of students onto the various Learnership Programmes.

Training statistics for Financial Year April - December 2010 - Groups 2/2010; 3/2010; 4/2010

	Females Trained Apr-Dec	Males Trained Apr-Dec	Total Trained Apr-Dec
Total	68	142	210

*Placement statistics for Financial Year April - December 2010 - Groups 2/2010; 3/2010; 4/2010; **Samsung Real Dreams Only***

	Females Employed Apr-Dec	Males Employed Apr-Dec	Total Employed Apr-Dec
Total	49	76	125

The placement rate to date for;

Group 2 – 74%

Group 3 – 78%

Group 4 – 23% (This group completed in November)

The percentages should increase as the learners currently unemployed find employment during 2011.

Placement statistics for Financial Year April - December 2010 - Groups 2/2010; 3/2010; 4/2010; Including youth from Learn to Live Workshops/other/Samsung Real Dreams

	Females Employed Apr-Dec	Males Employed Apr-Dec	Total Employed Apr-Dec
Total	137	155	292

General

- 2 Video conferences were again organized between Missio Munich and the Salesian Institute during this period. During the October conference I was fortunate to be in Munich and could experience the conference from the 'other side'.
- A Reproductive Health workshop was held on 6 October in Washington. The session was informative and we will be able to incorporate certain activities into our Life Skills programme.
- The IYF Global Partnership Conference held in Washington from 7 – 9 October was an informative and an uplifting experience. There were many breakaway sessions and opportunities for discussion but the relevance of technology and how we could maximize new technology within our organization was most interesting.
- An information sharing day organized by the University of the Western Cape was held at Pollsmoor Prison on 5 October. The Job Placement Officer and the Tiling Facilitator spoke to inmates shortly to be released about the programme. The social workers and prisoners were very appreciative of the visit as very few opportunities are afforded these young people.
- The graduation day is always a day of relief, fun and rejoicing. The drumming performances by Jonathan and learners are always enjoyable. These sessions are very participatory and the whole audience gets involved, clapping and dancing - space permitting.
- The SRD essay competition has been a wonderful opportunity for students to share their stories. A very big thank you to Samsung for the generous prizes awarded. We hear so many stories of hardship that the challenges that these youth face on a daily basis tend to blend into one another and the seriousness of their situation becomes diluted. These stories really brought home to us why we do what we do.

The prize giving lunch and ceremony for the winners of the competition was held at the Protea Hotel North Warf on 14th December. The 6 learners who received prizes were visibly overjoyed and very grateful for the wonderful prizes supplied by Samsung.

- A retreat was held at a farm in Stanford from 1-3 December for staff from the project. A relaxing time was had by all. We reflected on the year nearly passed and discussed the year to come. The time spent together on an informal basis is always beneficial – there is a

sense of belonging and the reflection brings home why we do what we do and why we want to continue doing what we do.

Staff

Job Placement Officer	Sharon Reagon
Administrative Assistant	Thulisa Ndibaza
Tiling Facilitator	Henry Robinson
Bricklaying Facilitator	Alec Maaimbre
Computer Maintenance & Repair Facilitator	Milton Saaiman
Computer Literacy and Office Management Facilitator	Tobella Magazi
Coordinator	Allison Appleton

We appreciate the support and belief in the project from all our donors. The fact that our graduated youth are employable goes to the very grain of the success of the project.