

DON BOSCO HOSTEL: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

Aims & objectives:

We focus on street youth and youth at risk in the community between the ages of 16-24 who are motivated to adopt to a new life style through entering a 12 month educational & life skills program to ensure integration into society and reunification with family/guardians or significant others. This program is divided into three phases of 4 months each. About 32 youth as engaged into he program since April 2008- March 2009 of which 10 has graduated in March 2009.

We also have an emergency program where youth in the same age group as mentioned before are assisted with accommodation whilst job hunting. We have assisted 30 youth and they have moved on and are very much independent and self-reliant. Some of them still make contact with the institute at times. We have also accommodated about 16 youth attending courses at the Yes- Project.

Highlights 2008/2009

Program:

Home visits:

Home visits are done on a monthly basis with all he youth in the program including post-program youth who have been reunited with family and reintegrated into society. During home visits emphasis are on bridging the gap between the youth and their families but also to strengthen relationships between them. We also empower the families how to approach the youth when unacceptable behaviours are demonstrated on their visits. We have done about 336 home visits.

Counseling:

Counseling take place daily both structured and unstructured. Youth are welcome to make appointments with social worker and vice versa as the need arises. We focus on the personal issues of the youth and helping them to set goals but also to reach these goals. Youth do find it difficult at times to relate information and can be very avoiding. Counseling are sometimes frustrating for counselor since youth have to be encouraged to share information and problems so that they can be assisted in the best possible way. Counseling sessions for the year amount to 218.

Care plans:

Care plans take place three times a year. During this time we spend one hour per youth. The drafting of the care plans are done in collaboration with a multi disciplinary team consisting of social worker, family worker, instructors, key workers and coordinator. With the drafting of plans we focused on both the strengths and developmental needs. The care plans were designed in he months of September 2008 and March 2009.

Developmental programs:

Take place on a daily basis. The life skills are done by staff and external service providers. The life skills program is based on the following modules: personal hygiene, education & employment, sexuality & relationships, social skills & social issues, spirituality, boundaries, rights & responsibilities, as well as coping mechanism for life.

Community integration:

In September 2008 10 youth were integrated into society including being reunified with family members. However two youth have relapsed and are back on the streets whilst 5 youth are with family members or significant others, one in a program called "My life" and one living with friends. One is working on sea and the others are unemployed. In March 2009 2 youth were reintegrated and one is back with a previous program who referred him to us for further assistance since he refuse to be with grandmother due to boundaries set by her and left the residence of aunt after being in conflict with his nephew. The youth seem to be coping well within the community and are functional in their family life.

Sport & Recreation:

Youth participated in soccer events with the youth worker. They are also part of the soccer team at Learn-t-Live. Mr. Nelson the youth worker is currently organizing the sporting coach with the youth. The youth also participated in a martial arts tournament at the University of Stellenbosch and were very successful since they all received medals on this occasion. Youth make use of the gym and swimming pool as part of the sporting exercise. They enjoy it very much. Youth were involved in a hiking day with mr. Wieseck. Youth are involved in game and other activities on and of the premises. We

attended the Navy Festival in Simons Town in March 2009. Mr. Wessels organized a day of fun on the premises with the youth in the same month.

Camps:

Refocus camp:

Refocus camp were held in September 2008 and March 2009. About 10 youth attended the September camp and 6 youth the March camp. The camps were very informative and focused on an evaluation of the months past but also on the months ahead where they had to draft plans for the future. Some of the students of University of Western Cape joined us since they did a life skills program with the youth on Thursdays. During the March camp a lot of emphasis was placed on community life and personal life focusing on family and my role within it. The purpose of God's plans for us was the highlight of the camp.

Mini refocus camp:

Refocus camp was held in January 2009 in the Cederberg mountains in Citrusdal. The camp was attended by 6 youth and 6 staff members. The camp went well although not without the tension between youth. During this camp we focused on inner healing, marvelous me and you, values, how to restore and move on, introspection also some game playing for relaxation.

Holiday program:

We had a one week holiday camp on the beach in Gordon's Bay. We slept in tents and enjoyed long walks on the beach. The youth were not happy in the beginning but later on participated in the program. We visited the planetarium and museum, went out for pizza, watching movies with short discussions thereafter and a barbecue on the beach. The youth spent the rest of the holidays with family.

Orientation for new intakes:

This is a three week program focusing on life skills such as boundaries, changes, healthy bodies and minds, living together, program information, code of conduct including being disciplined to reach your goals in life and the life of Don Bosco.

Graduation ceremony:

Youth are congratulated on completing the program. They are being acknowledged for their strength and courage during this time. We wish them well for the future but ensure them that they can always count on us should they experience any difficulty and we still walk the road with them even if they have finished the program we are the hand they can reached out to. We still have contact with them on a monthly basis just to monitor and assist if help is needed.

Don Bosco Team:

We have a new assistant coordinator, mr. Gavin Wessels, one youth worker mr. Clive Heyns, two reliever workers mr. Walter Fourie and mr. Mthobelo. Our family worker mr. Nthetha has moved on and was replaced by mr. Jan Julius. The social worker student, Barbara from Switzerland is doing well. She has adopted much and has a full understanding of our program. She has established good relationships with the youth and staff. She is a vibrant and exciting person to work with. She participated in the camp and facilitated life skills program with the youth.

Hostel:

The renovations are completed and we are grateful to the donors who made it possible. We are grateful to the sponsors of the kitchen utensils.

Vote of thanks:

We want to make use of this opportunity to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to all our donors and sponsors for assisting us in the needs of the youth. We also want to thank our external service providers African Arts & Culture, Denise Francis and Nellie for their involvement in the development of our youth and staff members. The shelters Langa, Ethel's Place and The Ark for accommodating our youth when needed. The board and Salesians for their support and encouragement.

God bless you.