



ACTIVITY REPORT for **Projects Abroad Human Rights Office**

MAY 2013

NAME OF PROJECT: **Projects Abroad Human Rights Office**

TYPE OF PROJECT: **Human Rights**

NUMBER OF INTERNS THIS MONTH: 10

SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

Name: **Bonnytoun**

Description:

Bonnytoun is a place of safety and secure care centre for male juvenile offenders.

Schedule:

Bonnytoun is visited every Thursday from 13:30 to 15:00.

Age of Youth

Between 13 -18

Number of Boys

The number of Boys is +90, depending upon whether Bonnytoun is full or not.

02 May 2013 - We played charades; we wanted the boys to see that body language is just as important as verbal communication. The boys tried their best to act out words and phrases and found it quite interesting and difficult to get their point across without verbally communicating. Through playing charades the boys also learned that a lot of conflict is started and can be stopped by using the right/positive body language.

09 May 2013 - The children were divided into groups of 6 – 8 with 2 interns per group. Each player within the group had turns to roll the dice and then select a coloured card which was applicable to the dice number rolled:

- If they rolled a 1 or 2 then they picked up a red card, read the question out loud and then answered the question.
- If they rolled a 3 or 4 then they picked up a blue card, read the question out loud and then answered the question.

- If they rolled a 5 or 6 then they got a token which they could exchange at the end of the game for any sweets of their choice.

If they did not want to answer a question then they had to avoid the question by giving back one token.

The questions that were asked were made up according to the issues the boys were facing; this was designed in order to see if the boys had learned from their mistakes and benefitted from the workshops we present to them.

16 May 2013 - This week at Bonnytown we discussed the major crimes and problems that we see on the news and in newspapers that people are facing in Cape Town. This past month over 50 people have been killed in Cape Town alone, most of which deaths were gang related, and it is just getting worse. We discussed what was happening, why this was happening and how this could be stopped.

The boys and the interns found this discussion interesting as those boys who were a part of this discussion were all sentenced boys.

The boys all admitted that they would not want to be victims of a gang related death as nothing good ever comes from being in a gang.

A lot of the boys said that they wanted to live life in order to do the right things for themselves and their families, so that they can have a successful future.

23 May 2013 - We did a presentation about alcohol.

In this presentation we discussed the different types of alcohol, the dangers of alcohol, why it is important not to drink when driving and the myths and facts regarding alcohol.

30 May 2013 – The interns prepared a presentation on their own home countries for example tiramisu dessert is an Italian dessert. The interns showed the boys the different foods, currency, festivals and famous people that were from their home country. The boys really found this interesting as they enjoy learning about different cultures of other countries.

Name: **Ottery youth care and education centre**

Description:

Ottery Youth Care and Education Centre is a rehabilitation centre for male juvenile offenders who have committed petty crimes.

Schedule:

Ottery is visited every Tuesday from 15:00 to 16:30.

Age of Youth

Between 10 -17

Number of Boys

The number of Boys we work with is 60.

07 May 2013 - The children were divided into groups of 6 – 8 with 2 interns per group. Each player within the group had turns to roll the dice and then select a coloured card which was applicable to the dice number rolled:

- If they rolled a 1 or 2 then they picked up a red card, read the question out loud and then answered the question.
- If they rolled a 3 or 4 then they picked up a blue card, read the question out load and then answered the question.
- If they rolled a 5 or 6 then they got a token which they could exchange at the end of the game for any sweets of their choice.

If they did not want to answer a question then they had to avoid the question by giving back one token.

The questions that were asked were made up according to the issues the boys were facing; this was designed in order to see if the boys had learned from their mistakes and benefitted from the workshops we present to them.

14 May 2013 - We played charades; we wanted the boys to see that body language is just as important as verbal communication. The boys tried their best to act out words and phrases and found it quite interesting and difficult to get their point across without verbally communicating. Through playing charades the boys also learned that a lot of conflict is started and can be stopped by using the right/positive body language.

21 May 2013 – We did a presentation on drugs.

What are the reasons people use drugs, why they use a particular type of drug, the different forms of drugs, the most popular drugs, the dangers of drugs and how to stop drug addiction.

This was interesting as most of the boys have been exposed to drugs, some have taken drugs and some have seen how drugs affect family and friends.

The boys knew a lot about drugs, they just did not know most of the dangers about drugs. Most boys said that drugs made you feel good or invincible for a while, but when the effect of the drug wore off that you become violent, agitative, depressed or that you lose control of reality.

We will be doing more presentations on drugs in the future when there are new boys at Ottery as the boys displayed so much interest in learning about drugs and they even requested to learn more.

28 May 2013 – we did a presentatin on fire saftey and burn wounds. We told the boys what to do incase of a fire emergency and the different numbers they could call should they need help. We

showed the boys different types of burn wounds, how to treat them and what types of burns are caused by different chemicals and fires.

Name: **Vredelus**

Description:

Vredelus House is a secure care centre for young female offenders located in Elsie's River.

Schedule:

Vredelus is visited every Wednesday from 15:00 to 16:30.

Age of Youth

Between 10 -18

Number of Females

The number of females we work with often varies from 50 – 70.

01 May 2013 - We did a presentation about Tattoos and Piercings.

Since tattoos and piercings are so popular amongst today's youth we decided to educate them about the different tattoos and piercings, what the meanings are, why it is important to get a tattoo which has symbolic meaning, how to take care of your tattoo and piercings and what some of the dangers of tattoos and piercings are.

Most of the females have tattoos and/or piercings, however some of them got the tattoos for the wrong reasons and wished they could remove their tattoos or have chosen something that has meaning to them.

During this presentation a lot of questions were asked and answered, we never expected the ladies to be so interested in learning about tattoos and piercings.

After the presentation the interns and ladies showed each other the different piercings and tattoos that they had and also discussed why they got it and why they chose to have it on the specific part of their bodies.

08 May 2013 - Crossing the river game:

In this game the goal was to transfer the entire group across a river using a magic scarf. The only person that could touch the river was the person wearing the scarf, so the person wearing the scarf had to carry one person across the river on her back, and then the person that was carried had to take the scarf and then cross the river to carry another person across the river.

This game was done to see whether the girls work well together and if they are willing to assist each other when the need arises.

15 May 2013 - This week we were supposed to have a nurse as a guest speaker from a women's clinic, but the nurse cancelled just before we left for Vredelus. So we decided to have an informal discussion with the girls to find out what activities/topics they are interested in for future workshops.

Some females requested that we have more presentations educating them about various things, such as drugs, sex, crimes, etc. Some females also asked for us to have more creative skills workshops and more games.

22 May 2013 – We are played the paper Tower/bridges game.

In this game the ladies are divided into groups of 4-6 with 2 interns in each group. Each group received newspapers, a role of tape and a pair of scissors (only the interns are in charge of the scissors). The assignment was to create either the tallest building or the longest bridge using only these materials.

The group with the tallest building or longest bridge won a prize.

29 May 13 – We had a presentation on teenage pregnancy.

We had male interns run the presentation, the girls enjoyed this as it was male interns that did the research and are presenting their findings to the girls. The girls already knew a lot about pregnancies, but still asked a lot of questions, which surprisingly the males could answer. This presentation turned out to be very successful all thanks to the male interns.

Name: **St. Anne's**

Description:

St Anne's is a non-governmental organisation in Woodstock. St. Anne's offers services to destitute, abused, rejected and disadvantaged women and their children from throughout South Africa.

Schedule:

St. Anne's is visited every Monday from 11:00 – 13:00.

06 May 2013 – Cecilie Lindstrøm, Lan Lieu and Cecilia Monö attended St Anne's. They rented a DVD, "The Romantics", and took some snacks and cool drinks to have a movie session with the women. They all really enjoyed it.

13 May 2013 – Lucy Murtagh, Cecilia Monö and Lucille van Wijnbergen attended St Anne's where there were 5 women. Previous discussions had indicated that the women would be interested in reading short stories and having a discussion about them afterwards. The interns took the story of "The Ugly Duckling" by Hans Christian Andersen, a story about challenges and personal transformation. The ladies enjoyed the story, one of whom shared the reading with Lucy, but they did not get very involved in the discussion which followed. After this, Lucy showed them how to make hair braids/bracelets (depending on their preference) which the women all really enjoyed.

20 May 2013 – Cecilie Lindstrøm and Lan Lieu attended St Anne's, having prepared a workshop on nutrition for 5 women. On the whole, it was successful; the women especially appreciated the information regarding child nutrition. Furthermore, the work that the interns have been doing to 'break down the barriers' seems to have paid off, as the ladies were more interactive, with each one participating in the discussion. However, it was noted that a couple of the women were rather disruptive, one in particular who repeatedly left the room to answer her phone. This is something that will be addressed next week. This aside, the workshop went well.

27 May 2013 – Cecilie Lindstrøm and Lucille van Wijnbergen prepared a workshop on labour law and the basic conditions of employment, and there were 5 women. It went very well, the ladies were all interested, engaged in the discussions and learned a lot, especially about contracts of employment. To finish off the session, they prepared an exercise about time capsules, and what each woman would leave behind for their grandchildren.

Name: [Sisters Incorporated](#)

Description:

[Sisters Incorporated is a private welfare organisation in Kenilworth, founded in 1959. Sisters Incorporated aim to help every woman, teenager and child who comes to them in crisis to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually.](#)

Schedule:

[Sisters Incorporated is visited every Thursday from 10:00 – 12:00.](#)

02 May 2013 – The interns attended Sisters Incorporated to help them set up for the clothing sale, as requested, which will take place on 3rd May. The staff at Sisters were very grateful for the assistance.

03 May 2013 – The female interns from PAHRO attended the clothing sale at Sisters. This is made possible from donations made, and the money helps with the running of the shelter.

09 May 2013 – We had been told that there would only be 3 ladies present at Sisters, as the others have managed to find jobs, which is excellent news for them. Because of this, only 3 interns attended, Lan Lieu, Cecilie Lindstrøm and Laura Rizzi. They had prepared a workshop focusing on interview skills, to which the women came dressed in appropriate attire as though they were prospective candidates for a job. They engaged well during the exercise, and learned some helpful tips on aspects such as confidence and conduct, and enjoyed the session.

16 May 2013 – there is only one lady currently at the shelter as all the others have managed to find employment. We are therefore putting our workshops on hold.

LEGAL SERVICES

We re-opened our doors to take new clients as of the 13th of May 2013.

- We have taken on a new case that delves into HIV disclosures and the company policy regarding the same. This is the first of its kind with us and we hope that the knowledge gained as we do our research will enable us to do more for others.
- Sherwin Daniels and intern Yannic Trudel attended Athlone Magistrates court on the 30 May 2013 in order to represent our client in a murder case. Whilst waiting for our case to be called by the prosecutor, we witnessed an assault criminal trial which was very interesting for both Yannick and Sherwin, due to the merits (facts) put forward by the state witness. Yannick therefore, also had the opportunity to watch how cross examination is done in practice, by a very aggressive criminal defence attorney. Once our case was called, the state prosecutor requested a postponement, to which we OBJECTED, due to the matter being postponed since March 2013. The Magistrate however, granted the remand but marked the matter as final for the purposes of further investigation by the State.

The case was postponed until the 27th June 2013, due to the police still investigating and witness statements not being complete.



Yannic Trudel

- Sherwin Daniels and Human Rights interns Laura Rizzi, Matt Roderick and Joshua Willi Franz attended Wynberg Magistrates court on the 30th of May regarding a house breaking case.

This matter was postponed due to the client's mother not attending court, so a warrant for her arrest was issued. The next court date is 13 June 2013.

Laura Rizzi, Matt Roderick and Joshua Willi Franz

