



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

JUNE 2013

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

TYPE OF PROJECT: **Human Rights**

NUMBER OF INTERNS THIS MONTH: 23 + 7 2weekers

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.

We were unable to attend Bonnytoun this month as new changes are taking effect, such as New Staff and Management. We will start attending Bonnytoun in July on a Wednesday.

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.

04th June – Ottery was cancelled due to school holidays.

11th June – Ottery was cancelled due to school holidays.

18th June – We played an Ice Breaker Game called "Two Truths & a Lie", in this game Everyone in the group had to think of three things to share about themselves - 2 must be true and 1 must be a lie.

When the person has shared their three things, the rest of the group must decide which of the 3 is a lie. Finally, the person indicates which one was the "lie".

This game was to develop communication skills with their peers and to see how truthful the boys were.

After the Ice-breaker we had a soccer match, the interns and the boys really enjoyed this and

25h June – Ottery was cancelled due to school holidays.

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.

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 vary from 50 – 70.

12th June – We did a powerpoint presentation on alcohol abuse and its consequences. The females asked many questions and the interns used their personal experiences to answer them. The interns were honest and candid and the dialogue went nicely. It is clear the bond has been formed and they

trust the interns to ask questions. Each female was then asked to tell us a story regarding alcohol and their use thereof.

19th June- We showed the girls a film outlining 30 basic human rights. We watched the first 15 rights and then had the girls explain how important that "right" is and if they have felt violated before by someone. The girls were open to discussion and learned the importance of understanding their rights and the value of standing up for what you believe in and deserve.

26th June- We continued watching the film and the remaining 15 rights. We discussed not only those 15 rights, but also recapped the ones from last week. They were entertained by the video and used their critical thinking skills to respond to our questions regarding the importance of understanding their basic human rights.

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.

3rd June – St Anne's was cancelled as the women were attending a workshop. We were not informed in advance.

10th June – St Anne's was cancelled as the women were attending a workshop. We were not informed in advance.

17th June – This was a public holiday so we did not attend.

24th June – Cecilie Lindstrøm and Hannah Nathrath attended St Anne's. However, when they arrived there was only one woman who left to find the others and did not return. Another lady arrived at 12.20, by which point there was too little time to do what had been planned anyway. This was despite Miriam having called in advance to confirm attendance.

Name: **Sisters Incorporated**

Description:

Sisters Incorporated is a private welfare organisation in Kenilworth, founded in 1959. Sisters Incorporated aim to help every women, teenager and child who comes to us in crisis to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Schedule:

Sisters Incorporated is visited every Thursday from 10:00 – 12:00.

30th May – Attendance at Sisters resumed and there were four women present. It was thought that there would be four new ladies, whereas in fact there was only one. An informal session had been planned, with the aim of allowing the women get to know the interns and the role of PAHRO, and they engaged in debates which everyone participated in and enjoyed.

6th June – There were four women, and the interns prepared a workshop on religion. Everyone participated in the discussions and all found it very interesting.

13th June – Sisters was cancelled as the women were all going to a museum in Langa.

20th June – Cathlin Barrett, Cecilie Lindstrøm, Danielle Carrick, and Victoire Carrasco attended Sisters, where there were meant to be three women but there was in fact only one lady present. The interns had planned to give them information about further education and career prospects, as the women had expressed an interest about this in the past. The interns left all of the relevant details at the centre, hopeful that the ladies will look at it and ask any relevant questions next time.

27th June – Sisters was cancelled today as there are no women at the shelter.

Khayelitsha Primary School, holiday programme– We have started working with 200 students in a township primary school. Aged 5 to 9 years old. This was a special program since the students are on holiday.

24th June – This was our first day working with this organization so we made name tags for each intern as well as each pupil. We wanted to make the children feel comfortable. As a result, we did a series of ice breakers to make the experience inclusive to all.

25th June- We ran a soccer game to ensure the children had physical activity. They enjoyed the game and excelled in sportsmanship.

26th June- We presented on HIV/AIDS—Renee Ross, Suhail Ahmed and Shuan Solomons ran the presentation showing the kids how HIV/Aids is spread, the symptoms, and protection techniques. The kids were engaged. We prompted them to answer our questions and have a clear understanding of this disease.

27th June- Shuan Solomons and Renee Ross ran a drug presentation showing them images of drug abuse and its effects on an individual. We tried to highlight the negative outcomes associated with drug use. The kids were engaged and you could tell the pictures struck them and they will think twice about trying drugs.

Youth Day Event: We had a Curry Kitchen in delft on the 14th of June as a Youth Day event.

The curry kitchen did not turn out as expected as there were more people than we planned for, however the Interns really enjoyed being able to provide food, fruit and juice to people that did not have a meal for the day.

Khayelitsha Free Gender:

Saturday June 22- Renee Ross, Cecilie Lindstrøm, Suhail Ahmed, and Josh Franz attended the event in Khayelitsha. Around 40 community members attended and we helped run the presentation and sort out other logistical matters.

The past week Renee Ross worked on a presentation for the NGO as well as conducted interviews in the community. A woman was murdered in Nyanga due to her sexual orientation. Therefore, the

presentation was in her memory. We were able to interview her grandmother, who was in the home when the murderer broke in. It was a powerful interview.

Louisa Gaertner, Josh Franz, Sarah Gaertner, Cathlin Barrett, and Jane Atkinson worked on the publication of their poems and compiled a book for them. They also designed posters and fliers for the event.

LEGAL SERVICES

- We won our first trial, which has been ongoing since April 2012.

Our clients, Lorenzo Morris, Amelia September and Mario Wanza, were charged with common assault by the complainants Pastor Llewelyn Adams and Claudine Adams.

In November 2011 there was a demonstration to get the pastor to resign from the Consol trust. The pastor was busy working in his garage when he saw the crowd approaching him. The demonstration ended up in a physical confrontation between the accused, the pastor and his wife. The issues in this case was whether or not what happened could be seen as common assault, the testimonies differ from the complainants and their witness, they could not agree on which person attacked whom and in general there were a lot of discrepancies. Due to this we initially applied for dismissal for the case through section 174, this was however denied and the case was postponed. The final judgement came back not guilty due to lack of evidence, discrepancies and that the prosecutors witness was so vague that the court could not take it into consideration.

- Bowman Gillfillan one of South Africa's leading law firms, is looking to partner with us and assist on a pro bono capacity.
- PAHRO interns, Laure Casey, Emmanuelle Schach, Louisa Gärtner, Sarah Fedida, Suhail Ahmed and Sherwin Daniels attended Wynberg Magistrates' court in order to tender our client's plea. The accused, our client, pleaded not guilty to the following charges: housebreaking, aggravated robbery, theft of motor vehicle and theft out of motor vehicle. The matter was postponed thereafter to 5 September 2013 for trial.
- Interns Alex Howie, Oliver Foy, Cathlin Barrett, Naomi Ferwerde, Danielle Carrick, Jane Athinson and Sherwin Daniels attended the Athlone Magistrate's court today for a murder case which was previously reported in the Activity Report for May 2013. The matter was on the court roll today for the State to complete their investigations, and marked as final as requested in court by our office for this purpose. The State then informed that the investigation was still incomplete and therefore, had no option but to withdraw the charges against our client provisionally. The case has now been closed.

Client numbers have dropped due to it being Winter.