

## **Monthly Report – December 2014**

### **Projects Abroad Human Rights Office, Cape Town**

This month we were excited about and busy preparing for our office move from Rondebosch to Wynberg. We had a lot to sort out in the office, including packing, storing our files, and getting all of the furniture re-located to our new premises.

We officially moved from Rondebosch to Wynberg on Friday, 05<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The week of the 08<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December was our first week in the new office, which was challenging since we did not have internet access or telephone lines. Volunteers and staff had to constantly go to Head Office to print out documents, make use of their internet and to contact clients. Despite the challenges we still received new and old clients, which we were happy about.

### **Social Justice Update**

Many of the organisations we work with closed early in December, so we were unable to attend all of the projects. Bonnytoun and Vredelus were still open until mid-December, so we were able to continue our attendance at those facilities.

#### **Vredelus**

We attended the annual graduation ceremony at Vredelus.

Most of the girls were given certificates for items such as good behaviour, most talented, being hard working or for a subject that they have excelled in.

The volunteers attended the graduation along with Shuan Solomons, which was a new experience as they got to see the girls with a new perspective all dressed up and cheerful.

Some of the girls were on stage singing and dancing, and it was really great seeing the girls so happy.

Everybody really enjoyed the event and we were extremely proud of all the girls who received certificates.

### **Community Chest Twilight Team Run**

The Community Chest Twilight Team Run is entrenched in Cape Town culture as one of the most anticipated annual events on the Mother City's calendar as it brings with it an evening filled with fun, excitement and great entertainment, while supporting over 480 Social Welfare and Development agencies supported by the Community Chest.

Since 2012, Projects Abroad Cape Town has taken part in this event which is organised by Judy-Rose Cyster.

This year all PAHRO volunteers were excited to attend the event, especially to take part in the 5km walk/run. Upon arriving at the Grand Parade where the event is held, we were informed that we would be unable to set up our Projects Abroad banners, or to hold a braai, due to gale force winds.

We then had to turn around and leave due to the winds being too strong to participate in the event, as many people's gazebos and chairs were blown away, and the main stage had been damaged by the strong winds.

We then decided to have a braai at the Rondebosch office, which was fitting as it was only two days before we were to move to our new premises.

Volunteers and staff bonded in a non-work environment, which was a fun cultural experience.

### **Sisters Incorporated and Siyakathala**

Our project partners, Sisters Incorporated and Siyaktathala have contacted us to extend special appreciation for us assisting them throughout the year.

### **Office Closure & Holiday Program**

The office will shut down from 23 December 2014 to 05 January 2015.

The PAHRO volunteers who will still be here during the shut-down period have been informed that they can join the Holiday Program, which will run from the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to 09<sup>th</sup> January 2015.



From the PAHRO we would like to wish all Projects Abroad Staff a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.