
Activity Report – MARCH 2013

Projects Abroad Human Rights Office, Cape Town

Social Justice Project Updates

- **Bonnytown: Thursday, 13:15 – 15:00**

07 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 10

Program Name – Life and goal mapping

This program was done to get the boys to think about their future and dreams and what they would like to do and change when they get out of Bonnytown.

Each boy received a piece of paper and pencil, the assignment was to make a map of their life. First they had to draw a picture of themselves in the middle of the paper, then they drew four bubble – one out from each hand and foot. Each bubble had a title; Job, school, family and friends. In these bubbles the boys wrote their goals in each of those four areas of their life.

Whilst the boys wrote down the goals the interns spoke to them about their goals and dreams in order to motivate them to achieve their goals if they truly believe in it.

14 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 7

Program Name – Marooned

Marooned meaning to abandon or isolate with little hope of rescue or escape, in the game the boys had to imagine that they were deserted on an island.

The boys were given a list of 25 items from which they individually had to choose 5 items they considered the most necessary in order for them to survive. After choosing their 5 items and together as a group the boys were now asked to agree on 5 items. At the end of the game the interns explained to them the 5 most necessary items and the idea was to get the boys to understand the importance of teamwork.

21 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 7

This week at Bonnytown we did not plan anything as we decided that this session was for the boys at Bonnytown to teach us something. The boys at Bonnytown told us stories about their lives, why they are

here, what they have learned, where they see themselves in the future, etc. The interns were really amazed at the stories they here as they didn't imagine that life and circumstances could be so hard for people who are still so young. The boys asked the interns questions about their lives as well, this session was more like a therapeutic session and we all learned a lot from each other and will definitely have a session like this again as the boys seem to be very open and honest with us.

- **Vredelus house – Wednesdays, 14:30 – 16:00**

06 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 11

Program Name – Marooned

The same workshop that was done at Bonnytown were done with the girls at Vredelus. The girls really worked and communicated well with each other and the interns were really impressed with the progress the girls have made.

13 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 8

Program Name – Arts & Crafts

We taught the girls how to make Origami frogs; the girls really loved it as they learnt how to make simple works of art using paper and their imagination. The girls really loved being creative and were surprise when they learned they could make the frog jump. The girls requested to do more creative expression workshops in the future.

20th March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 6

We made goggles out of Styrofoam cups and the kids had to wear them whilst playing soccer. The kids enjoyed this, as well as the interns. We decided to do this as a fun activity so that the kids could work together as a team and also realise that sometimes when you are unable to see clearly that their are always people around you that will be able to guide you in the right direction.

- **Ottery youth care and education centre - Tuesdays, 14:30 – 16:00**

05 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 6

Program Name – Anger Management

An anger management presentation was done and this turned out better than expected. This workshop was to teach the boys ways in dealing with their anger without having to be violent or disrespectful. We asked the boys questions and surprisingly they had really good answers tot he questions. The boys

seemed really calm and attentive and were really interested in learning how to deal and manage their anger.

12 March 2013

Number of Volunteers: 8

Program Name – Arts and Crafts

We did the Origami crafts at Ottery and the boys really all wanted to create different coloured frogs and wanted to learn how to create different typed of origami crafts without the assistance of interns. The boys were amazed knowing they could create art from paper without needing any tools or materials. The boys also requested to do this workshop again in the future.

Ottery was closed the last 2 weeks due to school holidays.⁷

Women's Shelters

St Anne's – Mondays, 11:00 – 13:00

- 18th March – We started this workshop with an informal session. Four interns – Benedikte, Chine, Valentine and Naja – went with Miriam to meet the ladies, most of whom were new to the shelter, and held a 'get-to-know-you' workshop. We had not been attending St Anne's for some time, as many of the women had found work or moved on. The women were very friendly, receptive, and very keen to find out about the interns and their international backgrounds. While we had planned for one hour of discussion and one hour of creativity, the conversation absorbed the entire two hours that we were there. We covered a broad range of topics, including life in Europe, travel to Central and South America and, most interestingly, the politics of South Africa, from the Apartheid era until today. The ladies were very outspoken on the current political situation, and it made for some very interesting debate! We were also privileged to hear some of their personal stories regarding how they ended up living in the shelter, and enabling us to tailor our workshops around issues that are important and valuable to them.
- 24th March – Miriam attended with Benedikte, Chine, Valentine, Naja and Isabella. The educational part of this workshop focused predominantly on different aspects of maintenance, including how to apply for maintenance and what to expect during the application process. As the women are all currently in search of employment, we also had a discussion about the rights of domestic workers, as this is the field to which most women are successful in finding a job. We had information from the Labour Department regarding areas such as minimum wage, maximum working hours and general entitlements as an employee. After the workshop, the interns also bought some jewellery which the ladies made.

Sisters Incorporated - Thursdays, 10:00 – 12:00

- 1st March – Being a Friday, it was unusual for us to attend Sisters. However, we had spent the previous day, during the hours normally set aside for our workshop, helping to set up and organise a clothing sale which was taking place as a fund-raiser for the shelter. All of the female interns attended and bought clothes and accessories which had been donated to the shelter, as well as hand-

made jewellery and other craft items. Sisters Incorporated were thrilled to make over R5,500 and were very appreciative of our help and support.

- 7th March – This was quite an informal session to get to know the new ladies at Sisters, as well as to let them get to know and trust us as a group and an organisation. We discussed issues which were relevant to their specific situations so that we could prepare for future workshops. Some of the ladies expressed interest in finding out how to apply for maintenance and how to apply for a free divorce, while other topics included how to report a crime to the police (and be taken seriously), how to get a protection order and help when HIV positive.
- 14th March – The interns took copies of maintenance application forms and divorce forms. They explained the procedure that must be followed, including all the information which is necessary for taking to the court, and went through how the forms would be filled out. There was also a new lady present, and they took time to get to know her and found out about her background. During the second hour, the women had a chance to pamper themselves with cleansing, make-up and nail polish. This always goes down well – it gives the women some time for themselves, and also relaxes them resulting in them opening up further in a more informal setting.
- 21st March – We did not attend on this day as it was a public holiday.
- 28th March – Benedikte, Naja, Isabella and Lucy attended. They took information with them regarding certain questions that the ladies had previously asked. They also heard about one of the ladies' sons, whom she says has an undiagnosed mental disability. She wants help with getting a medical assessment, which we will provide her with at the next session. The workshop was cut short on this day due to commitments that Sister Inc had. However, before it ended, the interns explained different Easter traditions that they have in Europe, and found out from the ladies how they celebrate it. They had taken some Easter chocolates and then proceeded to decorate eggs.

Legal Services Updates

In the light of the number of interns we are receiving at the moment we have no alternative but to stop receiving new clients and opening new files for sometime in order to cope with the workload we have.

By the 2nd of April we will be losing 7 volunteers and we have only one confirmed applicant for April and another to be confirmed.

We do not want to run the risk of work not being sufficiently attended to as this could pose a risk for us as a Legal Clinic as well as affect our clients.

At the moment we have 460 open files which are being divided amongst a handful of volunteers not to mention the Social Justice workshops that they need to prepare for on a daily basis.

This is a short term measure until we are in a position to balance out the work and hopefully receive a larger number of volunteers.

We have had 25 New Clients for the month of March 2013.