
Monthly Report – OCTOBER 2013

Projects Abroad Human Rights Office, Cape Town

Social Justice Project Updates

Bonnytown

At Bonnytown we started the month with an HIV/AIDS workshop outside. The following week the boys did an exercise where they wrote down their past on a piece of paper and then tore it to pieces. Then they wrote down things they wanted in the future on a new piece of paper and read it out loud to the group. On October 16th we did a PowerPoint presentation about job interviews. We gave them tips on how to prepare for an interview as well as how to act during and after it. The week after we did a creative workshop about self-esteem, where they had to draw the outline of a head on a piece of paper, and then write down things they liked about themselves or were proud of. We ended the month with a soccer tournament outside.

Vredelus house

At Vredelus we started the month with a dancing class. The girls were taught the basics of salsa and waltz. The following week we did the same presentation about job interviews as at Bonnytown. On October 21st the girls also did the same self-esteem workshop as Bonnytown. On the 28th of October we did a workshop about self-development. We did a short presentation about self-image and peer pressure, and then the girls did an exercise where they wrote nice things about someone else on a piece of paper. At the end we read their notes out loud.

Capricorn Primary School

During the first week of October the students were on holiday. Week 41 we returned and taught grade 5 about health, diseases and preventing illnesses. We also had a class about HIV and AIDS to raise awareness about the disease. The focus of the class was on staying abstinent until marriage. We also tried to put an end to many of the false rumors and myths surrounding HIV. The subject for grade 6 was food preparation and nutrition. Students were taught about additives and were encouraged to check what the ready-to-eat food really contains. Grade 7 was taught about basic first aid; what to do when there's a fire, when someone is choking and how to treat a burn. There were also demonstrations of the Heimlich maneuver and the recovery position. During week 42 we continued the HIV class with grade 5, as well as having a class on substance abuse. The students were taught about common drugs and their effects, as well as the psychological aspects of abuse and how it affects lives. Grade 6 was writing exams so our classes were cancelled. The subject for grade 7 was food hygiene; how to properly prepare and store food. For week 43 the subject for grade 5 was sports. We did a quick presentation about the different disciplines of track and field athletics; showing some videos of athletes setting the world record in their respective field. We also talked about doping and cheating in sports. Grade 6 had a class about communicable diseases; how to prevent them and Week 44 grade 5 had a class about music and

singing. The students were taught about what happens in the body when you sing and also about different singing styles from other countries. Grade 6 and 7 had a class on HIV and AIDS; prevention and caring for people with the disease.

WOMEN'S SHELTERS

- **St Anne's** – We have not been to St. Anne's in 2 months as they have had no women.
- **Sisters Incorporated** – In the beginning of the month we had a tea party with a Scandinavian theme. The interns that attended the workshop were from Sweden, Denmark & Norway, so they prepared a workshop on their different cultures and traditions. The interns also baked cakes from their home countries and showed the women different photographs of popular land marks in their country. On world Homeless Day, which was the 10th October, the interns decided to hold a discussion based upon that theme. They presented articles written about the experiences of famous people who had also been homeless, and the ladies discussed relevant events that happened in their lives, the positive steps that they had taken to remove themselves from such situations, and the value of getting support from shelters. We also had a workshop where we pampered the ladies, the interns did their hair and make up. The interns and ladies really enjoyed this day as the ladies don't get the opportunity to dress up or be pampered. This was a good workshop as the ladies self-esteem was visibly boosted.

Legal Services

These are some of the cases interns are working on:

Maria Mulindi

- Élise Nadeau from Canada is currently working on a Refugee case: where our client's son was constantly being attacked on his way home from school and the client feared that his child might be injured badly. Elise did some research to find out how many foreigners are living in the same community as the client in order to see if they could do a sort of "lift" club where their children walk together to school and back for safety purposes. Élise is also doing research on the client applying for a protection order in terms of the Harassment Act
- Intern, Robert Bradshaw (UK) is assisting with a Family Law case: a client with a divorce and maintenance matter. The client's case gets more and more complicated. His file is less than 2 months old, but it is thicker than most of the files currently opened in the office. The client is going through a divorce; however his wife/ex-wife has taken everything from him, so he has no money, no place to stay. He is currently drafting a Rule 58 motion, for court for the client so that the client may apply to the court for interim relief for support from his ex-wife while awaiting the outcome for the Divorce and Maintenance application.
- Edward Griffith, from the UK is working on Refugee case, assisting an asylum seeker whose application for refugee status was rejected as unfounded. The client lodged an appeal in 2010 through UCT Refugee Rights Clinic; however the Refugee Reception Office appears to have lost this. He was informed he need to apply for a condonation for a late filing of his notice to appeal as we as

a fresh notice to appeal. However he was only given a day within which to prepare these documents and file them at the Refugee Reception Office.

Edward assisted in the consultation with the client as well as drafting of the condonation application and notice of intention to appeal. The client informed Edward the next morning that his application was accepted and his case will be heard on the 05th November. Edward will accompany Maria on the hearing.

Sherwin Daniels

- Christine Waldner from Canada is working on a case where she has to prepare for the clients Appeal hearing. Christine has researched 3 different Heads of Arguments for our client from Burundi. She is 22 years old and fled the country due to nearly being killed. The client was denied refugee status as it is believed that Burundi is not a dangerous country and that freedom of expression is expressed and that you cannot be harmed in Burundi for it.
- Michelle Potters from the Netherlands is currently working on a case with Sherwin where she and Sherwin had to go to court on the 01 November for a client that was arrested for possession of a dependence producing substance. Sherwin was called by the client on a Saturday, and informed that he had been arrested. The police refused to grant the accused bail, as the matter fell outside of the power or scope of police authority, and had to be decided by the public prosecutor or a court of law. After spending a few hours at the police station, Sherwin finally got hold of the Senior public prosecutor, who attended to the after hours bail application. Our client was granted bail in the amount of R600. The case has been postponed until 17 April 2014 as the States' investigation was incomplete at this stage. The substance was sent to a forensic laboratory for testing to determine whether or not it is in fact a dependence producing substance in terms of South African legislation, which was in our client's possession.
- Intern Line Kappel from Denmark, is currently assisting a client with a notice of appeal, which needs to be handed in the first week of November. The client left Burundi in 2004 as he feared for his life. The client's father belonged to a political party and was killed by the Hutus clan. The Hutus clan beat up our client as they assumed that he also belonged to the same political party, our client managed to escape and fled to Tanzania, where the Hutus continued to look for him. In Tanzania the client met a Christian mission who brought who brought him to South Africa. The client is afraid to return to Burundi.

Miriam MacDonald

- Rebecca Linde, from Sweden, finalised a case from the Manenberg legal clinic concerning a hit-and-run incident during which our client's six-year-old son was killed last year. The hospital bills and funeral costs left our client in a great deal of debt. In order to make a claim from the Road Accident

Fund, our client had to obtain the records from the police and from the hospital. However, there were fees attached to this, which she was unable to pay in order to process her claim. With the assistance of a pro-bono attorney, whose firm covered the costs to obtain the relevant documents, we did eventually manage to get everything in order. The RAF has now paid out, covering the costs of all of the debts which she had accumulated..

We have had 25 new cases opened this month. Most of the clients have been female.