



Thuto Yokuthuthuka.org

Education for Transformation

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Progress Report 30 September 2017

Introduction

The young people are excited with their new 'Peer/Mentor' roles. The schools are embracing the Peer/Mentors as essential role models for learners (high school students). Educators have found necessary assistants with whom to leave their classes when they go for supervision of examinations. With their entertaining educational media, the Peer/Mentors have built trust with the learners.



Group Work and Class-based workshops

School Placements

The placement of Peer/Mentors in schools has given them valuable work experience, and opportunities to contribute to their local communities. They attend two days a week, working directly with grade heads and Life Orientation subject teachers. The Peer/Mentors have been running class-based workshops, group work with specific categories of learners and one on one interventions articulating the following thematic areas:

- Discussing positive peer relationships among students
- HIV/AIDS and gender based violence awareness among learners
- Discussing and modelling positive conflict resolution among learners
- Dangers of substance abuse among learners
- Learner character development
- Learner leadership and role modelling
- Purpose-driven life
- Goal setting and decision making
- Values and Boundary setting
- Productive use of social media/technology
- Transition to secondary education
- Time management
- Career guidance and subject choices
- Study skills & examination techniques



Individual support and class-based workshop



Project site visit by Janet Wood of Qantas Cabin Crew

Janet is such an inspirational friend who blended with the young people on arrival. She was part of our team and learners felt accepted by her warm personality as they jostled for her attention the whole time we spent in the school. Janet's loving and adaptable personality brought delight to everyone. Even now, the young people keep asking about her return. She brought a bagful of shoes and various pieces of clothing for the young people. They shared with much joy, and the whole experience was very motivational. Everyone received a pair of shoes and the young Peer/Mentors were all smiles. Such gifts are greatly inspirational for the young people who volunteer their valuable time to improving their communities. Janet also provided lunch for all the 17 young people who were available that day. We love having visitors from overseas come to meet our Peer/Mentors and see our Programme in action. All are welcome!

Monitoring Meetings

We are holding monthly meetings with educators to review our services. We are receiving helpful feedback to enhance our youth development training as well as guiding the presentations to learners. The following have been the result of our review meetings:

1. The 18-25 age group is perfect for peer mentorship.
2. We will improve enrolment for boys. They have been fewer than girls in this intake yet more boys in school require mentorship than girls.
3. We need more video presentations as they tend to draw greater attention for learners.
4. We are increasing after school programmes to occupy time for learners' idle time.
5. More parents are coming to school when needed to discuss matters about their children due to direct link with mentors.
6. Learners are freely expressing their social challenges to Peer/Mentors without fear of prejudice.
7. Mentors are dutifully embracing their roles: they are gaining useful work experience while learning how to operate in a formal work environment.

New Developments

The Peer/Mentors have been asked to provide support to a Child and Youth Care Centre in Soweto that is home to young people who are in conflict with the law. These young people have been convicted of various offences and are being rehabilitated at the Centre. At the request of the local Department of Social Development office our Peer/Mentors are visiting the facility and interacting with the convicted minors to help them focus on the education opportunities being provided to them and build their lives beyond confinement.



Peer/Mentor debriefing session learner leadership coaching

Learnerships

The Provincial Department of Social Services has advertised learnership posts beginning 2018. Most of our Peer/Mentors have applied and will compete for enrolment in the programme. We have recommended them for this learnership in light of the training we have given them and the services they are rendering to their communities. This will be a significant step forward in exit arrangements for our Peer/Mentors.

Discussions are afoot with the Gauteng Provincial Government to scale our partnership with the Department of Education in order to assist with alleviating learning barriers in schools. Our model is seen to be both effective and sustainable, because youth are a local community resource.

Compiled by: Astonishment Mapurisa