



MADaboutART SUMMARY of ACTIVITIES 2006

Youth Ambassador Programme

In order to build a sustainable educational network in the area MADaboutART created a 'Youth Ambassador' programme, a team of peer educators who were trained to deliver comprehensive, accurate and actionable peer education programmes in schools, youth projects and other educational settings in the Southern Cape of South Africa.

The Youth Ambassador programme is essentially a pyramid empowerment programme. Four Youth Ambassadors are in full-time training supported by 15 Young Youth Ambassadors. The programme is now in its third year.

Two Youth Ambassadors were awarded full scholarships to attend the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto in July 2006 where they participated in the youth conference, facilitated sessions on narrative therapy and presented 3 posters.

'MADclubs'

'MADclubs' have been developed as MADaboutART's primary vehicle for delivering HIV education, initially to children and youth aged 13 to 18 years in 'after-school' settings and now broadening to include younger pre-school children and older youth up to 35.

Each club is youth-led and involves HIV-positive people and young people in the delivery of interventions and promotes self governance. Twelve MAD clubs have been established to date in line with our strategic plan.



Recent professional trainers have described the ability of these young people as "remarkable" and "motivated by passion". MADaboutART continues to be seen as an example of good practice and was recently included in the African Best Practice Handbook.

Our 'Vinnie the Virus' educational cartoon series is being adapted into puppet theatre for very young children and combined with our community soup kitchen food security programme. In an environment hampered by AIDS fatigue amongst youth, this will be a leap forward in engaging young people understanding of HIV and AIDS in a fun yet educational way.

"Healthy Lives Healthy Choices"

We have recently expanded into early child development work in pre-schools collaboratively with Knysna Education Trust as part of a long-term commitment to support young children in making healthy life choices in line with Western Cape Education Authority and Social Services directives.



Delivery to beneficiaries is on target with 400 pre-school children now involved in the "Healthy Lives Healthy Choices" programme which will continue into 2007, supported the Global Fund locally.

Adolescents and older youth

We continue to work strategically with our second partner Youth Futures Data to deliver HIV and AIDS education and life skills to adolescents and older youth and we have formed strong integrated programmes which allow us to share skills and resources. Together we are delivering Life Skills training followed by a programme of empowerment and support that provides effective life planning skills and helps to bridge the gap between school and tertiary education. This collaboration also offers the potential for the existing MADaboutART centre to become a satellite resource zone for course participants.

MADaboutART centre

The centre now has telephone and wireless internet access! The computers are networked enabling the children to be in contact with groups around the world, broadening the scope of their work and supporting their personal development. We have also revised our web site in order to harness its power to illustrate how art and creativity can be central to the fight against HIV and AIDS both in



terms of transmission and attitude. Communications systems have proved difficult to install in the township and will make a significant difference to our function and activities.

Donation of three additional computers is enabling children to familiarise themselves with different software and skills development.

Film-making

A major step forward has been the development of new creative opportunities in the form of film. Donation of an Apple Mac system and full editing suite alongside training offered by a young film maker volunteer has provided an important new way to deliver messages on HIV locally. This medium also supports organisational development in the form of promotional films and is being integrated into assessment and evaluation strategies.



Local festivals



MADaboutART has participated in a number of important local festivals including the Oyster Festival and Pink Loerie Festival (left), showing that the kids of MADaboutART are committed to ensuring we are accessible to all. Each of these events raises awareness of MADaboutART as well as providing valuable life skills.