

A Word from the Managing Director

As the year draws to a close, we are reminded on a daily basis that the work we are doing with young people around HIV prevention is not only very important, but also very rewarding.

This year, we have shared some amazing success stories and advocacy projects produced by the Grade 8 learners who are participating in our Schools Programme. We are always impressed by how creative they are, and how they want to make a difference in their schools and communities. 2010 has brought its ups and downs, between the World Cup and the national strike, we are happy to report that our programme has reached 7528 learners. With the completion of all nine workshops, every learner has received a certificate of participation and a bag donated by Expand a Sign. Well done to my team, especially to our Facilitators who engage with these young people and inspire them to be better citizens.

All of this work would not have been possible without the generous support of our funders – THANK YOU for your continued partnership. In this issue, we also welcome the Belgian Development Agency who will be funding our work in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal from 2011. We are looking forward to all the good things the new year will bring us and are eager to continue on our journey partnering with young people. We will continue working with and supporting our 34 schools in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and 14 schools in the Eastern Cape (EC). We are also planning to include three new workshops focusing on TB prevention, as we believe this is an important step in ensuring that our programme remains contextualised and relevant to the current health issues affecting young South Africans.

In this issue we will spotlight our Board Members, the Schools Programme, a new funder, and many more exciting items... we hope you will enjoy reading more about us!

From the OVSA family, we wish you a safe and festive season...and all the best for 2011!

Dr Josianne Roma-Reardon
Managing Director

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A Spotlight on: OVSA Board Members

The successful implementation of the Schools Programme in 2010, has in part, been due to the 'partnering' environment OVSA encourages with role players and stakeholders. Not least of these, we commend our tireless Board members, who are passionate and committed to HIV prevention. Members play a very important role in the governance of the organisation and offer guidance in their respective areas of expertise. With their ongoing support, OVSA is truly well positioned to continue supporting and working towards a reduction in new HIV infections among young people in 2011.

Our Board members are: Samke Ndlovu (Vice Chairperson), Felicity Fray, Peter Nixon (Chairperson), Jason Walker (Treasurer) and Yages Singh. Dr Andrew Robinson is absent.



Schools Programme Update

Activities at a glance:

Workshop Implementation & Advocacy Projects: Facilitators reported significant positive participation and sharing during the workshops. Learners also presented their projects, with banners/posters with HIV prevention messages proving most popular.

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Meeting: The significance of Community Storytelling was discussed with the YAB, in terms of explaining the importance of finding new ways of promoting meaningful participation by young people in the EC.

Certificates, Bags and Annual Report Presentations - During the last quarter, Facilitators presented certificates and bags to learners. OVSA learner, Bianca Mazenze, said: *"It gives me the courage to continue with the OVSA programme and to encourage other young people to get involved. I am going to put this certificate next to my birth certificate."* Rounding off 2010, the OVSA Annual Report was presented to the Principals of participating schools.

Plans for 2011:

Bi-Annual Facilitator Training - This training will take place in January 2011. Facilitators will be trained on computer skills, handling positive discipline in schools and the Schools Programme workshop content.

Teacher Training & Stakeholders' Meetings - These activities will be held early in 2011 to discuss what committing to the Schools Programme entails, roles and responsibilities and best practices. For the first time, OVSA will also train teachers, as they will become our primary Monitoring Officers in school.

Signing MOUs - MOUs will be signed with school Principals and the Department of Education at district and provincial levels.

Schools Programme Implementation - Workshops will run with Grade 8 classes in 48 schools (34 in KZN, 14 in EC). Learners will once again write assessments after every three workshops, testing their knowledge and skills.

YAB - The YAB will continue in the EC, while we will be introducing the concept in five schools in KZN. The YAB will advise OVSA on programme content and materials.

CASNET - OVSA will continue participating in provincial and national meetings.

Ntonto Vezi
Schools Programme Manager



Schools Programme: OVSA Facilitators Under the Microscope

OVSA Facilitators play an especially critical role in implementing our workshops. Here are some of their 2010 highlights, that they would like to share with you:

Thabo Mbiko (Facilitator in KZN):



"For me working closely with learners gives me a purpose in life. Personally, the programme has developed my communication skills and I am now able to speak out – even about my personal problems. The OVSA programme has motivated me and helped shift my attitude around personal stresses. Once I am standing at the front of the classroom my attitude completely changes, and my spirit soars. It has changed me to become a more caring person and made me feel, that I can work anywhere, anytime!"

Zukiswa Nomatye (Senior Facilitator in EC):



"One of my highlights was the advocacy project involving the condom demonstration by learners at Umtiza School. Seeing the responses of people towards condoms, made me understand why people are still sceptical about using condoms. After all, how can you freely utilise something that you are taught to be ashamed of? So this particular project really helped to sensitise people's minds.The more I facilitate, the more I realise that I made the right career choice...Thanks to OVSA."

Communications Chatter

It's almost the end of the year, and for the Communication & Media Department this will mean 'out with the old' and 'in with the new!' Come January 2011, Communications & Media will have morphed into the expanded Communications & Fundraising Department. The new portfolio, which includes communication strategies and material development, as well as publicity campaigns, also targets new funding partnerships that support the ongoing implementation of an in-depth, quality educational programme and associated projects.

From a **Communication** perspective, we aim to catalyse and welcome multi-stakeholder input and buy-in to the Schools Programme. We will further prioritise the use of Social Change Communication as a means to tackle the structural drivers of the HIV epidemic; with a particular focus on the drivers of gender inequality, stigma & discrimination, and human rights. Social mobilisation around the societal and behavioural, as well as biological elements that drive HIV risk and vulnerability, will form part of this strategy. None of this is possible however, without the ongoing meaningful participation of young people. We will be bringing out young people's voices using the FLIP Video Camcorder technology (with training from OXFAM), to produce short promotional clips which can be used to support programme content, as well as support further promotional activities. Please visit <http://www.theflip.com/en-me/> for more information on this amazing technology!

2011 will also see a renewed focus on **Fundraising** activities. OVSA will not only focus on accessing inter-governmental funding, but also prioritise engagement with Foundations and Corporate Sector stakeholders. We will also be revisiting the issue of 'donations' - either via an annual electronic request, or through the Facebook cause. An avenue which has already met with steady success has been our inclusion as a donor recipient under the 'My School/MyVillage' campaign. In the new year, OVSA would also like to promote bringing on board new partnerships with other like-minded NGOs, and hopes that this will prove a strategic way to elicit and promote continuing and sustained financial, as well as technical aid to support programme implementation.

Marlijn van Berne
Communications & Media Manager

If you would like to donate,
please visit our website www.onevoice.org.za
or call +27 (0)31 202 0555

Funder Focus

We would hereby like to welcome our two new partners: the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) and Expand a Sign!

The Belgian Development Agency



The Belgian Development Agency (BTC) mobilises its many resources and its expertise, to eliminate poverty in the world. BTC contributes to the efforts of the international community and works towards a responsible society that provides present and future generations with the resources needed to build a sustainable and fair world. The BTC supports more than 300 cooperation projects and activities, in some 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In partnership with the governments where they are operating, the BTC contributes to efforts by the international community to reduce poverty.

For more information, please visit: www.btctb.org

Expand a Sign



Expand a Sign – the company that changed the face of portable branding – is one of OVSA's latest partners and friends. Thanks to their generosity, OVSA learners received a durable bag as a 'thank you' for taking part in the Schools Programme. THANK YOU Expand a Sign!

For more information, please visit: www.expandasign.net



An OVSA learner receives a bag from Lynsey Hammond of Expand a Sign, and a certificate from OVSA Facilitator, Mbuso Mtembu.

Special Features...

My School/MyVillage



Thank you once again to all our 'MySchool/MyVillage' supporters...! Your efforts really do help us, so please continue swiping your 'MySchool/MyVillage' card at the participating stores. Visit our website at www.onevoice.org.za for a list of participating stores, or if you are interested in signing up or adding OVSA as a beneficiary.

To date, we have received these contributions: August 2010 (R187.75); September 2010 (R297.99); October 2010 (R257.42).

Woolworths

And remember..... when you swipe your 'My School/MyVillage' card, you can save with special lower prices on selected items at Woolworths!!



The new Companies Act and OVSA

The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated that the new Companies Act, 2008 (Act No. 71 of 2008) is to be implemented on 1 April 2011. So what does this mean for OVSA? There are only two significant changes that require mentioning. OVSA will now be regarded as a "Non-Profit Company (NPC)" and the Annual Financial Statements will have to be prepared within six months of the 28 February year end. OVSA will still be required to be audited on an annual basis by Independent Registered Auditors. The role of the auditor is to give an opinion on the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) based on the evidence obtained during the audit. This gives assurance to the user of the AFS that contents are free from material misstatement.

To view our most recent AFS included in the OVSA Annual Report, please visit our website at www.onevoice.org.za.

Community Storytelling Workshop



From 9-12 November 2010, Pienaar Motabene, Zukiswa Nomatye and Marlijn van Berne were invited to attend the Oxfam Community Storytelling Workshop in Durban. The workshop was conducted with some 20 participants from OXFAM's partner organisations. Facilitated by e'Thekweni Municipality, workshop training focused on developing video skills that will encourage and elicit community participation.

Topics included: identifying the most effective ways of using FLIP technology so as to promote community participation; how to encourage community storytelling as well as the process of editing a community video clip; video editing techniques; the importance of using video as part of your organisational activities; and how to use video to tell a story.

Highlights:

The workshop was both fun and educational and a Facebook group has been created for follow-ups and technical support.

THANK YOU OXFAM!!



Pienaar Motabene
(Project Officer in EC)

"Participating in the Community Storytelling Workshop was an amazing opportunity. The FLIP technology can be utilised a lot in our programme in the future, and could assist us with the monitoring and evaluation of the OVSA programme. I enjoyed it very much and will definitely be using this technology".

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