

## A Word from the Managing Director

The past six months have been filled with very positive and motivating news for OneVoice South Africa (OVSA). Although time has gone by quickly, we have from the beginning of the year, been able to successfully implement our Schools Programme in 30 schools in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and 14 schools in the Eastern Cape (EC). Learners are motivated to participate and teachers/principals are very thankful to have our programme in their school. We have also received TB Training (more details to follow), which means that the newly HIV/TB-integrated workshops can be rolled out to our learners over the next few months.

In this issue we will introduce you to our new partnership with Phinduvuye Community Development Project, and our continued partnership with The School for International Training through research students, Clare Shroder and Whitney Donaldson, who spent some time with our learners.

We also continue to receive good news regarding funding, and will introduce you to two new funders: the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and MONDI. We also highlight the continued support of the Nedbank Foundation, Spring Lights Gas, MANCOSA and Blue Label Telecoms. Also a big 'thank you' to our MyVillage supporters, who continue to swipe their cards. So far we have raised R3,369.07 and all funds go to the Schools Programme. We are also very grateful to have received a lovely donation from ToysRus through the MyVillage campaign. Read all about it in the 'Spotlight!'

Lastly, please remember that on 16 June 2011 we celebrate **Youth Day**, and should not forget how inspiring young people are in our communities. Through our amazing partnership with learners, we are continually reminded that they are our future leaders and role models. A big 'thank you' also, to all staff and volunteers, for the great work they do. Because of their commitment, day in and day out, we can implement our Schools Programme and inspire young people to speak out...and make a change! We hope you enjoy this issue, and please let us know what you think!

**Dr Josianne Roma-Reardon**  
Managing Director

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## A Spotlight on:



### ToysRus 'Supporting HIV and TB Prevention'

TOYSRUS, a Woolworths MySchool fundraising partner, recently made a donation to OVSA, to support HIV and TB prevention at Nhlanhlayethu High School in KwaMashu. MySchool Community Organiser, Simone Masson, handed over a cheque for R10,000 on behalf of ToysRus, as part of a MySchool fundraising initiative, which raises funds for South African schools. With the support of benefactors such as ToysRus, schools enrolled in the OVSA Schools Programme, stand to benefit substantially. Through these donations, the Schools Programme can be annually reviewed and updated, workshop content adjusted, and OVSA Facilitators can receive ongoing training on programme content and facilitation skills.

Thank you ToysRus and MySchool !!



## Schools Programme Update

### Schools Programme Highlights

**Workshop Implementation:** Workshop implementation commenced during the first quarter of the year, and Facilitators managed to complete the initial three workshops with most schools. Feedback from learners participating in the programme has been positive, and they are enjoying the workshops. This is what one of the learners from Ngwenyathi High School in the EC had to say: *“I nearly committed suicide because of a persisting problem that I didn’t know how to handle. Since the OVSA workshop on ‘Problem Solving’ I feel much better. I know what I must do next.”*

OVSA Facilitators are also benefiting from the Schools Programme having started, and this is what KZN Facilitator, Nothile Sibiyi, had to say: *“Working for OVSA has opened my eyes. I use the information to assist my mother who runs a small CBO at home, and I share the information with the community workers around me. I feel I am adding value and am grateful to work with the learners from Sivananda FET High School. They are so excited about the programme and show great respect for the work I do.”*

**Assessment 1:** As part of monitoring our programme and to assess ‘knowledge and information learnt,’ the learners who completed the first three workshops were required to write Assessment 1 during March/April 2011.

**TB Training:** The first week of April 2011 was a spectacular, informative and unforgettable period for the Schools Programme team. The TB training conducted by Act Two was intense, yet exciting. Getting new information about TB was empowering and getting all the facts from the experts removed all the myths around the disease. This training increased the Facilitator’s ‘knowledge,’ which was verified after they wrote a test at the end of the training and scored top marks. Zukiswa Nomatye, a Senior Facilitator in the EC, has proven to be the top scorer – thumbs up Zuks!

**Phinduvuye Community Development Project Training:** The Phinduvuye Community Development Project recently requested that OVSA train its Community Workers in preparation for the roll-out of their new programme in schools. Five KZN Facilitators assisted me in co-facilitating the training. Thank you team!

**Ntonto Vezi**  
Schools Programme Manager



## OVSA TB Training: Facilitators share their experience

In April 2011, OVSA staff completed a 3-day TB Training Workshop in support of the new HIV/TB integrated Schools Programme. Much was learnt by all and here is some feedback from the Facilitators:



**Hlengiwe Ngcobo**  
(Facilitator KZN)

*“Since the TB Training I have learnt and understood the meaning of the words that are frequently used when one talks about TB (e.g. Bacteria, Bacterium and many others). As it was the first time that I was taught anything about TB, it was a great opportunity to learn about a disease that is so closely linked to HIV and AIDS. I also learnt what type of disease TB is, how it affects our body and with what symptoms it presents. I learnt about the different types of TB, that there is resistant TB such as MDR TB and XDR TB. I am glad that OVSA managed to train us on TB because our learners really want to learn about these new topics – I hope they will enjoy it.”*



**Delisile Mdabe**  
(Facilitator KZN)

*“I learnt a lot about TB; the information was great and the ACT Two Facilitators were clear. The information was new to me, but I tried hard to take in all the information I could. I now know that some people have latent TB, and it does not make them sick, and there are two types of TB that are hard to treat: MDR TB and XDR TB - and people who have it need to be in hospital so that the disease can be monitored closely by doctors, and to prevent it from spreading to other people. I have also learnt, that if you live with a person who has TB, you have to make sure that there is good ventilation, as this helps to prevent the spread of TB from one person to another. As a Facilitator, I will tell my learners that they must not discriminate against people who have TB, but they must learn about the disease so that they will understand it and not fear it. They will have to familiarise themselves with the TB information we provide.”*

## Communications Chatter

Speaking with 'OneVoice' can mean many things to many people. For us at OVSA, we believe that speaking with 'OneVoice' provides us with the most powerful communication tool to deliver our message efficiently and effectively! Especially with regards to the significant changes that the Schools Programme has undergone (the TB/HIV integration) and the intensified work schedules - paying attention to detail and communicating effectively remains crucial to programme implementation and uptake.

During the week-long Internal Training in April 2011, which included a 3-day workshop on TB and a 1-day training on internal policies/communication – we were sent back to the classroom! Staff were asked to swap places with their 'learners' and get reacquainted with their own attitudes, brainstorm around their understanding of HIV and TB concepts and refresh their basic communication skills, including spelling and strategic listening.

Sometimes we don't understand our learners because we're not hearing what they want to communicate. We may hear the facts, but miss out on the emotion. Strategic listening allows us to hear the real messages people are communicating – something which is crucial if working in partnership with young people.

**Marlijn van Berne**  
Communications & Fundraising Manager

## OVSA Teambuilding Training

The OVSA team participated in a 'Beach and Bush' Ushaka Teambuilding Challenge during April 2011. The objective of the Teambuilding was to encourage teamwork and improve communication and of course, to have fun! Activities included war cries, an art challenge, an ice cream eating competition and giant puzzles. East Coast Radio's Damon Beard even gate-crashed our obstacle course as part of his "Funsunzi" tour! The 'Beach and Bush' Facilitators were impressed with the team's motivation and team spirit, and had just much fun as OVSA!

**Jacqui van Zyl**  
Finance & HR Manager



Aspiring artists showing off their creative genius during the Art Challenge

## Funder Focus

Two new funding partners have joined the OVSA family! We would hereby like to introduce you to CIDA and Sponsor-a-School sponsor, Mond. Welcome!

### CIDA



Canadian International  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de  
développement international

The **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** was formed in 1968 by the Canadian government. CIDA administers foreign aid programs in developing countries, and operates in partnership with other Canadian organisations in the public and private sectors as well as other international organisations. Its mandate is to "support sustainable development in developing countries in order to reduce poverty and contribute to a more secure, equitable, and prosperous world." CIDA is supporting a one year capacity building project with all staff.

For more information please visit: [www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/home](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/home)

### 2011 Sponsor-a-School Campaign

This year's Sponsor-a-School Campaign is once again generously supported by the Nedbank Foundation, Spring Lights Gas, MANCOSA and Blue Label Telecoms (see below which schools they are sponsoring). We would also like to introduce new sponsor, Mond.

### MONDI



At **Mondi**, it is their vision to be a leading business with the highest ethical standards, that delivers exceptional value for their customers, their employees, their communities and their shareholders. Mond. aims to be the best-performing paper and packaging Group and recognises the need to integrate sound principles governing safety, business conduct, social, environmental/economic activities into business practices and decision-making. Mond. aims to create solutions for their customers' success, delivering exceptional value in a sustainable way. Mond.'s contribution will support OVSA learners at the following five schools in Umlazi:

- Ekwazini High School
- Umlazi Commercial High School
- Zwelethu High School
- Nwabi High School
- Zwelibanzi High School

For more information please visit: [www.mondigroup.com](http://www.mondigroup.com)



- Nomavimbela High School in KZN
- Siphesihle High School in KZN
- Mizamo High School in the EC



- Inanda Comprehensive in KZN



- KwaPata High School in KZN
- JG Zuma High School in KZN



- Sinikiwe High School in EC

## Special Features:

### SIT Students

In January 2011, OVSA hosted a number of American students from the School for International Training (SIT) after which two students, Clare and Whitney chose to work with OVSA.

Whitney Donaldson, is researching HIV-related stigma in secondary schools and its relation to in-school HIV counseling and testing (HCT). Since the South African Government's HCT programme in secondary schools was halted because of uncertainty regarding HIV testing, Whitney is investigating the issues and gauging the outlook for such a programme in the future. OVSA plays a critical role in this study, as OVSA Facilitators link Whitney to the learners so that she can hear their thoughts and opinions. The outcomes of her research promises to inform OVSA of not only the beneficial outcomes of the curriculum, in terms of fighting stigma and encouraging testing, but also of the areas of learning that need to be expanded.

Clare Schroder, studies International Studies and Public Health. She one day hopes to work in the field of Global Health, but in the mean time is studying in South Africa and embarked on the opportunity to work with OVSA. Clare is researching the various types of and motivations for the romantic relationships young people find themselves in today. She is also looking at how young people perceive these various relationships to contribute to the spread of HIV, and how their beliefs are influenced by the OVSA Schools Programme.



Front row left to right: Briana Cartwright, Clare Schroder, Jazmin Long, Nothile. Back row left to right: Josianne Roma-Reardon, Ryan Newberger, Whitney Donaldson, Alex Edwards and Ntonto Vezi.

### HIV Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

Our Managing Director, Dr. Josianne Roma-Reardon, attended the first HIV Capacity Building Partners Summit on 15-18 March 2011, where over 250 delegates from 19 participating countries from Eastern and Southern Africa gathered to discuss progress, achievements and lessons learnt in HIV capacity building. Josianne had the opportunity to present at a Round Table discussion about our Schools Programme, how it builds capacity among young people and provides them with accurate and age-appropriate information so that they can make informed decisions about their health and lifestyle. The goal of the summit was to build consensus on a joint plan of action and secure medium to long-term policies and actions to strengthen HIV capacity building efforts in the region.



### A new Volunteer for OVSA!



OVSA would like to introduce Maxwell Mabaso to the OVSA team. Maxwell is going to work with the Schools team in KZN as a Schools Programme Volunteer. He will be mostly responsible for the Project Officer's duties. He has a Psychology background and has worked with young people in an NGO setup. Maxwell's skills, experience and time will be of great benefit to OVSA. Welcome Maxwell!

### MyVillage Update

Thank you to all our supporters for their continued support in the second quarter of this year. The following contributions have been received since our last newsletter:

March: R422.88

April: R327.37



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