

A Word from the Managing Director



It is with great pleasure that I introduce our electronic newsletter *Voice Connection*, which will highlight the great work we are doing with South African learners, as well as showcase our organisation and staff members.

OneVoice South Africa (formerly dance4life) is a vibrant and unique non-governmental organisation, which uses innovative and creative ways of actively involving young people in HIV and AIDS prevention. We have been involved in this field for over four years, during which time our staff have acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing and implementing our Schools Programme in 74 schools across KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

Joining the organisation in April 2009, I quickly observed the passion and dedication of staff members; with everyone welcoming me and making me feel part of the team. I was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, to Portuguese immigrant parents who worked tirelessly to ensure that I was able to take advantage of the tremendous resources available to me. I completed a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Human Kinetics, a Master of Arts in Human Kinetics, as well as a Ph.D. in Population Health from the University of Ottawa, Canada. I have always had an interest in international health issues, and since arriving in Durban, in 2007, I have been working towards helping address the health issues facing our nation. Currently, as Managing Director, my goal is to ensure that staff is well trained and equipped to implement our Schools Programme, so that we can achieve our goal of supporting a reduction in new HIV infections among young people.

We hope you will enjoy following our progress and seeing how our work is contributing to addressing the current realities faced by young South Africans.

Dr Josianne Roma-Reardon
Managing Director



OneVoice South Africa Staff Members

THIS ISSUE:

<i>A Word from the Managing Director</i>	Page 1
<i>A Spotlight on:</i>	Page 1
<i>Schools Programme Update</i>	Page 2
<i>Communications Chatter</i>	Page 3
<i>Funder Focus</i>	Page 3
<i>Sponsors Featured</i>	Page 4
<i>Special Feature</i>	Page 4
<i>Success Story: The VCT Project</i>	Page 4

A Spotlight on:

OneVoice South Africa's collaboration in the STOP AIDS NOW! South African Partnership.



Drawn together by their common desire to learn about the tremendous challenges faced by young South Africans, in particular HIV and AIDS, 10 organisations from different parts of South Africa developed a collective focus to inform responses and commitments to children and their communities in South Africa.

The offer to engage with each other equaled the desire to grow; to do "more and better" of what each was doing - on their own. Together we developed new and innovative approaches to the HIV and AIDS pandemic and increased our impact on the pandemic.

One of the products developed through this joint-venture is a business card-size mini referral system, which contains important numbers young people can call if they have an emergency.



Schools Programme Update

If I were to summarise the 2009 Schools Programme, I would say it was an exciting, vibrant, innovative, growing, transforming, successful and challenging journey! A journey reflected at organisational level, and by personnel, schools, beneficiaries and stakeholders alike.

Starting with 55 schools in 2008, we grew to 74 schools across three provinces by 2009, including KwaZulu-Natal (34 schools), Eastern Cape (12 schools) and Western Cape (28 schools). We also welcomed several new Facilitators and now boast an 18-strong Facilitator team.

So much has been achieved this year! And we can see that we are going to enjoy increasing *meaningful participation* from our stakeholders. According to those involved with the programme, it has already impacted on the lives of the implementers, the learners, the teachers, the principals and the communities surrounding our schools.

Highlights

- Bringing on board an M&E Officer to monitor and evaluate the Schools Programme.
- Conducting successful Stakeholder Meetings.
- Organisational transformation - from dance4life South Africa, to OneVoice South Africa, without having negative responses from our schools.
- 74 MOUs signed with schools, and 5 MOUs signed with the Department of Education.
- Participation and involvement of young people during workshops is palpable.
- Innovative projects have been produced by learners.
- The content of the workshops is proving relevant and educational.
- Passion, commitment and perseverance from Facilitators and Senior Facilitators.
- The annual team building exercise allowing staff to meet in person and strengthened their bonds with each other, which in turn has strengthened their unity and productivity.

Ntonto Vezi
Schools Programme Manager



As part of the Schools Programme, learners can choose to use drama to share 'lessons learnt' with their peers.



Schools Programme Workshops Under the Microscope

We are delighted to present an overview of the topics, which will be discussed in our Schools Programme workshops in 2010. The content is aligned to the HIV & AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa (NSP 2007-2011) and epidemic drivers.

GRADE 8 SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Part 1: An Introduction to Life Skills

- Workshop 1: Values and Human Rights
- Workshop 2: Self Knowledge and Gender Roles
- Workshop 3: Problem Solving

Part 2: An introduction to Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV and AIDS issues

- Workshop 4: Puberty and Healthy Living
- Workshop 5: Relationships and Delaying Sexual Debut
- Workshop 6: Basic HIV and AIDS information

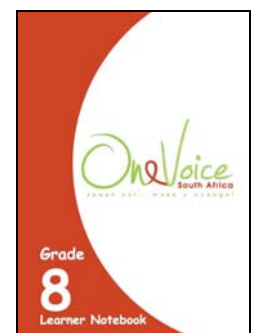
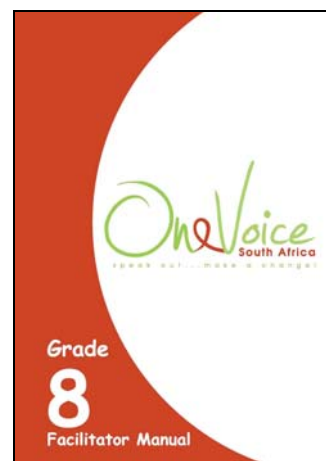
Part 3: An Introduction to Projects and Tasks

- Workshop 7: Project Planning and Design
- Workshop 8: Project Monitoring and Implementation
- Workshop 9: Project Evaluation

In each workshop, the content relates back to the realities of prevailing HIV and AIDS issues - and links to the specific outcomes that are in the Department of Education 'Life Orientation' (LO) syllabus.

The **Learner Notebook** will include tasks that specifically show that learners have achieved the outcomes of the LO syllabus, and could be a key part of learner assessment.

The **Facilitator Manual** will help guide our Facilitators through each workshop, and includes the purpose of each workshop, ground rules, games, and key discussion points.



Communications Chatter

Young people should have a voice that is heard and empowered to address sexual reproductive health, gender and human rights issues - as well as tackle the devastating realities of HIV and AIDS in their daily lives.

As of 1 July 2009, we decided to prioritise *Social Change Communication* and messaging, so that we could provide the most thorough support to our Schools Programme - as well as to the young South Africans in our schools.

It was clear from early on, that to be able to support a reduction in HIV incidence, prevention strategies required the interlinking of a number of interventions, which target the societal, behavioural and biological elements driving HIV risk and vulnerability.

Social Change Communication refers exclusively to those aspects of communication that focus on tackling the societal level factors driving the epidemic. As an approach, *Social Change Communication* is sustained over long periods, is highly participatory and tackles fairly complex issues.

Social Change Communication also makes strategic use of advocacy, communication and social mobilisation to systematically facilitate and accelerate change in the underlying drivers of HIV risk, vulnerability and impact.



Learners from the Eastern Cape participating in a meaningful participation exercise.

When taken as a whole, this approach is innovative as it entails recognition of the current drivers of the epidemic (i.e., intergenerational relationships, multiple concurrent partnerships, incorrect and inconsistent condom use and a lack of circumcision practices); an interactive way of mobilising partners (i.e., meaningful participation of young people, Schools Programme content); and the use of the broadest possible set of communication tools and approaches (i.e., branding, social marketing).

Together we will *speak out and make a change!*

Marlijn van Berne
Communications & Media Manager

Funder Focus

OneVoice South Africa is a donor funded organisation. Currently, we are funded by USAID through Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa (JHHESA) and the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO). With their support, we are implementing our Schools Programme in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

We would like to introduce you to our main funding partners and welcome them to the OVSA family!

Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa

Johns Hopkins Health and Education in South Africa (JHHESA) is a non-profit organisation that aims to improve the health and well-being of all South Africans particularly on HIV prevention, care and support.

In achieving its broader objective, JHHESA uses a strategic evidence based communication approach which includes dynamic mass media and interpersonal communication initiatives. Their communication strategies are designed to support the targets of South Africa's HIV and AIDS and STI National Strategic Plan (2007 - 2011).

JHHESA is affiliated to the internationally acclaimed Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health's Centre for Communication Programs, based in Baltimore (U.S.A), which is a globally respected public health communication organisation.



For information please visit: <http://www.jhhesa.org.za>

The Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)

The Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation's (ICCO) mission is to work towards a world in which people live in dignity and prosperity; a world where poverty and injustice are no longer present.

ICCO give financial support and advice to local organisations and networks worldwide, which are committed to providing access to basic social services, bringing about fair economic development and promoting peace and democracy. ICCO is active in 55 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.



For information please visit: <http://www.icco.nl>

Sponsors Featured

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:



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

Special Feature

St. Joseph's Secondary Drama Club: Multiple Concurrent Partnerships (MCPs) and Sexual Networking Performance takes your breath away!

A group of eight OneVoice South Africa learners are using drama as a way to voice the current realities faced by young South Africans on a daily basis. Phumza Msolo, Senior Facilitator, worked together with the group of young people in the drama club, designing a performance which challenged the root causes of prevailing sexual reproductive health issues (such as HIV and AIDS epidemic drivers, STIs and peer pressure) and the actors hope that by exploring these issues they can contribute to overall behaviour change.

Their most recent performance highlights why some young people might engage in MCPs. The performance is presented during special events and in school, and hopes to raise awareness and motivate learners to do what is best for their lives and futures.

Success Story: The VCT Project

Awareness Day at Alphendale High in the Eastern Cape has become a day to remember thanks to a group of OneVoice South Africa learners who decided to "speak out...and make a change!"

The project was organised by a group of young people (members of a dynamic OVSA Club), who realised that their peers are in denial of the fact that *everyone* is affected by HIV and AIDS.

During weekly discussion meetings after school, they realised that if they could persuade their friends to get tested for HIV - they might be able to facilitate a change in attitude towards HIV and AIDS. Thus the idea of an 'awareness day' grew; a day encouraging young people to get tested and know their status.

The school was buzzing with excitement on the day; the principal even allowed the school to finish early so that the event could get underway. All around school there were posters made by young people encouraging other young people to be aware, protect themselves from HIV infection and know their status. It was a huge success.

Afterwards one of the club members said that young people know what to do, and only need a little push to go in the right direction.

Zukiswa Nomatye
Senior Facilitator - Eastern Cape



St Joseph's Secondary Drama Club: Lights & Action!

EASTERN CAPE Offices 312/313, Mutual Building 38 Terminus Street East London, 5201, South Africa Tel: +27 (0)43 722 2021 Fax: +27 (0)43 722 4045	HEAD OFFICE KWAZULU-NATAL Office 201, FNB House 151 Musgrave Road Durban, 4001, South Africa Tel: +27 (0)31 202 0555 Fax: +27 (0)31 202 0585	WESTERN CAPE Office 102, 33 On Strand 33 Strand Road Cape Town, 7530, South Africa Tel: +27 (0)21 945 2734/6 Fax: +27 (0)21 945 2750
Email: info@onevoice.org.za Skype: onevoicesouthafrica Website: www.onevoice.org.za		
Board of Directors: Tenyeko Sydney Montana (Chairperson) · Sibongile Mkhize (Vice-Chairperson) · Peter Nixon (Treasurer) · Judy Ann Seidman · Felicitas Chiganze · Mary Crewe · Dr Andrew Robinson · Felicity Fray · Judith King · Samke Ndlovu		



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

JOHNS HOPKINS
Health and Education in South Africa

CCO
Partner to
enterprising people

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development. The contents are the responsibility of OneVoice South Africa and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.