

A Word from the Managing Director

We have indeed come a long way...

During the past year, we have redirected our focus and developed a new partnership with young people. Young people make up a significant part of our total population, and unlike the past, integration of youth in strategic planning is no longer lacking. By providing them with the platform to voice and address concerns, young people can initiate change. In fact, many lead by example in their own communities, thereby investing in the next generation, who will be skilled to support sustainable change over time.

The 'platform' in question, has been our new and contextualised, Schools Programme. Innovative and creative, our programme supports the Government's Life Orientation Module and is aligned to the HIV & AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa (NSP 2007-2011). It offers a school-based series of workshops which are fun, and contain an in-depth focus on HIV and AIDS, life skills, sexual reproductive health, gender and human rights for young people between the ages of 13-19 years. Emphasis is placed on understanding what places one's health at risk, but equally, encourages young people to believe in their ability to positively influence their futures and those of their loved ones. Notably, OVSA learners in the Eastern Cape held their first training on the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in September. Twenty-three young people, four teachers and one school governing board member took part. The YAB is still in the early stages of development, however the intention is for it to become fully active in 2011. The YAB will provide learners with the opportunity to provide meaningful participation on most Schools Programme aspects - and thus engage with the programme in such a way that it stays relevant and in line with what young people want and need.

It has also been a year filled with new and exciting opportunities, these are showcased in our new Annual Report, which will be in the spotlight in this issue. We have also recognised the importance of not working in isolation and the role our partners play. Partnerships with like-minded organisations and individuals provide us with the best opportunity to support young people. Most recently, the DG Murray Trust came on board to support our activities in the Eastern Cape and The Sara Lee Foundation has committed to supporting one of our Umlazi schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

What makes our work rewarding and relevant, is our common belief that we can speak out... and make a change! if we stand together.

Dr Josianne Roma-Reardon
Managing Director

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A Spotlight on:

Annual Report 2009 | 2010

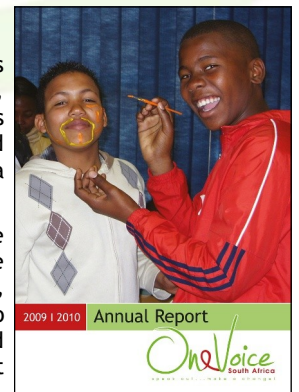
The importance of an Annual Report is not to be underestimated. It is in fact, not unlike a road map; it not only reflects where you came from (and what you had to do to get there) but also shines a spotlight on where you are going.

For staff and stakeholders alike, the Annual Report can be viewed as the crowning glory of the past year's blood, sweat and tears. It is something to proudly display and show off! And showing off - in the nicest sense - is what it is all about.

This is why the design of the Annual Report is so important. This smooth, sleek, bright piece of administrative confectionary should mirror our organisation at a glance. For although Snow White's stepmother was not lauded for her narcissistic "mirror mirror on the wall, who is the most beautiful of them all" - it is all about making a good impression; our ability to draw in the reader and showcase the beauty of one's achievements in a favourable light.

The Annual Report provides an in-depth look at departmental work, the Schools Programme, the Annual Financial Statements and much more!

If you would like to see our Annual Report, please visit www.onevoice.org.za



Schools Programme Update

Workshop Implementation & Advocacy Projects:

July has been a month of reconnecting with the schools after the excitement of the World Cup. Those Facilitators who could not complete Cycle 1 workshops because of exams and disturbances, continued with the outstanding Cycle 1 workshops and simultaneously started with the Cycle 2 workshops. Great attention was also given to the learner presentations; a novel idea that was introduced as a means for learners to demonstrate information, knowledge and skills learnt, through the presentation of projects. The learners really enjoyed presenting their projects. Others felt it was very fulfilling especially those projects that focused on donating clothing to orphanages and spending time with Orphans and Vulnerable Children. These projects in particular, made them realise how lucky they are to have parents.

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Recruitment:

This is a new initiative in the Eastern Cape which is being piloted in 12 schools. An advertisement was sent to the earmarked schools asking interested young people to apply and motivate why they want to become a YAB member. After the selection process was complete, an Induction Training took place on 20 August 2010, which provided the first recommendations in terms of the YAB's viability and efficacy.

New Schools & Stakeholder Meetings:

Three new schools were brought on board and all have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Following this, they were invited to a Stakeholder Meeting to inform them on the next steps to be taken. The three new schools were brought on board for Cycle 2 as Grade 8 classes in some schools had already been exhausted.

Bi-Annual Facilitator Training:

The bi-annual Facilitator Training took place in July. The training was a 'refresher' for Facilitators in preparation for Cycle 2 implementation. Training was outsourced from other NGOs in Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. The Western Cape asked the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) to provide training on a holistic approach to HIV and AIDS, and treatment literacy. The KwaZulu-Natal Facilitators asked eMpathy Trust to provide training on two different facilitation methods, psychosocial and story-telling. In the Eastern Cape the Project Officer conducted a two day training and focused on the content of OVSA's training materials and helped Facilitators deal with the challenges they encounter when implementing the workshops. Unfortunately, there has been a national civil servants strike that lasted more than three weeks during this semester. During this time our Facilitators were involved in extra curricula training on HIV and prevention skills.

Ntonto Vezi
Schools Programme Manager

Monitoring and Evaluation

Outreach for the Schools Programme (July - August 2010)

A total of 2027 learners (995 males and 1032 females) were reached with the Schools Programme for the period of July - August 2010.

During this same period a total of 720 male and 140 female condoms were distributed.

Kim Johnson
M&E Officer



Schools Programme: OVSA Staff Under the Microscope

The Facilitators play a crucial role in implementing our Schools Programme workshops. OVSA recognises the professionalism and uniqueness of each Facilitator.

Here are some of the highlights that our Facilitators would like to share:

KwaZulu-Natal: Phumlani Mkhanya



"Certain schools have made it a priority to make sure that we feel part of the school community. The programme reduces a bit of workload from the teachers by covering some of the topics in the curriculum."

Eastern Cape: Zukiswa Nomataye



"The launch of Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was one of the biggest highlights of the year! Because now, meaningful participation of young people will get an exclusive platform."

Western Cape: Liesl Solomons



"The highlight for me was to see how some of the learners mindsets have changed and how the contact teachers work with me."

Communications Chatter

Blogging

The OVSA blog is still a fairly new tool in the OVSA Marketing arsenal. One of the most valuable aspects of a blog is that it offers a platform to individuals and organisations to promote their unique brand. So in effect, it boosts 'brand value' and as one blogger said: "the brand has its own set of attributes, expectations and promises."

The OVSA website now invites supporters and followers to subscribe to our blog. Once you are a 'follower' notifications will be forwarded to you as soon new content is uploaded. We encourage everyone to add commentaries or leave messages and we look forward to engaging around a number of topics with you. Interactivity is the keyword!

Materials Feedback

During the July school holidays, the Project Officers in each province met with their Facilitators and reviewed the Schools Programme Materials as part of the meaningful participation process. Learners and School Principals/Teachers are still expected to feedback, depending on the length and implications of the ongoing civil servants strike. Below some feedback on the OVSA Schools Programme materials:

- The Facilitator Manual is just a guide to facilitation and workshop content. Specifically, the Facilitator Manual is designed to provide instruction on how to carry out each workshop successfully, but does not necessarily include enough references for the Facilitators to expand their knowledge in terms of the workshop content. However, Facilitators should also be encouraged to conduct their own research in terms of finding supporting information and make use of the office resources such as the resource library.
- Some of the workshop activities are not conducive to the classroom set up or the limited time given to conduct the workshop. Recommendations are that the activities are reviewed and possibly revised such that they can be adapted to the different environments.
- Part 2 of the Facilitator Manual speaks of HIV and AIDS but there is nothing at all on STIs and HCT (formerly known as VCT). This needs to be reviewed and possibly revised.

Marlijn van Berne
Communications & Media Manager



Funder Focus

Two new funding partners have joined the OVSA Family. We would like to introduce you to the DG Murray Trust and Sara Lee, as well as thank them for their support. Welcome!

DG Murray Trust



The DG Murray Trust (DGMT) is a Public Benefit Organisation that contributes to development processes through initiating, supporting and undertaking programmes and projects that create an enabling environment in which South Africans are able to fulfill their potential, human needs and aspirations.

This is done in an ethical manner through working with service providers and development agencies involved in educational, social development and related philanthropic activities. The DG Murray Trust is funding activities in the Eastern Cape.

For more information, please visit: www.dgmt.co.za

Sara Lee



Sara Lee Corporation is a global manufacturer and marketer of high-quality, brand-name products for consumers throughout the world. Sara Lee Corporation's leading brands are household names known around the globe. Our preeminent brands are built on consumer needs and expectations, offering exceptional quality and value. Sara Lee Corporation builds and maintains leadership positions through innovation and responsiveness. Some of our brands are decades - or even centuries - old, and many are leaders in their respective categories. The Sara Lee Corporation is funding one school in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal.

For more information, please visit: www.saralee.com



If you would like to make a donation or sponsor our work, we are continually seeking new sponsors and partners. For more information please contact us on +27 (0)31 202 0555 or visit our website www.onevoice.org.za

Friend Focus

We would like to thank the following friends for their generous donations. THANK YOU!

- Amy Gorman - United States of America
- Lesley van Zyl - South Africa
- Ismail Shaik - South Africa

Success Stories: Advocacy projects

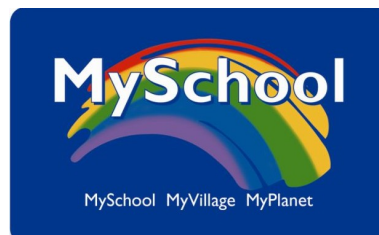
Project Officer, Nontobeko Mbatha, KwaZulu-Natal: Learners from Kwesethu High School, recently created a Resource Centre as part of their Advocacy Project. The Facilitators contacted Khomanani and asked them for HIV and AIDS resource materials. To date, this project has enjoyed great success with OVSA learners as well as learners from other grades, as they are now utilising the Resource Centre, created by Grade 8 OVSA Learners. More resources and information was requested by the learners from their local clinics. At this point the Project is not only benefiting Grade 8 learners but the entire School by providing information that is required for other activities like assignments.

Project Officer, Pienaar Motabene, Eastern Cape: After a series of nine workshops, learners were empowered with more information and skills to deal with challenges faced by young people today. Young people were able to organise projects like awareness raising campaigns, poster, events, community outreach, etc. This has demonstrated what they learned from attending the OVSA workshops. What stood out the most is to see young people taking their time from school just to be with orphans in one of the orphanage. Young people took the concept of Human Rights further and demonstrated equal rights to all.

Project Officer, Siyabulela Mtlaka, Western Cape: Young people during Cycle 1 produced a number of plays that were linked to HIV and AIDS as part of their advocacy projects. During these performances role-players challenged their audience, to engage around the health issues raised in the performance. According to Facilitators, Learners have shown quality of leadership during the organising and preparing of projects and successfully implementing their projects with little assistance from OVSA Facilitators.

Special Feature

MySchool/MyVillage



OVSA would like to thank all their MySchool/MyVillage supporters for the funds received. With an estimate one thousands registered users we found that on average per month 270 supporters have been swiping their cards every month.

OVSA would like to appeal to all our registered supporters to continue swiping their MySchool/MyVillage cards at participating stores. For a full list participating stores or if you are interested in signing up or adding OVSA as a beneficiary, please visit our website at www.onevoice.org.za

To date OVSA has received the following financial contributions from MySchool/MyVillage:

March - R45.22

April - R15.83

May - R137.94

June - R208.40

July - R187.75



EASTERN CAPE

Office 2, 3 Suffolk Road
Berea
East London, 5241, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0)43 726 2275
Fax: +27 (0)43 726 2169

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](https://www.skype.com/name/onevoicesouthafrica) Website: www.onevoice.org.za

Board of Directors: Sibongile Mkhize, Judith King, Peter Nixon, Samke Ndlovu, Felicity Fray, Dr Andrew Robinson



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