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KICKING HIV INTO TOUCH

Following the success of Jabulani’s inaugural soccer tournament during the FIFA World Cup last year, five of the best local teams and one Cape Town touring team took part in a one day tournament held in March. This presented a great opportunity for a community day out, with people of all ages making up the large crowd of enthusiastic soccer fans. The teams battled it out with one of Zithulele’s local young and upcoming teams, Talimofu FC, coming out on top.

Beyond the soccer, the tournament sought to continue the work of raising HIV awareness throughout the area by conducting free testing and counselling on the day. Events such as these seek to reduce the stigma attached to HIV by encouraging testing as a routine, acceptable, and responsible process, as well as by showing people from all backgrounds, professions, ages and genders being willing to receive the test. Young men are typically the least willing to test for HIV presenting a big problem in our community and simple acts such as the Cape Town team all getting publicly tested for HIV can help with this problem. Although testing itself clearly can’t control the disease, changing the mind-set is a crucial step that Jabulani can be involved in.

To promote testing there was a raffle prize up for grabs for those who tested and regular announcements over the sound system, integrating the process into the general excitement of the day. The efforts of our dedicated team, made up of Jabulani, Donald Woods Foundation and hospital workers, proved to be successful with over 100 people coming forward to test. The real impact of such events will only be known over the next few months and even years through the figures of those willing to be tested. Small communities willing to be open and confront a plague such as HIV could be the key to tackling the disease across the continent.

Special thanks must go to the Cape Town team for their part-sponsorship of the event and we hope to make this a regular fixture on Jabulani’s calendar.



HIV Testing



Talimofu FC



HIV Awareness Skit

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

In endeavoring to capacitate Zithulele Hospital and the various Jabulani projects, suitable accommodation, or the lack thereof, still remains one of our most challenging obstacles. With a generous donation to the hospital from the Discovery Foundation and further accommodation-specific funding from Jabulani, the building of a unit to house both medical students and short-term Jabulani volunteers was made possible.

Building began in December 2010 and was completed in the middle of March 2011. Local builders were used and much of the materials were sourced at the local trading store – thereby helping, insofar as practically possible, to be able to reinvest the money in the immediate community.

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NEEDS cont

With four beds reserved for medical students and the remaining four set aside for volunteers, the unit is already almost fully booked until the end of the year and had we not built a unit of this size, we would have struggled to accommodate everyone. With the added capacity to accommodate these students and volunteers, Zithulele Hospital can now continue to be a centre for rural healthcare learning and Jabulani can grow its work in uplifting the local community.



From start...



...to finish

EDUCATION UPDATE

Zithulele pre-school had much to celebrate on the 4th of May this year when it's 2nd birthday coincided with the arrival of our new Education Co-ordinator, Yolisa, an early childhood development specialist who has come to volunteer her services with Jabulani for a year. The pre-school children, parents and community members came together for the party and much fun was had by all. Many thanks to those who made gifts for the party, and to the many who donated educational materials and monetary gifts. These have enabled us to provide more educational activities and create a more organized and user-friendly storage room.

We are also particularly grateful to the Jakob-Friedrich-Schöllkopf school in Germany who are currently fundraising for a rainwater tank for the pre-school, that will provide a year round supply of water that is safe for drinking. It will also help supply water for the new garden project that is in the preliminary stages of development. With the expert knowledge of a community Gardener, Jabulani volunteers, and pre-school parents, the garden project is set to kick off in the next few weeks. The aim of the project is to support pre-school mothers in being able to grow their own vegetables and to supply the pre-school with school lunches. Furthermore, the garden will be integrated into the curriculum with the children themselves learning how to grow vegetables.



Fun with arts & crafts masks

The pre-school children continue to develop their skills and show much enthusiasm and joy while learning at school. It seems as though everything is fun, whether it is learning new colours, practicing counting, arts and crafts, discovering new geometric shapes, or learning from books on frequent trips to the new library for storytime!

INTRODUCING RURAL ABILITY

As part of its support of the hospital, Jabulani has been supporting the work of the Rehabilitation Department at Zithulele over the past five years and it has been heartening to see how practical support can enhance the lives of disabled people, through the purchase of supplies and other rehabilitative equipment. Jabulani has also acted as a channel for external support, such as when Rumdel Cape upgraded the Zithulele road and as part of their CSI initiative built a model hut, called the Rehab Hut. This is a hut adapted to be wheelchair accessible, and is used to show how suitable accommodation can facilitate independence for those with a disability.

In order to focus on what people can do, as opposed to what they can't, the Rehabilitation Department is now widening their focus and rebranding the...



Making use of the Rehab Hut

INTRODUCING RURAL ABILITY cont

... "Therapy Support" project to "Rural Ability". While the department will still require support for general rehabilitation work (for example, for materials for Hope Therapy activities, splinting material, plastic chairs to turn into commodes, wood for the home adaptations, neoprene for splinting, tools etc), it is felt that Rural Ability would better reach the broader community of Disabled people.

The main focus of Rural Ability will be on enabling disabled people who live in this harsh rural environment, to better understand their potential by providing accessory services that both enhance their lives and expand their possibilities in terms of health, occupation, and personal freedom. In practice this means introducing disabled people to others who are independent despite being wheelchair users, or demonstrating the various wheelchair options that are most suitable for the rural environment.



Wheelchair sport

Exciting plans in the pipeline for Rural Ability include improving access to rural-appropriate wheelchairs for some of our wheelchair users; changing views of intellectually impaired people through Special Olympics style sport; plans to train a wheelchair technician/bicycle mechanic; and also progress in the development of our wheelchair sport (specifically basketball). We are really excited about the scope of this project and hope that it can be an avenue to change perceptions in the area, and other rural areas too.

AT A GLANCE

Bookkeeper Appeal
Student Photography
Xhosa Lessons
"Market"ing Jabulani

Bookkeeper Appeal

Jabulani is in desperate need of a new bookkeeper. If you are interested in offering your services or know of someone (or a company) who would be willing to do some pro-bono work, please do get in contact.

Student photography

Our last edition introduced you to the work of Axiom Education, a new NGO working in Zithulele. Experimenting with an idea by a Jabulani volunteer, Axiom gave each student in their education programme a digital camera for a week. They were encouraged to take pictures of whatever is important, interesting or beautiful to them in their day to day lives, giving the students a chance to express themselves in a very different way to the dry academics of other schoolwork, as well as providing a unique insight into rural life. Anyone who might be interested in seeing the photos or using them for exhibition or advocacy purposes please get in contact. If the experiment proves to be successful, the cameras will be reused by new Axiom students in the following years.



Photo by Noma-India Nkosi, Upper Mpako HS

Xhosa lessons

In an exciting development, Jabulani volunteer Carla, has been teaching Xhosa to nearly fifteen Jabulani and hospital workers over the last couple of months. The lessons focus on the grammatical and technical side of the language, seeking to give people a coherent knowledge of its structure to create long term understanding. As the class progresses, the plan is to hire a local teacher who can take the class to fluency. Learning the local language is an excellent way to connect with the whole spectrum of the Zithulele community and is essential if Jabulani is to become as community orientated as possible.

“Market”ing Jabulani

Each month, grants are handed out at one of Zithulele’s local trading stores, around which a makeshift and eclectic market springs up as the village bursts into life. In May, Jabulani had a stall at the market selling the donated possessions of Jabulani and hospital workers. The market was a great chance to advertise the work of Jabulani, interact with the community and make use of unused, good quality items no longer needed by their owners. Over R1,900 was raised, all of which will be invested back into the local community through various Jabulani projects. With plenty of items left over and promises of more to come, we’re hoping to become a permanent fixture at this local event.



Jabulani Market Stall