

THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership

It takes a whole village to raise a child

Children are wonderful, vulnerable, joy giving and complex, making parenting one of the most challenging undertakings in life. Parents are a child's first teacher but after that, children spend huge amounts of time in the care of others. As children move from childhood to youth, one cannot help but notice headlines that read: youth violence, crime, teen pregnancy, HIV and AIDS. Beneath the headlines is a more serious problem and that is the lack of youth developmental programs that contributes to the healthy development of youth. There are too few young people who grow up experiencing key factors for healthy development. The saddening truth is that far too many young people do not experience support from adults, build relationship across generations or hear consistent messages about boundaries and values. Most have too little to do that is positive and constructive. This results in communities across the nation being overwhelmed with problems and needs in the lives of youth.

So the real challenge facing adults is how do we rebuild the developmental infrastructure for our children and youth? Throughout childhood and youth, the development of the person is essential to ensure we are unleashing the capacity of young people so that they make a positive contribution to the world. Positive Youth Development is a must!

What is Youth Development?

Youth Development can be defined as "the ongoing growth process in which all youth are engaged in attempting to:



"far too many young people do not experience support from adults"

- Meet their basic personal and social needs to be safe, feel cared for, be valued, be useful and be spiritually grounded;
- To build skills and competencies that allows them to function and contribute in their daily lives (Pittman, 1993, p. 8).

This definition accurately describes youth development as a process that all young people go through on the way to adulthood. To raise a happy, healthy child eager to learn and ready for success, it takes parents, other family members and caregivers, teachers, doctors and nurses, therapists, police officers, coaches, clergy, business people, community leaders, and

volunteers -- **it takes all of us.** Simply put youth development is a combination of all the people, places, supports, opportunities and services needed by youth that contributes to them being happy, healthy and successful. When put together, these powerful resources are the shapers of young people's behaviour and future.

Youth for Christ together with being a mission organisation is a Youth Development organisation that works towards achieving positive results or outcomes in the lives of youth. These outcomes include:

- Youth having high self worth and self esteem
- Youth having a sense of being safe
- Youth feeling that they have mastery over certain behaviours
- Youth feeling that they can positively contribute to the future
- Youth feeling that they belong
- Youth having a sense of self awareness and connection with their creator

In all of the above areas Youth for Christ offers developmental programs that guides youth to realize their potential, their life goals, offers them emotional and psychological support and provides for their development physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

There is an old African proverb that says "it takes a village to raise a child". This unfolds the wisdom that children thrive on when their families and communities as a whole care enough to provide for their development. Our nation will suffer when we as adults fail to empower those who represent our nation's future. For our schools, churches and communities to be whole, our young people must be valued. The challenge therefore lies with you and I..... How will we shape the future of our young people?

Report to the People

On May 7th we enjoyed an evening of re-living all the work of YFC/KZN in 2007. It was an amazing evening that was shared with some of our donors, partners and our staff members. The evening started with socialising and meeting other people who share the same passion for empowering children and youth. There was such a pleasant ambience, which followed throughout the evening.

The lights were dimmed, music blasted out of the speakers and the May'Khethele (a project of Youth for Christ) team performed a vibrant dance. It was hard to keep sitting still. It was a taste of what the kids at school experience as the team performs in front of them.

Kanthie Raidoo (Provincial Director) welcomed everyone and promised us a fulfilling evening together, this was exactly what we experienced. Brian Govender (member of the board) addressed the audience with a synopsis of the role of the board.

Siyabonga Zondi (L'Abri Hospitality / Site Coordinator) divided the audience into two groups

and provided a great ice breaker. It was brilliant to see an audience of fun filled faces, laughing amongst each other and working together. This created such an amazing sense of unity- which is exactly what L'Abri aims for through its programs.

The evening continued with a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation of the projects at YFC/KZN. The slides were filled with highlights, challenges, statistics and photos of the various projects. It was great to see the number of individuals impacted through the projects. This reminds all of us of our purpose at YFC/KZN.

Froukje Pelleboer (YDC volunteer) from YDC Durban then shared a little about her experiences on the YDC program, being an international volunteer and experiencing a completely different culture. It was good for the audience to hear the kinds of experiences international volunteer go through, but it was also really good for the young volunteers to share what is possible for them to experience because of the YDC project. These are experiences that will never be forgotten.

Sheldon Wiggill (Financial Director) used a pie chart to depict the financials of each project. He kept the financials brief as he said he did not want people to fall asleep.

A highlight of the future plans for YFC (current projects in 2008) were very promising, namely May'Khethele team, GoLD and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Our guest speaker then addressed us with a moving speech. Brian Helsby (National Board Chairman) flew in from Jo'burg to share the evening with us and be the guest speaker. He spoke about the importance of helping those in need and loving them unconditionally. We were reminded of Jesus Christ's unconditional love for us. We were also encouraged that we are to leave the end result to Christ. Even though we may not see results immediately, we were encouraged to strive forward and continue to love and help those in need.

To conclude a great evening together, we were danced out with yet another vibrant dance from the May' Khethele team.

This evening was definitely a success and we look forward to next years Report to the People!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mrs Thandi Dlamini

Mama Thandi started to work with Khayaletu in the 90s as a volunteer child and youth care worker. She was later employed as full-time staff to work in the boys' shelter. She has always been known as Mama Thandi by the young people she worked with and her colleagues alike; even the people who were in the same age group as her. Mama Thandi was renowned for her great cooking in the shelter and the way she demonstrated love to all those around her. Loving people meant supporting people in their time of need but Mama Thandi would let you know when you were not doing right and loving you did not mean turning a blind eye to things that should be confronted. The people around her always knew where they stood with her because of her utmost honesty. Mama Thandi was always very prepared to go an extra mile to demonstrate love for the young people she worked with in the shelter. She had taken a couple of these young people into her home because the shelter could not find their families.



Mama Thandi sadly passed away on the 24th of April after being sick for a few months. Her passing away has left a huge gap in the lives of the young people she closely worked with in the shelter and her colleagues who looked up to her as the older sister and mother combined in one person. Mama Thandi will be greatly missed and we pay tribute and honour her for her life and work in Youth for Christ.

Please note . . .

YFC/KZN has been advised by YFC South Africa that the Section 18A tax status enjoyed by YFC South Africa with the South African Revenue Services has been put on hold until further notice. The implication of this for our donors is that receipts issued by YFC/KZN after 1 March 2008 will no longer qualify the donor for a tax deduction. YFC/KZN apologises for any inconvenience caused in this regard. Any changes to our tax status will be communicated in due course.

 <p>YOUTH FOR CHRIST kwazulu-natal Giving Hope to Children and Youth</p>	<p>Internship LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMME</p>
	<p>CHANGE AGENTS PROVIDING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION</p>
<p>Khayaletu PROJECT FOR YOUTH AT RISK</p>	<p>L'Abri OUTDOOR CENTRE</p>
<p>Tennyson House SERVING HOMELESS GIRLS</p>	<p>YAZINI LIFE SKILLS AND PEER EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS</p>
<p>YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME</p>	

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