



memories rewired



This is the last newsletter for 2012. It has been a very exciting year for all those involved in the Restoring Humanity project. With firm plans and resolve we tackled the second phase of the project, expanding into four new areas of Belhar, Bishop Lavis, Mitchells's Plain and Khayelitha.

We reintroduced the schools programme, working with partner organisations and were able to access ten schools. This was all done with the assistance of a dedicated group of youth facilitators. Our commitment to develop the skills and knowledge base of our facilitators are well on it's way.

We look forward to our last activities for this year. The communities will end of their youth activities with community festivals.

We thank all the teachers, parents, youth sponsors and individuals that has contributed to making this year another small step towards a more caring and giving society.

Developing Community Skills

On the 26 and 27 of June the Restoring Humanity Holiday programme took place at The District 6 Home Coming Centre in Cape Town. Youth from Atlantis, Athlone, Belhar, Bishop Lavis, Khayelitsha and Masiphumelele on participated in the two day programme.

The first day focused on community festival training and how to conduct and organise a community festival. Last year community festivals were hosted in Masiphumele, Atlantis and Athlone in partnership with Fusion SA. The end year activities for Restoring Humanity project will hosts festivals in Belhar, Khayelitsha and Mamre.

Young people learn project management, organising and media skills. In addition they also learn games and activities that can be done with big groups. How to engage their communities to get their message out and to be of service.

The second day the young people where taken through various activities to assist young people to connect with their creativity and problem solving. Storytelling, drawing, music and silence was used to allow participants to explore ways in getting to know themselves better and look at the world in different ways.



Healing of Memories workshop

Every story needs a listener.

The Healing of Memories workshops remain a very important part in the development process of the youth participating in the Restoring Humanity project. On 8 –10 June, an all-girls workshop was held with students from Tafelsig High School. Their lives continue to be severely disrupted by the on-going spiral of social violence that plaques our townships.

On 29 June – 1 July and 31 August – 2 September, youth from Atlantis, Khayelitsha and Mamre attended Healing of Memory workshops. Some of the key themes that continue to emerge at these workshops relate to the challenges youth face is the “dysfunctional family”, substance, physical (including sexual) and psychological abuse. The place where they should feel safe is for most of them a battle ground. A place where no one listens.

For many participating in the Restoring Humanity project it has become a space that provides a sense of belonging. Where they are listened to. A place to grow. A place to be. The four healing of workshop this year has been able to touch the lives 97 young people.



South African Constitutional Literacy

Fifteen Restoring Humanity youth members coming from Atlantis, Belhar and Athlone attended the week long workshop (2nd July till the 6th of July) on constitutional literacy hosted by District Six Museum and the South African Constitutional Literacy and Service Initiative (CLASI)

The experiential workshop engagement with youth and students is critical in the building of a successful pro-democracy and pro-constitutional movement within South Africa. The movement for constitutional literacy is rooted in the belief that students, both law students and high school learners, will profit for a lifetime from learning the system of rights and responsibilities under the South African Constitution.

Unite as One campaign

Building non racialism fighting xenophobia.

The second phase of the Unite as one campaign was implemented in four schools in the third school term. The participating schools were Ocean View High in Ocean View, Ned Doman High in Athlone, Excelsior High in Belhar and Masiyile High in Khayelitsha. Good relationships have been established with the schools. Follow up programmes will take place in all schools in 2013.



Human Rights workshop

Rights and responsibility

On 18th August youth from Khayelitsha and Masipumelele met at the District Six Homecoming centre to discuss issues on Human rights and explore their responsibilities in creating a better community. The group identified the following as the most important responsibilities of youth today.

1. To work hard at school and pass grade 12.
2. To participate in activities in community where you can learn.
3. To assist in their families, keeping your mother happy is very important.
4. To respect each other's beliefs and culture i.e. Rasta and Christian religions.
5. To be an active citizen in building the community and the country.

Leadership workshops

Unity in diversity - breaking barriers

Restoring Humanity youth leaders from Atlantis, Masiphumelele and Athlone met on the 19th of May and 9th of August at The Children's Resource Centre and the Institute for the Healing of Memories office respectively.

The first workshop focused on Identity. Youth discussed how they are being identified, how they would like to be identified and how this impacts on how they interact with each other and the world at large. One of the stories in the "African Identities" series produced by IJR was viewed and discussed by the group.

The second workshop focused on how youth can break out of the self-imposed barriers and identities imposed on them and move toward integrating with groups of people. The DVD of the Michael Lapley Story and the founding of the Institute was used during the session.

Insights from the workshops:

Youth did not want to be identified in term of their colour or ethnicity, though all agreed that this is very important to them. Instead they wanted to be identified more for their human attributes.

"No I'm not happy how people identify me. I often tend to be judged by my colour and race that is not what I want as human living in a society with mixed race. I want to mix with other races but my identity is always keeping me back from uniting with others."

"I would like to be identified as a South African and as helpful, caring, loving and someone that trying to make a change"

"As for who I am, for me I am classified as a certain race/colour that does not matter, I would like to be identified as a human being, respected for who I am and for making a difference."



Youth Day - June 16 2012

Restoring Humanity participants from Mamre and Atlantis came together in Mamre to celebrate June the 16, Youth Day. The forty odd participants were taken on a historical tour of the area, learning about ancient, old and recent wounds of the small village. How it impacted on the lives of past residents and how it is shaping the lives of youth living in the area today. A consistent theme that emerged during discussion was the issue of identity.



Youth also had the opportunity to take donkey cart rides and participated in a treasure hunt in the caves. It was a great day of learning and fun.

Heritage day

Triumph of the Human Spirit over adversity.

On 24th of September the Restoring Humanity project in partnership with Robben Island Museum hosted a workshop. It was an opportunity for the youth to reflect on the resistance and resilience associated with Robben Island.



The more than 250 students came from more than 15 schools mostly in the Cape Metropole area. The youth were addressed by Deputy Minister of Higher Education Mduzuli Manana and had the opportunity to ask him questions. Most of the questions were aimed at getting more information on how to further their studies and opportunities of employment.

Ada Macounyi of Atlantis addressed the youth, giving words of inspiration to her fellow learners to work hard despite the adversity they face. Thandikhaya Ncosani one of the Restoring Humanity facilitators delivered a poem.

September Holiday programme

"All people are spiritual beings and of infinite worth."
Institute for the Healing of Memories.

Over three days, 2nd – 4th of October just more than 200 young people joined at Ned Doman High School in Athlone for the Holiday programme. Participants explored the nature of their humanity, relate to their human nature, their frailty as human beings as well as to understand their imperfections and perfections of being human. They also got an opportunity to explore the slopes of Rhodes Memorial and view how the communities are divided, socially and economically.

Reflections of Participants

Mishkaah Williams – Excelsior High:

What stood out for me about the three days was ways in which we see the environment, our spirit and ourselves. I enjoyed it very much because it helped me realise what we need to survive on earth, what my spirit needs and what it feels like to be handicapped.

I will be attending the program again because its fun and it helps me to escape from the reality I live in.... I will end of with a quote from Ghandi: " You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Bradley Bush: Atlantis:

When I arrived here on the first day, I was thinking what is this place. Its feels like a jail, because we cant not go out in this place but when the other children arrived, I felt quite at home. There were sad times as well as good times. But when you are in the program you are in it for good. And I love telling my parents about our activities, coz I am so excited....

Morne Hendricks – Mamre:

At first I felt like I was shifting around until we actually came to a particular session where we dealt with a spiritual body. I'm not really a spiritual being but it made me think of what I am and what I am "made" of and what I really needs is in this world. My perspective of life was always material and at this moment I can still say that it has not totally vanished, but a seed has been planted and it gave me a different perspective. And with this I would like to thank all the facilitators for their valuable insight and the thinking around it



Facilitators news

The Restoring Humanity facilitation team has embarked on a journey to produce new workshop materials to be used by our organised youth groups and for the schools programme next year. The series of workshops is based on the different themes that emerges from the work of the Institute for the Healing of Memories. Many of these themes are captured in the DVD "The Father Michael Lapsley Story and the Founding of the Institute for the Healing of Memories.



The response from the facilitator team in the process of developing the material was very positive. It was seen as a great learning opportunity, to be able to better understand the process of putting together a workshop. Sharing ideas on workshop methodologies and developing activities that would engage young people and all their faculties. The September holiday programme provided an opportunity to test some of the new workshop material. Developing new material for the Restoring Humanity workshops is an on-going project.

Monitoring and Evaluation Training 20th – 22nd September

Three youth facilitators, Liso Madikane, Charl Damon and Clint Bowers joined the IHOM staff in attending a three-day training on Monitoring and Evaluation. The objective of the course was to equip participants with the knowledge and expertise to be able to design and manage a process of developing and implementing an M&E System.



Reflection

Clint; "On the first day I felt quite disorientated until we tackled the individual programs of RH and got some clarity on it. It gave me a moment to reflect more deeply and gain more insight on why we do these programs and the impact it has on individuals and their communities."

Liso; "At first it felt hectic but as time went on I got to understand the processes of the course. It was a good learning opportunity for self-growth and to understand more about RH programs as a youth facilitator. I thank the IHoM for the opportunity to develop more skills"

Youth Colloquium with Deputy Marius Fransman

Four Restoring Humanity facilitators Liso Madikane, Angelique Mpambani, Sandile, Job and Thandikhaya Ncosani joined 50 youth leaders from other organisations who met with Deputy Minister Marius Fransman on 13 June 2012 in South African Parliament to discuss challenges

faced by young people. The meeting held during youth month was part of a larger conversation to address challenges faced by youth.

The focus of this dialogue engagement was to develop a strategy in which all organised youth in the Western Cape can work together to find solutions to unemployment faced by graduates. Many recently qualified young people find themselves without work. As a result young graduates are leaving the country in search of employment elsewhere. This is of great concern as valuable skills are leaving the country.

The youth voiced frustration at Governments inability to find the financial resources to create sustainable employment for graduates. A committee was set up to look at these issues further and report back to the larger group. To date nothing more has been done. This is of great concern to our facilitators, many of whom are studying at tertiary institutions.

banking details

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Name of account:
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Account #:
075133164 (Marketlink account)

Swift code:
SBZAJJ

Gratitude

The Institute for the Healing of memories would like to thank our Restoring Humanity facilitation team for the energy, commitment and dedication they bring to the project!

Liso Madikane, Clint Bowers, Thandikhaya Ncosani, Charl, Damon, Zolani Mfihlo, Khanyisa Katikati, Tozamile Mkonto, Sandile Job, Rabia Petersen, Babalwa Alven, Angelique Mpambani, Ayanda Tomose, Daniel Ntamuhanga and Dewald.

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