

GIRLS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

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Background

- During 2006 Unicef, the SABC, NPA and the interdepartmental management team embarked upon a project, “ **Violence against the girl child training and TV Production**” which highlighted the plague of violence against women and children in our communities.
- Young ladies were chosen from all nine provinces, totally 45 girls from around the country. These girls were chosen through research conducted and were chosen based on their passionate involvement re the fight of gender based violence or them being victims of such offences.
- In aiming to empower children re gender based violence, the Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) Leadership Development Programme was established which at this stage has girl children as its participants.

What has been done to empower the Girl Child ?

■ 2006

The TV Production:

- ✓ Taught the participants how to use the media to tell their stories.
- ✓ It illustrated comparative stories of how the girls lived in difficult and challenging life circumstances and were able to despite the odds move forward.
- ✓ Embedded in that were stories of the girls exposure to gender based violence.

■ 2007

- ✓ Saw 4 Girl Children going to New York to the United Nations Convention on the Status of Women. One of our delegates provide the opening address at the convention.

What has been done to empower the Girl Child Continue...

- 2007 also saw 2 of our Girl Children visiting Angola for the Africa Prosecutor Association Conference
- 2008 saw the start of the TCC Wilderness Leadership Programme.

TCC Wilderness Leadership Trails

- The trails are conducted in the wilderness area of the Pilanesberg National Park in the North West Province.
- The trails are conducted by trained and experienced guides. These guides are trained re survival in the wilderness and leadership roles.
- Such skill is acquired through the Wilderness Leadership School.
- Each trail has 3 trained and experienced guides, 5 Girl Child participants and 2 NPA facilitators.

TCC Wilderness Leadership Trails Continued...

- The wilderness experience allows participants to come one with nature and enables them to open their heart and soul to connect with others, to mother earth and the power greater than ourselves.
- Important aspect of note is the opportunity given to the girl child to lead a trail under the supervision of the trained and experienced guide. The exercise provides the delegate with a sense of responsibility for the persons that she leads.

TCC Wilderness Leadership Trails Continued...

- In enhancing the quality of responsibility, “night watch” allows for each delegate to be given the opportunity to watch over the camp for an hour whilst others are asleep. Not only does it give one a sense of “my time” but also accountability in terms of safety of persons you are required to watch over-protect.
- A sense of individual debriefing takes place during sunrise – their own time...

TCC Wilderness Leadership Trails Continued...

- The TCC Wilderness Leadership Trails began during September 2008 with 2 in September, 1 in October 2008, 2 during April 2009 and 1 is scheduled to take place in May 2009.
- To date we have had 5 trails.
- As a result of being a participant to the programme, delegates have achieved the following:
 - ✓ Having found a new sense of individuality.
 - ✓ Individual debriefing
 - ✓ Leadership skills
 - ✓ Sharing of experiences

Conclusion

- Training of the Girl Child on gender based violence issues will begin during school and tertiary holidays.
- It is expected that delegates will go out into their respective communities and educate people in their communities on issues concerning gender based violence.

Conclusion Continued...

- The “adopt a school” project which is currently active in some areas allows prosecutors go to a selected number of schools with the intention of educating children on the law and their rights. The Girl Child will be required to attend some of these training sessions at schools in their communities and to be interactive in discussions re gender based violence.

Conclusion Continued...

- Some of our participants are vocal in their communities re the fight against gender based violence. We will enhance their efforts and provide them with the necessary support where they need it.



Thank you