



Conquest For Life

Improving the Quality of Life For All

NEWSLETTER VOL 3 ISSUE 1

"Young people who are not part of the solution will always be part of the problem."
Margo Strom



Glen Steyn
CEO
Conquest For Life

Wow!!!! Another year has gone by and we are all excited about 2008. 2007 was a very challenging year. We faced many giants and obstacles but thank GOD we have all made it. I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our board, our funders both past and present, our partners, staff members and most importantly our participants. Thank you all for your wonderful support over the past 12 years. 2008 ushered in our

13th anniversary of creating agents of change in their own communities. I want to ask all our supporters to continue with their support. If you have an idea to help us "becoming a self sustaining youth organization run by young people, empowered to become agents of change in their own community." Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us. We are your partners and friends. **THANK YOU** for your support.

February 2008

"There is no place like this place anywhere near this place, so this must be the place"



Aftercare Children at the ZOO

Our Mission Statement

"To be a self sustaining youth organisation run by young people, empowered to become agents of change by developing their identity, self worth and a sense of community."

DREAMLANDS CAMPSITE

This is our camp facility situated in De Deur, Vereeniging and comprises of a spacious sleeping accommodation with basic residential facilities on a 5 acres of farmland.

The facility can accommodate up to a maximum of 80 young people. It is equipped with a full kitchen, four large bathrooms, five bedrooms furnished with comfortable bunk beds, a television lounge, an eating area, and a large meeting hall and a large meeting



The campsite have enough showers and sleeping space for 80 children. Conquest For Life has a low ropes challenge course with elements such as Porthole, Giant's Finger, Mohawk Walk, and The Wall.

Conquest for Life has extended the toilet and shower facility to make YOUR stay comfortable and pleasant. The premises are also equipped with a multi sports area, a Volley ball court and a Lapa.

We are in the process of building a bigger Meeting Hall, Kitchen, Swimming Pool and Toilets for both boys and girls.

Visit our website:
www.conquest.org.za

Calendar of Events

Staff Teambuilding
23rd February

(SHE) Workshop on Gender & Development - 8th March

Computer Training
10th - 28th March

Youth At Risk Camp
9th - 28th March

Computer Training
7th - 25th April

Diversion Camp
11th - 13th April

(SHE) Training
12th April

Men For Life Weekend Camp
18th - 20th April

(SHE) Weekend Camp
25th - 27th April

Soweto Office

History

Conquest For Life first opened its Soweto office in 2003 in the middle of Soweto at Dube Community Centre. Prior to the Organisation officially opening up an office, Conquest For Life has done several interventions in the community. Conquest For Life first opened an office in one of the four regional areas of Zola known as the Bridgeman centre; a popular destination for art events and mini festivals for the community and surrounding areas. In February 2003, CFL Soweto introduced the Just For Kids Project in 13 schools, now it is running in 23 and the After care programme followed in June of the same year. In 2004 Conquest moved to bigger premises at the Meadowlands Community Centre in Zone 9. These communities like Westbury are notorious for its gangsterism, theft, drug-trafficking and political riots. However, things became stable after the liberation in 1994. Since then CFL has been able to run the life skills camps for the Youth At Risk project, Diversion Project, Victim Offender Conferencing Project and the Reathusana Child Youth Justice Project. Due to the same issues and challenges as in Ennerdale, Conquest For Life made a decision to focus on our identity and branding. Late 2006, Conquest For Life bought a house in Meadowlands, Zone 9 and we will operate from the house.

The idea is to create our own identity and profile in Soweto. We also run all programs and projects in Soweto.



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Diversion Project

- 125 cases referrals
- 49.6% successfully completed the program
- 38.4% reoffended
- 2.4% send to prison.
- 8% the matter was referred back to court.
- 1.6% still attending the program.

Aftercare

- 363 Kids in the programme
- 41.3% past with the help of the aftercare
- 27.6% has improved with their reading & spelling
- 27.6% are coping with their school work
- 1.6% has been excepted at Oprah school of Winfrey
- 1.9% are attending school at National school of Arts

Sexy Healthy and Empowered

The SHE project started in 2006 and since then 134 young ladies participated in the program from Meadowlands and Dube.

The ladies are sexy, healthy and very much empowered. One is employed at CFL and another is volunteering at the organisation. Another one is sewing shoes, one is doing beadwork and another one has opened her own bakery. The ladies are meeting on a regular basis and we are expanding to the different clinics and homes in the area.



Just For Kids Peace Games (JFK)

The JFK project started in 2003 in Soweto and since then we have worked with more than 100 schools in Zola, Dube, Meadowlands, Naledi, Protea and Moletsani. The Soweto Office have worked with more than 20 000 children per year.

Youth at Risk

We had 64 participants for the camps: Conquest for life created work for one participant by the name of Alphews Mekwa who is working at Job Creation. 3 participants attended the camps were hired as Soweto staff members: Bongani Makhanya was a participant in year 2006 in October, Nomonde Bacela and Thabo Shabe were hired in 2007 after returning from the camp that took place in July. 3 – still at school 50 still at home 7 – opened an organisation.

Reathusana Child Youth Justice Project

557 participants that were already in and the new the new participants were 126. Total number of the participants is 683

The programme started during the month of February. This were the topics covered:

- ✦ Building a positive self image
- ✦ Peer pressure.
- ✦ How they could deal with their emotions
- ✦ Positive self-esteem
- ✦ Sense of belonging in your home.
- ✦ Trust
- ✦ Who am I?

Computer Training Centre

- 7 People were training in Computers
- 3 of which are at home looking for jobs
- 4 are working: Kabelo is a clerk at Leratong Hospital - Doris is a cleaner at Helen Joseph - Agnes is a security - Maaki is working at Legit

Ennerdale Office

History

Conquest For Life opened its first office in Ennerdale in January 2002 at the Ennerdale Civic Centre. After several meetings with the Ward Councillor, Ward Committee and the than Region 11 Council of Johannesburg. Upon approval from the council, Conquest For Life moved into a premises in Ennerdale Extension 9. We moved to the new office in August 2002. Whilst Conquest For Life appreciated the space and the partnership with the Joburg City Council Region 11, it became very difficult to operate and perform our duties. On a regular basis we had problems with the council officials as well as the local politicians. There was always issues surrounding the building. Conquest For Life refused to be dragged into any political wrangling. The office was officially launce by Member of Parliament Vincent Smith on Freedom Day, 27 April 2006. It was a symbol of Freedom and a Journey into our new Found Liberty. At our Ennerdale Office, Conquest For Life runs the After Care Project, Just For Kid Project, Youth At Risk Project, Diversion Project, Victim Offender Conferencing Project, Reathusana Project, Siyasizana Project, SHE, Men For Life Project and our Computer Training Centre.



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Aftercare

The Aftercare started from 2002. We had 300 kids, 8 got free bur-saries from Boston college, 92 have improve in their reading and spelling, 10 are in high school, 23 went to a private school which is in sedibeng college, 20 are helping out in the after care kids home works and are involved in the schools activities (e.g. soccer, cricket, net ball and volleyball)

Youth At Risk

We had 162 participants, 32 working at shop rite in Ennerdale 54 are working temporary job, and 16 furthering their studies and 60 are not working just sitting at home.

Computer Training Centre

The Ennerdale office trained over 100 people in Microsoft Word, Excell, Powerpoint, Publisher and the internet. More than 50 people have a permanent job, 5 are working as receptionist, 12 are working at the bank, 9 are still at the adult school., 24 are still unemployed and looking for a job.

Just For Kids

When we started to facilitate at schools we started with 12 schools but now we manage to have 20 schools and we are having a better relationship with the contact teachers and the children are learning more information. Weekly we have 798 children and on a monthly basis we have 3192 children and in a year we worked with 35 112 children since from 2002

S.H.E

The SHE project start in 2006 and since than we had 36 participants in the program
 We had 24 sessions on a weekly basis. During this period topics like self-image, abuse, goal setting, HIV/Aids, prostitution ect. Camps, training and workshop were conducted which covered topics like Leadership, Gender Development, Computer training ect. 19 of the ladies are working at different shops around the area, 10 are furthering their studies and 7 are unemployed. Currently were are working in 2 clinics at Lawley and 3 clinics in Ennerdale

Victim Offender Conferencing

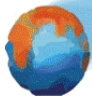
I think in 2006 because the are no files that shows when did the program start.
 In the voc we had 56 cases and most of the cases were domestic violence and 30 cases were for assault and 26 domestic violence.33 cases were successful and 23 cases were referred back from court and only 16 couples are attending.

Diversion

From 2004 diversion has been up and running. We had 549 participants and 246 participants completed successfully, 6 were sent to prison, 297 were referred back to us from court. Currently we have 48 cases, 13 GBH, 2 reckless driving, 2 dealing with dagga, 4 rape, 23 theft & 4 assault

Sincere thanks to our loyal donors





Conquest For Life

Improving the Quality of Life For All

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Volunteers Needed!!!

We are looking for people who want to volunteer in any of our branches. There is always a lot of work to do so that we are happy to have someone assisting us.

A volunteership gives you the opportunity to learn as many things as you like about life skills, computer work, communication and young people.

Just come to the office nearest to you and bring your CV.

**Take the chance —
make a change in your life!**

**Do you have a
creative idea that
can help us???**
**Come and talk to
us!**

Staff Birthdays

**15 February
Otteley Barns**

**7 March
Odette Samson**

**12 March
Shantel Abrahams**

Lufuno Mashabathakga - Ennerdale Branch Manager

Lufuno Mashabathakga was born in Soweto Diepkloof zone 2. In 1995 they moved to Lawley ext 1. Life was not easy for her as a child because only one person in the house was working and they were six children. Her mother started volunteering at the SOS children's village because they would give her some clothes and food to survive. She attended primary and secondary school in Lenasia and even life was difficult and hard her parents stuck together and made sure that all the children complete school. While growing up the relationship with her mother was not good And that made her very determined to finish school and to become an independent woman and to only

focus on her herself. Today she has resolved her differences with her mother and they have a very good relationship and they can talk to each other. "I have a good relationship with my family and colleagues. I am a friendly person and enjoy the work that I'm doing at Conquest for life and I believe I was given a chance to prove that I can stand on my own two feet." Said Lufuno.



BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: CONQUEST FOR LIFE
Bank Name: NEDBANK
Branch: INDUSTRIA
Account Type: Current
Account Number: 1963 297 113
SWIFT ADDRESS: NEDSZAJJ

Pretty Gcaka - Branch Manager Orange Farm

Pretty lives in Orange Farm Ext1 South of Johannesburg but grew up in White City Jabavu (Soweto). When she completed matric she went to an arts school doing fine art. She could not complete her studies due to financial difficulties. During weekends she would sell her Paintings at the Market Theater, doing gardens for extra cash and of cause saving some money to further her studies.

2006-2007 was not a good period for her due to the fact that I had lost my both



parents including the father of her child. She is left with four family members which is herself, her younger sisters of 23, 17 and her baby girl of 7. She is currently working at Conquest with it's dedicated staff, "I feel so fabulous as the results of working with youth, giving advises and also learning new things everyday." I have also learned that "knowledge is our friend in solitude or it can be your friend in loneliness. Conquest taught me to know who I am and where I'm from here."

How can you help us?

The resources required to successfully run a concern such as Conquest for Life are many and varied. The following list are suggestions for you to choose a particular way that you could assist:

- A monetary donation you feel drawn to donate.
- A monthly commitment of R100; R1000; R10 000 which we will use towards meeting our regular monthly running costs.
- Specific donations towards the cost of producing our newsletters and brochures.
- Host a Fundraising event for Conquest For Life
- Donations of household and office furniture, equipment, stationery — including paper, printers, faxes, carpets, crockery and cutlery, curtaining, linen and accessories. We will gladly come and collect.
- Computers and equipment will enable us to meet the growing needs in our Computer Training programme as well as running our programmes and administration efficiently.
- Hardware supplies like paint, tools and garden equipment will assist us in maintaining the buildings and gardens at each of our branches.
- We welcome anyone who would like to share their time, talents and skills with us that will enable us to meet all our objectives.

Please feel free to call the Director and discuss any other ways not mentioned above that you see will assist us in reaching our objectives.

Don't Kill Yourself, Skill Yourself!