



Adonis Musati Project

encourage equip empower

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May 2018 Issue

New Partnership with UNHCR

AMP was chosen to be UNHCR's implementing partner for Social Assistance in the Western Cape for 2018 and this has allowed us to grow our programmes and reach many more vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR has also provided strategic training as well as many other valuable resources and we are very grateful for their support.



Peer Support Group Programme Graduations



AMP ran the first round of our peer support programme in the first quarter of 2018 – with 37 young people in four youth groups, and over 120 adults in 17 groups for men, women, or mixed adults. The youth groups ran in Wynberg and Maitland, and the adults in six areas of Cape Town that have a large refugee population.



These are some comments:

"I thought they were going to give me some kind of training like a waiter or so on but then I started and I realised I was wrong but what they gave me was much more important, they equipped me with knowledge that makes me stand. Adonis Musati Project has affected me in a very positive way, a lot of things have changed positively in my life starting from my family, my workplace.....I wish I could keep attending these lessons." (Zimbabwean male participant)

"What I liked was about the sharing of stories. I didn't know I can share with someone I did not know from my story, but now I see that the other ladies can help me to solve my problems, so that's the most thing I loved and now I get a lot of friends and I have more ladies that I know if I have a problem they can support me." (Somali female participant)

New Staff

AMP welcomes all our wonderful new staff and know that they will make an enormous difference in the lives of all they encounter at AMP.

Laverne Jones has a BPsych degree and is a Registered Counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa. She is currently facilitating our youth support programme for girls.

Galiema Matthews is also a HPCSA registered counsellor with a BPsych degree. She provides counselling services to survivors of trauma and gender-based violence.

Samantha Harlock heads up the social work services at AMP. She has her honours in Social Work and over 10 years work experience in the field. She has been working with refugees and asylum seekers in various roles since 2012.

David Bolomewa Ntiniwe is a registered social worker and has a BA degree in Social Science from UCCM in DRC, a degree in Social Work from UNISA and is currently completing his Masters in Community Development at UWC.

Training

AMP had the privilege of training 6 new peer counsellors over a three-month period. A huge thank you to their excellent trainers Ann Bothwell Paton, Judy Strickland, Thea Shahrokh and Fiona Mendelson.



Eight young attendees from the first youth groups run in 2017 were identified as potential leaders and in December 2017 to January 2018 were trained as youth facilitators. They are currently assisting our youth programme social workers and counsellors in running the groups and the quarterly social cohesion youth camps. Part of their training involved creating their own digital stories.

From the 3rd to the 5th April several new AMP staff members attended the SAFER Training at UCT Refugee Rights Clinic to update their knowledge about the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in South Africa.



Nation-building Youth Camp



Over 35 incredible young refugees, asylum seekers and South Africans enjoyed AMP's Youth Empowerment Camp held at Ihlati Bush Camp during the April school holidays. The theme was Unity in Diversity and the mission was to create a supportive environment where young people from different cultures and backgrounds could have fun, grow together and learn from each other.

There were team challenges and obstacle courses, talent shows with poetry, song, drama and dance and the infamous night walk led by the Ihlati Camp Facilitators with nothing but the night stars and a rope to guide them through the dark bush! Talks and exercises helped everyone grapple with issues of identity and diversity and in the end a special bond of unity was formed.

"I enjoyed how we had to get out of our comfort zones to enjoy ourselves"

"The camp was good...it helped me to interact. It helped me be me."

"I felt safe because everybody was accepting."

"Due to this camp I've learnt that unity is a bond, communication, socialising and working together. All the activities were done through group work, working together unites people although we all have our differences and backgrounds. The camp was brilliant."

"All the challenges helped me how to trust people from other countries and different cultures."

Health & Human Rights Conference

In March AMP's director was invited to a global public health dialogue in Florence by New York University College of Global Public Health and Health Rights International to present the work that AMP does in Cape Town. Apart from the privilege of hearing brilliant presentations from a variety of experts and researchers there was also opportunity to link up with NGO's and organisations working with refugees in Turkey, Italy, Greece, the Ukraine and Poland. AMP is currently liaising with one NGO in Turkey who is looking to adapt and run our Peer Support Group Programme with Syrian refugees.



Thank you



A big thank you to our wonderful partners and supporters who enable AMP to care for individuals in so many meaningful and empowering ways. Thank you UNHCR, Stop Hunger Now, NLC, Lindbergh Trust, The Ackerman Foundation and Associated Energy services.

A special thank you to Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp and her brother John Velcamp junior for the generous donation from their father's trust, The John Velcamp Charitable Trust. These funds will be used to further our work with children and youths.



Thank you also to the Eigenbroetler Bread Baking Club in Lichtenstein for their generous donation of food and essential items for our beneficiaries. Thank you Agnes, one of their members, for shopping and delivering all the wonderful goodies to our office.

Advocacy

On Friday April 6th Sonke Gender Justice and several of their partners including AMP met at the Cape Town RRO to speak out against the failure of DHA to re-open its offices as it was ordered to do. Jean Luc spoke to journalists from eNCA, Eye witness news and Islamic TV about the repercussions of this for so many desperate families in Cape Town.



Community outreach

AMP has always felt the importance of taking programmes into the communities and building local capacity. AMP has 10 community support workers who work alongside AMP staff to identify and refer the most vulnerable individuals they come across in their respective communities. All of them have been through AMP's support group programme and received additional training in order to offer vital information and refer peers where necessary.



In February AMP was able to start English classes at the library in Delft. There are 60 learners attending each week and AMP's three childminders have their hands full looking after the 25 children of the many moms attending the class. There is a desperate need to start an additional class, including one for teenagers as soon as AMP can secure funds.

Health Screening

AMP is thrilled to be partnering with TB HIV Care and CANSA throughout 2018 to provide testing and screening at our "pop up clinic" at the office every three months. Our first one was held in April and over 90 men and women received screening and testing for TB, STI's, HIV, Blood pressure, Diabetes and in addition, for the women, testing for Cervical and Breast cancer.



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