

Numbers of Things That Happened

Hillbrow Drop-in Centre September '97 - September'98

1 567: Hours of Fieldwork were done by the staff. The main aim of fieldwork is to retrieve girl-children from the streets and to make the Drop-in known to the children on the streets.

3 712: Over 3 712 contacts were made with the children on the streets while doing fieldwork.

147: Of all the contacts with the children made during fieldwork, 147 of those children decided immediately to go with the staff to the Drop-in.

78: Children were successfully referred to other programmes.

35: Girls referred to other programmes or re-integrated with their families.

10 250: The number of times that a child or young girl came through the doors of the Drop-in. The girls visit us for numerous reasons - for condoms, to chat or seek advice, a sandwich, counselling, referral, to spend time in St. Magdalene Church, or ... just to be off the streets and in a safe place where they are treated with love and respect.

35 320: Peanut butter and jam sandwiches and many more cups of tea/coffee, were made and served, to the more than 10 250 girls that came to the Drop-in.

2 687: The number of times that children slept at the Drop-in. We understand this as part of the harm reduction principle - the child makes the choice to sleep in a shelter's discipline and not on the streets.

5 374: Meals (supper /breakfast) were prepared and served to the girls that slept at the Drop-in.

178: Formal counselling opportunities. We try to maintain a therapeutic environment at the Drop-in, therefore most interaction with the children are of a therapeutic nature. At times the girls request individual and formal counselling, which can be about a number of problems related to their lives and lifestyles: about their drug abuse, a rape or assault, information and possible testing for std's or Hiv, the trauma of child sexual abuse, how to change their current lifestyles, and many times they are in need of bereavement counselling.

1 465: The number of young people that attended the Sunday service at St. Magdalene Church.

400 000: More than 400 000 condoms were given to the girls, either at the Drop-in or during Fieldwork. In the past we have had unpleasant experiences when certain members of the community came to the Drop-in, supposedly for condoms, therefore only the girls are allowed on the premises.

107: Pairs of shoes were needed.

829: Pieces of clothing were needed.

5: Double bunks added.

3: Additional showers were installed.

6 199: Times the girls made use of the shower facilities.

513: Toothbrushes were given to the girls.

2: Wash troughs were installed for the girls to do their washing.

3 016: The girls made use of the facility and opportunity to wash their clothing. While the girls are waiting for space on the washing line, or for their clothing to dry, we make use of the opportunity to talk to them about what's happening in their lives, and the possibility to change.

1 543: Life skills are presented as part of the daily interaction with the children. Of the life skills such as cleaning, preparing meals, teaching about personal hygiene, HIV or STD's, communication, coping skills, etc. more than 1 543 children shared in these activities.