

The House Group
Hillbrow, South Africa
Saving the girl child from the street
<http://thehousegroup.org>



Report prepared by: Prieur du Plessis - CEO
Reporting period: January 2003 to January 2004 (13 months)

THE HOUSE GROUP – HILLBROW DROP-IN CENTRE, Johannesburg

Hillbrow Drop-In Centre

- **following harm-reduction principles, therapeutic intervention**

The centre offers a drop-in facility for girls and young women trapped in a life-style of prostitution in Hillbrow, as well as an overnight facility for girls younger than 18. Although the centre operates on the harm reduction principle, following that it is better for the children to be in the centre than on the streets, it should never be seen as a 'lounge for prostitutes' or to be making life on the streets easier so as to condone - but rather to be a temporary therapeutic intervention in the lives of these children, assisting them to come to decisions and to put into practice a feasible Future Plan.

Guidelines for filling in the activity table:

- Please give a short description of the planned activities in the first column
- Please indicate in percentages (%) how far you have achieved these planned activities
- Please indicate any notable developments or significant changes with respect to the planning in the column 'remarks'.
- Please indicate any notable developments or significant changes with respect to the planning in the column 'remarks'.
- Please fill in the target-group of the activities and number of participants (column 4 and 5)

****** Please note that the number of participants is indicated as the number of times the service was rendered – one girl may be the recipient of said service on numerous occasions.

Activity table for activities– HILLBROW DROP-IN CENTRE				
1. Description of planned activities	2. Implemented during the reporting period in %	3. Remarks	4. Target-group	5. Number of participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doll Making <p>The Waldorf School (Rudolph Steiner) in Alexandria, has taught five of our Youth Care Workers how to make African dolls. These dolls are hand made out of material and are dressed according to the national dress of the 11 different African tribes of Southern Africa. These dolls are popular items with tourists and we have a ready market for the finished products in Holland, Canada and USA. Bead work features largely in the costumes of these dolls. Lessons in Doll Making began in September when building renovations to The Green Room had been partially completed.</p>	25%	<p>Students are taught how to make the dolls on our Theosis premises. These students may reside at the Drop-In for some weeks. When they leave the Drop-In it will be to make dolls on their own and either sell the dolls to the public and tourists or to The House. The House will buy quality dolls to re-sell at local and overseas outlets.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Young girls and women ages 17-23.	19

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking • Kitchen training • House keeping <p>Cooking and preparing meals for 15+ people. Knowing how to prepare what, knowledge of measurements, understanding recipes, being handy with kitchen utensils and being able to use kitchen equipment, as well as cleaning and more, is exactly what happens in the kitchens of every restaurant, coffee shop, hotel, cafeteria and catering company ... a vast employment opportunity always in need of knowledgeable staff.</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>This is a daily on-going project and part of the training of all the girls at The House Group of Projects.</p>	<p>These girls were taught to assist in kitchens and to provide simple meals.</p> <p>In addition they were instructed in the mixing of Soya Mince and the preparation thereof so that they may sell this as vendors alongside the roads.</p> <p>Instead of finding kitchen employment, they may want to sell Soya products and Soya stews and pap.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	<p>All the overnight (residential) girls in the project ages 12-18</p> <p>At least half of the drop-in girls in the project ages 16-23</p>	<p>5000 + ** refer to note above</p> <p>2000 + ** refer to note above</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Hygiene • STDs - Sexually Transmitted Diseases • HIV/Aids • Family Planning 	<p>90%</p>	<p>Ongoing program.</p>	<p>All the overnight (residential) girls in the project ages 12-18</p> <p>Most of the drop-in girls in the project ages 16-23</p>	<p>3000 + ** refer to note above</p> <p>1800 + ** refer to note above</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills • Life Skills <p>Social and Life skills are integral to creating a therapeutic environment for the girls.</p> <p>Classes addressing various issues are presented.</p>	90%	Ongoing Program	<p>All the overnight (residential) girls in the project ages 12-18</p> <p>Most of the drop-in girls in the project ages 16-23</p>	<p>3000 + ** refer to note above</p> <p>1800 + ** refer to note above</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Literacy • Basic Numeracy <p>These lessons are taught for those who need it and especially while they are waiting for alternative placement. This includes Basic literacy and upgrading of school subjects,</p>	<p>80%</p> <p>Available for all the girls visiting the Drop-In, and there is remarkable participation by the older girls. Programme attendance is voluntary and the attendance varies day by day.</p>	<p>The illiteracy rate is very high and many of the children cannot speak English. Older girls are ashamed of their ignorance and need to be taught separately.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	<p>Mostly all the drop-in girls at the project – divided into two age groups 12-16 and 17-23</p>	<p>1400 + ** refer to note above</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field / Street work • Condom distribution <p>Prevention, intervention and retrieval. Contact with the young girls on the streets and at the various places where they find themselves. Distribution of f condoms.</p>	<p>80%</p> <p>The majority of new runaways retrieved by The House are the result of continued effort of the team of fieldworkers.</p>	<p>Hillbrow and surrounding areas are becoming increasingly dangerous placing the youth care workers at risk on almost a daily basis.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	<p>Young girls ages 10-16 New 'faces' on the streets, identifying the girls as possible new runaways at high risk and in need of help.</p>	<p>37 young girls between the ages of 10-15 were rescued.</p> <p>3000 + contacts with young girls were made on the streets through the distribution of thousands of condoms. ** refer to note above</p>
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Prepared for the Internet by
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