

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 – INTOMBI SHELTER, Johannesburg

Intombi Shelter

- reintegration and placement as priority

Intombi Shelter is a 30-bed residential program, operating as a temporary therapeutic residential care program for female children between the ages of 10 and 18 who are victims of the street and/or child prostitution, or living on the street. The main focus of the program is to facilitate reintegration of the girls with their families, or to refer the girls to long-term residential care programmes.

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 fill in the target-group of the activities and number of participants (column 4 and 5)

****** Please note that Intombi is a short-term residential program and has been operating at the average capacity of 25 children in the shelter at any given time.

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, depending on the duration of her stay.

******* Although the youngest age in the target group is given as 12, the shelter many times house children as young as 9 or 10.

Activity table for activities – INTOMBI SHELTER				
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"> • Beadwork <p>The House has employed an expert in the production of beadwork articles. This woman has trained 4 Youth Care Workers in this typically South African art form. There is also a need for curtains made from various types of beads. Among other items that are popular are Christmas decorations, table ornaments, wall hangings and jewellery.</p>	50%	<p>After a course in basic beadwork, a girl may attend further instructions at Kulula.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	800 + (2 x classes a week) ** refer to note above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Arithmetic <p>This course was also run outside under the carport, weather permitting. Over half of the girls at the shelter are semi-illiterate and the average grade that they have passed is grade 5.</p>	100%	<p>At least 25% of all the girls who seek help and succour from The House are in need of basic schooling.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	2000 + (2 x classes a week) ** refer to note above

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Literacy <p>The illiteracy rate is very high and many of the children cannot speak English. Over half of the girls at the shelter are semi-illiterate and the average grade that they have passed is grade 5.</p> <p>The literacy classes were run concurrently with the Creative Writing course</p>	100%	<p>English is spoken at all times to the girls in the shelter. To be able to understand, speak and write English is the first priority.</p> <p>The literacy and arithmetic lessons are taught at Intombi to all the girls as they have to keep their minds on schooling to facilitate easier referral and reintegration.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	2000 + (2 x classes a week) ** refer to note above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Classes <p>Various volunteers have presented art classes at Intombi. One group from The Oval Office ran a competition for Christmas cards. Many of the drawings and designs were used for corporate Christmas cards and these proved to be a huge success. The winning cards will appear on The House's Web Site. The House will benefit from the proceeds of these cards. Classes in decoupage were also enjoyed by the girls.</p>	100%	<p>Art classes are presented by volunteers and are a part time venture.</p> <p>We anticipate that our Youth Care Workers will also present art classes on a weekly basis, as there are not always volunteers.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	500 + ** refer to note above

<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>	100%	<p>Part of the program is to explore and understand the different cultural customs of South Africans - to have tolerance towards each other, allowing for the diversity in people.</p> <p>As South Africa is perceived as a first world and people are judged by this standard, attention is given to what is acceptable in the western world and what is frowned upon.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	8000 + ** refer to note above.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment <p>To teach the girls a sense of self worth and to make them emotionally strong.</p> <p>Most of our children come from dysfunctional homes, and we endeavour to empower them to function within that dysfunctional structure once reintegrated. One should never attempt to deny children their parents, siblings and home – as this is all that they have.</p>	100%	<p>The morale and self-image of many of the children are low when they enter the program.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	8000 + ** refer to note above

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Hygiene • STDs - Sexually Transmitted Diseases • HIV/Aids • Family Planning 	100%	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>5000 + ** refer to note above</p> <p>3500 + ** refer to note above</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dancing & Singing <p>Dancing classes are presented in the African and Western traditions, with the African dancing proving to be more popular.</p> <p>Singing accompanies the dancing and on a number of occasions the girls have performed for visitors and benefactors visiting the projects. .</p>	90%	<p>The girls love to participate in dancing and singing, giving expression to their emotions and their zest for life.</p> <p>Volunteers have also been invaluable in presenting these classes.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	<p>2000 + (2 x classes a week) ** refer to note above</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama <p>Drama and acting are a healing expression and the girls are encouraged to partake. These classes are voluntary.</p>	2%	<p>Drama and acting classes in the afternoons are a great source of entertainment and enjoyed by all the girls and staff.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p> <p>Professions drama classes are presented by drama coaches and only the few with an aptitude for acting participate and may enter a six month course. --- Program dependent on volunteers.</p>	Girls ages 12-18	<p>400 + ** refer to note above</p> <p>7 x girls are receiving professional coaching</p> <p>1 x girl has successfully joined a drama company</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking/Catering • Kitchen training • House keeping <p>Cooking and preparing meals for 30+ people are excellent skills training. Learning how to prepare meals, knowing 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>	100%	<p>The girls are taught to assist in kitchens and to provide simple meals.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</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>	Girls ages 12-18	<p>9000 + ** refer to note above</p>

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