

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 – KULULA SKILLS CENTRE, Cullinan/Pretoria

Kulula Skills Centre

– Therapy and skill training, readiness for ‘independent’ reintegration with normative society

Kulula Life Skills Centre is a medium term (3 to 30 months) residential skills programme for young females between the ages of 13 and 19 referred here from shelters and centres doing work among girl-children on the street. Girl children thus referred typically have a background of having lived on the street, runaways, homelessness, sexual abuse, drug addiction, prostitution and whatever other horror the inner city serves on its destitute youngsters.

In order to benefit from the Kulula program, the girls must want to learn life skills, personal skills, craft skills and self-employment skills to equip and empower them for integration with their families or with normative society.

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 Kulula is a long-term residential skills program and has been operating at the average capacity of 25-30 children at the centre.

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.

Activity table for activities – KULULA SKILLS CENTRE (January 2003 – January 2004)

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"> • Bead work <p>An expert in the production of beadwork articles was employed and staff was trained 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>	70%	<p>Learning the basics of bead work is necessary before advancing to the complicated and intricate aspects of this art.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 16-21	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bead Embroidery <p>The emphasis on this course was embroidering on clothing, especially T-shirts and evening wear.</p> <p>The training course was presented by an expert and the youth care workers and the girls greatly benefited from her expertise.</p>	60%	<p>The bead embroidery techniques learned were used to make clothes for one of the presenters on a television show, much to the delight of the girls.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 16-21	30

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bead Dolls <p>This course was implemented in 2001.</p> <p>The dolls are classic Ndebele dolls, where a base is completely covered in beads, with the exception of the face.</p> <p>The embroidered dolls are in great demand and an initial order was received for 200 dolls. - Should this project be successful, the girls will have a financially viable skill. This is a secure potential income for the girls as Kulula undertakes to act as their broker and explore the market on their behalf.</p>	70%	<p>An entrepreneur, trading as The Purple Rhino CC, from the USA, placed an order for 200 dolls. The dolls will be exhibited at Trade Fairs in Washington, The Smithsonian Institute and Arizona. If there is a ready market in the USA, we will have a contract for one hundred or more dolls per month.</p> <p>Kulula is already negotiating to train several personnel members from other welfare organisations so that dolls for Kulula may be made under sub-contract and that their girls too can learn this valuable skill.</p> <p>Ongoing program</p>	Girls ages 16-21	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressing <p>This is a skill that is chiefly taught by the girls to the girls. It is in great demand and an excellent way for the girls to supplement their income.</p>	60%	<p>Negotiations are under way for a qualified hair dresser to put the girls through a test on the successful completion of the course and they will thereby qualify for a diploma in African Hairdressing.</p> <p>Ongoing program</p>	Girls ages 14-21	32

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Arithmetic <p>Many of the girls referred to the skills centre are semi-illiterate and the average grade that they have passed is grade 5.</p>	100%	Ongoing program.	Girls ages 14-21	5000 + (daily classes) ** 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 centre 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>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	5000 + (daily classes) ** refer to note above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schooling <p>Some girls need to proceed with their schooling.</p>	100%	<p>The main focus of Kulula is skills training, however girls that attended school 'recently' before their lives took a bad turn, are encouraged to attend school and complete their formal education.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	8 (all the students passed the academic year – one student completed grade 12 and another student passed grade 11)

<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 14-21	5000 + ** 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 14-21	5000 + (daily classes) ** refer to note above.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Hygiene • STDs - Sexually Transmitted Diseases • HIV/Aids • Family Planning 	100%	Ongoing program.	Girls ages 14-21	5000 + (daily classes, activities and interaction) ** refer to note above
<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>	Girls ages 12-18	5000 + ** refer to note above

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping <p>This is probably the most available type of work in any country and is most sought after when employment includes board and lodging.</p> <p>Housekeeping does not only mean being able to do domestic chores, but also to plan and prepare meals</p> <p>Completing a housekeeping course and having good references will most definitely increase opportunities for good employment.</p>	100%	<p>The girls that intend to become domestic workers will be provided with courses in banking, telephone etiquette, budgeting for and purchasing of groceries, as well as life and social skills.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	5000 + (daily activities) ** refer to note above
<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>	100%	<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> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	1000 + (1 x class week) ** refer to note above

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardening Vegetable gardening. Kulula will soon be self sustainable as far as fresh food is concerned. 	100%	<p>All the girls at Kulula work for one hour each day in the vegetable garden. A patch has been allocated to each girl. A friendly rivalry exists to see who will grow the best vegetables.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	5000 + (daily activities) ** refer to note above
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Farming. 	30%	<p>The ideal is to support the project with meat and eggs, as well as sell the free-range eggs for which a market exist</p> <p>The chicken farm became depleted towards the end of the year but will be supplemented.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Girls ages 14-21	29

Prepared for the Internet by
 Adèle du Plessis
adele@thehousegroup.org
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