

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 – THEOSIS SKILLS CENTRE, Johannesburg

Theosis Skills Centre

- **skills and self-employment training, readiness for 'independent' reintegration with normative society**

This programme provides the opportunity for the girls to come to grips with normative society, expectations, behaviour, and acceptability, enabling them to fit or blend in with society.

The skills and self and/or employment skills programme provide the opportunity for the 'older' girls (17-21) and that are in Hillbrow, to benefit from skills and self and/or employment skills training.

- ❖ The courses presented are constantly being updated and/or adjusted to suit the emotional and intellectual needs of the students.
- ❖ The courses are presented at varying levels in order to keep the students motivated and encouraged. When students' levels are initially too low, the courses are repeated on higher levels.
- ❖ Skills are to assist in employment seeking and interviews, job conduct and performance.
- ❖ Skills are to assist in becoming economically and successfully self-employed

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)

**** Many students participate in more than one of the courses and/or repeat courses**

Activity table for activities – THEOSIS 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"> Beadwork The House has employed an expert in the production of beadwork articles. This woman has trained some of our staff 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. 	80%	<p>We find that the more intelligent children become bored very soon with ordinary beadwork.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 16-23	68 + ** See note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bead Embroidery The emphasis on this course was embroidering on clothing, especially T-shirts and evening wear. Beads of all descriptions, as well as sequins were used. 	50%	<p>The embroidering with beads on material is more popular and may be an important future project.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 16-23	47 + ** See note

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Dolls <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 eleven different African tribes of Southern Africa.</p> <p>The Waldorf School also taught the youth care workers how to make Christmas decorations using African beads. This supplemented the lessons already received from a teacher from the Rosebank African Market.</p>	30 % - due to October beginning date	Five youth care workers qualified as instructors in October. These dolls are popular items with tourists and we have a ready market for the finished products in Holland and Canada. Ongoing program.	Females ages 16-23	24 + ** See note
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressing <p>This is a skill that is chiefly taught by the girls to the girls, under the supervision of a qualified youth care worker. Hairdressing is in great demand and an excellent way for the girls to supplement their income.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Most of the girls in our system are interested in hairdressing as it is a business that only requires skill and hardly any capital set-up costs.</p> <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>	<p>Females ages 13-23</p>	<p>63 + 7 x girls were empowered to start their own hair dressing businesses.</p> <p>** See note</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typing <p>General office/ girl Friday PC literacy, touch-typing, basic accounting, basic office admin. 15 computers</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>At times all 15 computers are in use. Not all the girls succeed in reaching a degree of efficiency that will allow them to find employment. Even a couple of weeks in learning how a computer operates results in phenomenal development for the girl.</p> <p>Software such as I love spelling, I love maths, How do things work, the human body, history, etc.</p> <p>This is our most popular course and demand is exceeding supply. A few outside people from Kliptown, the poorest of our Townships in Soweto, also attend classes twice a week.</p> <p>Ongoing program</p>	<p>Females ages 13-23</p>	<p>128 + ** See note</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing <p>A full time residential volunteer will teach sewing, dressmaking and the skill of doing alterations, knitting, crochet, embroidery and more.</p>	60%	<p>Sewing courses differ from Dressmaking courses. The object of this course is to teach the skill of doing alterations and mending clothing – a low start-up cost self-employment opportunity.</p> <p>A youth care workers received professional training enabling her to teach the girls and young women.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 16-23	19 + ** See note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing & Designing <p>This course developed as an offshoot of the dress making and bead embroidery classes.</p>	10%	<p>This is an additional qualification for girls who completed the dressmaking course.</p> <p>The program was slow to take of as it is a new concept and requires more skills, however interest is growing and the skills being mastered.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 17-23	8 + ** See note

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dressmaking <p>The course is proving to be very popular and successful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---o---</p> <p>The girls who have completed this course are being considered to take part in a new sewing initiative for 2004. Working in conjunction with Via Africa, we plan to manufacture a range of clothing identical to the outfits worn by Nadine Naidoo, TV presenter of Spiritual Sundaes. A clothing outlet has indicated their interest – though the project is still in the planning phase. Each seamstress will earn a salary, empowering her to generate her own income, while healing and developing to her full potential in a protected and safe environment. Should this venture materialise, the one foreseeable problem will be the shortage of sewing machines and the lack of space.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>As the dressmaking course is a six month course, we will in 2004 present the dressmaking course at Kulula Skills, a long-term residential skills program. The course will be presented to an anticipated 40 students during the year.</p> <p>At the successful completion of the course, each girl will obtain a certificate as qualified dressmakers. The course includes making a lined jacket and skirt, a shirt, trousers or jeans, and a lined tracksuit top and pants.</p> <p>The dressmaking course is an expensive course to present, the cost per student being R800 for tuition and the cost of course materials.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	<p>Females ages 18-23</p>	<p>8 + ** See note</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping (advanced) Completing a Housekeeping course with references from Theosis Skills Centre most definitely increase opportunities for good employment. <p>Additional courses in banking, telephone etiquette, budgeting for and purchasing of groceries, as well as life and social skills are presented, as well as a basic accredited course in first aid.</p>	100%	<p>Housekeeping /char / domestic worker – this is probably the most available type of work in any country, and in South Africa the position is most sought after when employment includes board and lodging.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 16-23	<p>17+ ** See note</p> <p>4 x young women chose housekeeping as their occupation, they found employment and settled.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking / Catering • Kitchen training <p>Learning to cook/cater for large groups of people (30+) is 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>	40%	<p>The girls are taught to assist under supervision in kitchens and to provide simple meals as well as special dishes.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 16-23	<p>23 ** See note</p> <p>3 x girls found jobs and absconded without notice. We wish them well as our goal to empower and make them self-reliant was achieved.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitresses <p>The course includes: To be able to set and to serve at table, to take orders, being able to pronounce the items on the menu, to be pleasant and polite.</p>	20%	<p>This course was not very successful. During 2004 the program will be presented under the patronage of the Head Waiter at the Hotel School in Johannesburg.</p> <p>Six girls were enrolled in a course teaching them to be waitresses. The course lasted until the end of November and was presented by The School of Waitressing. These girls will leave us as soon as they find a job.</p> <p>Ongoing program.</p>	Females ages 18-23	6 ** See note
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