



Holiday Camp Report- July 2017

Reporting Dates: 18th-21st July 2017

United Through Sport
57 King Edward Street
Newton Park
6045
Port Elizabeth
South Africa

Report Completed By: LorendaFezile - Program Co-ordinator

Summary

Over the last week of the Winter School Holiday, United Through Sport conducted a holiday programme for children to participate in. During these school holidays parents from the Townships struggle to keep their children occupied due to the lack of resources in these areas. The Holiday Programme was conducted to occupy and educate these youngsters during this time and to keep them away from any risk- factors such as drugs or alcohol. It is also an important time for the children to receive extra education and stimulation, as we have found that school holidays are often where children from these communities regress in their development due to lack of stimulation.

From the 18th until the 21st July, a four-day programme was held at Isaac Booie Primary School in Zwijndorp. The programme was organised in partnership with Ubuntu Education Fund and learners from the various Ubuntu programmes. The programme was conducted during the last week of the school holiday therefore, we decided to invite learners from Ubuntu instead of targeting the same kids that we work with from the primary schools in the area. The age groups requested were 5-8-year olds and 12- 18-year olds. The targeted number of participants (150) was reached and with the exact number of 160 children, the target was surpassed.

The different aspects of the holiday camp were sport (hockey, rugby, football, basketball and netball), life skills (with topics like Identity, Communication and Team building), indigenous games, as well as arts & craft. Conducting the camp were 6 UTS staff members and 40 international volunteers. The children had an opportunity to rotate between all the different aspects. On the last day of the programme certificates were handed out to all the



children that took part in the life skills sessions and were able to score more than 90% on the life skills test.

Challenges

The number of children expected on the first day was not reached but this was an expected challenge because this is always the case with holiday programmes as we rely on word of mouth to spread the news of the camp as we are working in an informal environment out of school time. Our group of staff and volunteers were very flexible and adjusted the programme accordingly. By the second day the number were up to our target amount. The second challenge was the weather. Due to heavy rain, the sessions had to be stopped for the children's safety because the fields were too wet. This meant the programme was disrupted for half a day.

Conclusion

The holiday programme was successful due to the flexibility and planning of staff as well as all the international volunteers. The children had a lot of fun and learned a lot from the life skills topics that were discussed. We chose to adapt the life skills curriculum used to focus on personal development topics as the children participating in the camp had done some previous sessions on HIV and AIDS with Ubuntu. According to some of the children their highlight of the camp was the sport sessions they had with the coaches because most of the schools that they are attending do not have sports equipment, decent sports fields and the teachers have no interest in coaching them, so they do not normally get to participate in any kind of structured sports coaching.

"The camp was so fun and we learned a lot of new things like how to be resilient and not be afraid of what others think of you but to be yourself. I loved playing the sports that I have never played before also" – Asmahle Siyanda, 13 years old, Holiday Camp participant.



















