



Newsletter

May 2004

Dear Friends,

We would like to update you on our progress and adventures out here in South Africa. The last five months have been filled with challenges and experiences that continue to shape the future of the Pulse and our own roles in HIV prevention.

This is a brief overview of some of the events that have occurred since November. We look forward to sharing more news on our piloting and other progress soon .

Many thanks for your continuous support.

Katherine Lee

Katherine Lee (Project Manager)



Katherine Lee and Joanna Ward at Pulse presentation evening in Cape Town Castle

NEWS!!!!... 

THE PULSE CD-ROM PILOT HAS BEEN COMPLETED!

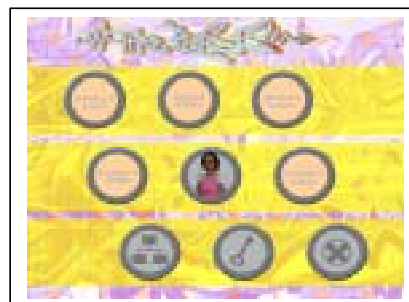
WELL DONE TEAM AND THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED US!

With the expertise of programmers supplied in kind by Euro RSCG Worldwide, the Pulse Pilot CD-ROM was produced in New York this February. During this time in the States, the programme was presented to USAID and 'The World Bank', by Project Manager, Katherine Lee. The story that has been completed, 'Feroza's Story', addresses issues such as **stigma, healthy living, HIV transmission and prevention**. Nurse Nosipho and Feroza are the stars of the story.

A hand drawn version and animated version of the CD-ROM were both developed so as to test different styles and response form school children



Bruno Ricard and Gabe Garner- Programmers at Euro RSCG



A selection of images from the CD. (Illustrated and Animated version)



NEXT STEPS FOR THE PULSE...

Thanks to: 😊

*Joanna Ward- Research Coordinator
Mind Studio- Animation
Haroon Collier- Illustrations
James Taylor- Scriptwriting
Kate Boswell- Graphic Design
Achmat Adams- Education Specialist at
University of Cape Town
Peter Desmond and Chris Lee for all their
tireless fundraising efforts
Nicholas Lee- Photography for
fundraising event
Peter Ward- Running a marathon for the
Pulse
The team at Euro RSCG
Allan and Ferguson Trust
All who attended and support our
fundraising events*

PILOTING

In order to pilot the Pulse in schools in the Western Cape and retain strong links with the education department, we need to seek official endorsement and permission to carry out an evaluation.

Several presentations have been made to numerous schools and department of Education boards and we now await a response.

An evaluation will be extremely valuable in future funding applications.

COMIC BOOK

The Pulse now aims to encompass other materials including a comic book, video, audio cassette and live drama to compliment the CD-ROM tool.

A local talented young artist, Haroon Collier is busy producing a comic book version of the CD-ROM story. This hard copy format can be used in schools without computer access as well as acting as a literacy tool. This will be piloted along with the CD in schools and is the next step in achieving our 'media package' for 'The Pulse'. Funds from Growth International and Margaret and Bernard Thomson have supported this stage of the project.

OTHER NEWS...

PRESENTATION BOTSWANA

Katherine and colleague, Achmat Adam from the Schools Development Unit, University of Cape Town, participated at a CIVICUS World Assembly in Gaborone, Botswana this March.

There were over 600 delegates from all over the world attending to share experiences, successes and dreams on the platform of building civil society. Katherine and Achmat ran a workshop addressing HIV/AIDS, one of the major themes of the conference. The pilot CD-ROM was Demonstrated and very well received by delegates working in the field all over the world.



CORPORATE TRACK

The Pulse in the Workplace programme, introduced in the November update, has altered dramatically. Research, culminating in March, proved The Pulse's resources are unable to meet the needs of HIV prevention work for employed adults. Companies approached were nonetheless keen to explore opportunities of contributing to the Schools programme to support their communities.

Jo Ward moved to South Africa to support the corporate programme in November. In line with this change of tack, Jo is now working more closely with the Schools programme to strengthen the project in marketing and fundraising. In this way The Pulse hopes to strengthen the corporate relationships we have nurtured.

AFRICA AMERICA INSTITUTE

The Africa America Institute released a tender to the Schools Development Unit at the University of Cape Town, to develop the content and tools for a 2 week workshop. Katherine responded with a proposal to manage the programme and was granted a budget of US\$ 72,000. The workshop is targeted at teachers, activists, community leaders, NGO (Non-governmental organization) and CBO (Community based organization) staff in 7 African countries including South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Ethiopia. The 10 days of training aims to equip people with the skills and awareness to expand access to education for children affected or infected by HIV within their own communities.

Governments all over Africa are struggling to attend to the escalating needs of children as the AIDS pandemic takes a hold of many nations. Children are being deprived of education due to the many obstacles that AIDS presents. The action of communities to respond to the needs on their doorsteps is now urgent and imperative to the future of the millions of AIDS orphans and children affected by AIDS. This short training programme aims to inject mobilization and capacity building skills as well as creating an in-country network.

A video will accompany each day of the workshops acting as a catalyst for discussions, further activities as well as generating new approaches. This tool will present good models of practice and of course reflect some of the realities that many children face across Africa.

The team, including Jo Ward, is filming at present and working towards the roll out of the programme across Africa in August. This project will provide valuable contacts and platforms in other countries that will be of benefit to the future of 'The Pulse' as well as experience in the field and in project management.

BECOMING A CHARITY??

The Pulse team in London has started the process of applying for charity status. This would mean that gift aid could be claimed on all donations made to the project as well as more opportunities to apply for funding that is restricted to registered charities.

Peter Desmond and Chris Lee.



WALKING HADRIANS WALL

To celebrate the launch of The African Pulse charity Chris Lee and Peter Desmond of Growth International will be walking Hadrians Wall in the North of England at the end of June. The 84 mile roman wall stretching from Newcastle to Carlisle will be a challenging exercise, especially for Chris who has just purchased her first pair of walking boots; so obviously a woman with great walking experience there! If you'd like to sponsor Chris and Peter (or pay for the resuscitation equipment she might need!) then email us at pulse@thepulseonline.com with the amount of sponsorship and once we've completed the walk we will.

If you are an organisation we would be happy to promote you through our publicity material. We are looking to raise £5,000 to help pay for the remainder of the comic book and the continuation of the CD Rom. Two other friends, Alan and Sue Newbury will also be doing the walk in August on behalf of The Pulse.

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