

In introduction to YMCA Training's e2e project on fundraising for the AIDS Wellness Centre in uMngeni

An introduction to the background of this project

Our director who is responsible for Equality and Diversity at YMCA Training, Ashley Seabourne, and his daughter visited the uMngeni Wellness Centre their trip to South Africa with the YMCA world council group.

The Wellness centre is in South Africa, in the area of Mpophomeni of the uMngeni District in the Kwazulu Natal Region, where AIDS is prevalent.

The centre hopes to intervene in the AIDS crisis in the uMngeni River District by working with individuals and families whose lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS. The centre offers hope, love and material support as well as contributing to preventative and supportive education.

The centre supports mostly women and children, infected with HIV, living in dire poverty in Cities or rural settlements to the north of Pietermaritzburg in the uMngeni Municipal area.

Hand out the aims of the centre (Handout 1)

As this is a sponsor that we are fond of, and been supporting for a long time we are always thinking of ways of making fundraising more appealing. At a staff meeting we came up with the idea of involving the learners in an event, especially e2e who have, in the past, organised such successful past fundraising events. We then decided to implement a new e2e programme, which is based of fundraising and volunteer work. This is where the programme started.

The learners could become involved in this project and see the results for themselves. We have email contact with the centre and the leaders send us photos regularly to show how the centre has been helped and developed. We also receive lesson plans, where we can see the young people benefiting from our donated funds

Hand out the pictures (Handout 2)

About our programme for the AIDS awareness centre

This programme is 22 weeks long and involves all 3 strands of e2e:

Vocational development – Examples include putting together a good CV and covering letter for volunteer work, which can later on in the programme be adapted for paid work. We will then encourage voluntary work experience and work placements within the local community. We will also be looking at stereotyping and expressing views within communities and workplaces to build on the learners' "getting ready for work skills".

Key skills – We are delivering a minimum of 3 key skills: Communication, Application of Number and Working with Others throughout the project. This will be putting together a questionnaire on AIDS awareness for friends, family and the local community, reading real life scenarios of people with AIDS, watching the film Philadelphia and discussing the effects that AIDS can have on a person emotionally and socially. The learners will take part in discussions and will produce documents and graphs on people's opinions of HIV / AIDS. Statistics will also be compared across the UK and in South Africa.

The final factor will be organising the fundraising event as a team, working together. The learners will have ownership of the event, from start to finish, and they will be supported by our staffing team.

Personal development – We are offering various modules throughout this programme to aid PSE development, which will help the learners to develop skills which can be transferable to their futures: work, further education, apprenticeships and even volunteer work. There is a lot of team building to increase the learners' confidence, attention span, listening skills, perseverance, problem solving, listening and lateral thinking skills. They will receive training and an awareness of personal safety, safe sex, how to be assertive but not seen as aggressive, how to manage feelings and emotions and many more. Throughout the programme these sessions are linked to the AIDS Awareness project but will also prepare them for their futures, as all e2e programmes should do.

We feel that this programme is suitable for those who need confidence building, who wish to obtain key skills and are interested in fundraising, volunteer work and other related programmes. It will help those who wish to go on to social work or those hoping for a future career in helping others.

It starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.00pm. Learners start on 3 days a week and this builds to 5 days once the learner has secured a voluntary work placement. Two-weekly reviews are carried out and PAs are usually asked to attend the review every 4 weeks (but this is agreed on an individual basis depending on support needs).

Handout a lesson plan so PAs can see the plans are in place (Handout 3)

Questions and answer session to finish