



PROJECT: BETTER HEALTH AND EDUCATION



PROJECT AIM

- To encourage young pupils to stay in school
- To encourage reading more books
- Spread awareness on health issues
- Help people understand the importance of Health

PROJECT TEAM:

- Deborah Salambula** – Group Leader and Guidelines Keeper
Chisomo Lipenga - Activity Planner and Developer
Slomo Zungu - Ideas and operations developer
Wongani Ngoma - Project Coordinator
Melissa Mulli - Team operations Coordinator/trips
Martin Sumbuleta - Technology information coordinator
Wiza Msowoya - Idea giver and activities over seer



BACKGROUND

Our education project started initially when our group realized how important the issue of students dropping out of school for various reasons (e.g. Marriage) Started growing and how a lot of students in the local primary schools lacked the right equipment to use while going to school. We decided that these children deserved better so that they would be able to go to school with more energy, knowing they have the right equipment for it.

Our health care project started when Deborah told us in one of our meetings that, when she visited our well known hospital 'Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital', she saw the terrible conditions that children of the hospital were facing and how they lacked different sanitary products. So we thought that something needed to be done.

WHAT DID WE DO

Firstly we focused on 'Better Education'. We thought of ways that we could use to make people more aware of how important education is, and how we can make students feel happier when going to school. Luckily Chisomo already had a local school in mind near her area 'Ngumbe Secondary School' We chose this school because the students were facing problems that with great effort, we knew we could fix. The problems were as follows;

- No suitable bags to carry books in
- Not enough books in the library
- No right school equipment

Firstly we held a bake sale where we collected approximately K30, 000





Secondly we held a mufti day where people came to school in their home clothes but instead of giving money, they gave us clothes and books, apart from the people who couldn't (boarders) who offered money instead. We collected over 200 pieces of clothing from which we made 100 hand-made bags out of T-shirts; we also collected over 200 reading books which we donated to the selected school library which, at that moment only had two small book shells. After gathering all our money we got a total of K107, 000, where we took K25, 000 to buy stationary for worth 62 children. One bag contained two pieces of clothing, a pencil, pen, eraser and ruler. Four of us went to the school and donated everything while giving a speech on how important education is, encouraging the young pupils to stay in school. We also played games with them.

The second thing we did was to write a letter to Queens, asking for permission to go and donate our products. We used the left over money to buy some sanitary products and low fat products. We wrapped the remaining clothes with the products. Each packet contained, 2 pieces of clothing, body lotion, washing and bathing soaps, Colgate, a toothbrush, low fat margarine and a packet of sugar. We targeted 55 children in the paed oncology ward and successfully reached our target. We donated the things while giving a speech on taking care of your health and encouraging the guardians not to lose hope.

Problems we faced

- The main problem that we faced was being accepted to go to the hospital. We were declined twice before the long holiday due to the fact that we could only go there on weekends. After the holiday we were still persistent but got declined yet again. We tried our luck one more time and they finally accepted us.

THE FUTURE

We hope to have more of these opportunities where we will be able to make people aware of the small things that we tend to ignore on a daily basis. We also hope to join forces with bigger organizations like the 'Char Char Trust' which focuses on getting books for local schools in rural areas, we also hope to expand our boundaries and go beyond Blantyre.

CHANGING OUR MINDSET

As a team we thought it was a huge privilege to do this because we actually got the chance to know how most local people's daily lives are like and in which conditions they are forced to deal with, from this experience we also improved our public speaking as well as presentation skills and we also made new friends. It was quite a long journey for all of us took around a month, but we all thought it was worth it.

THANKS. We are very thankful to the following, teachers, Chief Administration officer of Health, Senior Nurse of Health, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and finally our parents.

