

Jigsaw4u International Annual Report 2008-09

Introduction Jigsaw4u International is a new charity, the international division of Jigsaw4u, a child-centered charity that has over ten years experience working with children and young people who have experienced loss and trauma, arising from bereavement, abuse or any incident that causes children and young people to feel invisible, alone and helpless. This new charity aims to empower children and young people to develop strategies to cope with such loss and trauma. It also ensures that children and young people have a voice in decision making about their lives and about policy and practice across local, regional and national organisations. The charity is committed to working with communities to develop culturally appropriate tool-boxes that can support and help children cope with their suffering. Equally, Jigsaw4u is dedicated to building networks of support that enable such help to continue long-term. Jigsaw4u UK is nationally recognised for its commitment to children, and last year won the Queens Award for voluntary service.

Unlike Jigsaw4u UK, Jigsaw4u International will not provide direct services, instead it will provide individuals and groups with training and mentoring, but most importantly it will LISTEN, so that children, young people, communities and professionals can work together to create bespoke and flexible support services that meet their needs at any given time.

Jigsaw4u International came about in 2005. Children who were facilitating a child-led conference, held by Jigsaw4u UK, and who were leading the grief support workshops, asked to use their experiences and the tools and strategies developed from attending the Jigsaw4u groups, to support children who had lived through the trauma and losses of the Sri Lankan tsunami. That was how Jigsaw4u international came into existence and was registered as a charity in August 2007

Sri Lanka. In August 2005 a team of children, young people and volunteers traveled to Sri Lanka and worked with **250 children and young people and 150 adults**. This was made possible by a partnership between Jigsaw4u, Epiphany Trust and other organisations already working with Sri Lankan communities. Two volunteers are now based in Sri Lanka working with a Kandy project supporting street children, training

professionals to work with abused and/or disabled children and young people, and continuing the work with communities devastated by the tsunami. They are also building links in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

A further training tour took place in 2007 co-ordinated by Charlotte Riaz, one of the volunteers, providing skills training for more than 200 adults, plus individual mentoring for leaders of projects



Children at a relief camp

South Africa. In August 2007 Katherine Scheepers (a South African SW working in the East Grinstead Team) arranged a lecture/workshop tour of South Africa. As a result we now have representatives in a number of towns within the Free State, who want to work with us to provide training to enable locals to provide grief support to the thousands of children and young people bereaved through the devastating impact of AIDS/HIV. The second week of the trip was spent developing partnerships through networking and mentoring, in projects working with AIDS/HIV, sexually abused children, and Street Children Projects in Durban. I was surprised by the overwhelming desire to work together with us to develop a tool-box of skills and strategies for working with the thousands of children and young people affected by grief, loss and trauma. We have also developed a link at the Nelson Mandela Childrens Fund UK, launched Jigsaw4u International at South Africa House, and now have a representative of Jigsaw4u based in South Africa. **During the trip in excess of 300 professionals received training and support**



Hospice staff who received training

Nigeria. In June 2008 I travelled to Nigeria to audit the needs of a leprosy colony – a joint project between BOAT (Banner Over African Troubles) and Jigsaw4u. The leprosy colony is based in Oji River, a 12 hour bus journey, north east of Lagos. Leprosy is a curable and in many ways a forgotten disease. If treatment is provided in the early stages it prevents disability, but if left untreated the effects are not reversible. As at end of 2006, the country had 4,830 registered leprosy cases of which 3,554 were newly detected

General information discovered

- The colony has 250 adults living within it. 130 women and 75 children and young people
- Some there are 3-generation families, with only the first having leprosy
- Very little maintenance has been provided over the last decades, roofs are leaking and many living units are derelict and unfit for use; and beds in the community wards were about 50 years old with mattresses without covers.
- One woman had a prosthesis that was about 30 years old and growing fungus
- 3 new patients were aged 17/18 years old, and the 18 year old had to have her legs amputated as a result of untreated leprosy

Aspirations: The children and young people explained that they receive primary education on site, some of the young people wanted to be lawyers, doctors, newscasters and a mathematician – in Nigeria free education is available until Year 3 of secondary education: but in order to access it they need to be able to buy books and uniforms and to be acceptable to the school as a resident of a leprosy colony – they requested school sponsorships.

Requests

- One 4 year old boy asked for a red ball, while the others asked for 5 footballs for everyone to share. We bought those from the market and arranged for them to be delivered
- Wanted sports gear – it would be great to have old Chelsea kit and basket ball gear
- Books and School sponsorships
- Laptops. We would need to explore the possibly of using solar power to recharge the batteries and safe ways of accessing the internet. Local trainers would be able to provide IT skills which would increase employability



As a result of these trips, Jigsaw4u International is working in partnership with other charities to hold a conference in Ghana that will bring together young people from across Africa to explore their participation in health-care decisions and support, in relation to leprosy and HIV/AIDS

Summary. Jigsaw4u International provides a focus on equipping professionals and parents to support children and young people through grief, loss and trauma and is therefore ideally placed to respond to conflict, disasters and disease across the world, moving in after the first wave of humanitarian aid has been provided, at a time when survivors are facing the full ongoing impact of the trauma. It provides a cost effective, flexible, and quick response with few overheads. It also enhances Jigsaw4u International's reputation for getting things done. It demonstrates the approach of empowering individuals, groups and communities; and ensures that the voices of children and young people are heard and responded to.

ACTION PLAN

1. Pilot trips providing:

- Training sessions for professionals in the rural area of the Free State – completed in August 2007
- Networking with key NGOs/organisations/ politicians and establishing women's groups – completed in August 2007
- Audit of needs in leprosy colony in Nigeria – completed August 2009

2. Grief, loss and trauma strategy group – putting the pieces together for children in UK and internationally

- To be held four times a year.
- The first took place on 21st November at South Africa House
- Ongoing meetings have continued to be held on a quarterly basis

3. Hold a reception and concert to raise awareness and build a network of interested people

- Took place on 21st November 2007 at South Africa House. The venue has been provided free of charge – thanks to South Africa House. Sponsorship has been gained from Waitrose, Starbucks and other SA companies to provide refreshments – there is likely, though, to be a shortfall in costs

4. Provide monthly supervision and mentoring for Umthombo project and establish the network of professionals with whom Jigsaw4u International worked in August 2007

- Each training session led to the group appointing a link person with whom Jigsaw4u can communicate in order to plan and develop the training of teachers, social workers and hospice workers in the rural areas of Free State
- As a result of two days of work with Umthombo, their Strong Women's group was set up – a team of ex street-children is now employed to work with street-children in Durban. They have requested support to continue to develop the group

5. Arrange a further training trip to provide the group-work training requested

- Two weeks of concentrated training in Free State and in Durban, Nigeria and in Sri Lanka, to achieve their agreed aims
- Conference in Ghana

NOW we will build on the experience of year one. We anticipate that we will return twice a year and hope to hold an

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR BEREAVED CHILDREN in 2010.

Discussion. Jigsaw4u has a good track record in providing child/young person focused and child/young person led, services and training, mentoring and consultations, to enable other organisations to develop similar services, adapted to meet local needs. We discovered, almost by surprise, that the tool-box of resources that we have developed worked across different cultures and religion; and with the use of translators, in both Sri Lanka and South Africa. We would be delighted to work in partnership with other organisations to develop flexible and creative services – we have a lot to learn and would greatly appreciate the possibility of developing a partnership with the Nelson Mandela Childrens Fund

How other organisations could work in partnership with Jigsaw4u International

Jigsaw4u International is the new arm of Jigsaw4u, and as such, has as yet no funding. As CEO of Jigsaw4u I have personally financially supported the development to date, paying for the airfares and other expenses. We now have a clear concept of the way forward – the key to empower people with the skills and knowledge that they need to work at a practical level with some of the most vulnerable children in South Africa. Some possible ways in which Standard Bank could work in partnership with us is by:

1. Providing contacts and meeting venues
2. Providing sponsorship: with very little costs we can make a BIG difference

Costs

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| • 2 days a week CEO @ £41K pro rata plus on costs | £22K |
| • 2 days a week administration @ £25K pro rata plus on costs | £13K |
| • 2 trips per year for 2 people | £ 7K |
| • Cost of registering the charity in South Africa | £ 1K |

- Expenses for quarterly Strategy Group meeting participants **£ 4K**

Advantages for organisations

- Jigsaw4u International has access to a database of over 3,000 South Africans, West Africans and Sri Lankans, and publicity would include recognition of any sponsorship
- Opportunities to meet corporate social responsibility
- Volunteering opportunities in UK and in other parts of the world in which Jigsaw4u International has established partnerships

Anne Davies CEO (September 2009)

www.jigsaw4u.org.uk