



Conquest For Life
Improving the Quality of Life For All



**CRIME PREVENTION
YOUTH AT RISK
ANNUAL REPORT
2017/18**

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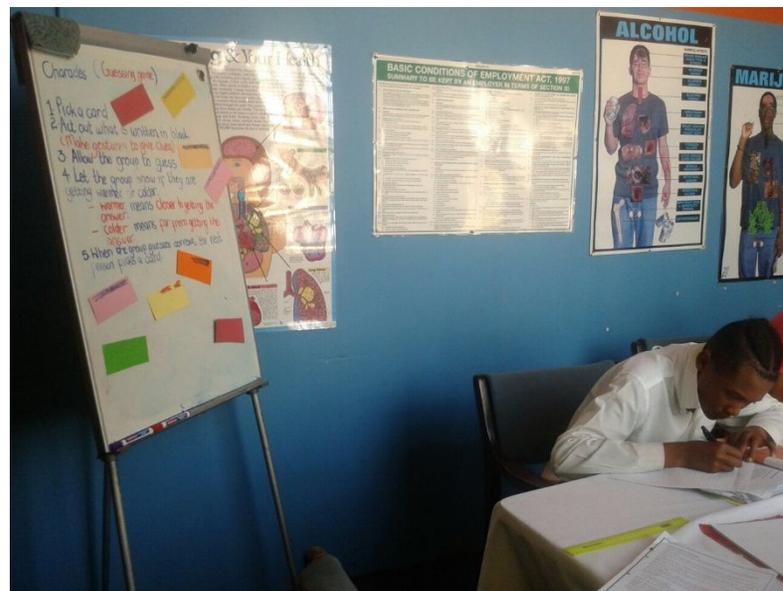
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About Us

Conquest for Life (CFL) was established in 1995 in Westbury, a township located 8 km west of Johannesburg in South Africa. It was an initiative of a group of young people who came together with the aim of finding innovative approaches to social pressing issues facing their community and, in doing so, make a significant difference in their lives, that of their community and country at large. The organization has expanded its facilities by opening four new additional and operational branches in other disadvantaged communities i.e. the community of Soweto, Ennerdale and Orange Farm.

These dynamic communities have been crippled by apartheid effects such as discrimination high mortality rate as a result of HIV/AIDS, high levels of illiteracy and poverty. It is evident that although these young people of these varied communities represent different cultural backgrounds, the disparities are prevalent cross-culturally. And there is a need for an urgent response to the challenges facing them and fostering of productive and supportive role models. Conquest for Life (CFL) seeks to inspire young people to make a difference and to expose them to change. Due to abject poverty many fall prey to the life of crime and despondency, as a result, anger, frustration and anti-social tendencies are released through random acts of violence, gang affiliation, crime, drugs and alcohol abuse.

Conquest for Life (CFL) aims to empower the youth myriad of programs specially designed to produce a safe and structured environment in which the youth can realize their potential and have access to the life skills needed to enrich their lives.



Groups targeted by Conquest for Life (CFL) programs:

- Primary Schools learners between the ages of 6-16 through the Youth Enrichment Project (YEP)
- Unemployed youth
- Out of work, out of school young people,
- Problematic young people ,
- Young people that wants to make a change in their lives,
- Youth in conflict with the law

2. Our Vision

To facilitate a holistic development of children and young people so that they can be meaningful citizens who can contribute to the development of their own communities.

3. Our Objectives

- **Developing a Sense of Self**

Young people in South Africa need time, space and a safe environment in which to pursue alternatives to their current lifestyles.

- **Strengthening Family Structures**

One of the main problems in the townships is the lack of family values and poor family structures and environments.

- **Strengthening Community Structure**

Conquest For Life is attempting to open up and strengthen dialogue between the child/young person, parent, community institution (e.g. schools, community centers') and the wider community to ensure a holistic and sustainable approach to addressing community concerns.

- **Youth Development & Empowerment**

The majority of staff came to Conquest For Life through participating in youth camps or after school activities and are therefore well placed to relate to other beneficiaries.

Conquest For Life believes that 'bad kids' are not born they are made, which means they can be remade."

As violence, bad manners and gangsterism are learned; so can good self-presentation, love and peaceful ways of resolving conflict.



4. Our Programs

Our primary focus is on children, young people and families.

1. Youth At Risk Crime Prevention Program

Our Youth At Risk – Crime prevention Program consist of the following Projects;:

- **Building Bridges Diversion** - Youths at risk may be sent to us via the RAR Centre, Community, School or the local courts.
- **Victim Offender Conferencing Project (VOC)** - Victim Offender Conferencing Project is a creative, community based and Restorative Justice Project dealing with human issues of crime through a face-to-face interaction between the offender(s), their respective families and to some extent appointed support persons from the community.
- **YDP – Youth Development Program.** . The project equips and empowers young people in high school who is in trouble due to bad choices an opportunity to make better informed choices and to ultimately take responsibility for their own decisions.



2. Youth Enrichment Project

Our Youth Enrichment Project consist of the following programs

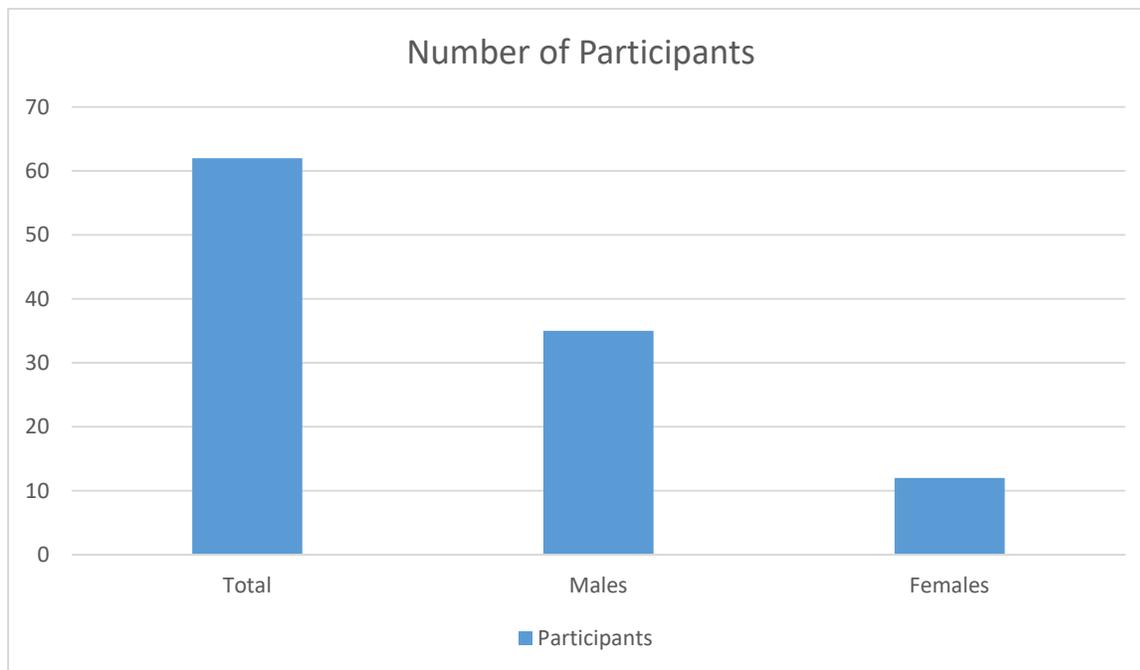
- **The Aftercare Project** - The purpose of the Aftercare Project is to empower school aged children aged 5-16. .
- **Just For Kids (JFK)** -The Just For Kids Games brings children from conflicting cultures together through cooperative play to promote a positive relationship among people who have a history of intercultural tension.
- **Youth 2 Youth (Y2Y)** – The youth 2 youth project is the same as the JFK with a focus on High School youth. Young people in High schools don't want to be called kids anymore. They want to be called Youth or young people.
- **Holiday Program** - Is to cater the needs of the Youth Enrichment Program during the school recession.

5. Building Bridges Diversion Project

Conquest for Life has been offering services to young law offenders through the Building Bridges Diversion Project for a number of years. It is one of Conquest for Life's more intense programmes, targeted at youth in the communities of Westbury, Soweto, Ennerdale and Orange Farm in trouble with the law and those that are developing social problems at school.



The program also targets young people from the community that would like to make a change in their life. The project reaches a number young people and now recently young adults and adults a day referred by the courts, schools, community organisations and individuals and the programs includes:



1. Victim Offender Conferencing

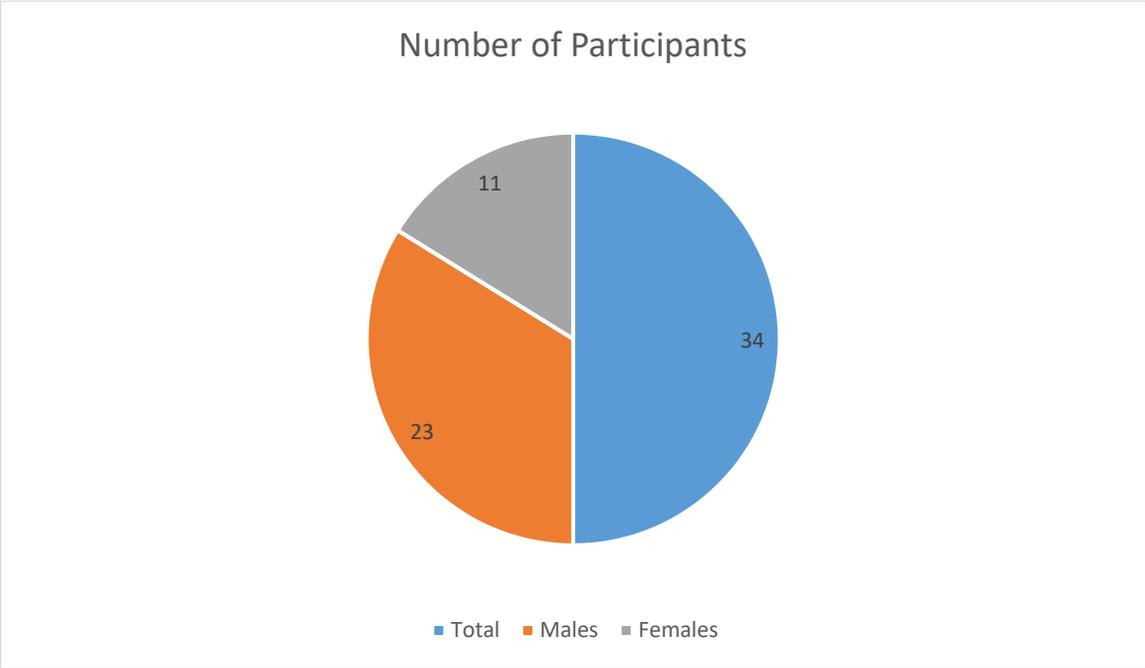
The restorative justice initiative intends to continue an implementation that focuses on the application of the restorative justice through the Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC) process. A central pillar to the expression of the restorative justice is the opportunity for the victim and the offender to meet each other face to face. It is out of this need that the Victim Offender Conferencing Project is created to afford the victim and the offender the opportunity to deal with human issues of crime in an informal, yet structured, environment. The VOC process is a carefully planned, creative, community based tool for dealing with issues of crime.

Very limited cases were received from the court.

6. Youth Development Project

The Youth Development Program (YDP) is an intense 6 – 8 weeks program that focuses on young people in high school in grade 7 to grade 12. These young people are faced everyday with various issues and challenges that affects their day to day schooling. These young people faces challenges with smoking, drinking, abusing drugs at school, bunking at school, behavioural problems and anyone that requires help and assistance.





7. Challengers

The Youth At Risk –Crime Prevention Project as any other had a few challengers during the past year. The

- a. Participants not completing the program
- b. Parents not participating in the process
- c. Donor/ Funder support diminishing
- a. Absenteeism
- b. Late coming
- c. Refusing/ Unable to pay for service
- d. Participants not at home when we doing follow ups
- e. Lack of participation and support from parents
- f. After a participant completed the program, parents run to the organisation for other problems relating to the participant.
- g. Participants still using drugs, after and during their rehabilitation
- h. No feedback from courts, probation offices after a client was referred back or did not comply.



- i. Lack of Coordination from DSD – Court dates
- j. Victims and Offenders not cooperating
- k. A demand for services beyond our capabilities

8. Way Forward

The Crime Prevention - Youth At Risk Project have to continue as there are many community members that require the service from Conquest For Life. DSD has finalised their new norms and standards for Diversion and we will aligned the standards across the board.