

PAKISTAN JOINS THE JOURNEY!

Encompass has added a sixth country into our international programme, the Journey of Understanding. This summer, Programme Manager Rori Donaghy and Development Officer Lucy Frankenburg travelled to Pakistan to meet our new partners; the Umeed Youth Project in Kashmir...

The Umeed Youth Project, based in the Azad Kashmir region of Pakistan, is the only specific youth provision in the whole of Kashmir, and is entirely run and managed by locals. Recently the youth centre's volunteers have coordinated the Kashmir International Relief Fund's project to provide cleft palate operations for those who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

Lucy & Rori endured much frustration in attempting to visit the project as they awaited permission to enter the restricted region of Kashmir. In the end, dispensation did not come in time, but the impressive staff at Umeed arranged for Encompass to meet the young people at a hotel some 10km from the Kashmiri border.

Clearly, given the restricted nature of access for foreigners, the youth in Kashmir live a life that is deeply isolated from the outside world. The excitement in the air was tangible as Rori & Lucy met with two large groups of boys and girls, explaining to them that Encompass would be bringing four participants from the Umeed project on each future Journey of

Understanding, providing the pilot project is successful this November.

For Nargis & Nadeem, the two participants coming on this year's Journey of Understanding, the excitement of coming together with a global peer group to explore social and political issues was clear to see.

Both are committed emergent voices in their community and both explained that taking part in the Journey of Understanding would be a once in a lifetime opportunity; not only to learn about how people view Pakistan, but to dispel the commonly held myths about Pakistanis that they felt people hold.

Although Rori & Lucy may not have got into Kashmir on their trip to Pakistan, they came home absolutely delighted that Encompass will be able to support another project in an extremely hard-to-reach area of the world in joining our global network of youth community leaders.



ENCOMPASS WINS GLOBAL GIVING CHALLENGE!

As many of you will already know, between April and May 2012 Encompass took part in an online fundraising challenge. Organised by the fundraising platform GlobalGiving, our goal was to raise £7,000 from as many different individual donors as possible in the space of one month: quite a challenge! The response to this challenge from our supporters old and new was overwhelming and we

succeeded in raising over £10,000 in 30 days including top prizes from GlobalGiving as we were the charity that raised the most money from the highest number of donors. It was an exhausting and exciting time for us in the office as we coordinated many different efforts: from Encompass Alumni designing postcards to promote the campaign, through to our partner Syracuse University organising a

fundraising salad bar for its students.

A huge thank you to everybody who joined us in this challenge. It was, and still is, an opportunity for us all to feel very proud about what we achieved together in supporting the work of Encompass!



globalgiving

FORMING NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY WITH THE SALMON YOUTH CENTRE

In October we are excited to be launching our new UK programme in partnership with the Salmon Youth Centre in Bermondsey. Salmon boasts world class facilities for young people, including an incredible 90m high climbing wall! Our Programme Development Officer, Lucy, caught up with Sam Adofo, Salmon's Director.

Lucy: What makes the Salmon Youth Centre special or different from other youth centres?

Sam: Salmon has an absolutely fantastic building; the facilities are top form, however, I don't see it as a wonderful building – I see it as wonderful opportunities for young people. You can do different activities at normal youth club, but at Salmon, you can take it to the next level. For example, you could do up to Silver Arts Award, FA Level 2 Coaching, Trampolining Level 1 or even Foundation Studies in Youth Work, so that's what makes Salmon special. If a

young person comes here, there's nothing that they couldn't do – they have the opportunity to do anything in this building.

Now, what makes it special for me is the fact that we are being driven by our faith. We do the work because we love God and we see each young person as God's creation, so it's a privilege to work with any young person God brings through our doors.

Lucy: Can you tell us a bit more about the young people that you work with?

Sam: We work with all types of young people. We've got young people who are on the fringes of criminality, and involved with the gang culture. And we've got young people who through no fault of their own have got difficult backgrounds and life is really tough for them, just because their environment is tough. And we've also got some young people who come to the centre to volunteer; who have a lot of self esteem, who are skilled in different areas, and who just enjoy the company of their peers.

Lucy: Are there any stories that you could share with us about the kinds of work you do?

Sam: Recently a young person who we thought was doing extremely well; completing her A levels and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, came in and told us she'd been made homeless so we needed to find her a home. We couldn't do that until we got her mum's permission, because we have to know the situation before we jump in. When I got to her home, her mother was so drunk that she couldn't stand up. For this young person to actually be able to complete A levels is an achievement and I could now understand why she always wanted to come to Salmon to do her homework. At the time we didn't understand why, but her home was not a safe environment. We realised then how much we've helped her, without even knowing that she genuinely needed our help.

Lucy: Why are you partnering with Encompass Trust?

Sam: It's really important that we engage young people in intercultural activities, especially in Bermondsey, where many young people don't have a lot of knowledge of the world outside their area. The Encompass programme will tackle some really serious issues, but in a way that is engaging, learning from each other, without us forcing everything down their throats. It's a rare privilege to engage with young people from different cultures, and I'm really glad that Encompass will allow us to do that. The programme will really add to what we're doing by opening the minds of young people and broadening their horizons, so I am very excited!



A NEW HOME FOR ENCOMPASS INDONESIA!

Exciting news from Encompass Indonesia who now have their own dedicated building – Encompass House – with office space and an auditorium where they can hold their workshops and other events. With the leadership of Heroe, Sarasno and Silka, backed up by all the amazing alumni, things are really moving.



PALESTINE ALUMNI SUMMER CAMP

Our Palestinian Alumni have been putting their newfound skills and confidence to good use, running community projects throughout the summer. Karen AbuZant, Encompass Coordinator for Palestine, reports...



Encompass Trust in Palestine ran a two week summer camp during July, providing support for children in the Tulkarem area through English lessons and games provided for by the alumni of the November 2011 & February 2012 Journey of Understanding. The forthcoming participants for November 2012 also helped in delivering this camp, which was a great success for all involved!

Each day we began by singing songs in English, like the Hokie Pokie, If you're happy and you know it, Bringing home a baby bumble bee, and many more.

Then we began the games. They played Dexilo, musical chairs, Wink, Whose the leader, change 3 things and many more. We also did some Pal Dan Gum exercises with them to release pent up energy due to trauma.

Then we had a short English lesson on a different topic everyday. The topics included: emotions, the weather, animals, our bodies, colours, saying hello and food. Each lesson also taught grammar like prepositions and

possessives. For each topic we learned new songs and had our projects accordingly.

The art projects included: fingerprint rainbows, fingerprint trees, tissue paper butterfly refrigerator magnets, emotions posters, table of Ramadan posters, animal puppets, drinking straw leis, indoor smores, seasons posters and much more.

"...parents were happy to have their kids doing something constructive over the summer and were amazed how fast they learnt English..."

The kids enjoyed themselves and the numbers kept growing as they told friends and family about it. The parents were happy to have their kids doing something constructive over the summer holiday and were amazed how fast the kids learned English, while still having fun. They enjoyed the art projects the kids were

bringing home and hearing the catchy songs. We will be making a CD and song book for the participants so they can keep learning and perhaps take it to their schools in the autumn.

The Encompass Trust alumni who participated were: Assala AbuTeen, Khadrah AbuZant, Anas Salame and Farah Serrawi (1 day before she traveled). The future participants who helped are: Hend AbuShanab, Carmel Tayeh, Mahamoud Saddar and Ahmad Qadan. We also had some help from past workshop participants. Not everyone could make it every day, due to exams, but they organised themselves to make sure there was plenty of help each day. What's funny is that in the university they would sing the songs we were learning in the summer camp and even teach their classmates. Can you imagine university students singing "I'm bring home a baby bumble bee, won't my mummy be so proud of me...."! The looks they must have gotten. I'm not sure who had more fun, the kids or our Encompass group?

Karen AbuZant, Encompass Trust, Palestine

BUSTING A GUT FOR ENCOMPASS

It has been an amazing period in terms of fundraising for Encompass, and two major events standing out in particular. The first is the sponsored Kayak that Chris Allix is undertaking in order to raise money for five charities, one of which is Encompass. Chris is Kayaking from the Isle of Man to Monaco: crossing the Irish Sea, traversing the British canal system, braving the English Channel and making his way through the extensive French waterways system in order to arrive at the Monaco Boat Show on September 19th. All in the name of fundraising! In July, the Encompass team caught up with Chris at Teddington lock to cheer him on. You can follow his progress here: www.mantomonaco.com



It is not only Chris who has been out and about busting a gut for Encompass. In August Josh and Guy, two school friends of Dan's, cycled 300 miles from Brighton to Land's end in 3 days to raise money for our work! Josh and Guy explained that it means a lot to them to do something in memory of Dan and to support Encompass, particularly with the ten year anniversary of Dan's death approaching. Josh and Guy have already raised nearly £7,000 in sponsorship money! <http://www.justgiving.com/Josh-Guy>



If you are interested in undertaking a sponsored activity for Encompass – however small – we'll happily provide you with everything you need (from T-shirts to fundraising buckets and stickers!). Please email Madeleine: madeleine@encompasstrust.org

AVIVA'S UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY

Aviva Oskow took part in the February 2012 Journey of Understanding programme. She is an American student studying at Syracuse University, New York.

Not knowing quite what to expect before the program, I was simply excited to make 23 new friends. But what I got out of the program was more than I could have imagined. Even now, it is hard for me to put into words the significance and value, personal introspection, and global perspective I gained.

There were definitely tense moments – how could there not be when some of us were being met with ideas and realities we had never faced before?

We had Indonesians who had never met an American, Palestinians who had never met an Israeli who wasn't an armed soldier, Muslims who had never met any Jews. You would think chaos would ensue. But that was one of the

most beautiful parts of the whole thing. We would engage in these intense conversations that were stimulating and draining all at once, but when we took a break from the heavy topics, we were able to go back to all being friends and enjoying each other as people – not necessarily as representatives of our respective ethnicities, nationalities, or religions.

Whether it was clinging together in the frozen Atlantic Ocean, arguing about how to build a bridge over a creek, playing soccer, singing and laughing together, and at the very end, crying together - it was amazing how so many experiences, emotions, and activities were packed into 10 days.

One of my favorite memories was the first



Due to generous support from the City Bridge Trust and the Media Trust, a professional short film has been made about the work of Encompass. The filmmakers (from the production company Trunk Films) travelled to Jerusalem, the West Bank, Brighton and Manchester to shoot the film: catching up with former participants of our programmes, learning about how the Journey of Understanding has transformed their lives, and interviewing Mandy Braden about the founding of the charity.

We are very excited to announce that we will be holding a **Film Premiere Event on September 27th, 6:30pm at Faraday House, WC1N 3AE**. Alongside showing the film, we will be serving food from each of our programme countries (Indonesia the Middle East, Pakistan, the UK and the US) and former participants will be sharing how their involvement in Encompass has transformed their perspectives and changed the course of their lives. This includes Amit Lavi from Israel who features in the film and is travelling to London especially for this event. The title of the event is "Encompass Inspires..." and we promise an inspiring evening for all.

night in Wales, when one of the Palestinian girls began to teach us belly dancing. Soon everyone was gathered around; we all started dancing, then, in turn, each of the nationalities taught a dance from home. In this moment I think we could all see the commonalities between our cultures. When we stripped away the context of conflict, prejudices, and seemingly incompatible differences, we were all just humans, enjoying each other's company and the common language of fun.

I left for Wales with a group of strangers, and returned with a group of brothers and sisters. We still keep in touch, and will hopefully continue to touch our own communities with the lessons, as well as questions, we came away with.