

*Msimamo newsletter is Vijana Amani Pamoja's quarterly bulletin that contains in-depth news, stories and activities that take place within VAP and the community that it serves. The newsletter gives a clear picture of WHO we ARE and WHAT we do. Msimamo means "MY STAND."*

## C.E.O'S MESSAGE.

*"Mrembo goes a notch higher!"*

Having taken part in the first ever graduation of Mrembo program (a program that addresses sexual health reproductive issues amongst girls) at Child survival school, I was so moved to see how divisive VAP can be with its programs as we strive to instill important life skills to the lives of these young girls who are prone to a myriad of challenges crowding their environment. The smiling faces and views of these graduates was just a seal of approval of how effective the program has been to their lives. Being a new program in VAP, its development, program demand, target group as well as monitoring and evaluation systems have been strengthening gradually from one level to another.



## Taylor Birdsall's visit

*"Voluntary spirit."*

The world is indeed a global village, what seems to be too far, could be just within you. This statement relates to Taylor Birdsall, a high student at Broughton high school in Raleigh North Carolina who has been a long time friend of VAP since 2007. After years of email communications with VAP and his periodical in-kind donations to VAP, finally he decided to spend his summer vacation by visiting and volunteering with VAP as from 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. His visit alongside his Dad was of great significant to the entire VAP organization as he had to take part in

various VAP programs including helping out in the Skillz Kenya prog



Taylor Posing with VAP coaches

## Mrembo Graduations

For the first time, a total of 80 young girls ranging from 12-17 years graduated from Mrembo program. The graduation ceremony was done at Child survival and graced by various international visitors and volunteers as well as teachers."I feel so much empowered with the information that I got throughout the Mrembo program and i will make use of it and teach others."Said Juliet Wasike a student participant from Child survival school.

With the newly revised manual at hand, Mrembo is gearing to reach out to many girls both in schools and community centres.



Mrembo Graduates

## Skillz Kenya program around the schools and Community centres

*"Programs on the field!"*



Mission Hope school



Makadara center



Jericho center



Ziwani center

## Skillz Activity of the Month

The most interesting Skillz Kenya activity was **Brea K-away**. The activity's key messages are: Not having sex is the safest way to avoid HIV-If you have more than 1 partner at a time you are MUCH more likely to get HIV.



Participants performing Break-Away

## GIZ Representatives visit VAP programs

From 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May 2011, two representatives from GTZ youth development football from South Africa: Cora and Marietta all based at the university of Johannesburg, visited VAP programs. The purpose of the meeting was to make an intensive interview and evaluation of VAP programs and its impact to the community and the participants. The interviews started with the administration staff, coaches, and participants both boys and girls of different age categories from primary schools and high schools as well as family members of the participants

including parents. The general outcome of the interviews and evaluations painted a clear picture of the significant kind of a life difference that VAP is creating in the community and the challenges that are encountered. As part of our partners, GIZ were so excited to join us and experience firsthand witness of our programs.

## Outstanding Coach

23 year old Isaac Yamba or Izzoh(as the nickname goes) has been very much instrumental in delivering quality Skillz's program with the participants in all the centres and schools he has been involved. Izzoh's ever smiling and beaming face and his 6 fit height is always the centre point of attraction to

his program participants and the entire VAP community. Additionally, for the last few months he went out of his call of duty to act like a guide to all VAP visitors that we've had; taking them to and from their hotel, taking them to the program centres etc..



*To integrate social and economic values through sports by creating a pro-active health environment*

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