

# Msimamo Newsletter

Volume 2, 2012

## Featured this quarter:

VAP hosts YDF 2 workshop

SAU students 2 visit VAP

VAP begins 2nd 2 term sessions

Assessment of 3 VAP

VAP coach 3 visits Kisumu

VAP attends 3 LUC

Research from 4 Johannesburg

## Skillz Kenya graduation football tournament

On Saturday, 21st of April, Skillz Kenya participants from different community centers attended a graduation tournament at Jericho Sports Ground.

The tournament provided an opportunity for participants to show their soccer skills and expertise on HIV prevention.

The attendees who had engaged in the life skills program that Skillz Kenya provides spent the day exchanging information they had learned at their various centers, making new friends, and enjoying soccer.

The event hosted a total of 120 participants and the group was divided into eight teams. The teams included: Breakers Foun-



Skillz Kenya tournament participants

dation 1989, Lolly Soccer Academy, Breakers B F.c, Lolly B F.c, Uhuru tipples F.c, F.A VAP F.c, Eastlands Soccer Academy, and Eastlanders Junior F.c.

The event was successful in

meeting the goal of providing a platform for participants to share what they had learned. All players were awarded certificates of participation in the Skillz Kenya HIV/AIDS awareness program.

## VAP administrators discuss partnership with Goal organization

On the 17th –18th of May, VAP staff, including ,Director,Enouce Ndeche,, program officer Charles and Elizabeth Okinda, attended a 2 day GOAL's partners workshop at Olive Gardens.

The meeting covered the possibility of a partnership opportunity for VAP and Goal Irish-Kenya to support Vijana Amani

Pamoja in its efforts to empower surrounding communities. Through football via Skillz Kenya program.

This partnership would allow for an increase in funding for VAP which would enable more work to be done.

VAP administrators anticipate a

beneficial relationship with Goal to establish strong, supportive connections which will enable them to reach a larger area and strengthen their capacity.

With this new addition, VAP hopes to create programs for more of the many schools around Nairobi and increase awareness of their program.



## VAP hosts second Youth Development Football HIV/AIDS Awareness workshop



Members attend sessions at YDF HIV awareness workshop.

VAP, in collaboration with Youth Development Football (YDF), hosted an HIV/AIDS awareness workshop which was attended by 20 coaches from different organizations during the week of the 23rd to 27th of April.

Attendees also included members from Goal, Society Empowerment Project, Marthare Youth Sports Association,

Mukuru Sports Development Program, Pamoja Youth Soccer Academy, Uhuru Community Centre, and Jericho Sports Academy.

The workshop included both theoretical and practical lessons of HIV/AIDS. The practical lessons focused on how football can be used to fight HIV/AIDS. The workshop was facilitated by Charles Otieno,

David Oduor, Dorah Agumba and Bonface Kwasi, all members of VAP.

The workshop focused on topics such as roles and responsibilities of a YDF coach, transmission of HIV, and social drivers of HIV through sessions such as Monkey on my back, Game Outsider, and True or False.



Jaime Jacobson (left) and Maida Hage (right) pose with VAP coach Isaac

## Southern Adventist University students visit Kenya for research on Vijana Amani Pamoja

During the month of May eleven students from Southern Adventist University traveled from Tennessee, USA to Nairobi for research and insight into NGOs and CSOs around the area.

Two members of this group, Maida Hage and Jaime Jacobson, spent time visiting the VAP offices, interacting with VAP coaches, and learning more about what the organiza-

tion stands for and what work is being done within VAP.

The two students enjoyed visiting different schools around Nairobi to see the different programs being performed by VAP coaches. They were also able to assist in the inner workings of the organization such as data entry and proposal planning.

"I learned that in order to

prevent HIV/AIDS one has to be bold about reality while educating. VAP taught me to be straight-forward about sensitive topics. I loved the willingness to volunteer for a good cause and I enjoyed the friendliness we experienced during our time with VAP. The kids we encountered had an eagerness to learn which made our efforts feel rewarding and worthwhile," said Hage.

## VAP coach visits Kisumu

In February, Robert Mukora, a coach from VAP, attended a HIV/AIDS workshop hosted by an organization known as Society Empowerment Project in Kisumu where he organized and trained a group of participants.

He taught and demonstrated the YDF model to members

of Society Empowerment Project as well as members from other organizations in the area. There were approximately 20 trainees invited by Society Empowerment Project.

Trainees learned the details of the YDF HIV Awareness model and were also taught by Mukora how VAP uses football

for HIV awareness.

*"VAP taught me to be straight-forward about sensitive topics. I loved the willingness to volunteer for a good cause..."*

## Organizational assessment of VAP

On the 17th of May, members from The Goal organization performed an assessment of Vijana Amani Pamoja.

Three Goal officers visited VAP's main office including the HIV project officer, the logistics program officer, and the financial officer. Goal examined characteristics and traits of VAP and focused on topics such as the governance and program-

ming within the organization, the accountability of coaches, the re-

porting of the program, and the legality of the organization. They also assessed the number of partici-

pants, the programs and sessions being used, and the monitoring and evaluations.

Members from Goal organization also provided some insight and tips to improve the functionality and progress of VAP. Based on this assessment, Goal Irish-Kenya is turning attention to a possible partnership with Vijana Amani Pamoja.

## VAP begins programs for second term

The first week of May began the second term for primary and secondary schools in the Nairobi area.

With this new beginning, VAP was able to establish new Skillz Kenya sessions and new Mrembo sessions for the girls program at various schools.

The first term was completed with graduates from about 15 schools.

Second term began with visita-

tions to St' John's Primary, Heshima Primary, and Muthurwa Primary. VAP coaches spent time introducing the organization to students and discussing the mission of VAP. They also spent time performing surveys to grasp the existent knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention so they may better angle their sessions.

The beginning of new terms brings about the goal of establishing relationships between coach and stu-

dent and to use that bond to increase knowledge.



**VAP Coach David teaches the first lesson of Skillz Kenya at St' John's Primary**

## VAP attends Laikipia Unity Cup

On the 11th to 13th of May members of VAP staff had the privilege of being invited to attend and participate in the Laikipia Unity Cup (LUC).

LUC was a tournament that included different organizations in the area. The games were hosted at Laikipia primary school and in-

cluded participants from Carolina for Kibera and Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA).

MYSA also hosted soccer clinics for children during the games.

The community, which included team members of different tribes, were encouraged to integrate and mingle.

Elite members were selected from each team to form an all star team that would compete in the finals. VAP was honored to attend as a member of Street football world.



**VAP football team during a friendly match**



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**Vijana Amani Pamoja's mission to integrate social and economic values through soccer by creating a pro-active health environment. Our vision is to establish a society that is socially, economically and healthfully empowered.**

**VAP is a charitable organization based in Nairobi that was founded in 2003. Currently, VAP focuses on four different programs: Skillz Kenya, Stop TB, Mrembo Program, and Kick-Out Corruption. VAP also performs an annual TB screening soccer tournament.**

**VAP uses soccer as a universal language to connect with members of the community and therefore enable a strong foundation to teach HIV prevention**