

Ukunakekelwa kwezingane nentsha:
Incwadi yalabo abasebenza nabantwana
kanye nentsha abahlukumezekile.

Child & Youth Care

Child & Youth Care ISSN 0258-8927 July 1999

A Journal for those who work with troubled children and youth at risk

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD
CARE WORKERS

Masihambeni
into the new millennium

Twelfth Biennial Conference
5th to 7th July 1999

Celebrating **Conference '99**



EDITORIAL

Masihambeni into the new millennium, the twelfth biennial National NACCW Conference has left us with hope but also a challenge.

In other contexts and in other periods of our history we have experienced a scurry – an almost frenetic upsurge of policy-making in a bid toward transformation. R.W. Southern writing about such a period in Church History, calls this a “growth in business”. He writes “growth of business, however, does not necessarily mean that the policies which stimulate growth are succeeding.”

Joe Samuels, outgoing Chairperson of AETASA (Adult Educators and Trainers Association) makes the distinction between **Political Will** and **National Will**. Political Will is the need for legislation, policy and finance. National Will includes the idea of the “popular participation and particularly the mobilising role that non-governmental organisations and community-based organizations should be playing.”

Mobilisation, he argues, should happen at national, provincial and local levels to make political will a reality. (Practitioner Vol.4 No.1)

It follows that a national body like the NACCW has a critical role to play in making a period of increased political business a reality through popular participation, mobilisation, providing the governance and the technical will – expertise, technology and materials to ensure the success of what is obviously a transformation process that can become a model in the international field of child and youth care.

This is the challenge – that we walk our talk into the new millennium and that the NACCW mobilise the National Will to ensure a quality, value-based service for children and youth in this country.

This is the hope – the Masihambeni Conference showcased a cross-section of the national will. What is already in place in the pilot projects and in other projects allowed delegates a glimpse of the potential contained within the political will. The hope is that the conference was an inspiration and already a primary mobiliser to carry the field of Child and Youth Care on the crest of a wave of national will to make the political will succeed.

The theme of the Conference must now itself transform from Masihambeni – let us walk together into the new millennium – to let us walk our talk, from words to action, from political will to national will – Asihambe n'gento esiyikuluwayo.

Barrie Lodge

NACCW

The National Association of Child Care Workers is an independent non-profit organisation in South Africa which provides the professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and to improve standards of care and treatment for troubled children and youth at risk in family, community and residential group care settings.

National Executive Chairman

The Revd Barrie Lodge, BA, UED, BEd
PO Box 751013, Garden View 2047
Tel: (011) 614-0121 Fax: (011) 484-2928
Cell: 082-501-0525
email: naccwchair@iafrica.com

Treasurer

Roger Pitt, Dip.Th.
PO Box 482, King Williams Town 5600.
Tel: (0433) 21952 Fax: (0433) 22252.
e-mail: naccwt@iafrica.com

Members

Kathy Scott (Western Cape), Nomisa Mandoyi (acting Border)
Elwin Galant (Eastern Cape) Hilda Makhani (KwaZulu Natal)
Marie Waspe (Gauteng), Erna Bowers (Southern Cape)
Mvuyo Manyungwana (Northern Cape)

Professional Staff

Director: Merle Allsopp BA, HDE, NHCRC
PO Box 36407, Gosderry 7702
Tel: (021) 696-4247/697-4123 Fax: (021) 697-4130
e-mail: naccwct@iafrica.com

Deputy Director: Zeni Thumbadoo

PO Box 17279, Congella 4013.
Tel: 031-205-3775 Fax 031-205-3369
e-mail: naccwdb@iafrica.com

Liaison: Sbonile Manyathi B.Soc.Sc. (Hons).

PO Box 17279, Congella 4013.
Tel: 031-205-3775 Fax 031-205-3369
e-mail: naccwdb@iafrica.com

Consultant: Jacqui Winfield B.Soc.Sc., NHCRC

PO Box 17279, Congella 4013.
Tel: 031-205-3775 Fax 031-205-3369
e-mail: naccwdb@iafrica.com

Regional Secretaries

Gauteng/Transvaal: Sheila Deolal, Aryan Benevolent Home
25 Falcon St, Lenasia Ext 1 1827. Tel: 011-854-6864
KwaZulu-Natal: Irene Cowley, PO Box 95, Pietermaritzburg 3200
Tel: 0331-45-4425. email: nicropnb@ia.net
Border: Contact Nomisa Mandoyi
PO Box 482, King Williams Town 5600. Tel: 0433-21932
Western Cape: Nola Riley, 5 Dingle Avenue, Kenilworth 7700.
Tel: 021-61-0788
Eastern Cape: Cecil Wood, 76 Circular Drive, Charlo 6070.
Tel: 041-32-2329. email: naccwpe@iafrica.com
Southern Cape: Yvonne Edwards, P Bag X6587, George 6530
Tel: 0448-75-8082
Namaqualand: Father Anthony Cloete, RC Sending Kinderhuis,
Kamieskroon 8241. Tel: 0257-608
Kimberley: Derek Swartz, Private Bag X5005, Kimberley 8300.
Tel: 0531-73-2321

Fund Raising Organisation 088004480002

Website: www.pretext.co.za/naccw



Child & Youth Care ISSN 0258-8927 is a non-commercial and private subscription journal, formerly published in Volumes 1 through 13 (1983 to 1995) as *The Child Care Worker*.

Copyright © The National Association of Child Care Workers

Editorial: P O Box 23199, Claremont 7735, South Africa. e-mail: naccwct@iafrica.com Telephone: (021) 697-4123 Fax: (021) 697-4130.

Child & Youth Care is published on the 25th of each month except December. Copy deadline for all material is the 10th of each month.

Subscriptions: Individual Membership of NACCW is R90.00 p.a. which includes a free copy of the journal. Non-members, agency or library journal subscriptions: R90.00 p.a. post free.

Commercial advertising: R312 per page pro rata. Situations Vacant/Wanted advertisements for child and youth care posts are free to Corporate and Individual Members.

All enquiries, articles, letters and new subscriptions may be sent to the Editor at the above address.

Editorial Advisory Board: Merle Allsopp BA, HDE, NHCRC; Annette Cockburn LTCL, Dip.Ad.Ed.(UCT), Pumla Mncayi BA (SW), Adv. Ann Skelton, Ruth Bruintjies.

CONTENTS

July 1999



... 4

This Child, This Millennium, This Continent

Lesley du Toit's Keynote address at the Biennial Conference

... 5



The Pictures

... 10

What South Africa can contribute to International Child and Youth Care in the new millennium

Professor James Anglin's closing address at the Biennial Conference.



... 12



The Morning After

A Conference Planner's Reflection

... 13

Cecil Wood conducts an interview with **STEVE VAN BOCKERN**, co-author of the book, *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*.

... 14

Sea. River. Bank

Another Game from Mark Gamble.

... 17

Thabisa's Story

... 18



A Tribute to Ashley

Tributes to Past Chairman of the NACCW, Ashley Theron.

... 20





Masihambeni
into the new millennium

Round Up

Masihambeni – walking together into the new millennium. What an appropriate theme for the last conference of this millennium! The conference on the one hand made us face some real challenges, and on the other hand, as we embrace transformation, it encouraged us to accept the complexities and move with the pace and rhythm of change and development. Our focus must be on the communities where children and youth live with their families.

Biennial General Meeting

The BGM gave us an opportunity to learn about the activities of the Association in a national context. It was reassuring to know about the improved financial status. Well done Merle and her team, and we acknowledge Roger Pitt, our loyal and trusted treasurer for many years. We felt much relief at the news that there will be no increase in membership fees! Welcoming Barrie Lodge as the new national chairperson of NACCW and saying farewell to Ashley Theron after 12 years had to be the emotional highlights of the three days! Zeni's tribute to Ashley had most of us quietly weeping tears of joy and sorrow — Ashley, we salute you as our "elder" and may your songs continue to bless us for many years to come.

Conference content

The opening ceremony which the "Minister of Children" shared with the children of Epworth Village set the scene for a truly memorable conference. The now Minister of Public Service and Administration Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi assured us that her commitment to the children and youth of our country would continue.

Lesley du Toit gave a powerful keynote address.

We have been called upon to be child-centred in our work and to focus on children living in poverty and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Several special personalities addressed us in the plenary sessions: Thom Garfat has an amazing way of sharing his stories of child care experiences which made us feel important and special in every moment in a child's life.

It was indeed a time to acknowledge the work of the staff of NACCW with the presentation by Merle Allsopp and Zeni Thumbadoo of the real transformation that has taken place at both macro and micro levels in the child and youth care field in only four years.

Complimenting this presentation was that of Ashley Theron and Ntjantja Ned with the transformation of social services in government. Their "hi-tech" presentation certainly fascinated us as much as the content!

Jim Anglin will always be fascinating. He has been part of us for five years and never fails to inspire us and lift our spirits. Jim has left RSA with his "talking stick" and we know we can count on him to be back soon ... if not sooner ... to talk with us again! There were many workshops which showed us the real work being done. The participation by those "consumers" made services even more real. Never let it be said that the child and youth care field is dull and dreary! The cocktail party-goers danced the night away and still made it to the 08.30 start the next day!

Thank you

Thank you and congratulations to each and everyone at the conference — the spirit, the warmth and the atmosphere embraced us all. A very special thanks however, to Marie Waspé and the Gauteng conference committee for a well-planned and well-organised conference. The strong support from KwaZulu-Natal was acknowledged! But more so, we acknowledge the fact that many of the 1997 KwaZulu-Natal conference committee were part of this conference — we therefore look forward to seeing you all at the 2001 conference in Port Elizabeth!

The publication of papers from this conference will ensure that we continue to be inspired and challenged long after the event.

Himla Makhan and Irene Cowley

This Child, This Millennium, This Continent



Lesley du Toit, Manager of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk and Special Advisor to the Minister of Welfare gave the following keynote address at the NACCW Biennial Conference

African child of the millennium

African child & youth care work

I want to focus my input today on the children and youth of the present and future, in our African Context, and then spend a little while focussing on the child and youth care work which I believe may be important for the sake of those children.

Our children are African children. We are Africans. I believe we need to contextualise what we do each day – whether at a policy level, management level, or on-line level – in this continent and this country. We can learn from our friends and colleagues from around the world, and it's always a pleasure to do so but many of the answers for Africa's children, lie in Africa. They lie in the strengths and capacities of African child and youth workers, social workers, youth workers and so on.

During this conference you will see many of those strengths, many innovations discussed and presented, and I hope you will be encouraged and inspired to recognise the capacity that lies in this country and on our Continent. I'm saying this too, because Africa faces unique issues for this next Millennium – and while the Western World of Child & Youth Care may sympathise and provide support, the depth and breadth of what we face, will challenge each of us to the core. Either we dig within ourselves to recognise our strength and capacity, to challenge the practices that will defeat our children and ourselves, to stand united in the work we must do, or we may as well pack up and give up – which of course is clearly not an option for our children!



As we stand at the brink of a new Millennium, I want to challenge the Child & Youth Care field to remember our roots as a profession and put the **child** back at the centre of who we are and what we do. We do not only need an African Renaissance, we need a Child and Youth Care Renaissance!



For probably some good reasons, and many inappropriate and unacceptable reasons, we have a system for our children which has over many years become worker-centred, manager centred, organisation centred (and I include government and non-government) and money centred.

So then, who are Africa's children, the children of the Millennium ...



... These children



... This child



... This child

If we want to know who Africa's children are for the next Millennium – we have to understand poverty, we have to understand HIV/AIDS, and have to understand that there is and will be a devastating interaction between the two.

Poverty and HIV/AIDS

Have **you** come to grips with the poverty in this country? In this continent? Does your work each day as a policy maker, manager, or practitioner address poverty in some way – if it doesn't you are missing **this child**. Horrifying as it may be, and possibly even terrifying in its extent, this is our world, this is our child, these are our children. We cannot hide, we cannot turn away, we cannot deny.

We can challenge ourselves to ask, "what is it that I can do, what is it that we as an organisation can do, how do we need to do things differently?" How much food do we waste each day in residential care facilities? How much water do we waste? How are we preparing our children to live and work on this Continent and in this country? For that is our task – to enable children to grow, to survive, to contribute back, to take their place in society with pride and courage. If we have not grappled with the realities – how do we

prepare our children? How do we grow the child and youth care workers, teachers, social workers, police people, doctors and nurses of the future?

Dear friends and colleagues – this is not going to go away. More than half our South African population live like these children. Each day in South African children die of malnutrition and diseases which are a result of poverty.

And then we have HIV/AIDS I have tried to show what we will be dealing with, because somehow the magnitude just alludes us. This overhead represents nearly one thousand children who will be orphaned from AIDS. Two thousand of these sheets would give us a conservative estimate of the children we might be dealing with within the next 5 – 10 years.

Partnership

The struggle is over, and another one has begun – poverty and HIV/AIDS and there's only one way to deal with it – in partnership. NGO's cannot have a sense of entitlement – we are doing your work for you – so pay us accordingly! WE are doing this work for the children of our country and we have to find a way to move forward together or we will be overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task.

The government too, of course has a long way to go and partnerships do not mean the absence of challenge. Advocacy is a critical part of what we do. Clearly the government does not take its children as seriously as it should. In many ways the UNCRC is still paying lip-service. Any government which spends 47 Million rand on a party for

one day, but has spent next to nothing on the transformation of the child and youth care system, clearly does not yet recognise that the “best interests of the child shall be paramount.” We all have a long way to go. The road is going to be harder and not easier and it needs to be walked in synergy with one another.

Abuse

At times levels of abuse, worker-centredness and organisational centredness, impact on a child ...



- In 1996 a 13 year old street child was brutally murdered in the Butterworth Court cells, because the policeman on duty went on lunch and locked the child into a cell with a known killer.
- In 1998 a youngster of 11 years was beaten by his peers in a Place of Safety and thrown over the wall where he was left to die. The incident happened at 11.00pm at night and the child & youth care workers on duty new nothing of this until the community found the dying child in the morning.
- In 1998 a young street child broke into a car and was shot.
- In a further incident that same year a street youth was

shot in the back by police and died.

- In 1999 Wouter Coetzer, 16 years old, hung himself in Odendaalsrus Prison.
- Two months ago, two children under the age of 2 years, within the area in the Transkei where we are setting up the Village Project, died of diarrhea because there is no accessible clean water. A third child, on year old, died two weeks ago.

In each case there was neglect by either carelessness, outright neglect, or deliberate abuse by a social worker, or child and youth care worker or policeman, or manager, and in some instances all of them. There can be no transformation of a system when the system itself has the wrong centre. When in fact we have lost sight of the child.



Child & Youth Care Work of the Millennium

We deal with the masses of children by **dealing with each one.**

We need to work in a **developmental** way. Working with the potential and strength in front of us and not from a viewpoint of weakness, powerlessness, or a need to “help” which is actually so often about our own power. We need to **face up to and deal with poverty and HIV/AIDS.**

We need to work in **South Africa in the moment.**

And we need to be **Professional.** I don't mean to be offensive, but I do want to talk straight at this point. I know the wonderful things that the majority of workers and managers are doing – and if that is you – that's great and I'm not referring to you. But I want you to look outside yourselves and your own organisations. One child dead in this country in the Child and Youth Care System in five years would be tragic and unacceptable. To have as many as I have just described is unforgivable and criminal. The interesting thing is that in most instances nothing was done with regard to the workers and yet, we lock an 11 year old up in prison – sentence him to 3 months in an adult prison, for theft. The question is not what am I going to do about it, or the Minister, or Ashley Theron as the new Chief Director. The question is what are we going to do about it. This is our profession, our work, and we've fought long and hard for recognition. Do we want to tolerate this type of corruption and abuse in our system? If you mean business with children, have the guts to fight for the needed changes. What we need are people who genuinely put children first, who genuinely have what it takes to walk beside even the most hurting and troubled child. I suggest, with respect, that those workers who want danger pay for example, because they work with youth who can be physically harmful to themselves or others, have a professional responsibility to find themselves another job. What these workers want is more money... lets name it for what it is... and I think we should stop

the game playing with Unions and workers who use power and manipulation to get what they want, and at the same time stand on the sidelines while children are abused and who steal food or clothing or equipment which is meant for children. When young people lash out in rage and pain, or because they have become too troubled to deal well with people, these very same workers who actively participate in abuse, want to be paid extra or transfer the children to a more restrictive environment. While there are many exceptions and I emphasise this, it is time,

We need people who want to be in the lives of children – no matter how troubled the child may be. People who will make sacrifices for children

as a group of workers said on a placard directed at the Minister not so long ago, to wake up and smell the coffee. You will hear about the changes that have been made over these past four years from others who will present here this week, so I am not going to go in to details on transformation. Changes which impact positively on children and on staff who work with children – changes like the new Council for Social Service Workers, upon which Child & Youth Care Workers now have a professional Board, changes like the new public service CORE which provides for the first time ever that Child and Youth Care

Workers will be appointed for the competencies and qualifications, with salaries to match. Changes like the fact that Child and Youth Care Workers now clearly have an established role in South Africa in community work and work with families. Changes like a new financial policy that will give endless possibilities to those who want to deliver the type of programmes needed for the next twenty years. The message which I want to give to day, is I hope a clear one. These changes have been brought about by the sacrifice and hard work of many. By those dedicated to children – child and youth care workers, social workers, probation officers, lawyers, educationalists, and youth workers. I do not believe that you and I should stand by and have a minority of child and youth care workers and managers through their own self-centredness and incompetency destroy what has been achieved.

To the Managers

This work is about children. It has never been about anything else. If its not about that for you, then you're in the wrong profession.

To the managers of residential care – it is your professional responsibility to provide adequate care and protection for your team of workers who deal with troubled children and youth. You do that by employing the appropriate people in the first place – don't employ anyone in whose hands you would not place your own child. You do this by providing adequate learning opportunities, by giving them support and making it possible for them to practice effectively, by having

enough staff on duty at any time, by dealing immediately and effectively with any violation of children's rights. You can't do this, unless you open yourself to learning (even from your staff), unless you know how to deal effectively with Unions and Labour Laws, unless you know about children's rights, unless you have the courage to put the children at the centre – not your budgets, not your popularity, not your pride. This child ... What we need are people with the integrity and level of ethics which guarantees the care and protection of a child when no one is around.

What will it take ?

We need fewer labels, categories, techniques and so called models which are applied to anybody and everybody without care and thought. We need a greater emphasis on values, on principles which underpin our actions and programmes.

Managers and middle managers to be more effective. Managers focussed with the capacity for strategic thinking rather than

This work is about children. It has never been about anything else

strategic planning. Managers who can guide the use of an effective compass rather than a map which is quickly out-dated.

Leadership

This system called the Child and Youth Care System needs leaders and many of them. In fact,

we need more leadership and less managing. People who lead by example, who inspire, who know how to build a team and provide support and guidance when times are tough and complex. People with vision and courage.

Accountability

We need individuals and organisations to be re accountable – not only for their funds, but for competency and for each tiny action they take with each child – “this child” at the centre.

Selflessness

We need people who want to be in the lives of children – no matter how troubled the child may be. People who will make sacrifices for children. People who will give of themselves regardless of what they gain in return. Some old fashioned dedication and commitment!
We need a system of people and organisations with the courage to care enough, and to do what is right for children. We have far too many people who know what is right, but do little to ensure that

anything happens. We need people who want to make real changes, not tinker with the edges.

We need a system of people and organisations who are creative and who apply creative thought and actions to even the most complex situation. People who truly turn crises into opportunity and who teach others to do this through their way of living and being with children, youth and families.

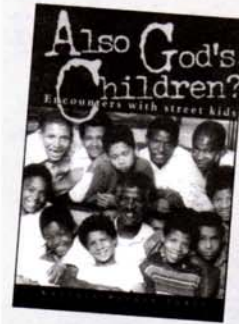
We need above all to be focussed each day on “this child”, on **each** child, not “the children”. □

Situation Wanted

A registered Child and Youth Care Worker, seeks a part-time (mornings or afternoons only) position in the Western Cape. She has completed the following: BQCC, Consultative Supervision, UNISA Diploma in Child & Youth Care (1st year), Sign Language – Level 1, Basic and Advanced Mediation courses – Centre for Conflict Resolution and she has intermediary experience at the Wynberg Sexual Offences court.

Please contact Ruth on
(021) 761-5145

BOOK REVIEW



Also God's Children
by Heather Parker Lewis

The very first chapter of this book accurately describes street children with all their sad stories. “The children suffer from severe emotional deprivation. Their symptoms will be found in any psychiatric text book on anti-social personality characteristics and the runaway reaction in childhood. They are not simply naughty boys and girls. Street children are a product of dysfunctional family life.” All of this characterises this grouping of children in our society, where they come from and how they present themselves as human beings and to the outside world. The author keeps on analysing how the children came across – daily. But one is left curious to know what really drives the child away from home, giving up any form of adult control and to make it on his own.

What the children go through is expressed by their anger, vulgarity and sarcasm quoted repetitively. However, after reading the book, you are left with the question “and so what? you sometimes wonder whether this is written for entertainment or sensational value. If you have an encounter with children from the townships, when they are on their own, you hear the language that they use. Surely you cannot characterise children by such vulgar utterances. Language is a part of socialization. Maybe we should have heard more on the programmes that were in place other than to say they received the “best care in the shelter, went to school, received pocket money, cigarettes and luxury goods.” This is disappointing. The book leaves on with a sense of not having really grappled with what street life for children is all about. One is still left wondering who God's children actually are...

Pumla Mncayi

Make friends with
someone who's lonely and
care about them.



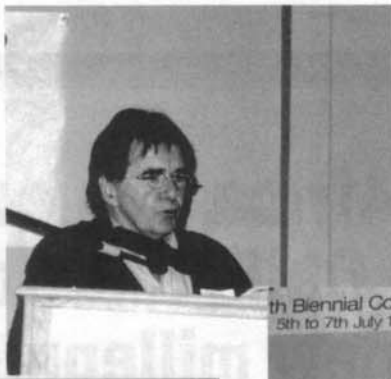
Masih

into the



Masihambeni

new millennium



11th Biennial Conference
5th to 7th July 1999



What South Africa can contribute to International Child and Youth Care in the new millennium



Closing speech at the Biennial Conference 1999 by Professor James Anglin

To my mind, the major overarching contribution that South African Child and Youth Care is making and will continue to make well into the next century is transformational expertise. Many other so-called developed countries still believe that more of the same services, perhaps with some restructuring and tinkering, will be adequate. As Minister Fraser-Moleketi quoted from Ben Okri, words can be so dead and hollow. Even where I hear the word transformation in other contexts, I do not see an understanding or concerted process bringing such change about. Some of the components of this transformational expertise would appear to relate to the following significant questions:

- how does a grassroots non-governmental organisation develop and sustain itself with vision and integrity, and partner with government at a National and Provincial level in order to re-engineer policies, systems and structures that are truly child and youth centered? It seems to me that the NACCW has learned to walk this difficult path for the benefit of young people, practitioners and the country

as a whole.

- how does one develop leadership at all levels of the Child & Youth Care system? It appears that South Africa as a nation is setting the new standards for leadership internationally, not just at a political level, but at the community level and at the agency level as well
- how does one develop a sense of vision and mission for a transformed system of services? The policy paper on the transformation of the Child & Youth Care system, the new juvenile policy framework and the new Social Services Professions Act are all groundbreaking work which I have not seen equalled in any other jurisdiction that I have been involved in.
- how does one create, develop and adapt innovative multi-disciplinary services for a wide range of urban, rural and deep rural communities that are culturally sensitive and highly effective? The speed with which you have initiated, implemented, evaluated, and replicated the family pilot project models, and

your vision to transform the pilots into learning centers, has been quite brilliant. This is a form of human service technology with a truly humane face that is desperately needed throughout the world.

- how does one develop human capacity through new forms of training, curriculum development and educational opportunities that are relevant, timely and accessible? I have been impressed since my first visit in 1994 with N.A.C.C.W's commitment to training, and the expertise honed over many years of hard work is now being recognized across professions and within the higher education system. The importance and impact of such investment in human capacity building has yet to be fully organized in many parts of the world, and this will surely be another area of intellectual export from South Africa in the future.

These are surely just a few of the areas of expertise being developed at a world-class standard in the child and youth care system in South Africa.

... continued on page 16

The Morning After:



A Conference Planner's Reflection

The NACCW Conference, held in Johannesburg in July '99, has been the most enriching, empowering and valuable experience on my child and youth care journey. One which has already transformed my person, character and being. I was privileged to be part of a Conference Committee which worked methodically and meticulously to put this "Special Conference", together. I call it "Special" because it is the last of this millennium and the most appropriate to direct us as we walk into the new millennium – Masihambeni. I believe the content of the presentations and the strong attendance made this conference dynamic. I have learnt much from my colleagues, my peers, trainers and mentors. I have been enriched having discovered and "experienced" myself differently. I have discovered in myself new abilities, skills and talents. My caring, supporting, generous spirit has come to the fore. I have grown and developed almost in every aspect of my person. I continue to grow, to jump, to leap. The responsibility of speaker care was at first very daunting.

I however, accepted this responsibility as a challenge. A second responsibility of displays (book-stalls) was also something I inherited but again accepted with a measure of determination. These responsibilities kept me focussed and brought me to attention. I had to consult the conference manual, meet with Barry Lodge and also campaign for support from fellow colleagues. This was truly an opportunity to search myself and to introspect. It was this responsibility of speaker care which allowed me to become more self aware. My listening, my responses to others, how I respond, when I respond, what I do and how I do it. This was a true test of strength, of self awareness. The discovery of self in moving just another step is a wonderful experience. The expectations of others and my own expectations of self was always uppermost. I have learnt not to place undue responsibility on the children and youth in care but to take just one step at a time. I

have personally moved just one step on this earthly journey, trying to discover myself.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend to the NACCW gratitude and thanks for contributing to my personal discovery. It is wonderful to know that one is always in the company of such unselfish and caring people.

To my Chairperson, Marie and to my colleagues Adina, Pepe, Jacqui, Barry, Val, Sivian, Sheila and George – thank you for being you. Thank you for allowing me to grow, develop and aspire to greater heights.

Claude Vergie
St. Nicolas Home – Gauteng

CYC-NET

is an e-mail child and youth care discussion forum with nearly 400 members world-wide — students, on-line workers, trainers, administrators — which you can join by sending mail to cyc-net@icon.co.za.

It is also an informative web site which you are invited to visit at www.pretext.co.za/cyc-net

CYC-ONLINE

is a monthly on-line magazine for child and youth care workers around the world which you may view at www.pretext.co.za/cyc-net/cyconline.html

**The International Child
and Youth Care Network**

Steve van Bockern visited South Africa from the United States in May this year. Cecil Wood interviewed him on behalf of C&YC

Interview with **STEVE VAN BOCKERN**

Co-author of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*

Who is Steve van Bockern?

Steve: I think first my identifier is that I am father and husband. I have two kids. Matthew is nineteen and my daughter, Maggie is eleven. Secondly I'm a teacher, a professor at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. (It's a small school with 1500 full time students studying to be teachers in special education.) My favourite sport is playing basketball but its getting harder and harder to get up and down the court!

I noticed at the beginning of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk* a mention to the memory of Katy. Who was Katy?

Steve: Katy was my three year old daughter. She would be 15 now. We put her to bed one night thinking she had the flu and it ended up being spinal meningitis. Really a devastating experience for me personally and for our family. It caused us to have to reflect on a lot of different things. While we were always family centred it helped us realise how important that all is and how quickly it can change. When we wrote the book back in 1990 it was something that I was privileged to be able to do as a way to remember Katy. That's one of the reasons I ended up having a rather critical perspective on things as so many of my personal beliefs were challenged at that time.

Could you give us a run down on the work you're doing?

Steve: In 1987 I was invited to teach at Augustana college by my friend and colleague Larry Brendtro who was the Department Chair at the time. My work at the college has been a matter of training students who want to become teachers in special education and over the course of the last twelve years I've become more and more involved with issues relating to school and reform – to schools that reclaim, schools that aren't particularly designed for teachers but for kids. That's my interest and that led me into my work with difficult children and at risk kids. Its been within the last few years that I've started working with kids that have committed felony, in jail and often still awaiting trial. Much of my work with these kids is to give the attorneys and jury a different mind set and allow them to glimpse the full story of these children and why they've gotten themselves in the place where they find themselves.

I also do writing and research and I'm working on two grants right now. One we called, "The

Developmental Assets of Delinquency". It was Brendtro's and my concern to try to develop a protocol system of asking questions that in a sense covered all the bases to really get at the story of why a kid continues to create problems for himself or herself and for others. That was funded by the Kellogg foundation. Currently I'm working on a restorative justice grant that will hopefully provide teachers, counsellors, principals and others in the school system an alternative to suspension, whether it be out of school or in school by using family group counselling practices and restorative justice principles where victims and offenders come together to try to heal and bring the offender back into the circle.

We know Steve van Bockern from the name on the cover of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*. Could you tell us about your involvement in this project?

Steve: Each of us brought a different perspective. Martin has a sociology background, Larry has a psychology background and I've been a teacher. There's been lots of creative energy involved in taking our different perspec-

tives and folding them into what we now call our 'Circle of Courage' which names four key values which we think all kids have to have to live whole and balanced lives. We've identified those needs as belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. And when I talk to people in different parts of the world everybody can identify with these.

What is your philosophy with regard to discipline?

Steve: At the heart of good discipline is a good relationship. By that I mean for you to really have an influence on a child. To help them obtain self-discipline, inner control, doing the right thing when out of surveillance of adults means that you have to be regarded positively by that child so that they'll listen to you.



What would be your response to the many teachers and CYCW in South Africa who use the expression, "ons hande is afgekap" (our hands are tied) because they are not allowed to use corporal punishment any more.

Steve: I do not believe in corporal punishment because what we know about corporal punishment is people use it because its quick and easy – you messed up, take your punishment, its

done. Fearful kids will readily comply but only while the adult is still around. As soon as the adult is removed the child goes back to the old behaviour. But real discipline, working with young people oftentimes is quite messy, quite complicated – it takes thought, consideration, it takes negotiation, it sometimes takes trial and error to figure out what will work best.

When I talk to teachers in the States and ask them about the kids who receive corporal punishment and ask to look at their records, it's generally the same kids who show up over and over again for the punishment. If it was working wouldn't we see those children appearing less often? I think generally corporal punishment teaches a terrible lesson that authority comes

through power, fear and intimidation and in the long run that doesn't serve anyone. I think corporal punishment creates a war between the punished and the punisher. I think too that corporal punishment delays the moral

and ethical development of a child because I find that their thinking remains in a position that says "I do what I have to do because I'm afraid I'll get beat". I would much rather have kids say "I'm going to do the right thing because I know it's the right thing". Eventually the time comes when the child walks out of your home or out of you classroom and you have no control unless of course that control comes through the positive lessons

that you've given through self discipline.

When I first became a parent, I figured that I had to spank my children. I spanked our son for a year or two until I realised I felt worse about it than he did. I remember an incident that changed my way of thinking. The mother of a child was telling him to get down off a high ledge and yelled at him. "If you don't get down you could fall and hurt yourself and I want you down here this instant." Well the kid was having fun up there and didn't listen as fast as he should have. As soon as he got down she grabbed him by the neck and started beating him on the seat of his pants and I thought that he might just as well have fallen off the wall – he probably would have got hurt less and then there was the psychological disconnection from the mother too. If spanking worked, if hurting kids worked then we should use it but I'm convinced that it doesn't work.

We have a drug and gangsterism problem in S.A. Do you have any advice from your perspective on how to manage this problem?

Steve: The drug problem certainly is a major problem for us in the Unites States. What's really scary about it is kids being captured by it after using it once or twice. I think we have to concentrate on the total climate and environment that we are raising our children in – one that makes sure the developmental assets that all our children need become part of their lives again. So much of that is missing right now. We are, some have said, in a technologically rich society but in a spiritually impoverished

world. I think so many of our kids are missing some important ingredients that we know are valuable. A lot of those ingredients are really complicated, like having more than one adult in the neighbourhood who can reach you, its going to a church or synagogue once a week, its having teachers at schools that stay in touch with your lives, it means learning skills such as how to be assertive, how to co-operate with others. These are all little things that can be given in our daily living with our young people.



You also spoke about the ecology of dis-ease. Won't you elaborate on that.

Steve: When the worlds of childhood are working, when family and friends and community and school are all working well, we would argue that the child is living in a healthy ecology. Life is good, they live, play, work, experience others in a positive way. But when the family's discipline is inconsistent and is marked by broken attachments, when the school experience is that of failure, conflict with teachers and other school personnel, when the community doesn't expect much of the child and doesn't think the child has much to give and therefore isn't giving back to the child, when

peers reject another child or get them involved in antisocial behaviour then we suggest the child is in an ecology of dis-ease. Much of our work becomes ways of mending the brokenness, allowing these worlds to interact with the child in appropriate ways.

Do you have a message for child and youth care workers in South Africa?

Steve: Because none of us can be quite sure which kids will make it and which ones won't – never give up – never, never. The research tends to suggest about 70% of our 'at risk' kids

will make it and that's a high percentage. I would submit that there is real hope, that often it takes just one person who can be an advocate for that child to convince him or her that there is a future, that there is potentiality. Never give up.

The work that you're doing not everyone is willing to do and in many ways it's a wonderful gift that you're giving this world. □

Position Wanted

Highly qualified child and youth care worker with 22 years experience seeks employment.

Qualifications include BQCC, NHRCC, DCCA, Consultative supervision, developmental Assessment and Programming etc.

Computer Literate and secretarial skills.

Able to assume duties immediately. Preferably in Gauteng area.

Please telephone Linda de Villiers on 083 527 6100

Closing speech at the Biennial Conference 1999 by Professor James Anglin

... continued from page 12

It is clear for me that while the accomplishments of the past four years are nothing short of awesome, they will pale in comparison to what will be required to move forward the new President's vision of an African Renaissance, both within South Africa and throughout the continent. South Africa is indeed proving to be an engine of change for the continent, and child and youth care may well be called upon to serve as the transmission system necessary to ensure a child, youth and family sensitive pace of change. The newly envisioned Village Project may be the next important crucible of developmental work for child and youth care workers. Whatever challenges will come the way of the N.A.C.C.W., this conference has confirmed that your compass is true, your mind is sharp, your heart is open, and your spirit is courageous. □



We extend a further invitation to all Child & Youth Care organisations in other African countries to send material for possible inclusion in this Journal.

These may be forwarded to:

NACCW PUBLICATIONS
PO Box 36407, Glosderry 7702 South Africa

Fax: 27-21-697-4130

e-mail: naccwct@iafrica.com

Sea, River, Bank

Another Game from Mark Gamble of EDUCO AFRICA



A fun game, to be used to bring in laughter and lift the energy levels. I've used it frequently as the first game of the day, it's easy, not threatening and brings memories of childhood games.

Here's how you play it

Take a length of rope, lay it out on the ground and then double the rope back on itself.

You will now have a double length of rope lying parallel about 40 cm apart and as long as is needed, for each member of the group to have place enough to stand next to it.

Explain to the group that they are now standing on the bank, the middle section is the river and the last the sea. When you as facilitator shout "**River**", they must jump into the section between the lengths of the rope. When you shout "**Sea**", that's where they jump and so on. The group can be standing on the "river" and shout "**River**". If anyone jumps to the wrong section they are out. They can then be used to help catch other members of the group who have jumped into the wrong section.

Some tips ...

Start slowly and move to a faster speed as their



confidence increases.

You can call short sequences of jumps at them, for example: "**bank, sea, river, sea, bank**".

It's a good idea to get the "out" kids involved in watching the other kids. Don't play the game too long, 5 or 10 minutes at most.

What comes out ...

Some fun, some enthusiasm, that's why I play this game at the beginning of the day. It often helps hook the kids into the day with smiles and laughter, it also quite simply wakes them up. □



EDUCO AFRICA provides leadership training for people of all ages through outdoor-based experiential education.

Drawing on 30 years' global experience in outdoor education, **EDUCO AFRICA** was established in 1994 as a non-profit organization with emphasis on Youth Development. They have built up a team of dedicated and highly trained local staff, fully conversant with the particular needs of people from different cultures and backgrounds. As such, they provide participants with a broad but intensive training in team and community building, leadership, social and environmental sensitivity, integrity and personal responsibility.

EDUCO AFRICA is affiliated to Educo International, with schools in USA, Canada, Australia, Korea, Brazil and Bulgaria.

Thabisa's Story

Based on a Case Study by Ms. N.G. Kula, Social Worker
at King Williams Town Child & Youth Care Centre

Once Upon a Time

Thabisa was born in Queenstown in 1984. His mother Ms. Mandla, a single parent was a domestic worker. Ms. Mandla was caught red-handed selling goods and clothing which she had stolen from her employer. The policeman chased her but she managed to escape. On arrival at her shack, she only took a jacket and disappeared. That was in 1990. She deserted Thabisa and Lindiwe (born in 1980) alone in the shack. She never returned or contacted her children.

In 1992 these children were admitted to a Place of Safety in Johannesburg. In 1993, they were transferred to a Children's Home nearer to their home. While in the Children's Home, the relationship developed between them and their maternal family in Queenstown and in Umtata. Their maternal aunts hosted them every school holidays. There were allegations that Ms Mandla was in East London. But the whole family kept this a deep secret, in fear of justice and her conviction. Lindiwe shared this allegation with her social worker but the whole family denied it. These children regularly talked about their mother and how they missed her.

Help Seeking Behaviour

Both of these children displayed a negative behaviour. Lindiwe was very angry and manipulative. She never accepted her wrongs. She was often in conflict with her peers and family members.

Thabisa on his hand, became unmanageable. He displayed negative behaviour on campus, at school and at home during school holidays. While on holiday in Umtata, he molested a young girl but he denied this. He was then sent back to the Children's Home. This was in December 1996. Three months later he molested a girl on our campus at the Children's Home. For the following year and a half he became increasingly problematic. He was involved in breaking-in and stealing from offices, in May 1998 his hosting at Umtata failed due to his behaviour.

In July 1998 his hosting in Queenstown failed. He woke up in the morning and wet his bed deliberately. One day he trespassed through the back door of our local clinic and collected used syringes and needles and injected a dog and other children.

Therapeutic Interventions

A number of therapeutic interventions took place during this time. They were:

- EDUCO wilderness training – to deal with his emotions and rebuild relationship and trust.
- Group therapy with the social worker to empower him with life skill like communication, relationship building.
- Individual counselling on behaviour management and defence mechanism – denial.
- Let him ventilate his past, reflecting feelings empathizing, support and encourage.
- Talks given by CPU on Crime awareness and rape.
- Talks given by nurses on sexuality, AIDS and sexual transmitted diseases.
- Guidance on his school work and future orientation.

Family Meetings

A family meeting was held in Umtata to discuss his permanency plan. He was also present but the family did not want either to host or foster him. Another family meeting was held in Queenstown where the aunt openly stated that she had had

enough of him, he must be placed in foster care with anybody.

The Long Hard Search

It was during this meeting that his aunt committed herself to trace Thabisa's mother. After some delay, we arranged a trip to East London to meet Ms Mandla. The agency social worker brought two aunts from Queenstown and accompanied us to East London. It was on the 1 September 1998 when we met Ms Mandla in East London. She was a short, tiny, dark lady with a very soft voice. This was Ms Mandla. She was neat with clean clothes but was not looking well.

Thabisa was introduced. "This is your last born, Thabisa". She said they must not crack a joke, she missed her children. Having noticed that it was not a joke she screamed and wept. She hugged her son, looking at his face and crying. She could not believe her eyes. Thabisa was also weeping. Both of them confessed that they did not know each other.

All these years she was a domestic worker and drinking very heavily. She was constantly thinking about her children but could not come back. She once suffered from TB but was cured. She continued drinking and TB attacked her for the second time. She could not work. She stated that she wanted to return home but charges against her were a stumbling block. She would prefer to return to Umtata or Queenstown. I told her about Lindiwe's whereabouts. I promised to approach the justice system in Queenstown aiming to wipe out the case against her. This was an unforgettable re-

union. Thabisa returned to our care full of enthusiasm. He bragged to his peers about his mother.

On the 27 October 1998 the agency social worker, Thabisa and I, visited the detective sergeant in Queenstown aiming at reconciliation. Having spent some time paging the books, he paged the computer. I then heard this detective sergeant saying, "Onskuldig" (Not guilty). I could not believe my ears. He openly said Ms Mandla was not a wanted person. He then printed us a proof that Ms Mandla was not a wanted criminal.

On the 2 November 1998 Thabisa and I visited Ms Mandla at SANTA hospital where she had been admitted. She could not believe the news that she was a free woman. She said, "what a waste – all these years deserting my children." The whole family was relieved and excited about the news. Thabisa spent the December school holidays in Umtata with his mother.

Together at Last

From November 1998 Thabisa's behaviour changed drastically. He stopped stealing and bullying others. He behaved well among his peers. Incidents of bad behaviour continued happening on our campus but Thabisa was not involved. Break-ins continued but Thabisa distanced himself from these. He even changed friends and associated himself with well mannered children. During the holidays he spends most of his time with his mother. Ms Mandla has a room and is presently waiting a disability grant. □

MOVIE REVIEW



THE OTHER SISTER
Juliette Lewis, Diane Keaton, Tom Skerritt

The quest to actualise the circle of courage is prominent throughout this movie, which portrays a mentally challenged young woman's drive to rise above her limitations and embrace the world that her mother (Diane Keaton) has for most of her early life hidden her from. This strength based movie shows Carla (Juliette Lewis) as an ambitious dreamer who has hopes and desires of making a life for herself away from her family. Carla has just "graduated" from the special school she attended.

Carla's desire for a sense of independence is the basis of this uplifting movie and through her own personal drive and determination, she achieves her independence by moving into her own apartment. Carla develops a sense of mastery by attending classes that she has chosen; by her perseverance of the public transport system and through the many mistakes she makes and overcomes often with humorous consequences. She achieves a sense of belonging by forming relationships that she feels comfortable with and by finding "true love." In addition Carla develops a sense of generosity by giving of her self unselfishly and a willingness to share her possessions.

Throughout this movie, you realise the importance of teaching life skills, social skills, sharing of information and capacity building and the obvious impact this has had on Carla from a young age. Carla often refers to what she learnt at school to help guide her through tricky situations. This brings to heart the important job we as child and youth care practitioners have in creating opportunities for children and youth to be equipped for the long road ahead. As Reel News magazine quotes, "Carla and her boyfriend Danny go on to prove that one ordinary life can sometimes be an extra ordinary achievement."

Adina Menhard



A Tribute to Ashley

Ashley has been a special leader to many of us in the NACCW. He has been able to blend his leadership with a quality of humility, humanness and warmth that has touched each one of us differently but very meaningfully. Ashley demonstrates a quality of generosity that was supportive and empowering to many who now are significant leaders in the child and youth care field. He created a sense of belonging in the NACCW through his ability to connect and interact with everybody. His was an example of developmental leadership that focussed on strengths, encouraged competency and allowed for trial and error learning. His leadership at a critical stage in our country facilitated the empowerment of both black membership and leadership in the NACCW. He has been a leader who brought music and colour into our lives and our work. Ashley used music to create a special sense of belonging in the NACCW. Many of us recall swaying and dancing to new rhythms and songs and in many ways to new rhythms and songs in our child care journey. It was appropriate that a gift of music was given to Ashley in the form of a guitar in acknowledgment of his special gift to us. We pay tribute to a special leader. May you continue to lift others as you rise.

Zeni Thumbadoo

Ashley Theron left the NACCW chair after 12 years. He was given a hero's farewell...

Praise singer, Syvion Dlamini paid tribute to Ashley by performing a traditional praise-song

Ashley! Ashley you are a Hero.
(Uyiqhawe!!)

On behalf of the NACCW
On behalf of the NACCW members
On behalf of the South Africa
On behalf of the South Africans
Yes, on behalf of Africa
Ashley uyiqhawe
You are a hero!

It will be indaba, if not mentioned
On behalf of South African Children's homes
On behalf of South African Places of Safety
On behalf of South African Child Care Centres
On behalf of South African Child Care Centres
Ashley, Ashley Uyiqhawe!

I would be provoking a child care war if not said,

On behalf of United Nations
On behalf of UNICEF
On behalf of Universities of South Africa
Ashley, Ashley is our hero

Prosecution propose to be my buddy,
If forgotten to mention that,
On behalf of UMISA
On behalf of SA Provinces,
On behalf of SA Welfare System
Ashley is a hero
Agree or Disagree
Ay or nay,
I don't care, he is
But he is a hero
I mean Ashley is a hero.

Your inspiration and affability
Your indispensability and keenness
Followed you Ashley
Followed you through Western & Eastern Cape
Through these moments of Annie Storch
Children's Home

Where you advocated and bullied
Advocating and bullying for C&Y of South
Africa

I say, and I say, salute again
but not Captain
Salute Ashley
Ashley you are a real hero
Uyiqhawe Lamaghave

your confidence and support
Your encouragement and skills
Appeared through Tech. (Dep. Res. Care)
Through Bonnytown
Yet, still you Ashley,
That's why I say you are a hero
Ashley Uyiqhawe!

I'm confident to say, you
and Lesley (I gossip)
You know about child care
You know about child care workers
You know about child care practitioners
You've been there,
On transformation, training and recognition
Our hopes are on you
You can do it
you are our hero
Ashley Uyiqhawe

Ashley it's a rock to accept
It's a rock to say
To spit out good-bye after 12 years
But no I, she, he, they, them, it
must say good-bye, it's impossible
Will you still be there?
Although in the Welfare System
But! Will you still be there for us?

Good-bye is never a word
A word after 12 years
I, We, they, can't say good-bye
Cause you are still to be with us
But, really I have to say
and I must say, need to say
To say thank you Ashley
Thanks for more to come

If I say thank you
I mean to be with us
I mean to think about us
I mean we still need you Ashley
Ashley you are a hero. Uyiqhawe

This hurts to us,
Really it hurts Ashley, But,
Yes, Yeh, Ja, Good News
Welcome, Welcome yes
Welcome Barrie as a new
Chairperson of the NACCW
Barrie you are not scared,
You are not scared of challenges
You are a challenger
More to hear
More to see
More to expect
Barrie you can do it
so, do it just do it
and do it now

I now can say bye, bye
I now can pretend to say
Good-bye, Good-bye Ashley
Good-bye Ashley, Good-bye
Qhawe, Good-bye hero

THANK YOU