



Welcome to Solofelang Project

Empowerment of Youth with Disability



**@ Parents' Guidance Centre REAKGONA
Gelukspan/ North West Province**

Presentation at 2nd African Conference for AAC

02.08.-04.08.2011

by U. Rauter, L. Sehako, R. Moseane

Presenters : Lebogang Sehako



Group Co-Facilitator

**PGC Youth
empowerment
Program 2003-2005**

**FOFA Project
participant 2005-2009**

**Deputy Chair Person
of DPO: "Kgalagadi
people with
Disability"**

Presenters: Rachel Moseane



- ✦ Chief Physiotherapy Assistant
- ✦ CP courses planning, mothers teaching, intervention
- ✦ mother of an adolescent with disability
- ✦ Co-Facilitator
- ✦ AAC courses

How it started – Our Context

- ✦ Ngaka Modiri Molema District -Rural District of North West Province in SA
- ✦ Parents Guidance Centre Reakgona
25 years history of working with CP children & their mothers through full time courses (poster presentation 2003 at this conference)
- ✦ Youth Programs on individual basis:
Lebogang Sehako as a pioneer
- ✦ Contact to CAAC & FOFA Inspiration to try our own model in 2010

Identified Needs

- ✦ Young persons with disability need to stand for themselves
- ✦ Stigma may be subtle, disguised as “too much care”
- ✦ In 2010 we had a “critical mass” of young people whom we saw as individuals → use the synergy effect of helping one another
- ✦ Lebogang advanced in own process invited as co-facilitator

Target Groups

✦ Various/ mixed target Groups:

- Youth who has attended CP groups and grown out of it
- Youth and young adults with physical disability or/and intellectual challenges
- Youth with Paraplegia admitted at Gelukspan Hospital with severe pressure sores
- Family members: to realize and give freedom for the youth to pursue their dreams
- The staff team participating: new experiences



Participants of first Solofelang Project Course
1.-5. March 2010

Dare To Dream Process

General Features – differences to Fofa

- ✦ Use of Setswana throughout
- ✦ Adjusted Process: Down to earth- tailored
- ✦ Individual Presentations of dreams & revisiting them → Homework
- ✦ 3 onsite weeks (March, June, October)
- ✦ Adjusting goals & finding solutions when obstacles appeared: avoiding to get stuck for a long time
- ✦ Blend in other disability & empowerment topics
- ✦ Project Cycle: 2 years
- ✦ possibility for new admissions during the process

First Week: Day 1-2

- ✦ Talking about the individual identity
- ✦ Finding the group identity
- ✦ Giving the project its name, logo and slogan
 - The choice of the group
 - Self determination
 - Appreciating the gifts and ideas got from individual presentations
 - Evolving confidence

Day 1: Self introduction

Khumoetsile / “ Khumo”

- ✦ I AM AN EAGER AND ACTIVE GIRL
- ✦ I love people and to communicate with them
- ✦ I use my face, gestures and pictures to talk
- ✦ I am the youngest in **Solofelang**! 11 years
- ✦ Look who I am → → →





- My identity

ROSE KHUMOITSITE MOSES
20 JANUARY 1999
11 YEARS
LOTHAKANE

birthday.

eo / I like the following

ofo
dikopelo
diaparo
kereke
go tshameka le
bana bangwe
Meputa yothu ya
dijo
le gota mo
P.C.C.

Nna ga ke rate / I don't like

ga ke rate - Motsoko
→ Bojalwa
→ Dintwa



I believe I can fly
...
If I can see it,
then I can be it

Day 2 Solofelang – Hope

Bopa bokamoso
Build the Future



Day 3: Presentations

Khumo's Dream



Coaches

Mother & Mmatumelo



Places

Companies
PGC



GOAL

AAC Device
School



People
Family

Time

Summer
2011



Resources

Transport
Assistance



Khumo's Dream achieved



Improved & enjoyable communication



Dreams (1st & 2nd goals) – Total:17

- ✦ 5 referred to AAC devices incl. laptops – even Lebogang needed a new one
- ✦ 2 referred to healing
- ✦ 3 to start some form of schooling
- ✦ 3 to empowerment to work/ run a business
- ✦ 2 to study
- ✦ 2 to improve in present schooling

I want to become a
Social worker

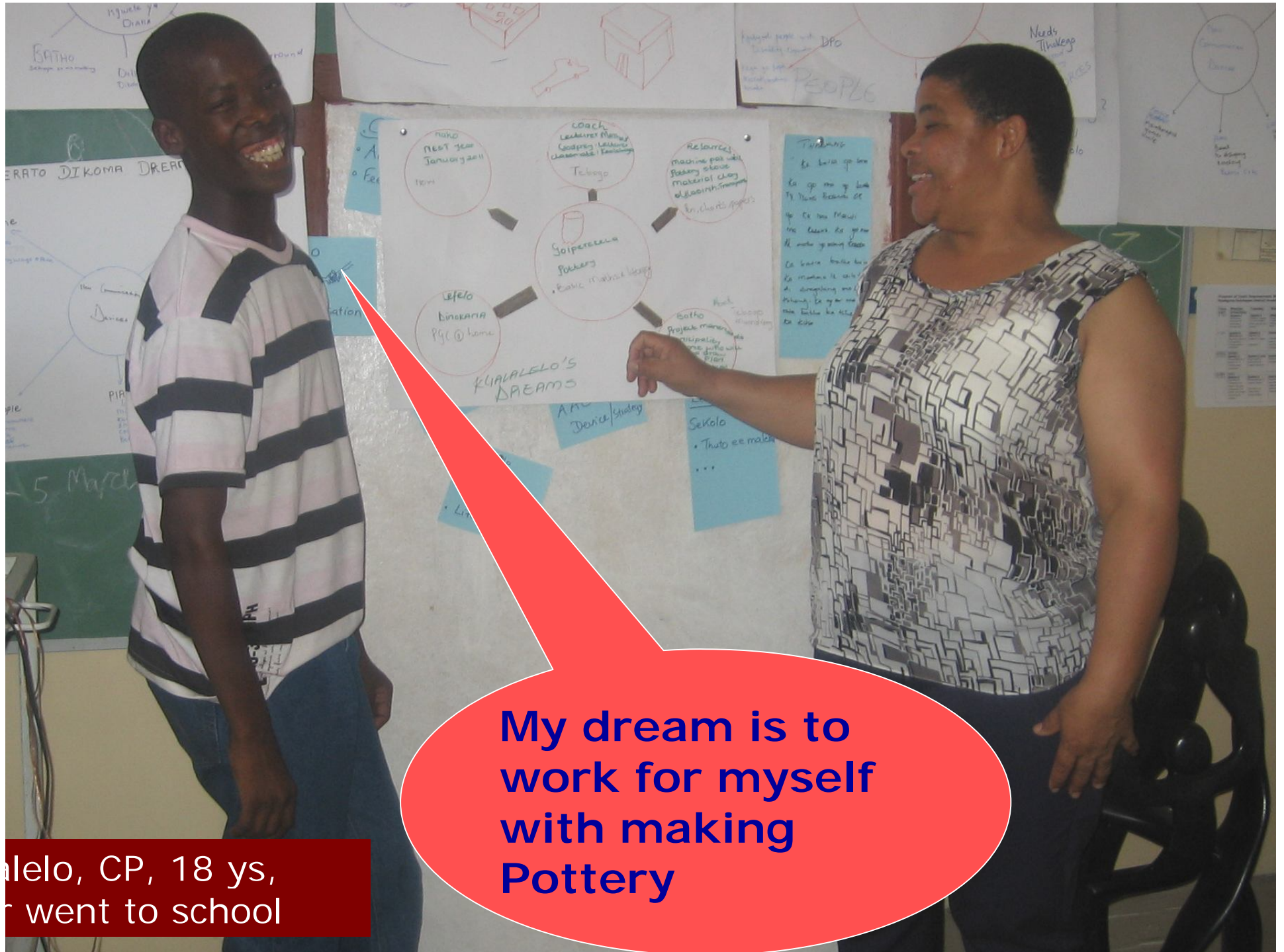
- ✦ First I have to learn **English**
- ✦ I have hope
- ✦ I see that to have a dream is important to achieve a better future

Magadi



Queen

Magadi, CP athetoid, 25;
never went to school; taught
in PGC Setswana literacy
within one year!



**My dream is to
work for myself
with making
Pottery**

Khalalelo, CP, 18 ys,
went to school

Mabang, CP, 27ys, Drop out at
Disability School at Gr 4



My dream is to work
in the **PGC**
wheelchair repair
& to coach netball in
our village

pressure sores,
admitted at
Gelukspan Hospital
& attending
Tlamelang School

I am still young
But I want to
become a doctor
I will work hard



Day 4: Implementing: ordering by myself (at Spur)



Lerato using *Tech Speak*



Ke batla -Ice
cream - enyane

Eng?

Challenge :Overcoming barriers

Isch... music,
its too noisy
here

i-ceam

I can't
understand, what
does he say?



Ice
cream

Back to low tech

Which one? – That one



Achievements of participants

- ✦ The speed of achieving was amazing
- ✦ **June 2010** - 3 participants had a laptop: 1 through family, 1 through saving strategy with own disability grant, 1 as a sponsorship
- ✦ **October 2010**: 2 persons started to work: pottery and wheelchair repair
- ✦ **June 2011**: 2 received a voice output device (Go talk)
- ✦ Everybody progressed, even our Centre achieved a longstanding dream

Communication Barriers and others



Barriers faced by participants during the year

- ✦ Family problems (death in family)

- Slow down due to lack of finance, depression

- ✦ Accessibility issues once the device was there

- ✦ Negative attitudes & reluctance to share resources e.g. not allowed to use electricity for laptop studies in school due to jealousy

- Feeling discouraged → getting new courage in next module

- R. Kelly: "You kept the fire burning, You kept hope alive"

What helped Solofelang to stay on track

- ✦ Reflection on individuals and their progress
- ✦ Responding to participants problems
- ✦ During onsite weeks ongoing evaluation (daily or every second day)
- ✦ After the week full evaluation
- ✦ Having a group aim too
- ✦ Continuing with individuals between onsite weeks

Conclusion

- ✦ Solofelang is exciting for all of us
- ✦ We encourage similar efforts: Make the dress fit you! Don't force to be the same – you will never achieve that : Acknowledge your special needs in your environment
- ✦ Dare to be unique
- ✦ Dream with the people – take off
- ✦ Mold the jug as you go, keep it moist

A woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, is seated in a wheelchair. She is smiling and holding a spoon in her right hand. Her left hand is resting on a custom-built joystick device. A blue strap is secured across her lap. In the foreground, on a wooden table, is a communication board with a grid of icons and a blue base with controls. Next to it is a bowl of ice cream with colorful sprinkles. To the right, a small box labeled 'Spin Magic Spin' is visible. A young boy is partially visible on the left, also smiling. A red speech bubble in the upper right corner contains the text 'Thank you for your patience and your listening'.

Thank you for
your patience
and your
listening

**Try your own project and enjoy it
like ice-cream!**