



BONEPWA+ Newsletter

No. 1 Jan / March 2004

"We are embarking on a future with Hope"

FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS is a national umbrella (NGO) network formed by and for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) It was established in 2000. The network exists to improve the well being and quality of life for all PLWHAs and to protect the nation of Botswana from HIV infection by promoting positive living, self reliance and reduction of infection rates through HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care.

This is the first issue and first effort of BONEPWA+ to bring Newsletter to you to disseminate HIV/AIDS related issues and BONEPWA+ activities. As it is a first issue it has captured some important information from last year 2003.

In this issue:

- **PLWHAs as Ambassador of hope.**
- **2nd National Conference for PLWHAs**
- **Members trained on skill oriented trainings**
- **WAD**
- **Others**

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PLWHA as change agent reaches to Primary School.

A child friendly school AIDS education programme was implemented as a partnership programme with UNICEF and in collaboration with Ministry of Education. It is a unique program in the country as well as in the region that address reduction of stigma and discrimination and enhance greater involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS. 30 PLWHAs were trained to take up responsibility as field education officer. A consultative

workshop was held with Regional Education officers, District AIDS Coordinators and FEOs. The FEOs were in place by October 2004. The pilot project completed by November 2004. 27 FEOs worked hard to reach a total of 33 primary schools of the country. Evaluation of the project is expected to be conducted within March 2004. Based on the evaluation and recommendation, BONEPWA+ will take into the possibilities of reaching all 670 Primary schools. Efforts have been made to mobilize the fund from UNICEF.

SUPPORT GROUPS ELECTED NEW BOARD

For the first time after the establishment of BONEPWA+ an AGM was held and elected new board on 28 February 2004. The new board members are;

Ms. Elizabeth M. Montseng, Chairperson
 Mr. Zolani Kraai, Vice Chairperson
 Mr. Onangoni Moalosi Treasurer
 Ms. S.Kalane, Secretary
 Mr. T.Letsoman Vice Secretary
 Mr. Monthusi Kenosi Additional Member
 Ms.Nono Molephe, Additional Member
 Ms. Sarah Seabelo, Additional Member
 Mrs. Collen Pule, Additional Member
 Pastor L.Mpietsile, Additional Member

2nd National Conference for PLWHA



2ND National Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS was successfully organized in Francistown from 28-30 November 2003. The theme of the conference was "**Stigma and Discrimination, Live and Let Live: we are embarking the future of hope**" The objective of the conference was to

provide a floor to share experiences and update latest information on issues related to HIV/AIDS. With a great enthusiasm more than 300 PLWHAs from all over Botswana attended the conference. The conference provided a wide range of information and best practices to the participants on HIV/AIDS care, support and prevention. Speakers presented valuable information on HIV, AIDS, Vaccine Trials, Nutrition, Counselling, Law and Ethics, PMTCT, VTC, Role of support groups. Plenary and parallel sessions were conducted. In order to enhance better understanding, topics were presented in English and Setswana. The success of the conference was due to tireless

We have moved.

BONEPWA + office has moved from Plot 5306 Village Shashe road to Plot 5346, Extension 11. You can find us very easily. If you are from Gaborone Sun Hotel to BBS Mall take left in the first robot. Go straight until you find Food Mart Mall Turn left from Nashua Cellular Bill Board. We are at first house on right corner.

BONEPWA+ Members trained on Skill Oriented trainings

Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA+) organized skill oriented training programmes to build the capacity of support groups.

A five days Lay counselling training was organized in Mochudi from 22/03/ 04 to 26/ 03 / 04

A total of 13 support groups benefited from the training programme. The participants will start lay counselling from the respective support groups.

Proposal writing and Report writing training was organized to enable support groups to access fund and be accountable for the activity and fund they receives It was organized in Kweneng Education Centre from 25 /03 /04 to 27 / 03 /04 A total of 20 participants attended the course.

Organizational Development and management of training was organized to strengthen the support groups with the technical support of Oakwood Associates and Consultants (Pty) Ltd from 29/03/04 to 02/04/04 A total of 21 Support Groups benefited from the training programme.

ORPHAN CARE PROGRAM BENEFITED FROM BONEPWA+ DOTANTIIONS

Dula Sentle, Otse, Mothers Union Day Care Centre, Mahalapye and Shelter for Hopeful Community, Ramotswa received donations from BOENPWA+ during a program organized for them on 10/03/04 Invited guests from NACA Mr. B. Monare, Mr. J. Shah Patron BONEPWA+, appreciated the deeds of BONEPWA+ in regards of care and support Presents were from Ministry of Health, Chairperson BONEPWA+ and other stakeholders. Arrangement for donation items wre done according to their felt need. Upon consultation with these organizations BONEPWA+ donated bath towels 50 and face towels 50 for Dula Sentle and Mothers Union Orphan Care Centre and 20" Colour TV and VCR for Shelter for Hopeful Community for educational programme for orphan.



BONEPWA+ in conjunction with DMSAC Francistown observed WAD on 1st December 2003.

World AIDS Day was commemorated on 1st December 2003 with the theme "Stigma and Discrimination: Live and Let Live" at the National Level in Francistown. The programme included March from different points to the stadium, exhibition of materials prepared by support groups. Attraction of the commemoration was speech of His Excellency the President Festus Mogae, which showed national commitment towards care and

support of PLWHAs and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Piter Piot from UNAIDS, Major Ruranga from Uganda were also key guests from abroad to join us the commemoration. Chairperson of the BONEPWA+ Ms. Elizabeth Mpule Montsheng together with Mr. J. Shah Patron presented commitment Plaque to the president on behalf of BONEPWA+. The programme was organized in conjunction with DMSAC Francistown and BONEPWA+.

REGENT INSURANCE, STANBIC BANK DONATED BONEPWA+



Regent Insurance Botswana donated P 10 000 on behalf of their organization and staffs for orphan care and Stanbic Bank donated P 7000 to BONEPWA+ as a matching fund to purchase vehicle. The donation was presented on 10/03/04 at BONEPWA+ Office in presence of guests from NACA, BONEPWA+ stakeholders and others. BTV failed to cover event though they confirmed to cover. During the program Guests as well as Mr. David Chizao Ngele, National Coordinator thanked both organizations for their kind cooperation.

BONEPWA+ SUPPORTS SUPPORT GROUPS

BONEPWA+ Support Groups were benefited from grants for various activities. Vision Support Group Mahalapye was supported for holding a workshop for PLWHAs on HIV/AIDS and positive living with the technical support of Mahalapye Hospital Positive Living Helper Cell, Selebe/Phikwe was supported for their planned activities in the area of IEC and capacity building.

Dr. Shea Nwako, Coordinator, Mothers Union Day care Centre received

commodities; 50 crates of Tomato souse and Tissue Papers from CA Sales through BONEPWA+.



BONEPWA+ Participated in District AIDS Fairs.

BONEPWA+ participated in AIDS fair organized by various DMSAC. It took part especially in the IEC exhibitions. Pamphlets, Brochures, Banners, Reports, T-Shirts, Bag, and Umbrella etc were displayed and distributed. Kweneng Coalition of Support Group Displayed and sold their hand made materials like beaded ornaments, red ribbon etc. AIDS fair organized in Serowe, Mochudi and Gantsi were also attended and stalled the exhibition.

BONEPWA+ with Faith Based Organization

Ms. Elizabeth Mpule Montsheng Chairperson, Mr David chizao Ngele and Mrs. Grace Sedio from BONEPWA+ visited Ratholo Village to address Full Gospel After Christ Church (FGAC) in April 2004 during Easter Holidays.



Faith Based Organizations are now coming up to reduce the stigma and discrimination in regards of HIV/AIDS and play a key role in prevention of HIV/AIDS and care and support of PLWHAs.

BONEPWA+ HAVE NOW 65 AFFILIATED SUPPORT GROUPS

