



## ACTPSA Newsletter March -April Edition (2014)

“ Empowering children through play”



### Southern Africa Play Conference

“Protecting children through play”

tdh in partnership with A Chance To Play Southern Africa and Cotlands is hosting Southern Africa's first Regional Play Conference in May from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. The conference features presentations by academics and practitioners, many play events and ideas, panel discussions with government officials and perspectives on children's rights to play. The expected outcome of the conference is to develop advocacy strategies for promoting play.

### Editor's Note

Greetings from ACTPSA to all our valued supporters and partners.

The month of April marks the end of our first quarter of the year. Our newsletter brings an update on our recent activities. Firstly ACTPSA would like to welcome the newly appointed Fundraiser/Coordinator Regina Mandikonza who joined us in mid-February. She has met some of you via email and telephone, and she looks forward to meeting you in person at our upcoming Regional Play Conference.

With increased capacity in the ACTPSA office we've been able to achieve more. In publications, we updated and reprinted the ACTP manual and ACTP SA flyer, completed a new ACTP Play Today Parenting Booklet, which contains more information for parents than we were able to provide in the popular Play Today pamphlets for parents. Additionally we've planned, prepared and run our first Youth Play Facilitator training workshop, and we've participated in the planning of the first Southern African Regional Play Conference and World Play Day which will take place in May.



*"Play is a child's first claim on the community. No community can infringe that right without doing deep and enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens."*

*Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, 1926*



## Youth Play Facilitators Training

The Youth Play Facilitators training workshop is a regional project supported by tdh to train young people who are passionate about children and their right to play. These young people will form clubs and be play ambassadors within selected schools/churches/villages/communities which agree to participate in the programme.

ACTPSA and tdh involved young people in the design of this programme at a regional tdh meeting held in Johannesburg in 2013. Only youth who were attached to a *tdh* funded organisation could participate. The training they received was 2.5 days of training on how to use the ACTP manual in order to plan, implement, and evaluate play related programming. 17 organisations attended the training from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Shadrack Mphela from Woz'obona was the trainer and the topics that were covered were introduction to play, qualities of a good play facilitator, facilitation of play and development of play plans. A more complete report, with more pictures and participant interviews will be included in our June newsletter.

## World Play Day (WPD)



World Play Day is an international event that is celebrated in more than 30 countries worldwide on the 28th May each year. The reason for promoting World Play Day is to emphasize the importance of play as it provides us with a universal language and a common forum for interacting with one another.

The theme for this year's WPD in South Africa is **"The Right to Play."**

We hope that all ACTP partners will find a way to celebrate World Play Day this year, and remind you that your story of WPD can be featured in our ACTP SA newsletter - simply send us your photos and stories, and we will incorporate them into our next newsletter.

## Social Networks

Please note that the only official Facebook page for ACTPSA is the one that has an ACTPSA logo as a profile picture and this is the one that we should all be currently using.

We encourage you to communicate with us through our Facebook page and share it with your partners and colleagues. Our Twitter account is still new, please do follow us and we will keep you updated with all the current happenings.



@AChanceToPlay



A Chance To Play Southern Africa

### The impact of play: Munashe Matimba's Story



*Munashe is a young boy who is a beneficiary of the Community Arts project (CAP) in Zimbabwe and enjoys playing soccer. He has become a soccer captain, thanks to the training and mentoring he received from CAP. In addition to nurturing leadership CAP offers drama and dance. Munashe also joined a club called "Black Stars" where he also excelled in acting and singing. He was chosen by a local television station to perform a part in a child's play. Munashe says that he has gained leadership skills, acting skills, the ability to play and interact with others, and that play has also helped him to deal with psychosocial issues in his own life. In a nutshell, Munashe has been enabled and powered through play. Munashe says "I'm never bored I always have fun with my peers. Playing for a few hours with my friends does not affect my education. Play is healthy."*

Your feedback is valuable; please send comments to [coordination-sa@a-chance-to-play.org](mailto:coordination-sa@a-chance-to-play.org)

Our most sincere apologies for the errors in the last newsletter. Our normal editing process was disrupted and many mistakes slipped through. We identified the gap and filled it, and now assure you that future newsletters will be of a higher standard. We are also using a new software to improve the quality of our newsletter.