

World Education Forum of Youth Report

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WEFY

WEFY, World Education Forum of Youth, is the youth section of the WEF. WEFY takes the form of a forum for youth groups around the world to come together and work under the banner of WEF. Currently there are groups in Australia, (WEFY Australia); the Netherlands, (Duara); Kenya, (Maji Mazuri) and South Africa, (South African Youth Forum of Education, SAYFE).

WEFY by its very nature is a global and diverse section of WEF. In this issue of New Horizons we have given a brief overview of WEFY activities in Australia, and included a report from the Dutch group outlining their work. We hope to include reports and updates of other WEFY groups in future editions. If you are interested in knowing more about WEFY, any of the WEFY groups or would like to participate in WEFY events or projects please email wefyaus@yahoo.com.au or visit www.duara.org/wefy

WEFY Australia report

Four members of WEFY International WEF Conference Following a great meeting around the world could meet and experiences the WEFY home with enthusiasm to maintain links with WEFY



Australia attended the in Mumbai, January 2004. where youth members from face to face and share ideas Australia members returned develop WEFY Australia and groups internationally.

Every three months members in Sydney and Melbourne meet via phone and discuss how, why and what activities to focus on. As a result the Sydney members co-hosted with WEF NSW an evening with Trish Highfield from ChilOut, to learn more about the situation for children in detention.

In Melbourne, a fundraising event was held to support Maji Mazuri the Kenyan WEFY group. Bree Rankin who had spent two months in Kenya attending Maji Mazuri activities and weekly meetings prior to the conference in India showed photos and talked about her visit. Funds raised contributed to the group's end of year trip to the coast at Mombasa. For young people living in poverty in the Mathare Valley, this trip is a major highlight.



Members of the Maji Mazuri youth group during the groups' clean up day in their community



The Maji Mazuri youth group provide breakfast to children who require it in their community

This year the Sydney members plan to work in conjunction with aid organisations within a tsunami affected community in Sri Lanka. A fundraising event for Maji Mazuri the Kenyan WEFY group is also planned.

Melbourne members hope to co-host a conference with WEF Victoria in Melbourne. They hope to invite South African WEFY member, Mishwell Mathebula, as a guest speaker.

It is hoped these activities will generate more WEFY Australia members.

Duara, Netherlands Report

The WEFY group in the Netherlands has had a busy year. Duara has been active in various areas:

1. Counselling and guiding (student) volunteers to work in Kenya

Our seventh Dutch volunteer has returned to The Netherlands in February 2005 and we are currently preparing four other students to go and work in the Maji Mazuri Centre for six months starting in October 2005. Furthermore we are involved in the development of a new course at the college in Rotterdam enabling students to graduate in 'International Aid and Development Work'. This will guarantee a steady flow of well-prepared volunteers to the Maji Mazuri Centre in the future.

2. Organize fundraisings in our community for the Mathare Maji Mazuri Youth group in Kenya

We have been able to secure a small network of monthly donors for the project activities of the Maji Mazuri Centre. We are still in the process of enlarging this network so that staff salaries of the Maji Mazuri Centre can be paid until the projects have reached the point of self-sufficiency. Besides this we are currently planning four major events, a gala dinner, a benefit concert, a church function and a festival at schools, to raise funds for the Maji Mazuri Centre in collaboration with a big donor organization. These events will take place from April 2005 until April 2006.

We are also still involved in writing more proposals for specific project activities concerning the youth and handicapped children.

3. Assisting the Maji Mazuri Centre in the communication with possible donor organization and conference organizers relevant to the Centre.

When necessary Duara functions as a back office for the Maji Mazuri Centre for instance in the case of the upcoming conferences to be held in the USA and in Guinea Bissau, this March and April, organized by the World Youth Organization for Human Welfare.

4. Support the Maji Mazuri Centre on management level

Duara assists the Maji Mazuri Centre in the evaluation of project activities every six months and in the development of new project activities with the aim to achieve self-sufficiency in the near future.

We are also supporting individual youth members to follow training and we hope to expand this activity in the near future.