

Assembly Ideas

Young people affected by HIV

Introduction

Young people around the world are affected by HIV and AIDS, their families are infected, they care for ill parents and live in desperate poverty. Most HIV children are infected by their mother. Most pregnant women don't have access to treatment that would prevent their baby contracting HIV. Many of those young people do not have access to the drugs that could keep them alive and well.

Activity

Focus on Cambodia. There is a video that talks about the problems facing Cambodia that has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in Asia.

www.shades4aids.org/DVD_cambodia.html

There are countless stories of children with HIV. For example, Dina's mother died from HIV Aids in Battambang Hospital. At the age of five and with no one to care for him, Dina wandered the hospital halls begging and stealing. After nearly a month, a concerned hospital worker paid a motorcycle driver one dollar to drive him to the Hope for Cambodian Children centre. Testimonies about living with HIV and AIDS are available on:

www.shades4AIDS/HIV_Facts/children-stories.htm

Young people making a difference

Introduction

Young Australian people can make a real difference in the fight against HIV, by supporting the Shades 4 AIDS Day campaign to eradicate in Cambodia the transmission of HIV from mother to child, as well as supporting those children that have HIV/AIDS.

Activity

Ask the pupils to wear sunglasses on **Shades 4 AIDS Day on Friday 4th September 2009** and bring a gold coin donation to the Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation. Ask the pupils how they would best communicate with their peers about the issues faced by children with HIV.

Follow Up

Activities for class groups, personal development, art or drama: Develop HIV prevention resources for other young people, these could take the form of posters, leaflets or perhaps dramas. Posters and leaflets could be displayed on a central noticeboard. Dramas could be performed in subsequent assemblies.

Living with HIV in the Australia

Invite a speaker from an organisation that supports people living with HIV to an assembly. Encourage the pupils to think about the issues beforehand and to prepare questions.

www.aidstrust.com.au

It is also a good idea to check in your area to see if there is a local organisation close to your school supporting people living with HIV. Prompt a discussion on life with HIV in

Australia, what the key issues are and how they could be overcome. You could discuss how individuals can help as well as society as a whole.

Explain that today's assembly will be about pledging action and deciding on something that we will do to encourage others to take action on Shades 4 AIDS Day. Together we CAN stop the spread of HIV to children and end prejudice.

HIV around the world

Ask pupils who have participated in the research activity to present their findings from work on The Social, Cultural and Economic Impact of HIV.

Introduction

Covering the following points:

What is HIV?

What is AIDS?

How is HIV transmitted to children?

Who is affected by HIV?

Use the HIV Facts section from this pack or visit

www.shades4aidsday.org

Music for Assemblies

Music can be a powerful way of getting the message across to young people.

Positive Media Messages

MAGZ says hip-hop music is one of the best ways to spread the word on HIV and AIDS:

"Kids all around the world are into hip-hop."

NEW YORK, USA, 9 November 2005 – At first glance 18-year-old MAGZ appears to be just like any other up-and-coming young artist on the hip-hop music scene. But his latest song – 'People Are You Listening?' – has a serious message for the world's children, which he delivers via the power of music, in an initiative with UNICEF. The song is a call to action www.unicef.org/aids/index_29783.html

Photographic images

Use photos or photo journalism from the BBC News website. Search for HIV and AIDS and then look at the 'In pictures' section. For example, for positive images go to www.onevision2006.org

Millennium Development Goals

Ask classes to explore Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals: to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Explore what needs to be done to achieve this goal and what the consequences of not achieving it might be. Ask pupils to create images that show what we can do to contribute to Goal 6. For support use:

www.un.org/cyberschoolbus

ME...

Wear sunglasses all day on Shades 4 AIDS Day and encourage your pupils to do the same. Just by making HIV visible, you are both showing your support and encouraging people to find out the facts about HIV.

Put up some posters in your school. If you are fundraising for the Hope for Cambodia Children Foundation, we can give you some materials for free. Just contact our fundraisers on 0409 441781 or info@hopeforcambodianchildren.org

Organise an AIDS awareness assembly for Shades 4 AIDS Day using the assembly ideas in this pack.

Encourage your school / class to organise a Shades 4 AIDS Day. Ask everyone at your school to come in wearing sunglasses, and ask them to bring in a small donation in exchange.

Photocopy the “you” pages of this section and hand them out to all your pupils. This fact sheet is addressed to pupils and tells them how they can get involved in raising HIV awareness and funds with our support. The “us” fact sheet gives ideas about how teachers and pupils can work together to support Shades 4 AIDS Day and the cause of HIV children, as a class or as a school. You may also want to provide copies of this to your pupils.

As a teacher you have already contributed to the fight against HIV by ordering this Schools Pack and incorporating the material into your lessons. We have decided to put young people at the heart of our Shades 4 AIDS Day Campaign, as in many ways they have been the generation that missed out on HIV awareness messages – and because young people are the decision makers and opinion formers of the future. There are lots of other things you can do to help really engage your pupils and make a difference, and it does not have to finish on Shades 4 AIDS Day.

Take a Hope for Cambodian Children donation box – If you are willing to allow pupils to wear sunglasses at school in return for a small donation to the Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation, we will send you a poster free. Or order a donation box from our website. You can then organise a collection round classrooms or in assembly. Some schools like to organize an event such as a rock concert or fashion show and charge people an entrance fee. It’s an excuse to have fun and make a difference at the same time! Order a donation box online at www.hopeforcambodianchildren.org/donationbox.asp

Organise a Shades 4 AIDS Fete at school – Organise a traditional fundraising fete for Shades 4 AIDS with a bring and buy, lucky dip, raffle (with prizes donated by local businesses) and competitions.

US...

You can make a difference on your own but you could also make the biggest impact by encouraging your whole class or school to get involved. Here are some ideas:

Wear sunglasses on Shades 4 AIDS Day and encourage others to do the same.

Hold your own event at home or in your youth group. You could hold a Shades 4 AIDS dinner party for your friends with everyone wearing sunglasses in return for a donation.

Get the facts about HIV and make sure you know how a child can be saved from contracting HIV or how to protect yourself from HIV by visiting: www.shades4aids.org/HIV_facts.asp

Talk to friends and family about children with HIV –

Tell them a fact that you have learnt and discuss it. Did you know that in 2007 over 400,000 children worldwide were infected with HIV?

Talk to friends and family about HIV in Australia -

Did they know that in 2008 saw an increase in the number of new diagnoses of HIV in most states in Australia?

Donation.

Did you know that for just \$250 you can save a child in Cambodian from contracting HIV?

Get sponsored.

Do something yourself to raise money for the Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation – you could do a sponsored swim, cycle or silence, or come up with your own idea.

YOU...

Shades 4 AIDS Day, Friday 4th September 2009, is an opportunity for young people to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This year, it's up to you, me and us to stop the spread of HIV to children and end prejudice. From wearing sunglasses at school, attend an event, you can get involved as little or as much as you want and make a real difference.

Donation

On Shades 4 AIDS bring a gold coin donation for the fight against AIDS.

Get other people involved! Talk to your teacher about doing something as a class or school to mark Shades 4 AIDS Day.

Ask about getting a Hope for Cambodian Children donation box for your school or speak to your parents about whether they could take a donation box to work.

Become a friend through Facebook or myspace. Submit a picture or add a comment about what you are going to do on Shades 4 AIDS Day and help to encourage others to take action. If you have a personal experience of HIV, why not share your story as a message of hope and strength. Visit

www.facebook.com (search for Shades 4 AIDS Day 2009 – Let's Get Talking) or