



Annual Report

2009

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About TeachOut

“TeachOut aims to harness the experience and expertise of UCT students to provide academic assistance to high school learners in Cape Town's disadvantaged communities.”

For many South Africans, economic exclusion and debilitating poverty appear to be the norm. The most compelling solution to this problem is improved education of our youth. However, despite the dire necessity for education, schools in poor communities remain handicapped by resource constraints and overworked educators. The end result of this is that even talented youngsters are unable to achieve academically, limiting future entry into tertiary study and employment prospects.

Our guiding philosophy is that ordinary university students, even those without any formal teaching experience, can transfer their academic skills to high school learners. We understand that we cannot replace classroom instruction as the cornerstone of the educational system. Instead, we must work with and supplement the efforts of teachers. As such, our tutorials focus on getting learners to practise examination-type problems in their academic subjects. This helps them develop confidence in tackling problems and allows us to identify and correct gaps in their understanding. We try to maintain small tutor-learner ratios as one of our main aims is to provide learners with a level individual attention that overworked teachers cannot.





Director's Overview

This year was a very busy year for TeachOut. We started the year with just under a hundred volunteers, overcame a few challenges and constraints, developed a new website, and began tutorials at two new schools. 2009 would not have been possible without the dedicated hard work of the TeachOut Committee, or the generous sponsorship from Swiss Re.

We had 147 successful tutorials taking place in 5 locations: Intsebenziswano Secondary, Sophumelela Secondary, Zisukhanyo Secondary, Christel House and Yabonga. The tutorials covered Mathematics, English, Functional English, Science and Accounting. Overall, 88% of our planned tutorials took place. Taking into account our problems with Intsebenziswano, our financial difficulties during the first half of the year, and the disruptions caused by university and school holidays not coinciding, we believe we had a very successful year.

During the first half of the year we faced some organisational difficulties with Intsebenziswano, which led to us having to make the unfortunate decision to cease operations with the school during the second half of the year. We used the resulting excess capacity to start holding tutorials with Christel House and Yabonga. Christel House is a charity school in Ottery that provides a rich education to children from disadvantaged communities. Yabonga is an organisation that provides help and support to HIV/AIDS affected families. This expansion was a great success and we intend to continue with Yabonga and Christel House in 2010.

This is also the first year that Ubunye, our umbrella organisation, played a stronger guiding role. This year Ubunye implemented financial procedures, performance management procedures and constitutional amendments that applied across all of the Ubunye projects. Ubunye was also recognised by the University as a Development Agency. The new Ubunye office provides us with a much needed space on campus. As well as coordinating two recruitment drives at the start of each university semester, Ubunye provided a comprehensive training weekend for all the new TeachOut committee members. This was well attended, and the new committee is motivated and full of new ideas for 2010.

TeachOut's academic subject coordinators had a very busy year, having constantly to revise and create new worksheets. Despite this considerable stress, we were never without worksheets thanks to their constant hard work. Volunteers and learners gave us consistently positive feedback, with our new Functional English programme shown to be a great success. We also improved our digital presence with a new website and weekly updates provided through the University's Vula Portal.

All in all, 2009 was a great year for TeachOut. We made new partnerships and strengthened some existing ones. We consistently made a difference to the lives of many learners in Cape Town's communities and broadened the horizons of our volunteers. We also laid the foundations for a successful year in 2010.

Year Summary

Term	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Total
Successful	59	41	29	18	147
Planned	63	46	32	26	167
Success Rate	94%	89%	91%	69%	88%
	1 st Semester		2 nd Semester		
Learners Tutored:	± 250		± 180		
Volunteers Active	39 - 76		32 - 45		

Subject	# Tutorials
Mathematics	59
Science	36
Functional English	36
English	9
Accounting	7

We held weekly tutorials at five schools and at Yabonga in 2009. Tutorials consisted of transporting a group of volunteers to the learners, where they spent between an hour and an hour and a half tutoring learners. Transport for most of the tutorials made use of an external transport service, while only a few relied on volunteers for transport.

TeachOut has been running after-school tutorials at Sophumelela, Zisukhanyo and Intsebenziswano in Philippi/Samora Machel for the past 3 years. Christel House (Ottery) and Yabonga(Nyanga/Crossroads) are recent additions – both approached us and asked for assistance during the first half of the year.

Where possible we coordinated the content of our tutorials with the content being taught in class. This meant that our tutors did not have to face the difficulties of teaching new material, but could focus on reinforcing and revising work that had already been taught.

Towards the end of the first term we faced some financial difficulties and were therefore forced to make use of cheaper, but less reliable volunteer transport. Since very few of our volunteers had cars and were willing to drive, this resulted in 4 tutorials being cancelled until the end of the second term. Aside from these cancellations, the TeachOut committee ensured the other tutorials continued without problems. Volunteers from one of the cancelled Mathematics tutorials helped create new mathematics worksheets in order to alleviate the pressure on the Mathematics coordinator.

Sophumelela was the one of two schools where TeachOut held Saturday tutorials as well as weekday tutorials. On Saturdays, tutors for a variety of subjects were provided. Learners then chose the subjects with which they were having the most difficulty and tutors either answered any questions learners

School Summary

Tables show number of tutorials that happened at each school in 2009

Mathematics	28	Sophumelela
Science	6	
Accounting	7	
Functional English	13	
Zisukhanyo	Mathematics	21
	Science	25
	Functional English	8
Intsebenziswano	Mathematics	4
	Science	5
	English	5
	Functional English	5
Christel House	Mathematics	6
	English	4
Yabonga	Functional English	10

Pictures from 2009



Volunteers wait to be assigned to groups at the training day



Some volunteers at the social after the training day



A volunteer tutors Functional English at Yabonga

had or went through worksheets. However, due to financial constraints, and problems with learner attendance we did not hold Saturday tutorials during the second half of the year. Tutorials were almost always successful, except during the difficult Matric exam period. TeachOut appreciates the help and support from teachers at the school which made this possible.

Only weekday tutorials were held at **Zisukhanyo** this year – the teachers felt that Saturday classes would not be needed. Tutorials were consistently successful, although they sometimes experienced low learner turnouts. Our contact teacher at the school was very supportive, often advising changes in our tutorial schedules. This help was much appreciated.

Tutorials at **Intsebenziswano** began fairly smoothly during the first term, but due to major communication problems with the school, only one tutorial managed to happen during the second term. The disruptions lead to two volunteers resigning from TeachOut, as well as reducing learner confidence in TeachOut. At the same time, some of our partner organizations were experiencing similar ongoing difficulties in coordinating after-school activities. As a result of these ongoing problems, the committee decided to formally withdraw from the school in order to make better use of our limited resources.



Evaluations

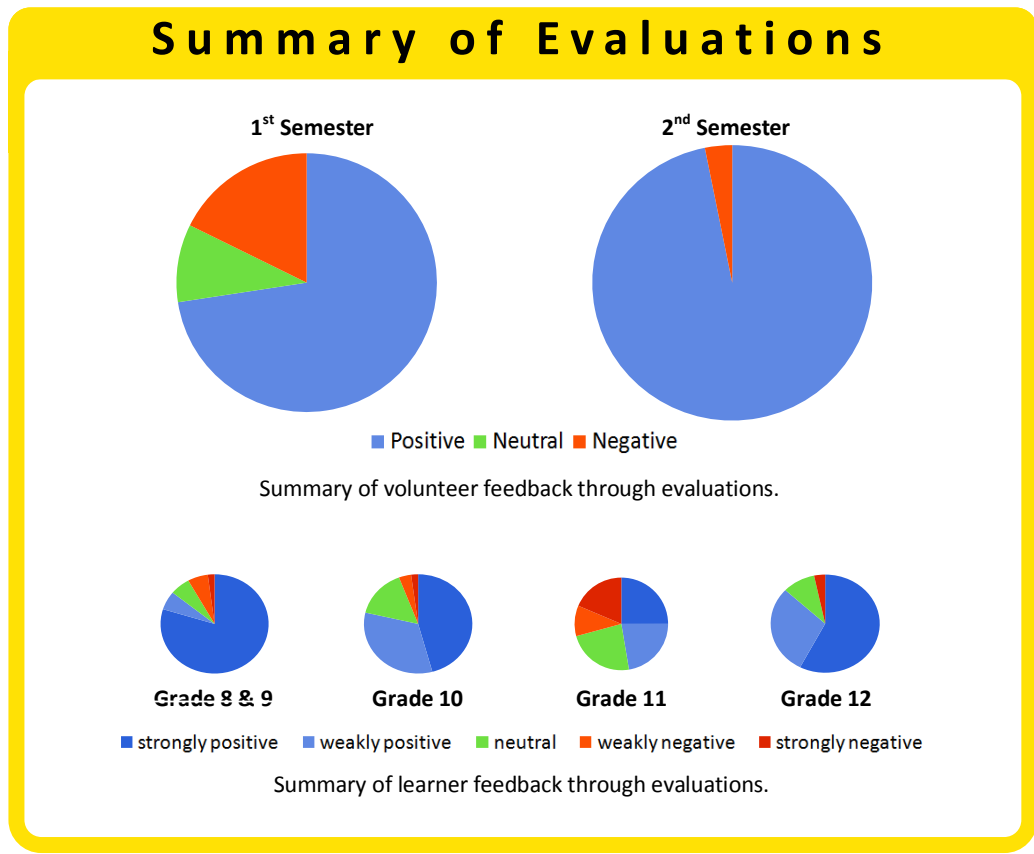
During 2009 TeachOut conducted three main evaluations: recruitment/training evaluations, mid-year evaluations, and end-of-year evaluations. This report will just highlight important aspects of these evaluations. More detailed information can be obtained in our quarterly reports accessible from our website, www.teachout.co.za.

Evaluations of the recruitment and training showed that volunteers were mostly happy with the recruitment procedures, but would have liked more specific and hands on training. It was also shown that most successful recruitment mechanisms were our recruitment stall, presentations during the UCT's orientation week, word of mouth and previous experiences with our organisation.

The mid-year evaluations were very positive. Volunteers reported that they were very pleased with their involve-

ment, and aside from some problems with learner attendance there was very little negative feedback. Learners were also pleased with TeachOut and reported back that TeachOut was helping to improve their academics. The feedback from our Function English was overwhelmingly positive, with learners only having positive things to say. A large percentage of learners also reported a desire for us to provide a snack during the tutorial, an idea that we hope to implement in 2010.

The end of year evaluations continued to be positive. Volunteers reported that they were more satisfied with TeachOut's operations and had almost nothing negative to say. Learners reported that they expected an improvement in the December results over their June results, which tells us that the learners have a positive outlook, but we would have to look at actual results in order to confirm any improvement.



Financial Report

BANK BALANCE 5 November 2008	R	5,853.07	Notes
Income from this period			
Sponsorship & Donations	R	27,000.00	1
Interest	R	265.73	
Internet Advertising	R	930.41	2
Total Income	R	28,196.14	
Expenses from this period			
Bank Charges	R	149.13	
Photocopying & Binding	R	1,493.90	3
SMS Communication	R	615.60	4
Telephone Communication	R	170.00	5
Training & Events	R	310.00	6
Transfers to Partner Organisations	R	6,210.00	7
Transport	R	19,280.00	8
Transport (other)	R	1760.00	9
Web	R	50.00	10
Total Expenses	R	-28,593.23	
Deficit for period	R	-397.09	
BANK BALANCE 31 November 2009	R	5,455.98	

Notes

- One payment was received from Swiss Re.
- One payment was received from a company for advertising on the Teachout website
- This amount was reimbursed to Duncan Clough.
- This amount was paid to SMS portal, an external service provider, for SMS credits.
- This amount was paid to Robyn Thomas, the committee's logistics co-ordinator for cell phone and Telkom expenses.
- Expenses included food, drinks and other refreshments. This payment was made to Matthew Sharp, a committee member.
- TeachOut repaid bridging finance to Ubunye which covered the group's transport expenses earlier in the year. This money was used to pay for urgent Transport expenses.
- These amounts represent our payments to Mdu's Transport during the year.
- Eight members of TeachOut were reimbursed for petrol and services provided through the term.
- This amount was paid to Uniform SA for our yearly subscription for the domain www.teachout.co.za

Due to the new, standardised Ubunye financial procedures being introduced mid-year, TeachOut's financial statements for the 2008-2009 period span just over a year. This means that the four terms are irregular periods, with the first period beginning slightly earlier than the intended date of 1 December. For 2010 TeachOut will be able to report according to Ubunye's standard financial year.

thank you to

Swiss Re

without their support

2009 would not

have been possible