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IMPACT

Together for a better community!

Jiu Valley HIV/AIDS Forum

IMPACT Lupeni

Lupeni, Romania

26 November 2004

Project Summary

The HIV/AIDS forum was organized on the occasion of world's AIDS Day. The IMPACT 2 members in Lupeni wanted to show their support and solidarity for the people who live with this horrible disease as well as to educate those who are not infected or those who have lost a dear. We chose to organize this event hoping to facilitate the exchange of information and communication between different organizations that deal with this issue such as regional and national NGO's, local authorities, groups of people and families affected by HIV/AIDS, teachers and clerics.

Problem Statement / Justification

International statistics show that until now, 22 million people have died and other 33 million are currently carrying the HIV virus.

In Romania the number of HIV infections is 15 998 of which 4 669 are children, a significant concentration of them being from the Jiu Valley. Many of these received HIV from blood transfusions.

Objectives

- Increase compassionate youth involvement towards people carrying HIV.
- Increase youth and public awareness about means of transmitting and preventing HIV;
- An increase in public awareness about the loneliness and social stigma of AIDS;
- Reduce discrimination.

Activities

- Collecting and disseminating recent and relevant information regarding HIV-AIDS by distributing brochures, fliers, and viewing movies.
- Establishing partnerships with local and national organizations in the field;
- Organizing the forum.

Evaluation

Over 400 students and young people from the local community have participated in this event that approached several subjects including transmission, prevention, and exclusion of those carrying the virus—this excluding originating from neighbors, friends, school mates, and even doctors who refuse to treat them.

One strategy for educating the public was showing the "humanity" of those affected with HIV/AIDS by giving voice to their opinions and concerns.

Partners & Sponsors

Lupeni Town Hall •Anti AIDS Romanian Association (ARAS)•Save the Children Petrita •Noua Speranta (New Hope) Petrita•2000+ Educational Center•Day Center for HIV-AIDS children Petrosani•Equal Association Lupeni•Theoretic High School Lupeni.

Budget

Budget total: 500 \$

(65% - ARAS, 35% – local sponsors)

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