



Winners of SWHAP Achievement Award 2010 *- Peer Educator Achievement Award (Southern Africa)*

SWHAP Peer Educator Achievement Award 2010, Southern Africa

For the first time, SWHAP instituted a Peer Educator Achievement Award in 2010. The award stemmed from the need to recognize not only workplace programmes, as has been done through the SWHAP Achievement Awards in 2008 and 2009, but also the individual efforts of peer educators. The latter often play an integral role in promoting behavior change, as well as in implementing the workplace programme as a whole. If given appropriate support and recognition, a peer educator is a low-cost way of reaching a high and sustainable impact of a programme.

SWHAP workplaces in Southern Africa were asked to nominate a peer educator for each workplace that had excelled in peer education activities. The committees at each workplace were requested to make their submissions to the SWHAP Coordinator for Southern Africa. The nominations were to be submitted for consideration by 7 May 2010.

The response rate was very low, however following assessments of the nominations and interviews with nominate peer educators, the awards went to Sympathy Chikukwa for Zimbabwe and Brighton Kyapula for Zambia. Please find the details of their input in workplace peer education below:

Sympathy Chikukwa, Scanlink Zimbabwe

Sympathy Chikukwa is employed as an auto-electrician in Scanlink and is the only female member in the workshop at Scania. She has not let this intimidate her and has used her knowledge and skills to discuss HIV issues with her male colleagues and encourage them to test and discuss issues of sex and sexuality with their partners, promoting couple communication. Sympathy has also been instrumental in encouraging wives of her colleagues to encourage their husbands to uptake male circumcision. Sympathy has been instrumental in organizing and facilitating several sessions at the workplace, which have included awareness sessions on HIV and male circumcision, spousal trainings, VCT and community outreach through social networking. Sympathy has also been active outside the work environment through the HIV discussion sessions she has participated in at her local church. Sympathy has been a trusted peer educator in Scanlink. She has championed VCT campaigns and is seen as a confidante by colleagues.



Brightson Kyapula, Dyno Orica Zambia

Brightson has demonstrated selfless service to his colleagues in his role as a peer educator. He has championed HIV awareness sessions and has combined his role as a Safety and Health Officer with HIV initiatives. Brightson takes the lead in workplace activities, as well as in championing the cause outside the workplace. Furthermore, Brightson leads the supply chain programme, through which Dyno has reached six companies in their value chain, to also start HIV programmes under the mentorship of Dyno peer HIV Committee. Brightson has been a trusted peer educator in Dyno; he has championed VCT campaigns and is seen as a confidante by colleagues. Brightson has shown himself compassionate by also extending his support to the community. With the backing of Orica, his family has taken in eight orphans.

The SWHAP Achievement Award has been given out since 2008. In 2010 the four categories for the award are Most Comprehensive Workplace Programme; Best Progress in Workplace Programming; Peer Educator Achievement Award; and Most Innovative Intervention. For more information on any of the awards, please contact info@swhap.org. For more information on Swedish Workplace HIV and AIDS Programme, please visit www.swhap.org.