LetsStopAIDS Celebrates 10 Years of Youth-HIV programming in KwaZulu-Natal

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA – Dududu youth are placed in the driver’s seat of Canadian charity LetsStopAIDS, leading towards a future without HIV.

LetsStopAIDS was founded in 2004 by Shamin Mohamed Jr when he was fifteen. The NGO is now a global network of over 400 volunteers hosting programmes across Canada, Asia and Africa. Members from the LetsStopAIDS team are participating in the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban from 18 to 22 July 2016. They are presenting two NGO booths within the Global Village (Booth Nos. 522, 719), highlighting the successes of their project "Spread Trees, Not AIDS" in Kwazu-Natal, South Africa and their upcoming programme, "LiveLifeLoving".

"Spread Trees, Not AIDS" combines two of the world’s most pressing issues: environmental stewardship and HIV. Through educational workshops, leadership training and tree planting, we want to inspire youth to take action locally," says Shamin Mohamed Jr. By partnering with local organizations, youth gained valuable insights into nurturing themselves and their broader communities. Also included in the workshops was an emphasis on the role of sports and the arts as powerful tools for self-expression and interpersonal collaboration. LetsStopAIDS collaborates with projects in KwaZulu-Natal – the region with the highest HIV prevalence in the world and where deforestation is a major environmental challenge.

"LiveLifeLoving" is an online portal that provides and shares resources globally about HIV knowledge and prevention. By creating an interactive, friendly platform, youth and adults alike are given the tools they need to make informed decisions about their sexual health. "LiveLifeLoving" makes HIV information easily accessible, addresses the misconceptions and stigma associated with HIV.

"Spread Trees, Not AIDS" and "LiveLifeLoving" connect communities that are often overlooked by mainstream HIV organisations, by making youth leadership it’s primary focus. Youth are not sidelined, rather given new opportunities, connected with tools and a support network to live life to the fullest with love.

Additionally, on Thursday 21 July 2016, in Press Conference Room 2 at 3:15 p.m., there will be a news conference at the Durban Exhibition Centre.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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