



Champions for Life is a faith-based **PSS -psychosocial-spiritual program** for adolescents with the challenges of being infected by HIV. This **transformational program** began in 2005 and consists of day seminars, camps, conferences, clinic and community outreaches, leadership development, mentorship, and socio-economic empowerment programs. Champions for Life is under Celebrate International led by Pastors Tom and Bonnie Deuschle.

Young people living with or affected by HIV have multiple losses- they have lost parents (often they are single or double orphans), health, nutrition, education, and vision. Rejection, low self-esteem, anger, depression, chronic grief, fear of death, are some of the key issues they are dealing with. Poverty and HIV go hand in hand.

Through the **day seminars/camps** we aim to create an **atmosphere** of love, acceptance, celebration, accountability, healing & empowerment, and teaching that transforms the Champions in their thinking about themselves and their environment. The day seminars/camps aim to empower the Champions so they in turn influence and impact their peers. Through the programs they will no longer see themselves as victims but victors- they will take dominion over their situations.

The camps and day seminars are run by a volunteer **multidisciplinary team** of youth workers, counsellors, health science students, and young people living with HIV. The programs enable young people to develop as leaders. The leadership team includes young people living with HIV. The events have a high leader/helper to Champion ratio to maximise input into the Champions lives- Champions benefit from “**Intensive Care.**” Small interactive group “family” sessions also enable Champions to talk about their issues in a comfortable setting.

The day seminars/camps are **fast, fun, dynamic, and intensive**. Music, dance, drama, sound, multimedia and digital technology are important in communicating to the hearts and minds of the Champions. Wholesome, **nutritious food** is also important to strengthening Champions programs. **Team work** is caught through sport and games.

Champions for Life runs **socio-economic empowerment programs** –principally **educational support, but working towards work-skills, and entrepreneurship programs**. Celebration Health provide help with food security.

Vision

Empowered young people living with HIV transformed into global Champions.

Mission

To empower young people living with HIV, through psycho-social, spiritual and development interventions.

Values

Love care support

Norms

Honour

Openness

Perseverance

Excellence

Impact

Young people living with HIV lives have been **radically transformed**. Anger, depression, chronic grief, low-self-esteem, rejection, and fear have been replaced by Champions having increased self-esteem and vision for their futures, a feeling of being loved, accepted and valued.

Changes have been seen by the Champions' parents and carers, doctors, nurses and counsellors running the HIV clinics. Adolescents attending CFL programs have been noted to be less angry, happier at home, more responsible, and more adherent with their HIV medication.

Coverage

Champions for Life is reaching 4000 adolescents and young adults living with HIV in 11 nations in Southern and Eastern Africa- Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa-Durban, Lesotho, Swaziland, Uganda, and Kenya. Over the next 5 years Champions for Life will be reaching Champions in Central and West Africa, India, South-East Asia, and Eastern Europe.

Partnerships

Health care provider partnerships:- Champions for Life partners with National Government and City Health HIV clinics, with Baylor Paediatric Infectious Disease Centres of Excellence, Teen Clubs, Research HIV clinics, and University Medical School HIV clinics, so enabling the adolescents and young adults in these clinics to access the unique psycho-social spiritual support Champions for Life is offering.

Technical Partnerships:-Champions partners with Christian Medical Fellowships (ICMDA) , Student Christian Fellowships, Medical and Pharmacy Students Associations, and Psychological Societies, so that Health Science students can be involved hands on in the leadership and running of Champions Day Seminars.

Sponsorship Partnerships:- Champions for Life principal sponsorship partner is the **Avacare Health Group** (CEO Dr Vikram Naik) which has subsidiaries in the SADC nations where Champions programs are present. Champions also has private sponsor partners as well.

International Recognition

Champions for Life has held exhibition booths at 2013 ICASA Conference in Cape Town, 2014 IAS World AIDS Conference In Melbourne, the 2015 ICASA Conference in Harare, and the 2016 IAS World AIDS Conference in Durban.

Below in are You –tube links that are helpful to give an understanding of Champions for Life.

The Durban IAS DVD is a 3 minute clarion call by Champion Grace age 23 who tells her personal story and in so doing gives understanding of the essentialness of psycho-social support for adolescents living with HIV's life, health and ART success
<https://youtu.be/--Bazfo040>

The Melbourne IAS DVD is a 2 minute summary of what Champions for Life is all about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jGDd5USkLA>

Contact Champions for Life

For more information on how you can become involved/partner- either through volunteering your services or expertise or sponsoring financially or helping us access more adolescents living with HIV in your city or nation please visit our website and email or phone key contacts from Champions for Life Headquarters which are given below.

Web site www.cflint.org

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