SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
MRC SOUTH AFRICA

SAFETY AND PEACE PROMOTION RESEARCH UNIT

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"Freedom to Move": Celebrating Youth Day

On June 10 2010, the Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit of the Medical Research Council and University of South Africa, and the UNISA Institute for Social and Health Sciences hosted an event in Broadlands Park, Cape Town to commemorate Youth Day. The event was organised in collaboration with members of the Broadlands Park community. More than 200 youth from the community participated in the day's activities.

The theme, "Freedom to Move", emanates from the African Youth Charter, and was intended to capture the idea that in the aftermath of 16 June 1976 South African youth now have increased opportunities that allow them to move freely in their country and globally, and also to move upwards towards better educational prospects.

The day's event included speakers from the Provincial Department of Labour, Provincial Department of Health, Western Cape Therapeutic Community Centre – a substance abuse rehabilitation service, Chrysalis Academy - a social crime prevention and youth development organisation, the South African Police Service and various members of the Broadlands Park community. The speakers highlighted pertinent issues facing the youth, such as educational and labour related prospects, as well as drug addiction, and offered messages of inspiration and hope.

The theme was also celebrated through performances by local dance groups and young musicians from the community. Additionally, in the spirit of the 'fevah' of the Soccer World Cup that is currently gripping the nation, the event included a soccer tournament, which was accompanied by trumpeting vuvuzelas and much excitement. The day concluded with the handing out of gifts to all the young people who participated in the event, and markedly on a note of goodwill, joy and optimism. The event was hailed as a great success by speakers and participants alike.

Some of the youth in attendance at the soccer tournament held in Broadlands Park