

Youth Impact

Making a difference...one youth at a time.

Being Inspired to Dream and Set Goals

Goals and dreams...we all have them but have you ever considered that you might not reach your goals? Disappointments come after several failed attempts but rarely are we apt to give up entirely.

This month during Youth Impact we have been exploring the concept of having dreams and setting goals in life. Responses from the youth, although not surprising, shed light on the difference a mentor can have on a life.

Zaheda, age 21 grew up at Ulan orphanage and after graduating went on to PTL and studied sewing. Currently she lives at the Youth House. Although she is very creative and an excellent seamstress, she has been told by all the adults in her life that it is futile to do anything because she has epilepsy. When asked to write out her dreams she silently looked down at her paper and fiddled with her pencil. Olya encouraged her to give some thought to what she would be if there were no obstacles in her way. After several moments she replied that she would want to have a sewing factory but quickly dismissed the idea as voices of doubt in her mind reiterated that it is futile to dream.



Nineteen-year-old Sulushash is a sweet quiet young lady who can barely read or write. She has been institutionalized all of her life and early on was labeled "slow" which means that her education focused on menial labor. When asked her goal, she responded that she wanted to "clean floors". She indicated that she enjoys cleaning floors and hopes to one day have a paid job doing this task.



Sara asked where she might want to clean floors and she seemed surprised. She had never considered that she could actually choose where she cleaned floors. Sara gave her a few options such as a hospital, restaurant or school. She smiled and responded that she would love to work in a school!

Through the Youth Impact Program we hope to encourage young people like Zaheda and Sulushash to not only have goals but to actually see the steps necessary to meet those goals. For the first time in their lives they are being encouraged to dream and to think beyond the invisible walls confining them to just a life of trivial existence.



Vika, 19

"The Fastest Indian", a movie about a man's repeated attempts to achieve a life-long dream was shown at both YI locations. The kids loved it and expressed their thanks for showing it to them with a request that we bring in more movies that will inspire and encourage them.

Next month we will cover Health, Hygiene and Nutrition. As part of the program, we will be putting together care packages with needed supplies such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. If you are interested in donating towards this or the YI program, please click here.

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