

HIV Resource Centre, Ekwendeni, Malawi

Update, 2022

The Resource Centre is busier than ever as the general population of the area has increased, as has the student population. The Centre is fulfilling an amazing and essential role for young people in the Ekwendeni catchment area. HIV testing, counselling, encouraging adherence to treatment, treatment of STDs and condom provision are all offered at the Centre. Campaigns such as stay at school, no to child brides, gender equality and no to domestic violence, to name but a few, are run by the Centre using music, dance and drama. These, plus sports and other activities, are important and effective vehicles to encourage behaviour change. The Centre also provides a safe place where young people can gather. Without this many would have nothing to do and be pulled into bars, the drug scene, prostitution, etc.

Shupo Kumwenda, the Supervisor, is very astute and dedicated to the youth and the communities. He has earned profound respect from the police, the CCAP synod, village headmen, the communities and many more. He is often sought out to help in a whole manner of issues. Even the local police bring him troubled youngsters whom he then takes under his wing, keeps them close and integrates them into the Centre. The youth from the youth clubs also come to him when they see somebody in their villages is in trouble, orphans with nothing to eat, victims of domestic abuse, elderly people who are ill or need help. Shupo then organizes the youth to help with these situations, in a programme called Home Based Care.

