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APPENDIX A: INFORMED CONSENT FORM (PARTICIPANTS)

Dear (Name of participant)

BECOMING A PEER SUPPORTER: A NARRATIVE EXPLORATION

You are invited to take part in this study. The purpose of this study is to explore the evolving experiences, thoughts and feelings of three peer supporters, how they grow on an emotional level throughout their training and practice as peer supporters, as well as how the experiences and challenges that cross the path of the peer supporters impact on them.

The study will be conducted throughout 2005 and is expected to be completed by 31 December 2005. Information will be gathered by:

- Doing at least two individual unstructured interviews with each of the participants, the first interview by the middle of April 2005 and the second by middle of August 2005;
- Doing at least two focus groups with all the participants present, the same dates as above are applicable here but the focus groups will be conducted within a week after the individual interviews;
- Finally, both the participants and the researcher will do journaling on a continual basis throughout the research process.

You will not be controlled or manipulated in any way. The only requirement for participants is to apply effective time management so that this study does not intrude on your academic time. Therefore the risks in taking part in the study are minimal.

Potential benefits for yourself involve that you will be in a position to monitor your emotional growth as peer supporters in a concrete way (e.g. communicating their experiences, thoughts and feelings verbally and in written form). You will be encouraged to think about and discuss everything that happens to you and your thoughts and feelings around it. By doing this

you are constantly aware of what is happening to you and what changes (if any) are taking place.

Participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from participating in the study at any time and without negative consequences.

Information will at all times be treated as confidential, not only by the researcher but also amongst the participants themselves. This means that everyone involved in the research process will treat sensitive matters that might arise with confidentiality. Should you choose to remain anonymous, anonymity is assured. The individual interviews and the focus group will be recorded on a digital recorder and will be deleted after transcription of the interviews and focus groups. The school where the research will be conducted will also remain anonymous. Only the participants, my supervisor Dr. Terri Bakker, and myself will have access to the information. All information will be destroyed should a subject withdraw. When the study is completed, all original research information will be destroyed.

The participants and their parents have a right to access me, the researcher, at any time by means of telephoning me for any reason, including clarity purposes on any issue or if any doubts should arise.

All of the above issues will also be verbally communicated to the participants, their parents and the school and each of them will receive a copy of this form.

Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Anize du Toit
Researcher

Participant

SIGNED AT _____ on _____.

APPENDIX B: INFORMED CONSENT FORM (PARENTS OF PARTICIPANTS)

Dear (Name of parents/guardians),

BECOMING A PEER SUPPORTER: A NARRATIVE EXPLORATION

The purpose of this study is to explore the evolving experiences, thoughts and feelings of three peer supporters, how they grow on an emotional level throughout their training and practice as peer supporters, as well as how the experiences and challenges that cross the path of the peer supporters impact on them.

The study will be conducted throughout 2005 and is expected to be completed by 31 December 2005. Information will be gathered by:

- Conducting at least two individual unstructured interviews with each of the participants, the first interview by the middle of April 2005 and the second by middle of August 2005;
- Conducting at least two focus groups with all the participants present, the same dates as above are applicable here but the focus groups will be conducted within a week after the individual interviews;
- Finally, both the participants and the researcher will do journaling on a continual basis throughout the research process.

No experimental control or manipulation is required for the study. The participants are only required to apply effective time management so that this study does not intrude on their academic time. Therefore the risks in taking part in the study are minimal.

Potential benefits for the participants involve that they will be in a position to monitor their emotional growth as peer supporters in a concrete way (e.g. communicating their experiences, thoughts and feelings verbally and in written form). They will be encouraged to ponder and discuss everything that

happens to them and their thoughts and feelings around it. By doing this they are constantly aware of what is happening to them and what changes (if any) are taking place.

Participation is voluntary and participants may withdraw from participating in the study at any time and without negative consequences.

Information will at all times be treated as confidential, not only by the researcher but also amongst the participants themselves. This means that they will treat sensitive matters that might arise with confidentiality. Should the participants choose to remain anonymous, anonymity is assured. The individual interviews and the focus group will be recorded on a digital recorder and will be deleted after transcription of the interviews and focus groups. The school where the research will be conducted will also remain anonymous. Only the participants, my supervisor Dr. Terri Bakker, and myself will have access to the information. All information will be destroyed should a subject withdraw. When the study is completed, all original research information will be destroyed.

The participants and their parents have a right to access me, the researcher, at any time by means of telephoning me for any reason, including clarity purposes on any issue or if any doubts should arise.

All of the above issues will also be verbally communicated to the participants, their parents and the school and each of them will receive a copy of this form.

Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Anize du Toit
Researcher

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of
participant

SIGNED AT _____ on _____.

APPENDIX C: INFORMED CONSENT FORM (SCHOOL PRINCIPAL)

Dear (Name of principal)

BECOMING A PEER SUPPORTER: A NARRATIVE EXPLORATION

The purpose of this letter is to explain detail of the study I intend to conduct at your school. I also ask for your permission for the intended study.

The purpose of this study is to explore the evolving experiences, thoughts and feelings of three peer supporters, how they grow on an emotional level throughout their training and practice as peer supporters, as well as how the experiences and challenges that cross the path of the peer supporters impact on them.

The study will be conducted throughout 2005 and is expected to be completed by 31 December 2005. Information will be gathered by:

- Conducting at least two individual unstructured interviews with each of the participants, the first interview by the middle of April 2005 and the second by middle of August 2005;
- Conducting at least two focus groups with all the participants present, the same dates as above are applicable here but the focus groups will be conducted within a week after the individual interviews;
- Finally, both the participants and the researcher will do journaling on a continual basis throughout the research process.

No experimental control or manipulation is required for the study. The participants are only required to apply effective time management so that this study does not intrude on their academic time. Therefore the risks in taking part in the study are minimal.

Potential benefits for the participants involve that they will be in a position to monitor their emotional growth as peer supporters in a concrete way (e.g.

communicating their experiences, thoughts and feelings verbally and in written form). They will be encouraged to ponder and discuss everything that happens to them and their thoughts and feelings around it. By doing this they are constantly aware of what is happening to them and what changes (if any) are taking place.

Participation is voluntary and participants may withdraw from participating in the study at any time and without negative consequences.

Information will at all times be treated as confidential, not only by the researcher but also amongst the participants themselves. This means that they will treat sensitive matters that might arise with confidentiality. Should the participants choose to remain anonymous, anonymity is assured. The individual interviews and the focus group will be recorded on a digital recorder and will be deleted after transcription of the interviews and focus groups. The school where the research will be conducted will also remain anonymous. Only the participants, my supervisor Dr. Terri Bakker, and myself will have access to the information. All information will be destroyed should a subject withdraw. When the study is completed, all original research information will be destroyed.

The participants, their parents as well as the school principal have a right to access me, the researcher, at any time by means of telephoning me for any reason, including clarity purposes on any issue or if any doubts should arise.

All of the above issues will also be verbally communicated to the participants, their parents and the school and each of them will receive a copy of this form.

I hereby also ask permission from the associated school to conduct my research with three of their peer supporters.

Thank you for your co-operation in this regard.

Anize du Toit
Researcher

School principal

SIGNED AT _____ on _____.