

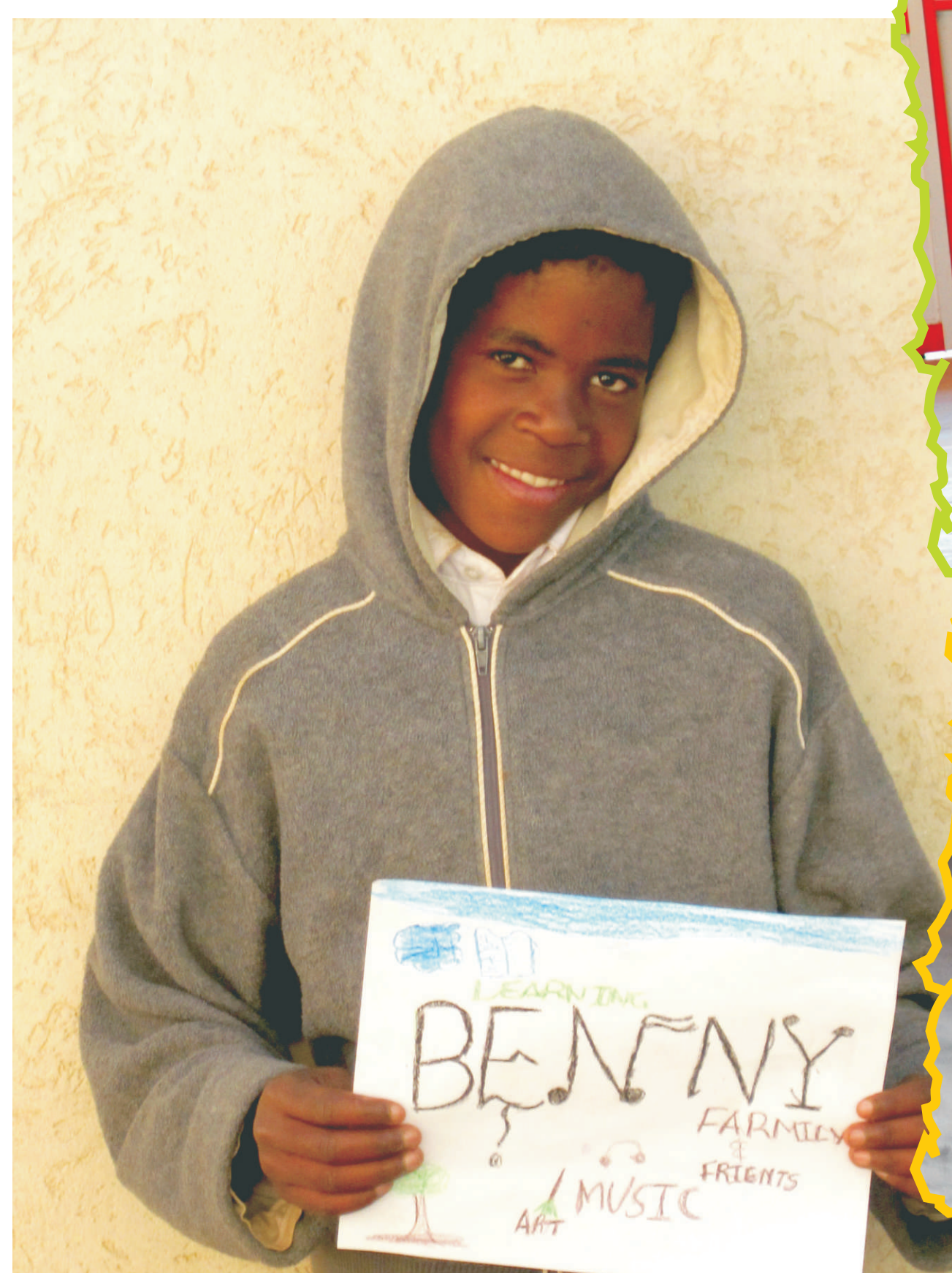
“ Psychosocial Support Model for Adolescent OVC: Steps to Change ”

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Background

- Over half of all orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) are adolescents, yet most OVC programmes focus on basic needs of younger children.
- Stripped of their rights to self expression and insecure family and school attachments, adolescents seek love and attachment by acquiring risky sexual behaviours.
- Risky behaviours lead to multiple concurrent partnerships, sexual, emotional and physical abuse and HIV.



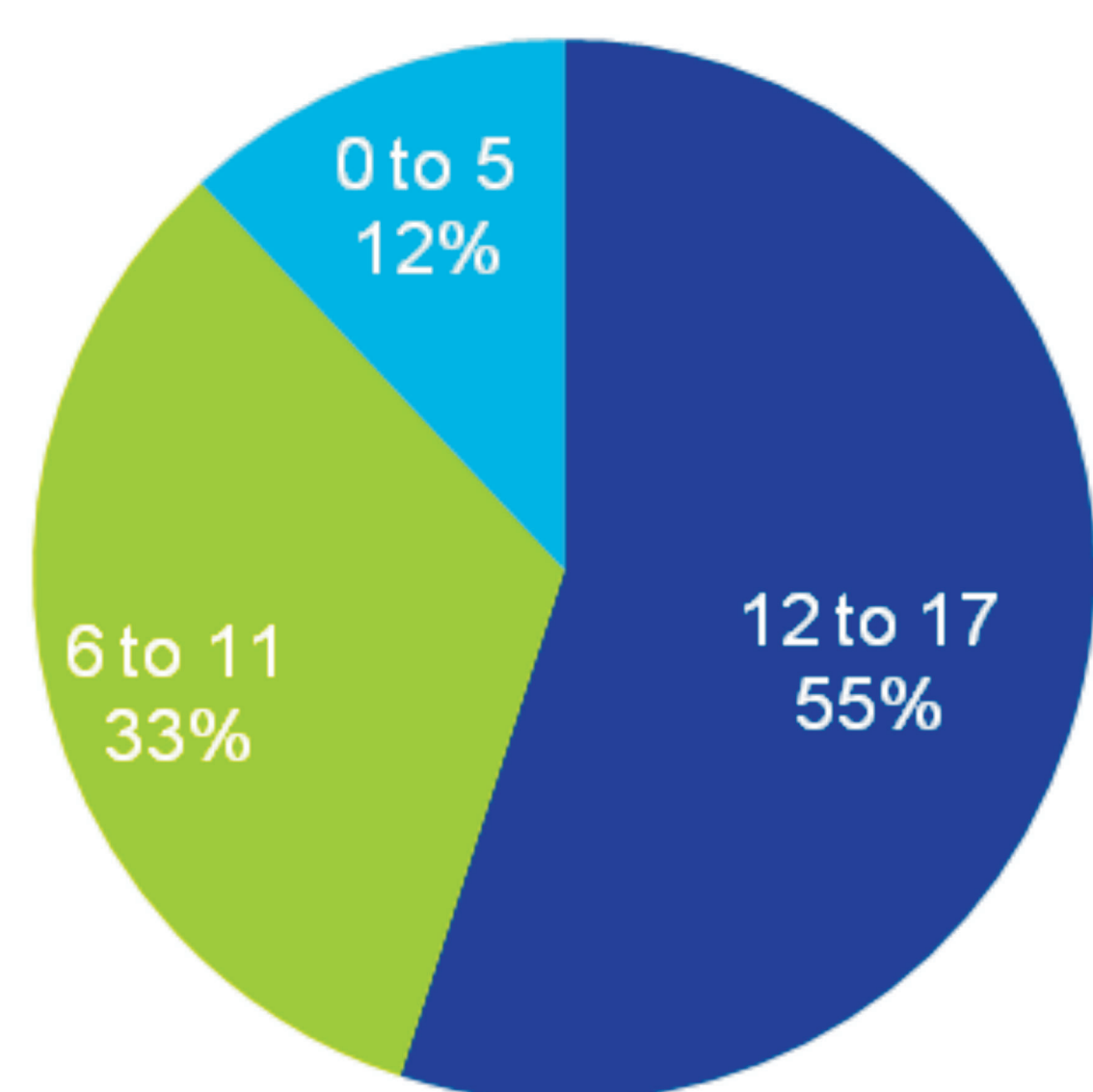
Stepping Stones International's Mission

“To unlock the potential of adolescent (age 12 - 18+) orphans and vulnerable children by nurturing their mental, physical and emotional well-being and creating realizable opportunities for them to become self-sufficient.”

Stepping Stones International's Model

- Based on theories and approaches including popular education theory, social cognitive theory to motivation, art, drama and group therapy and the Love and Logic approach to discipline.
- Four strategic core components have proven most effective in positively influencing the lives of OVC when applied in tandem.

Breakdown of Orphans by Age



4 Strategic Core Components

The programme strategy comprises 4 core areas:

1. Psychosocial support (coaching, counselling, outreach to caregivers, expression activities, goal setting)
2. Lifeskills (communication, health, HIV prevention, academics, peer education)
3. Leadership skills (career awareness, entrepreneurship, computer training)
4. Advocacy (children's rights, OVC's access to services, community capacity building).

Results

SSI individual and programmatic successes between 2007 and 2010:

- 4 tertiary education scholarships received
- 2 sponsorships provided for secondary private schools
- 4 youth attained employment
- 12 safe home environments established
- 15 sexual abuse disclosures
- 60 participants active in income generation
- 60 adolescents improved confidence and self expression
- 1800 community members impacted by sexual abuse campaign

Conclusion

SSI's psychosocial support model could be replicable across Sub-Saharan Africa, allowing OVC to cope with life's challenges and attain opportunities for self-sufficiency. The highly participatory nature of the programme promotes decision making that reduces risky behaviours, the setting and achieving of goals, and leadership opportunities for a healthy future.