

Youth camp hones skills of future leaders

RECENTLY, A NEW YOUTH camp was implemented in Vanuatu from the 30th of August till September 1st. Camp BILD (Boys in Leadership and Development) was held in Nuvi village.

Twenty-two young men between the ages of 16 and 20 came from four villages within the Varsu Area to participate in this camp.

The camp focused on teaching leadership skills such as public speaking and goal setting, as well as life skills such as adolescent reproductive health and domestic violence awareness.

Camp BILD was recently created to meet the need for leadership development amongst the youth of Vanuatu.

In the past Peace Corps Volunteers have held a similar girls' camp called Camp GLOW (Girls Leading our World) throughout Vanuatu. Recently, however, many of the boys and the leaders of

their communities on Epi Island expressed an interest in a similar camp. As a result Camp BILD was created.

The camp focused on teaching leadership skills such as public speaking and goal setting, as well as life skills such as adolescent reproductive health and domestic violence awareness. Camp BILD also included sports, arts and crafts, singing and role-plays.

The camp was hosted by Nuvi village and was facilitated by five Peace Corps Volunteers from Epi Island. They were joined by five female youth leaders from Tongoa, who have been trained to facilitate Camp GLOW and who have been traveling around Vanuatu leading these camps. Additional training for the young men came from Elder Kapiapo, an SIL trained translator, who gave local language instruction and started making a local language calendar with the youth. Jack Krem, a UNICEF trained Pacific Life Skills Instructor, taught the boys about reproductive health and life skills. However, none of this would have been possible without the incredible amount of support from the village council of chiefs with chairman Appi George and the people of Nuvi village.

Plans are currently under way to hold another Camp BILD on Epi later this year.