



Projects Abroad



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Contents:

Letter from the Editor

Dirty Day Fun! | Feeding the community

T-h-e c-a-t s-a-t o-n t-h-e m-a-t

Behind the scenes of the Journalism Project | Journalism Project update

Social Justice does me justice – by Ricardo van der Merwe

Letters of inspiration | Beautiful words from Claire and Frederique Beerkens

A building star! | Amazing words from Dimitri Evray

Our Adventurous friends! | Cape to Addo

Photo Spread | Teaching

Letter from the editor

March has brought fun and excitement amongst all the volunteers and projects. With so many activities it is a bit difficult to keep up with all of them!

From the truly inspiring and extraordinary Dirty Day that fed so many children; to the kind words of the building volunteers, this month is one not to be missed. The literacy program has helped inspire children to enjoy reading and has brought a drastic improvement in their reading and writing skills.

We learn more about Journalism and voices of the world. The building project has once again shined in its positive feedback and great experience from the volunteers that join the 'building family'.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue!



Vash Singh
Information Manager/
Editor

Dirty Day Fun! | Feeding the community

Another successful and fun dirty day! I had the great opportunity to be a part of a dirty day at our Where Rainbow's Meet business project. The dirty day initiative was created to help the community and this dirty day did exactly that. The volunteers were invited to the business project to help prepare food for the children and staff at the project.

The day ended with smiles and full tummies all around.



T-h-e c-a-t s-a-t o-n t-h-e m-a-t

“With your pointing finger ready, open up the book. What does the first page say? “T-h-e c-a-t s-a-t o-n t-h-e m-a-t”. Excellent! Let us read it again, but this time, without sounding out the letters. Good job, Ashwin. High-five.” Being a Teaching volunteer is so much more than the conventional teaching method: I know and you need to learn. As a volunteer you have the opportunity to get to know the children, learn more about what motivates them, and most importantly help build their self-confidence. Children in the working-class areas of Cape Town are too often told they are wrong, or stupid, or that they should only be seen and never heard. Your role is to help change this mind-set, by engaging with the children, asking for their opinion and constantly congratulating them for a job well done!

In the Literacy Project volunteers work with children (aged 7 to 10 years old), who have difficulty with reading and writing. The volunteers work the children in small groups, and each lesson is meant to stimulate a love for reading, and the child's active engagement with the world. These creative lessons require a lot of preparation. Each week at the Teaching Workshop, volunteers learn new ways to work with the children, and help increase the child's vocabulary. A greater vocabulary means a greater ability to read. Eventually the children will be able to process much more than the simple words “T-h-e c-a-t s-a-t o-n t-h-e m-a-t.” The children will know what kind of cat sat on the mat. What the type of mat is being sat on? Why did the cat sit on the mat as opposed to on the tiles? All the possible questions needed to encourage an active mind.



Behind the scenes of the Journalism Project | Journalism Project update

“I had the great opportunity to experience the life of a Journalism volunteer and staff member of the Journalism office. During that time I learnt exactly what a volunteer does in this office. The volunteers get the opportunity to go out and see, learn and explore Cape Town. The volunteers go out, gather as much information as possible and write one print feature and four online articles for the Cape Chameleon (Projects Abroad magazine) a month. Volunteers arrive from many different countries in Europe and the US; some are interns from university or gap year students that just finished High School. Many copies of the Cape Chameleon magazine are printed each month and distributed in book stores, coffee shops, NGOs, schools and at events. The project has many different aspects, not only for writing but photography as well. The Cape Chameleon has abundance of pictures and some non-professional volunteers who like taking photos have even secured cover or inside featured shots in the magazine.

Voices of the World is an initiative where volunteers go and visit local high schools, and educate the students about journalism in South Africa and offering them the opportunity to write for the Voices of the World website, which is also updated in many other destinations.



Social Justice does me justice – by Ricardo van der Merwe

Corinna Hofmarcher is an 18 year old female from Austria at our Projects Abroad Human Rights Office (PAHRO). Her passion to help other people has led her to our Human Rights Project, where she wanted to do more community work and assist where she can. She recently finished High school and is now currently in her gap year. Corinna wants to study law when she heads home after her 11 months of volunteering.

3 Months before Corinna joined PAHRO, which is situated in Rondebosch, Cape Town; she was doing a care project in a informal settlement called Vrygrond, Cape Town for 4 months. She assisted teachers, looked after children and attended to their needs. “The teachers in the crèche have a lot of children to look after, so they always need help from outside,” she mentioned. She loved every responsibility she had, from preparing the children's food, feeding them, reading the stories, and keeping record of each and every individual present. She still has the same passion at PAHRO. “There is always a lot of work to do in the office, and you need a lot of volunteers to work on every case, otherwise you cannot help the clients,” as she explains her workload. She also mentioned how amazed she was at Project Abroad that opened their own Human Rights Office and allowed the volunteers to assist their staff in helping people who can't afford legal aid. At the project her duties include working on real cases and consulting people who are in need of help.

She mentioned that PAHRO has been very useful to her because she realized that she wants to study law. “A lot of the clients have difficulties in their own lives and have a lot of problems. However they are very glad when you try to help them, just by doing research, phone calls and emails, you help them a lot.”

Her most memorable moment as of yet is when she re-visited her care project a few weeks after she had left. “They all screamed my name when I walked through the door!” She loves the interesting lifestyle of the locals, the ocean, mountains and Cape Town as a whole.

Letters of inspiration | Beautiful words from Claire and Frederique Beerkens

The building project strives on helping the community and especially the children that learn at the crèche on the building site. Many of the volunteers that spend time at the building project have the most memorable and inspirational experiences that make their time well worth in South Africa. Here are some beautiful and touching letters from Marie-Claire Vet-Beerkens and Frederique Beerkens to the building manager Deen Singh.

Dear Deen,

After having spent seven incredible weeks in the Human Rights Office, Frederique and I wanted to end our South African adventure in the building project. We had heard great things about this project from so many volunteers that it seemed as the perfect ending to our stay in South Africa. I think that working in this township to build a school for the same children that are with us during the day is truly inspiring. Besides the fact that I love the children and spending time with them, knowing who you are doing the work for really motivates you. I wish I could offer all these children a great future and hope that this is the way to do it. The project is amazing and even though I have only done this project for a week I can see that these children will be eternally grateful for this gift.

Thank you! Xxx Claire

Our time with the building was short and amazing.

Deen was and continued to be extremely welcoming from day 1. We had intriguing conversations about South Africa as a country and its accompanying socio – economic problems. It was always nice during a 5 minute break to get your mind off things and talk to Deen. The work itself was well balanced between building and playing with the children. The building and labour intensive work was fun and great to see how much can be achieved in a short time if people put their hands and effort together. The children have been amazing and I'm sure the work Deen and the volunteers do for/and with them will assist them in achieving a bright future. The other volunteers were always nice, well-behaved and cooperative in making this experience absolutely worth it. I want to thank Deen for everything and show my appreciation of all the amazing work that is being done here.

Good job, keep up the good work & we will miss you!

Frederique Beerkins

A building star! | Amazing words from Dimitri Evray

When I spent two weeks at the building project, I had the fortunate opportunity to spend time with Dimitry Evray and seen the amazing hard work and dedication that he had put into the project. He got along with the other volunteers and definitely impacted the children of the community.

Here are some great words from Dimitri;

“I am Dimirti, a French volunteer at the building project. This project is very interesting and addicting for me. Every day we have to mix cement and make sandbags with the other volunteers who have become my friends. Every day we see the building grow step by step, and that's very amazing. We want to make sure we finish a task before when end the day.

Dean and Vash are good managers; they help us with all the tasks and guide us with the building. Every day I want to do my best for them because they are funny, kind and nice. Before this project, I didn't want to work hard because I was very lazy but now thanks to the volunteers, managers and Projects Abroad I can do it by helping the children and teachers it was very worthwhile, and it was amazing to see how happy the children were to meet new people and excited when I played with them.

This last month in Cape Town was awesome!! If I could stay for longer I would be happy, but unfortunately I cannot. THANK YOU: Deen, Vash, Yann, Niels, Amandine, Ivy, Elsa, Andreas, Xavier, Tirill, Mihai, Edward, Shakti, Tashi, Hayden, Yann, Sebastian, Lecia, Less and all the people I have met and I will never forget my South African Experience. Thank you so much.

See You!

Dimitri Evray”



Our Adventurous friends! | Cape to Addo

If you looking for adventure and exploration in Cape Town, Cape to Addo is definitely a tour company I would recommend. For the many years that we have worked with them they have been constantly upgrading and going above and beyond to help their customers. The guides are experienced, fun and enthusiastic which gives a warm and welcomed experience on the tour to make a memorable trip. Cape to Addo has also bought a house which creates an even more relaxed and private experience that most guests enjoy. What really made me love the experience was the Wi-Fi on the busses, which was the coolest thing on a long drive! All in all, Cape to Addo is the number one tour company for anyone looking to join an adventurous tour



Photo Spread | Teaching



