



# Projects Abroad



## December 2013

### Contents:

Letter from the Editor

Nelson Mandela, the father of Africa and the legend of this era

A night of unity, love and excitement | Nelson Mandela's amazing memorial.

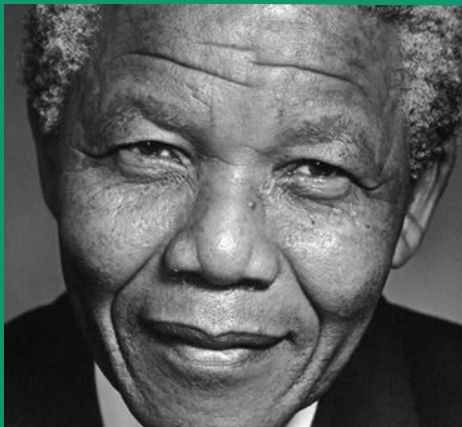
Step up, the dancing event! | Global Gaps concert with the Hyde Park Primary school children.

The year of initiative | Bringing a joyful Christmas to disadvantaged Children

The Cape Town Projects Abroad annual meeting- 2013's achievements

The Holiday Program – Care, Love and fun in the sun

Photo Spread | Surfing



### Letter from the Editor

With Christmas around the corner everyone is getting ready for the holiday spirit but it is also nearly the end of the year and everyone can feel it. There is something in the air that makes people a little more relaxed and more in a lazy-daze, but nonetheless the volunteers are still fresh and ready for action. This month is a month of giving and realization, with the great initiative of the human rights office and the great drive from the Cape Town office. The end of a good and a start of a great year, with brand new initiatives.

Enjoy this month's issue!

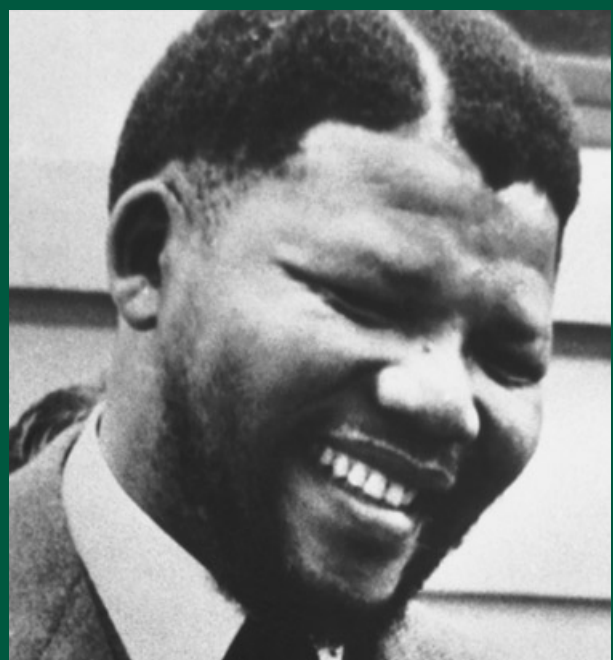


Vash Singh  
Information Manager/  
Editor

## Nelson Mandela, the father of Africa and the legend of this era

Nelson Mandela, a humanitarian legend that will be missed by all. His life and hardships has touched so many people around the world and through his selfless acts he achieved equality and multiracial democracy in South Africa. He did not change the minds of only the South African people but he changed the mind of the world, bringing peace and equality that will last forever. We should all look up to his forgiving nature and try to learn from it. At Projects Abroad we try to help the world, the disadvantage, and we will try to make Tata Madiba proud.

May you rest in peace Tata Madiba. For all the struggle and hardship that you went through, it is time for you to rest. Your selfless attitude we all hope to adopt as our own. We say farewell to the legend of South Africa...





## **A night of unity, love and excitement | Nelson Mandela's amazing memorial.**

I had the great and fortunate opportunity to live history and experience a night that will be unforgettable for South Africa and the world. It is very difficult to explain the amount of passion, celebration and unity that was shown on the night.

South Africa always had a problem of being a “divided” country in the past and people never truly moved on from apartheid, but now for the first time I actually saw a united nation as a black boy and a white girl sat, their limbs lovingly intertwined. There was an amazing line up of entertainment, from: Johnny Clegg, The Bala brothers, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Freshly Ground and many more. It was amazing to see how Nelson Mandela's legacy continued even after he had passed away, and even brought the world closer together. With good music the crowd danced. How they danced, and sang; as if something colossal was at stake that could only be expressed in music, rhythm, and movement. It was truly the best way to remember Mandela and was one of the highlights of my year.



## Step up, the dancing event! | Global Gaps concert with the Hyde Park Primary school children.

Malinda Barrett and Helen Burke (USA - Global Gap volunteers) had the great initiative and idea to teach the children of Hyde Park primary to sing and dance. They planned to have a concert for the children and invited the parents to join in on the event.

After weeks of practice the children were very prepared for the event. Helen and Malinda are extraordinary volunteers, as not only did they plan and participate in the event but they also bought new dancing clothes for the children.

The event was going to be spectacular! I was invited to document the dances and was so glad that I got the opportunity to join in as it was so much fun. The children truly had fun and loved the two Global Gaps that created the event.

Here is a taste of the event, please monitor our Facebook page for the video that will show this spectacular show.





## The year of initiative |Bringing a joyful Christmas to disadvantaged children



The festive season is here and it brings joy, happiness and prosperity, but not all are fortunate enough to have the joy of spending a breakfast, lunch or dinner with family and loved ones. Not all are fortunate enough to have the happiness and prosperity of unwrapping presents on Christmas Day. However we are trying to change that. The Projects Abroad team in Cape Town will be running a Christmas drive in which we will buy presents and take them to one of our project partners called Where Rainbow's Meet. There we will distribute it to disadvantaged children live in the township. We hope to expand this idea and initiative to try and get more supports and help.



# The Cape Town Projects Abroad annual meeting- 2013's achievements

We had our annual meeting and we outlined the amazing work and achievements of the Cape Town staff. Here are the minutes for the meeting:

## Highlights for 2013:

- National Development Plan (NDP) conference that staff attended, where the building project hosted a workshop, and staff really enjoyed it. Well done Deen, you doing an excellent job at the project.
- Twilight Run that staff attended was great fun, thank you Judy-Rose for organizing that. It really was great fun.
- Sounds Of the World project that promotes Projects Abroad and showcases local bands. Thank you Nash for organizing and managing this project.
- Ricardo, who is our newest staff member and he recently, got married. Congratulations!
- How smoothly our busy season went, projects are running well and staff worked well together. Keep it up staff!
- Shuan started a new school project and the school wants him to be involved. Social justice is going well, and volunteers are enjoying it and love the children. Awesome work Shuan, keep up the great work.
- Samantha de Oliveira enjoyed the opening/ office party and said it was great to see volunteers, host families, and Project Abroad staff socializes together.
- Drives – Toy Drive and Winter Drives are very successful and it's a great idea to help people in need.
- Ashwin is thankful for all the people, staff, and volunteers he met. His video was also a huge highlight.
- Judy-Rose thank you for organizing the food drives that PAHRO hosts and she is working closely with Shuan planning more outreach programmes.
- Maria, really enjoyed the staff socials/ braai at Gisela's house, and really enjoyed Victoria's visit from Argentina.
- Gisela was thankful to have the opportunity to visit other destinations such as Peru, to attend conferences.
- Christine enjoyed the staff volunteering day and experience how a typical day at the building site was for volunteers.

- Deen enjoys managing the building project and had an amazing breakthrough this year with the community. He really uplifts the community to help them grow and thank you Projects Abroad for making a difference.
- Volunteers who have done amazing work this year; it's always good to remember them. Well done to them!
- Samantha Speelman met awesome new people and developed great relationships with everyone, and says it is sad to say goodbye to volunteers.
- Meschak learnt a lot this year, he started as a VC to a Desk Officer, and now he is assisting Samantha with projects.
- Research and Training Centre was great and really helpful the staff.
- Generally 2013 was a quick year and most staff thought it was very stable.

### **Things that went well in 2013 and can continue in 2014:**

- Great team
- Staff socializing (staff volunteering day, etc.)
- Communication between staff members

We expect great things for 2014!



# The Holiday Program – Care, Love and fun in the sun

It is finally the end of the year. After such a good year we have decided to end it with fun and joy. The holiday program has been set out to keep the children of the township happy during the festive season. The children in the township are not fortunate enough to have the privilege of attending amazing activities at the end of the year; we have however tried to make that possible. Here is an overview of the activities set out for the holiday program.

December 2013 - January, 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 First Day of Holiday Programme	10	11 Dancing with Ashwin	12 Beach Day	13	14
15	16 Day of Reconciliation	17 Movie	18 Dancing with Ashwin	19 Beach Day	20	21
22	23	24 Movie	25 Christmas Day	26 Day of Goodwill	27 No children. Ricardo to plan outing with volunteers.	28
29	30	31 Movie	1 New Years Day	2 Beach Day	3 Last Day of Holiday Programme	

Projects Abroad | Holiday Programme (Dec, 2013- Jan, 2014)

## Basic Information

**Dates** | 9<sup>th</sup> December – 3 January. The programme will be closed on national holidays.

**Venue** | Vrygrond Community Centre

**Staff Members** | Grant Palanyandi, Ashwin Scott, Ricardo van der Merwe

**Volunteer Numbers** | 15 volunteers are expected

**Times for Volunteers** | Monday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm; Friday, 9am to 12pm

**Times for Children** | Monday to Thursday, 9:30am to 2:30pm; Friday 9:30am to 12pm.

**Description of Event** | There are over 19 000 people living in the township of Vrygrond. During the December- January school break, there is no Holiday Programme run for the children in the area. As an organisation, Projects Abroad shows its commitment to the township by hosting a Holiday Programme for 50 to 100 children between the ages of 5 to 15 years old in Vrygrond. With the assistance of international volunteers, the children are part of an interactive programme that is divided into two sessions: morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session consists of different stations, with at least one volunteer overseeing each station. Each station needs to be appropriate for all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years old. After lunch (12pm to 12.30pm), the afternoon session will begin. Thursdays at the Holiday Programme are beach days.



# Photo Spread I Surfing





