



**May
2013**

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[Editor's Note]

This month saw the Projects Abroad South Africa Head Office, the Journalism Project and the Global Information Office move into shiny new offices, motivating us all with a sense of the fresh potential that accompanies new beginnings.

I thought it an appropriate theme for this month's newsletter too, as the stories featured outline some of the new beginnings that our projects offer to those who benefit from them.

The new potential instilled in a struggling grade one learner during intense one-on-one literacy lessons, or in a rehabilitated juvenile offender who has undergone a series of career and personal development workshops. The new chance at life afforded to an injured or diseased seabird at SANCCOB Saves Seabirds.

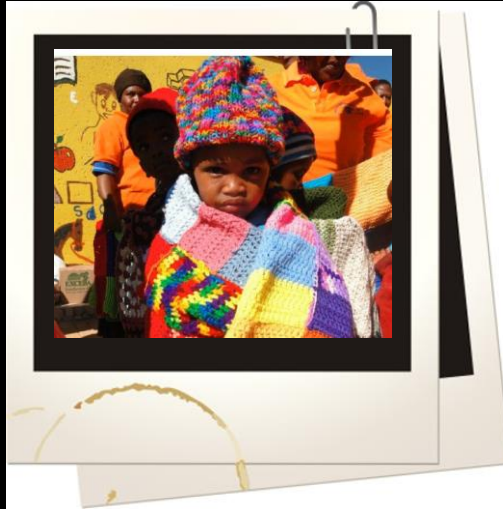
It is of course also important, amidst all the novelty and excitement, to continue to remember. To remember the plight of the impoverished during Cape Town's icy winter, or the particularly special moments experienced at a project in Cape Town.

If ex volunteer Suzanne Labreche's message does not inspire at least a hint of nostalgia in those who have volunteered in the city, I'm not sure there's anything that will.

Enjoy the May edition!

Lara Potgieter | South Africa Information Manager

[Winter Donations Appeal]



As the height of winter approaches, Projects Abroad South Africa is asking for various donations that can be distributed throughout the communities in which we work. Some requested items include:

- canned food
- blankets
- any old clothing
- books and stationery
- toiletries (shampoo, combs, toothbrushes, etc.)

Most things you'd get rid of can actually be used by someone at one of our projects (threadbare rugs, old mattresses, sheets, pillows, etc.). Donations can be collected – please arrange with Gisela Madden (074 103 6585). Donations can also be dropped off at our NEW office in Wynberg: Ground Floor, House Vincent, Wynberg Mews, 10 Brodie Road, Wynberg. The Projects Abroad South Africa team in Cape Town thanks you kindly.

[Human Rights Update]

Social Justice Partner Programs

Bonnytown Juvenile Offender Care Centre

Bonnytown is a place of safety for male juvenile offenders. Our Human Rights staff and interns visit Bonnytown every Thursday from 13:30 to 15:00. Bonnytown houses up to 90 young males between the ages of 13 and 18. Human Rights staff and interns host fun days and workshops for the boys, engaging them in anything from football and dancing to HIV/AIDS and career education.

Ottery Youth Care and Education Centre

Human Rights staff and interns visit this rehabilitation centre for juvenile male petty crime offenders every Tuesday from 15:00 to 16:30, working with 60 boys between the ages of 10 and 17. Last month saw the Human Rights team conducting workshops on the dangers of self-applied tattoos as well as organising a fun sports day for the boys.

Vredelus House for Young Female Offenders

Members of the Human Rights team visit this secure care centre every Wednesday from 15:00 to 16:30, working with 50 to 70 girls between the ages of 10 and 18. Last month saw the team facilitating educational games and conducting aspirational workshops (including a Dream Board creation session) with the girls.

St. Anne's Safe House for Destitute, Abused, Rejected and Disadvantaged Women and their Children

Human Rights staff and interns visit St. Anne's every Monday from 11:00 – 13:00. There were between five and eight women at the shelter last month, and the team spent the month of April discussing employment and custody issues with them, conducting mock job interviews and information sessions on Protection Orders. They also engaged the women in portrait painting and pampering sessions.

Sisters Incorporated Holistic Crisis Relief Centre

The aim of Sisters Incorporated is to help every woman, teenager and child who arrives in crisis to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our Human Rights team visits the centre every Thursday from 10:00 – 12:00. Last month the team conducted information sessions on Protection Orders and abuse, job interviews and a range of other

topics suggested by the women themselves.



Human Rights Interns at Bonnytown Juvenile Offenders Centre



Residents at Ottery Youth Care and Education Centre

[Teaching Project Update]

Floreat Primary Literacy Program

Something we really value at Projects Abroad South Africa is the formation and maintenance of sustainable partnerships.

Our volunteers do great work whilst here, but every now and then an exceptional volunteer will continue to help his or her project after leaving the country.

Vivian Davis, who volunteered at Floreat Primary School in October last year, is one such volunteer.

Vivian noticed a sobering gap in the literacy skills of the first graders at the school. Deputy Principal Hilton Palanyandi confirmed this, sharing the frightening fact that 35% of the first graders were in fact repeating the year.

Determined to improve the situation, Vivian and Hilton used their knowledge and skills (Vivian is a headmistress herself) to implement the Literacy Program, which involves volunteers spending an hour with struggling first graders twice a week.

The program is perfect for volunteers who are intimidated by the idea of teaching a full class of 45 children, as the struggling students are taught in groups of only two to four.

The hour-long lessons involve half an hour of alphabet learning and half an hour of reading, and the volunteers who have assisted in the program cite the intense personal interaction with the children as a highlight of

their volunteering experience.

Floreat Primary has quite a bland and outdated library, and Vivian has returned on numerous occasions with colourful and interactive educational materials different to anything that the children are exposed to in class.

Other volunteers who have made a contribution to the development of the program include Karoline Krag, David Bircher and Estelle Fischer.

The Literacy Program is easily transferable and can, with the assistance of more volunteers, be implemented in the other grades. We look forward to welcoming future volunteers to this invaluable project.

Danish teaching volunteer Karoline Krag conducting a private literacy lesson at Hyde Park Primary



[Project Partner Message]

**Carole Oliver, Training and Education Manager at
SANCCOB Saves Seabirds**

SANCCOB's international volunteer program has been running for many years now. Volunteers at the centre really become an extension of the staff, helping in all the daily activities.

The work is physical and challenging, but the rewards are fantastic. I don't think there's a better feeling in the world than watching something you cared for being released back into the wild.

Without volunteers, we would simply not be able to do the work we do. International volunteers typically help in all aspects of caring for the birds, including general cleaning, preparing of food, feeding and handling the birds. Each species of seabird has its own requirements, and each individual bird needs its own personalised care.

There is really an opportunity for volunteers at the centre to progress and become skilled and educated in seabird care, eventually working in admissions, intensive care and even the chick rearing unit if they put in the necessary time and care.

Projects Abroad and SANCCOB have been working together for almost six years now. Projects Abroad is one of SANCCOB's oldest partners and one with which we really enjoy working.

The qualities needed in a SANCCOB volunteer are commitment, a true interest in conservation and a flexible schedule for the crisis-driven work.

If you are willing to work extremely hard, sometimes under stressful circumstances, you are a perfect candidate to help SANCCOB make a real difference in the lives of South Africa's seabirds.

German animal care volunteer Anja Richter with an African penguin at SANCCOB Saves Seabirds



[Volunteer Message]

Ex Building Volunteer Suzanne Labreche

I will never forget the following things about my stay in Grassy Park in Cape Town, South Africa:

- My host family's warm welcome when I arrived at midnight after a very long trip halfway around the world
- Navigating the city along with scores of locals on the buses and trains
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and kindness with other volunteers from around the world
- Lazy the dog following us out the front gate each day
- Lazy the dog following us out the front gate each day, hoping to accompany us on our adventures
- Muizenberg beach and walking to Fish Hoek
- The fun we had playing card and board games with Zion (7), Ethan (11) and Benjamin (grandpa to all of us), and Ethan saying "I play to win" each time
- Our host mother's seemingly endless love and concern (expressed either with laughter or genuine compassion)
- Spending Christmas with the extended family
- Always hearing singing around the house
- Going to choir practice and recitals with the family
- Taking our host mother to a 1950s and 60s revival concert
- Enjoying outdoor meals in beautiful South African weather
- Sunday drives along the coast with our host family (always stopping for a picnic or picking up fresh fish in Hout Bay along the way)
- Taking in the majesty of Table Mountain
- The Garden Route and Peninsula Tours
- Our visits to the different local markets, especially Friday nights at the Blue Bird Market

in Muizenberg, with its scrumptious food and multicultural crowds

- Camps Bay, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Noordhoek, Constantia and Chapman's Pea
- Tea at the Mount Nelson
- Going to our first ever cricket game at Newlands Stadium
- Potjie kos in Kommetjie
- Weekday evenings in the backyard talking, writing and enjoying locally-made ginger beer and rum & raisin ice-cream
- Meeting up with other volunteers at Cubana for the monthly Thursday night get-togethers
- Learning to surf at Muizenberg beach with kids from local townships
- Deen (Building Project Manager) and his meetings (trying to make sure that everyone loved, cared and appreciated one another and making sure to give all departing volunteers farewell parties)
- Deen and his wife's commitment to the protection of the children and women of Lavender Hill
- New Year's Eve at the V&A Waterfront

