

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad South Africa



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ProjectsAbroad

June 16, Youth Day

Celebrating our great youth

On June 16 we celebrate Youth Day, a South African public holiday that commemorates the brave steps that the youth of 1976 took in fighting for their educational freedom.

On June 16 1976, close to 20 000 school children gathered on the streets of Soweto, Johannesburg to march against the use of Afrikaans as a first language in the townships' secondary schools.

This uniformed group of youngsters who were leading a peaceful protest were violently attacked by armed policemen who injured and killed many of them.

Determined to make their voices heard the students retaliated by throwing stones and fighting back against their attackers. The uprising led to the tragic deaths of 23 people (the youngest being 16) and leaving a thousand others severely injured.

This day is a reminder of the huge efforts and sacrifices that the youth of this country made during its fight against apartheid. When they felt that their futures were in jeopardy, the youth of 1976 stood up for what they believed in; their brave actions led to many more youths around the country protesting against the apartheid education system.

We are now 20 years into our democracy and 38 years since our then youth took to the streets in an effort to claim the freedom that we enjoy today. Our country is now a place where the youth is presented with endless opportunities that allow them to celebrate their diversity in all its colours.



Children from Vrygrond gathered at to celebrate Youth Day



(From left to right)- Projects Abroad Volunteer Coordinator Ricardo Van deMerwe, Stefano Costa (Italy), Xavier Gillis (France), Corinna Hofmarcher (Austria), Kengo Komatsu (Japan), Alexander Gruenwald (Austria), Nantsuki Fukuda (Japan) and volunteer coordinator Samantha Speelman.

Even though our current youth still faces many problems daily, it is the youth of '76' that paved the way by showing us that we are all capable of making an impact in the world.

In celebration of Youth Day, our volunteers at Where Rainbows Meet organised an event for the community of Vrygrond. The day's celebrations were filled with activities and performances from various youth groups of the community. Accompanied by a life skills speech from project co-ordinator Ricky Fakier, the youth were informed about HIV/AIDS, drug use and community safety.

Our volunteers also did their bit to serve the community by preparing some meals and drinks for the children.

A big thank you to our sponsors and participants who made this exciting day possible.

Rainbow Run a huge success!



Students from Erica's school gather to take part one of the many Rainbow Run's

Ex Projects Abroad volunteer Erica Leenan decided to follow her gut when she left her home country Holland to become a volunteer in South Africa in 2008. It's been four years since her first visit and Erica still plays a big part in the teaching project that she signed up for here at Projects Abroad.

When completing high school Erica decided to take a gap year after she heard about a volunteer programme in South Africa that her friend was a part of. The idea of meeting new people from all over the world whilst volunteering was one of the reasons Erica was eager to join Projects Abroad.

"I realised that Projects Abroad was a big global organisation, but it also felt very open and approachable."

Projects Abroad was the perfect place for Erica to gain a better understanding of the future work that she planned to study towards. With the dreams of one day practising as a developmental psychologist, she worked with the Rainbows EduCare foundation where she cared for the children there.

Erica felt right at home when she first met Faranaaz who runs the organisation; she describes the feeling of her first day being that of stepping into a warm bath. She was welcomed with lots of hugs and an explosion of love and laughter from the children of whom she built a great relationship with.

After completing her service and arriving back home in Holland, Erica was touched by the generous work done by Faranaaz. When she contacted Faranaaz to find out how the centre was doing she was unhappy to find out that the centre was being rebuilt, but the re-construction to the building had to stop due to a lack of funds.

Erica shared her experiences with her friend Sandra, who is a PE teacher at her former high school. She mentioned the lack of funds and the problems that the foundation was facing, and it was then that her friend Sandra encouraged her to do something about it.

[Click here](#) to find out how Erica managed to raise up to R30 000 for her project.

Welcome our new staff

We would also like to welcome two more new additions to the team. Pauline and Pamela Danana, are our new interns who will be gaining their work experience with us for the next three months. We hope that this becomes a great learning experience that will help build you for the future.



Pauline Danana

My name is Pauline Danana. I come from Zimbabwe, from a city called Harare. I am currently studying at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology doing my third year Diploma in Marketing. I have been in Cape Town for almost 3 years now and I love it here. I love singing, sight-seeing and reading motivational books.

My favourite colour is green because it reminds me of nature. I love to see people's facial expressions when I tell them I am a vegetarian. So far I have hiked up Table Mountain and the Lion's head, my next one is Devil's Peak. I really love Projects Abroad because of the work environment and the beautiful people I meet in the company and the volunteers from different countries; I leave work at the end of the day feeling accomplished.

My favourite motto is " Be nice to people...all people because the same people you meet going your way up are the same people you will meet going your way down "-Dr Ben Carson

My name is Pamela Danana a.k.a. (Pam). I am 22 years of age. I'm a student at Cape Peninsula University of Technology currently doing my 3rd year in ND: Marketing. Hoping to do my Btech in Marketing next year. I am originally from Zimbabwe but came to Cape Town 3 years ago to pursue my studies.

I am now an Intern at Projects Abroad and it's been awesome. I am a lady who loves going places and experiencing a new culture. My hobbies are cooking (I love it) and I did a course in Food Preparation, singing, camping and hiking. I have hiked Devils Peak and Signal Hill. My favourite quote is "Do what you know and do it well ".

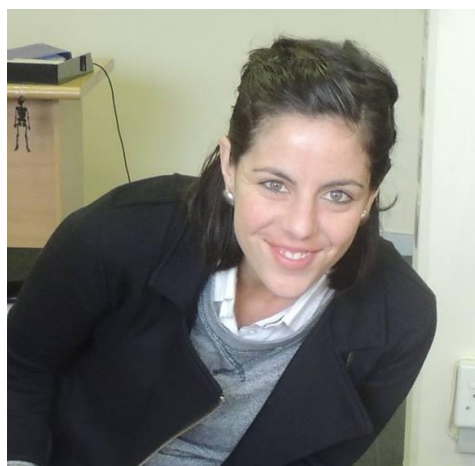
I am currently involved in a Master Guide Club that coaches young people on growing spiritually through survival skills, honours in drill and marching, and caring for the environment.



Pamela Danana

Farewell Sam

Our Project Manager Samantha De Oliveira will be leaving us to go join our Projects Abroad team in Nepal for the next two months. We wish her the best of luck on her stay there. She will be missed dearly.



Editor's Note

Hello everyone, it's only right that I introduce myself before I say anything further. My name is Keabetswe (Kay), and I'm the newly appointed Communications Officer. I'm extremely excited about working for Projects Abroad, apart from the awesome co-workers I've met so far, I'm very happy to be working for an organisation that is making a difference in our communities.

I matriculated in 2007 from The National School of Arts, and I'm currently studying towards my Btech in Journalism at The Cape Peninsula University of Technology. I'm a fun-loving, free spirited creative. I have an indescribable love for the written word, whether it's lyrics to a song, poetry or a novel. I believe that words have the ability to express feelings that many of us find hard to verbalise, and that's where my love for writing emanated from. I truly hope to creatively intrigue, capture and represent everything that Projects Abroad stands for while I'm here.

This month we celebrate Youth Day, a public holiday that makes us take look back at our South African history and the role that the youth played in it. We also celebrate the fact that our youth is constantly finding new ways to rediscover their potential and empower themselves.

One of our teaching projects, SOLE is a great example of how we can further equip our young with the necessary tools that will help them realise that their futures are filled with endless possibilities. In this project students are encouraged to use digital technology as a source of information. It's a small step like this that will hopefully inspire more initiatives that will find new ways of educating students.

One inspirational story that truly stands out is that of Erica Leenan from Holland who has for the past four years been raising money for the Rainbows EduCare foundation.

With the support of family and friends, she's been able to make a difference to one of our educational projects. We thank her and all her supporters in Holland for the continued support. It is amazing how one person's determination can inspire others to be a part of something meaningful.

And with that I say: "Aspire to inspire before you expire".



Communications Officer: Kay Kekana



Volunteer Coordinators: Ashwin Scott, Samantha Speelman, Ricardo Van de Merwe and Communications Officer Kay Kekana.