

Projects Abroad South Africa Building Project Update 2014 (6 months)

Gift of Hope, Village Heights, Lavender Hill
Phase 4: Construction
No of Volunteers: 54 (Jan to June)
Building Manager: Deen Singh
Assistant Manager: Vash Singh
Regular volunteers



Major building done: 2014 has been a year of detail finishes on the plastering side, installations of drainage pipes for rain water and drinking water. More taps have been installed. Old rusted fences were removed and replaced with proper sandbag cement and plastered walls. Half a metre deep foundation walls with concrete mix of sand, rubble and cement were poured into these foundations. Many sandbags were filled and used to secure concrete courtyards and patios then concrete layered over to withstand the heavy rains and flooding in the area. Eco-timber roof beams have been fitted on part of Phase 4 (literacy room). Concrete lintels have been used extensively in the window, door and roof areas where, timber beam frames sit. Adhering and keeping in line with structural building regulation standards are strictly adhered to. Patios and courtyards are being raised to prevent flooding of the area. Plumbing drains for fresh water and dirty water outlet have been separately installed. The finishes of the courtyard and patios including the walls are looking fresh and vibrant with the colours. Volunteers are spending most of their time on detail plaster and building work since the announcement of the site being a 'World Design Capital 2014' site. Building volunteers have also been invited to assist in many dirty days organised by non-building volunteers. In between the major building work being carried out we had two food sponsorships, one from an ex volunteer John Verpent (USA), one from a building volunteer Niels van der Schaans' parents. We have seen many international visitors and guests visiting the site to exchange innovations and ideas on urban sustainability in informal areas. We had recently been awarded a Gold Star award from the mayor Patricia De Lille, City of Cape Town. This together with the site being declared a 'World Design Capital 2014' site has given us more opportunities to steer ahead with our proposed plans for a garden diversity/nutritional project and a sport project.



Minor work done this year: Volunteers had the opportunity to get involved in organic gardening, planting of vegetables, watering the garden, feeding, teaching and playing with the children, assisting in litter clean-up, rubble removal, taking care of the dogs and giving support to abuse children.