

## Projects Abroad South Africa Building Project Update 2012

Gift of Hope, Village Heights, Lavender Hill

Phase 2: Finishing of phase 2 including the construction of courtyards, patios and the start of Phase 3: a multi-purpose building  
No of Volunteers: 79

Building Manager: Deen Singh

Assistant to Building Manager: Vash Singh

Special Group: Pearson Foundation,  
Global Gaps and regular volunteers



**The major building requirement was to continue to work on Phase 2:** Mainly finishes of Phase 2 (toilet, wash area, water taps) including the construction of an outside courtyard and patios. Later in the year Phase 3 was started: Construction of a multi-purpose building for skills training, including a proposed literacy centre.

Finishing the toilet required very specialised skills. Volunteers were taught plumbing so that they could fit the toilet pan and basin, install water taps, dig trenches and lay water and drainage pipes. Volunteers had to completely install all plumbing works from the toilet to the toilet pit. Some of the volunteers were required to do wall and floor tiling in the toilet and wash area. Later in the year the Pearson Foundation Group started the construction of Phase 3 of the building. Thereafter the Global Gap volunteers continued with the building of walls. Regular volunteers continued on both the walls and the construction of the outside courtyard which required major work. First the site had to be cleared of dirt and rubble and then levelled out. Barb wire fencing had to be removed and neat sandbag constructed walls were built and painted with drawings. Thousands of sandbags had to be filled and layered down to build up the courtyard to raise the level of the ground as it was too low. Thick foundation walls had to be constructed to hold the weight of the building and to withstand the heavy rain and flooding in the area. The labour intensive building work and the adverse weather conditions did not deter the determination of the volunteers, especially the female volunteers, who really enjoyed every minute of their work and took up the challenge to build and make a difference. In between the building work we had care volunteers that were very determined to get the crèche up and running. Care volunteers went from door to door canvassing for children to join and informing parents of the importance of having their children learn to read and write at the centre. We also had the good fortune to have our director Dr Peter Slowe and his deputy director Terry Thornhill visiting us. It was an exciting year with many accomplishments.



**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 abused children.



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The Pearson Group volunteers really made an impressive impact on the building site. They utilised their two weeks by filling many sandbags, constructing a wall, doing foundation walls, pouring concrete onto the floors and mixing a lot of cement and concrete. They took part in our recycling program by using some of the waste rubble in our building construction. They produced an excellent video of their volunteering at the building site.



Our regular volunteers picked up from where the Pearson Foundation left off by filling in the many sandbags, extending the walls by laying sandbags in rows and plastering them with cement and concrete mix.



This year we seen a culmination of beautiful events: volunteers cooked food and distributed at our first Christmas bash sponsored by Projects Abroad; our volunteers served porridge on the first day that Pollsmoor Prison committed to start sponsoring porridge for the community children; our care volunteers did door to door canvassing to parents to start sending their children to us to start off our crèche; our successful beach holiday program and our litter clean-up at our future proposed sport field went very well