

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad South Africa



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ProjectsAbroad

New Project: Operation Smile

Operation  Smile

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time



This year we welcome a new business project and project partner, Operation Smile.

Operation Smile is an international children's medical charity that performs safe, effective cleft lip and cleft palate surgery, and delivers postoperative and on-going medical therapies to children in low and middle income countries.

Every three minutes a child is born with a cleft. A child with a cleft has twice the odds of dying before their first birthday.

Children with cleft conditions who survive may have difficulty eating, speaking, hearing or breathing properly.

In some places, they are shunned and rejected. Within too many cases their parents can't afford the surgeries they need to enable them to live a productive life. Every child deserves access to safe, quality surgical care and every child deserves a future filled with hope.

Operation Smile has been giving children this hope since 1982, through the help of dedicated medical volunteers, performing 220,000 free surgical procedures on children and young adults. It is the largest volunteer-based children's medical charity providing free cleft surgeries.

Operation Smile is always ready to welcome volunteers who are eager to make a positive contribution to the work that they do. Operation Smile treats their interns with the utmost appreciation and respect and the institution encourages interns to provide new, fresh ideas to the organisation.

Our volunteers that sign up for this project will participate and play an active role in helping the organisation reach its targets in various areas such as social media, fundraising and research work done by the institution, among other things. A successful experience at this kind of project will be determined by the volunteer, who is encouraged to always come up with new and creative ways that they can apply within the organisation themselves.

This can surely be a life changing experience for our volunteers and we cannot wait to welcome our first group at this project.

Read more about [Operation Smile here](#)



Care Management Plan



Dutch volunteer, Anne van de Pol at Masikhule care placement

Mirco Malavasi from Italy teaches the kids about colours.

The beginning of the New Year, means that we get to start afresh and tackle the challenges that we would like take on. One of the care projects goals is to see a full implementation of our Care Management plan at all our placements.

This year our care volunteers will be focusing on 6 year old children, who will enter into primary school the following year. By doing this our project can have a more structured programme that will allow us to keep up with the progress being made. We will now be able to make sure that the development of the children is on the same level as their peers, making them eligible to start with their Grade 1 education.

Through a volunteer task list, the volunteers at the care placements are given goals in different areas such as literacy, numeracy and stimulation. Our volunteers play a vital role in assisting the teachers to keep record of the children's development.

Teachers and volunteers work hand-in-hand in creating visual aids, activities and planning of weekly lessons that will also focus on the four key areas of early childhood development (Physical, Social, Emotional, and Learning).

[Click here](#) to read the Care Management Plan in full.



2015 Resolutions

We asked some of our volunteers and staff members from the head office what their new year's resolutions were and here is what they had to say:



Nicolas Figueroa, France. Journalism Project.

"I want to improve on my English and be a fluent speaker."



Care Project Manager: Ashwin Scott.

"To create more events that will feature our Care projects in the newsletters."



Espen Kjono, Switzerland. Building Project.

"I'd like to learn how to surf this year"



Deputy Director: Samantha De Oliveira

"I'd like to become a Yoga instructor and further my studies"



Office Assistant: Kayla Davis.

"Successfully implement our 2015 Care management plan."



Alex Lia, Australia. Human Rights Project.

"I would like to make a friend from every continent."

Cape Town Free Walking Tour

On Christmas Eve our volunteers spent their morning participating in a free walking tour of the Mother city. The tour began at Cape Town's famous, St Georges Cathedral Church, which is the seat for the archbishop of Cape Town; the tour continued off to other key monuments such as the National House of Parliament Building and the Cape Town high court. Along with the history of each building and events that are celebrated there, the tour provided great insight into facts that even myself as a local didn't know much about.



Volunteers on the tour of the city.



St Georges Cathedral in the city centre.

Editor's Note: Happy New Year!!



It's a new year and it's already off to a busy start. We have just wrapped up our holiday program, and I'm glad to say that it was a great success thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff who headed it up.

It's back to school for all our children and teaching volunteers. Our teaching project saw a lot of improvement in the classrooms last year with volunteers helping us reintegrate learners into the year's syllabus.

This is only the beginning of what I believe will be another successful year for the project. The Care project is also making some changes with their new Care Management Plan which aims to be implemented into all our Care projects.

All I can say is that the future is looking bright for all our projects and I'm excited to witness the great work that our volunteers will be doing this year.

Kay Kekana, Communications Officer

We are still pretty much in our summer peak season and there are numerous activities that our volunteers can partake in.

The one that seems to be a favourite amongst our volunteers is our monthly full moon hikes up Lions Head Mountain. Once they have reached the top of the mountain, our volunteers get to experience Cape Town's beauty like never before, views of the city by night as well as our famous shore lines is a sight that makes it worth the two hour hike up.

They can also look forward to more cultural events and socials that will keep them in touch with the South African culture. Our next event of this kind will be a social, "Tastes of the World", where each participant will bring a dish from their home country. We can't wait to share our South African dishes and recipes with our volunteers, I'm sure they'll have some great tastes to share too.