

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad South Africa



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 02 Music Project: Shane Waxler
- 03 Journalism: Global Youth Indaba
- 04 Human Rights: Monthly Report
- 05 Community Cooking Day
- 06 Editor's Note

Follow us on



Instagram



> www.projects-abroad.org.za

ProjectsAbroad

Volunteer of the Month: Shane Waxler



Shane helps a students read and practice their music.

*Shane Waxler, 19, America
Music Project, 11 weeks*

There's nothing better than having a volunteer walk into our office and greet us with a huge enthusiastic smile.

That is exactly how 19 year old Shane Waxler stole the hearts of most off the staff here in the Projects Abroad South Africa office. Shane, who is currently studying music in the United States, is one of the favourite volunteers amongst our staff members.

Shane, who volunteered with our Music Project, teaches the children at Parkwood Primary school how to play musical instruments and read music. Shane believes that music allows one to express their emotion in a harmless and beautiful way and preventing them from getting involved in activities that would have a negative impact on their lives.

He loved that he was able to teach and also be an active contributor to the Projects Abroad music site, Sounds of The World. He had the opportunity to interact with local artists and assist them in gaining exposure.

"I have learnt so much in such a short period of time, I know that my time spent here will provide me with lessons and relationships that I will carry with me for the rest of my life." He says.



Shane gives a guitar lesson to the learners at Parkwood Primary School.

Journalism Volunteers attend The Global Youth Indaba

The Global Youth Peace Indaba was recently held in Cape Town. The Indaba was sponsored by The Nelson Mandela Foundation, in partnership with the FW de Clerk Foundation.

The event was held for students from all over the world who had come to Cape Town in the hopes to attend The Nobel Peace Summit. However, the Dalai Lama, one of the most prominent speakers presiding over the conference, had his visa rejected by the Government of South Africa.

The summit was cancelled since most Nobel Prize laureates, in a show of solidarity with Dalai Lama, decided to boycott the conference.

Project's Abroad Journalism volunteers attended the Indaba and had the opportunity to hear some very remarkable speeches, one of which was an inspiring speech on Leadership by former President FW de Klerk himself.

It's clear from the way her face lights up when she talks about her project that she truly loved everything she did. "The project is cool as everything we write goes up on the blog and website, and it has so many different things that anyone who reads it will find something interesting for themselves," she says with a big smile.

A day in the life of a journalism volunteer is never the same, with them conducting interviews and researching new topics to write about, they always find themselves immersed in the current activities happening in Cape Town. From food markets to museums, there is always a new activity that constantly keeps them abreast of South African life. One of her favourite places that she visited was the Parliamentary House; here Roxanne was given a tour of the different parliamentary buildings and got an idea of what goes on in Parliament.

Right: Journalism Volunteers, Kriti Asthana, Maryse Laneville and Cape Chameleon Assistant Editor, Kim Barlow.



Below: Former president and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, FW De Klerk, who also made a speech at the Indaba (Conference).



Human Rights Organisation: Monthly Report



Human Rights Volunteer Jack Harrison from the United Kingdom wrote this month's report, describing his experience of working on a criminal case with the Projects Abroad Human Rights Office.

Criminal Report: "On Thursday the 23rd of October, I went with criminal attorney, Sherwin, to meet two new clients who are currently incarcerated in the notorious Pollsmoor Prison, awaiting trial. We are only able to assist clients at Pollsmoor who are accused of 'petty crimes'.

The first step we had to take was to ensure that those we met were in fact those we could provide legal assistance to. The guards, despite our instructions, brought two men who we were unable to help. These men had to be sent away, unfortunately.

We were left with two men, who stood accused of crimes which we were able to defend them for. We interviewed them in one of the court video link rooms, with no guard present; this was an unnerving experience!

Our first new client stood accused of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm (GBH). He wished to plead not guilty. The client claimed that he was watching some minstrels performing in the street outside of his house. His friend, who had drank too much, was vomiting at the time.

A woman came out of the neighboring house, and began to shout at them. At this point, someone threw a large stone or brick, hitting the woman in the face and causing her with a reasonably serious injury. The client claimed to us that he had not ever seen this happen before. However, his friend (who the client claims likes to 'play around') blamed him for throwing the object at the woman. The client maintains it was in fact this friend who threw the object.

Two days after the incident, the police came and arrested the client, as the woman had apparently reported him as the perpetrator of the assault upon her. The client's bail had been denied, due to him having several pending cases related to attempted murder and possession of illegal ammunition. He therefore had to remain in Pollsmoor until his upcoming trial.

The second new client was a previous client of ours, who was once again in Pollsmoor. The client was accused of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft. The previous case which we had assisted him with was also theft, which the client had been convicted of. This client wanted to plead guilty, as he had effectively been caught 'in the act'. One evening, the client broke into a shed, intending to steal hardware from within it. However, a loud alarm went off, and he was forced to flee the scene.

The next morning, the client tried to go back to the shed to retrieve the goods which he had attempted to steal. He discovered four grinders, which he placed into a bucket and tried to make off with. However, he was spotted leaving by a taxi driver, who kept him in place until the police arrived and arrested him.

This client had been unable to afford bail, so he was stuck in Pollsmoor until his trial. The client was very upset about this, as he had wanted to be home for Christmas. We immediately began preparing the defences of both of these clients."

Community Cooking Day

Our care volunteers have started a fantastic initiative in the communities that their projects are based, by providing the children with a nutritional meal.

Our volunteer, Steffen Vogel from Germany, realised that the Care centres at which some of our volunteers were placed couldn't provide enough nutritional meals for their children. This is what inspired him to begin to look into hosting a cooking day for the different care centres that they worked within.

Projects Abroad care volunteers come together to prepare a wholesome meal for these children. They serve hearty vegetable pasta with fruit salad for dessert, with which they managed to feed about 150 children overall.

The reality is that many of these children come from poorer backgrounds would have to sometimes go to bed on an empty stomach, as their families are struggling to provide them with nutritional meals.

This great initiative by the volunteers helped introduce a feeding scheme that will sustain the developing children and further more encourage communities to come together and engage in more worthwhile initiative like this.



Top: Volunteer Maxine Wetzer, helping to dish out the meals.
Bottom: Steffen Vogel, who organised the cooking day.



The children enjoy their meal during lunch time.



Volunteer Coordinator Ashwin Scott, with volunteers Marta Bellicano, Steffen Vogel, Maxine Wetzer, Laura Holm, Cira Steiper and staff member, Kayla Davis.

Care Project: Playground Garden Clean up



Volunteers Cira, Marta and Steffen carry out rubbish bags.

Marta Bellicano, a 24 year old care project volunteer from Italy, did her bit for her project by organising a clean-up day for our Care Placement, Little Shine Nursery school.

With the help of other volunteers she was able to clean up and restore the children's playground, which is often neglected and covered in all sorts of litter.

By doing so the volunteers were able to provide a safe and clean environment, where the children can play games and have fun.



All in days work for our volunteers who are all smiles. after all their hard work.

Editor's Note



Kay Kekana, Communications Officer

Over the past few weeks I've been witnessed a lot of our volunteers taking up the initiative to go above and beyond what was expected of them at their Projects.

With our Care volunteers being a great example of this; it really does warm our hearts to see them happily go the extra mile.

This is not only achievable through volunteers doing something charitable for their projects, but also by those who fully commit to their project and engage themselves in the communities and cultures that they find themselves in.

Our journalism volunteers Shusuke Tsuto, from Japan gave us all quiet the shock when he told us that he would be going out in the city in search of homeless people to interview.

The determination to tell some of Cape Town's overlooked stories and perspectives was something that I admired from Shusuke, who could be seen eagerly leaving our offices to meet up with one of his subjects.

In his article about the homeless people living in the city, he highlights some important social issues that one would have never found out otherwise. From drug dealers exploiting the homeless, to the day to day struggles of the homeless, he says that he also strongly noticed how our societies in general exclude them and never regard homeless as part of their community.

Shusuke has truly proven that there are no boundaries when it comes to learning more about people and our societies, make sure that you read more about his experience in the next copy of our Journalism project magazine the [Cape Chameleon](#).

It's summer time, the days are longer, the streets are always buzzing and there are plenty of activities taking place in and around Cape Town. I'd like to encourage all our volunteers to always go out and dare to explore, there's always more to everything, than meets the eye. With that being said, make sure that you also exercise some caution when travelling and using public transport.