

Projects Abroad South Africa Building Project Update 2011

Gift of Hope, Village Heights, Lavender Hill

Phase 2: Construction of Toilet, Wash Area, Toilet Drop Pit.

No of Volunteers: 90

Building Manager: Deen Singh

Special Group: 2 Week Special group from Australia,
Global Gaps and regular volunteers



The major building requirement was to work on Phase 2: The construction of a toilet and washing facility. During this time an urgent need was to have our own toilet as there were none in the entire area. Using the nearby fields as a toilet was not only unhygienic but posed a security risk. This basic need was becoming a priority as our volunteers and children at the crèche were inconvenienced. To make the building project attractive, safe and convenient we started with the construction. Construction was temporarily halted on Phase One (construction of the crèche: at that stage only 60% completed) and work began on Phase Two.

Major work done this year: The site was cleared of all the rubble and dirt. The uneven ground had to be levelled out. Foundations had to be dug. A mixture of sand, recycled stones and gravel (which had to be picked up manually from the nearby dump site) mixed with bags of cement into a concrete and poured into the foundations. Thousands of sandbags were filled and then layered out in rows into the foundation and floor area. The floor area had to have thick layers of concrete and then smoothed out. One of the long-term volunteers (5 months) was given the opportunity to be a site supervisor.



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.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM EUROPE VISITED THE BUILDING SITE TO FIND WAYS OF INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS IN THE TOWNSHIPS

International students from Holland were sent by the government to research and assist in finding ways to introduce sustainable projects in townships in South Africa. They were very impressed by the eco-sandbag and eco-timber beam construction method of building. Our future proposed long term sustainable projects include bio-diversity vegetable gardening for our future nutrition project, having our own water tanks to hold rain water for our gardens, our drop pit toilet pit for later to be used also to generate methane gas to provide electricity by using generators, our alien removal of trees, clearing of our dump site and recycling of the rubble by using it in our construction.