



# Projects Abroad



Cape Town

## January 2014

### Contents:

Letter from the Editor

The Old Biscuit Mill | A volunteer trend

Fun in the sun | Holiday program success

The sea of happiness | Another joyful day at the surfing project

Love, Care and the Gift of Hope – A Building Project update

Building up to a great year | Building project starts the year with many helping hands

Photo Spread | Surfing



### Letter from the Editor

What a great way to start the New Year. From the great success stories of the holiday program, to the amazing work of the building project. I always found even numbers to be lucky and now that the year 2014 has started, I think it is true. 2014 is going to be a good year, with loads of activities and new initiatives. After having an exciting and in some ways a sad Christmas, as we South Africans and the World had to come to terms with the loss of our beloved Tata Madiba (Nelson Mandela). He was an icon we can all draw strength, determination and compassion from! With that, I am confident it is going to be an eventful year! Let's put our hands together and make it an outstanding and busy year that will bring many helping volunteering hands. We could already see the great recognition that our care, teaching, human rights, building and surfing projects have been receiving. The building project has started off with more eager volunteers to see and experience the building life. The surfing project has also started off the year great, after having a holiday program it has also been an attraction for volunteers during this beautiful summer days. It has become a tradition now that Cape Town boasts an exceptional social side to it with its breathtaking beautiful Table Mountain, the historical Robben Island, breathtaking Oceans, Wineries and conservation spots! Take advantage of the many forthcoming attractions, the many concerts, parties and events that will brighten up and make your volunteering experience even livelier each year! Volunteering at Projects Abroad, whether it is helping a victim of xenophobia, teaching the children computers, laying a sandbag to construct a building, writing a story, rescuing an abused pet, teaching children that never seen a surf board or the ocean to surf or to caring for the many dis-advantaged children, we are continuing to bring a positive and worthwhile difference to the many dis-advantaged communities! Enjoy this month's issue!

Vash Singh  
Information Manager/  
Editor

# The Old Biscuit Mill | A volunteer trend

I have been hearing amazing things about 'The Old Biscuit Mill' and it has definitely become a volunteer attraction. It is a market that boasts a variety of European, Asian and African cuisines every Saturday out in Woodstock, a trendy and artistic district in Cape Town. I am yet to see such an ecstatic group of people, enjoying the many different cultures of food and music, in my life. The amount of different foods and activities will take you through a whole new experience in life. The atmosphere is an artistic and relaxed vibe that shows a great new culture in South Africa. The music, a variation of different genres ranging from classic, soft rock, jazz and blues caters for many different generations. Not only is there a variation of music but the amount of different types of foods are extraordinary, and the different smells were enchanting! Each stall I walked past had a unique theme and a matching smell to where it comes from, that would make your mouth water. From various meats being grilled, pizzas and pastas, coffee and many delectable sweets. Not only was the food tasty but healthy as well, with its wide range of organic fruits and vegetables. I recommend this amazing experience to all; it is not too be missed.



# Fun in the sun | Holiday program success

From the second week of December all primary schools went on holidays and it is a very exciting time for children. Unfortunately, in the township many children are not fortunate enough to have many fun and exciting activities to do. As one can see these communities are plagued by gangsters, drugs and alcoholism. To prevent as much children to avoid these unpleasant social factors experienced here, we had a holiday programme! The programme was a great success for both the children and volunteers, which contributed to a positive build up to the start of 2014. With great stories from the children, staff and volunteers, we hope to see the programme again at the end of the 2014. We would like to thank everyone that was involved and who put such hard work into this great program.





# The sea of happiness | Another joyful day at the surfing project



I was eager and looked forward to go to Muizenberg and experience the surfing project first hand, during this beautiful summer in South Africa.

I arrived in the early afternoon and was surrounded by the many excited children and volunteers at the Muizenberg beach. There are so many activities that the volunteers do to keep the children happy and excited! Volunteers played soccer with some of the children, while others prepared themselves in their wetsuits. When the children were suited up, they were eagerly waited to dive straight into the water, but first the volunteers had to prepare them for their surfing lesson. I was very impressed by the volunteer's enthusiasm and motivating abilities during the warm-up session. Every child had to participate and come up with their own warm-up move, followed by a good run on the beach.

After that, the volunteers took the children out into the sea with either boogie board or surfboard. There were a good amount of volunteers so the children were safe and were treated to plenty of personal attention. Some of the children displayed amazing surfing skills, trying out new tricks and enjoying the water.

I was really impressed by the surfing project, the volunteers and the children. It's great to see that such a great activity can be used to not only help the children of Cape Town, but also allows us to go out and enjoy our natural beauty; the ocean!





# Love, Care and the Gift of Hope | A Building Project update



Time never stands still, and it's so amazing to see the changes in a project. Words cannot express the true emotions and the amount of work that has been put in, but pictures tell an entire story. Let me show you how the building project has progressed through the years. This is the work of the volunteers at the Building Project. With their help and support, this project has grown and helped so many children in the community. Not only is the community centre built but families are built as well. Many volunteers keep in contact with each other, with their project manager and community members, which is a great sight to see. So come around and join the family.



## **Building up to a great year | 2013 Building project kicks off 2014 with many helping hands**



The building project along with the building manager has done so many outstanding things in 2013, from the World design showcase to contributing to the National Development Plan set out by the South African Government. Their positive contribution has earned them a place to work alongside the City of Cape Town Environmental and Planning Department to continue to build community centres and working alongside the nature reserve to bring together both communities and the reserve as 'Friends and Neighbours'.

Now it's the start of 2014 and there has already been an influx of volunteers and other non-government organisations that are interested in contributing to the success of the building project. We once again look forward to see some major progress and great feedbacks from the building project this year!







# Photo Spread | Care





