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**[Editor's Note]**

On any given day, the weather in Cape Town seems to have been pulled from some sort of eclectic climatic lucky packet. This month, however, it has really outdone itself. Just last week the sun was on form and I was challenging fellow staff members to the infamous Atlantic Ocean dunk on a balmy beach afternoon. Today I am advising volunteers on the best coat shops in town.

Projects Abroad South Africa is a lot like the weather in this way. One day I'll be waist-deep in water filming surf volunteers teaching township children to catch the famous Muizenberg waves, and the next I'll be sitting quietly in court watching our human rights team defend a client in a serious refugee case. When asked what it is I do for a living, I often tell people to think of all the ways in which assistance can be provided to the needy, and then to rest assured that the NPO for which I work has at least most of them covered.

From education to conservation and even recreation, a broad spectrum of selfless services is provided by our valuable volunteers on a daily basis. In this month's edition alone you will learn about their participation in a bead project, a food drive, a community publication, a surf foundation, a care centre and a soup kitchen. And as usual this is but the tip of the iceberg.

**Enjoy the August edition!**

**Lara Potgieter | South Africa Information Manager**

## Business Project Initiative I Siyazenzela Sewing & Beads



Our business volunteers are currently hard at work promoting Siyazenzela, a collective of creative women from the community of Vrygrond who make bags, clothing and jewellery at Where Rainbows Meet Training & Development Centre.

We are proud to be associated with this wonderful business venture and encourage our volunteers, host families and staff to purchase African-inspired gifts and accessories from our partner project rather than from the standard Green Market Square or Biscuit Mill markets.

To purchase an existing product or to order a custom-made piece, contact [larapotgieter@projects-abroad.org](mailto:larapotgieter@projects-abroad.org) To view the full catalogue, visit <http://pinterest.com/siyazenzelasew/>

Help us to help the community of Vrygrond!

## Building Volunteer's Food Drive Initiative

Swiss high school student Samuel Zekri (17), who spent two weeks volunteering at the Projects Abroad Building Project in Cape Town last month, wanted to do something more for the direly impoverished community to which he was exposed during his time at the project.

He began speaking to community members around the building site, trying to discover the greatest and most universal problem they faced. Each individual responded that a lack of food was the greatest problem experienced by all in the area, and Samuel resolved to save his personal travel money for a food drive in the area during his last few days in the country.

Samuel made enquiries and learned that he had enough money to feed up to 600 children each day of the week-long drive. He got a team together and a variety of meat, chicken, beans, rice and sandwich offerings were prepared for the lines of children and adults who came to benefit from the drive.

"I wanted to do something for everyone," Samuel shared. "I didn't want one child to have to look on while others benefitted," he added. "The moments in which I handed each child a box of food and a little plastic spoon were surely the greatest of my time in South Africa," he reminisced. "I don't know if my gesture made any lasting difference in the children's lives, but it felt right to me and I hope that it can perhaps inspire others to do the same," he concluded.



## July Volunteer of the Month | Erica Manniello

“Erica has really been fantastic. She's the most helpful person in the office, she has been pro-active with her work and she has done the most interviewing (even in her own time). She has put a tremendous amount of effort into the project, taking English lessons and getting her teacher to read over her work before it comes to me. Plus she actually wants to get things 'right' and uses words like 'frenetic' in one of her articles (which impresses me)! She has helped to organise the other volunteers with events and she goes out of her way to make sure all volunteers are included in arrangements. She is always smiling and has a fantastic attitude which lasted for the duration of her placement.” – Rebecca Saraceno-Hugo, Cape Chameleon Editor



## **Project Partner | Kulu Manzi Surf Foundation**

**The Kulu Manzi Surf Foundation was formed primarily to bring otherwise expensive out-of-reach beach and ocean-based sports and activities to underprivileged children living in violent drug- and gang-riddled communities. These children have little or no hope of escaping these dire circumstances without external intervention.**

**When Projects Abroad approached the founder of Kulu Manzi, Brad Kleingeld, to form an alliance they discovered through research and viability studies that there are thousands of underprivileged children living within a kilometre radius from the ocean who have never had access to it due to their dire circumstances.**

**With these factors in mind as well as the international reach that Projects Abroad has, the partnership decided to form the NGO. The aim of the foundation is to tackle Cape Town's inherent and escalating drug, alcohol, crime and gangsterism problems head-on by offering an alternative healthy, natural and environmentally-aware lifestyle to the otherwise destitute masses.**

**The Kulu Manzi Surf Foundation's (KMSF) mentoring, coaching and organised physical activity programme aims to show the children of the poorer communities that there is in fact the possibility of a better life, and to place them out of reach of gangs and their criminal and destructive behaviour.**

**KMSF and Projects Abroad strive to offer the expert skills and experience, the international reach, the transparency, measurement and structured approach to the sport necessary to create a meaningful and effective long term outreach program.**



## A Message of Gratitude from Projects Abroad and Rainbow Educare Centre

On behalf of all at Projects Abroad South Africa and Rainbow Educare Centre, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to ex care volunteer Erica Leenen for her on-going financial support of Rainbow Educare through her Rainbow Run initiative.

Erica's first generous fundraising series paid for the resources (books, posters, educational games, etc.) necessary to convey the themes of the Western Cape Government's new SITE Learning Programme to the children of the centre, and her second Rainbow Run raised enough money to buy the centre a brand new stove as well as a cupboard full of food staples for the children.

The staff and children at the centre are immensely grateful for Erica's efforts and admire her continued proactivity and resolution to help those in need.

Well done and thank you, Erica!



## Photo Spread | Two Week Special Volunteers









