

Granting Wishes & GLOBAL HEROES – Feb 2011

- **AWARDS: COLORS** & staff have received 5 international awards & nominations
- **YALE University & Foundation for Progressive Development** scholarship supports director in completing **Advanced Health Management post grad for change in Africa**
- **Building, Growing & Making Happy Healthy Spaces for kids. Your sponsorships are making wishes come true**



February & March are always the best months for Project COLORS. This is when all your Christmas & New Years donations and sponsorships come to life, being put to work here in South Africa. This is a time where so many of the wishes and prayers of those in need are answered...BY YOU!

Thank you for your sponsorships, donations and awards!

Announcement: A huge thank you to SAGA Charitable Trust UK for Awarding COLORS with funding for our pre-school /children's programs and projects this year. We had a lovely visit from Janice at SAGA when she came to see and evaluate our projects and we feel honored that our proposal for further funding was accepted.

Thank you Janice and SAGA for loving what we do!



GLOBAL HEROS AWARD –

Sunyata Choyce & Project COLORS team!



Heroes & Lifeboats is a Celebration; an opportunity to Recognize and Join the Nation of terrific people who Help make Our World, a little bit better. Champions for a Greater Good! *"Thank you Heroes & Lifeboats for choosing us."*

PHOTO: (Auntie Annie's family- Soup Kitchen and Foster home party at COLORS house) <http://www.hfp.org/index.html>



Quotes from our project leaders and agents of change: Wishes granted

"We want to feed our kids in the crèche every morning healthy filling food" Alice & Violet



Wish Granted

" We need continued baby milk to feed the 25 babies in our care each day" Zaza

Wish Granted



<http://www.consumerwellness.org>

CONSUMER WELLNESS CENTER
Empowering consumers with lifesaving knowledge

Congratulations! Project COLORS –You have been selected to receive a Consumer Wellness Center Nutrition Education Grant of \$1000 to assist you in the expansion of your "Tiny Tummies" nutrition education program in South Africa.

We believe that our 2.2 million readers will learn a great amount of invaluable information about the work you are doing to assist the families of South Africa. We look forward to the digital photos and progress reports that we suspect will inspire us deeply. Keep up the good work and know our hearts are with you.

*In Truth and Health, Mike Adams
Executive Director, Consumer Wellness Center USA*

News and Press Releases

December 22, 2010) - The Consumer Wellness Center (CWC), a nonprofit organization devoted to empowering consumers with information on health and wellness issues, today announced the winners of its 2011 Nutritional Education Grant program. Seven organizations from around the world will receive \$1,000 grants to initiate or expand programs designed to teach children and mothers about the importance of good nutrition in maintaining and improving health and well-being. Project Colors, a children's overseas learning opportunities and resources society, will use the \$1,000 grant to purchase quality food and supplies for its Tiny Tummies program. Roughly 160 African children living in tuberculosis-ridden slums will benefit as the program's coordinators teach them how to eat well and boost their immune systems through proper nutrition.

FIGHTING TB Through Healthy Immune Boosting Foods for Children

Community gardens, Peanut Butter, E-pap, Baby milk....are all part of keeping our kids healthy and happy. We now assist 4 childcare centers, a soup kitchen and a foster home with these very important elements in building a child's immune system. Cleaning supplies and 1st aid kits are also given to decrease the spread of germs and contamination and spread of TB and other illnesses.



House swap

By Ali Barnim

Imagine you live in a small house of almost 20 people running a foster home and soup kitchen with no hot water and little support. Find out what happens when there is a house swap, major renovations and some interesting twists of fate. ([To read more click here or scroll to the bottom](#))

Annie and Sackie's Honeymoon Adventure at 70!

Before Annie and Sackie came home to see their big surprise, they had another big surprise. They locked themselves in Sunny's house by accident! ([To read more about this heart touching story click here or scroll to the bottom](#))



Christmas camp and youth mentorship

"From extra funding sent by the Whalen family and GPI Atlantic in Canada, COLORS was able to provide a weekend leadership camp for a team of disadvantaged pre-teens from the Thembalatu Silver town township in South Africa. They had a big sleep over at COLORS director's house...with lots of great activities organized by volunteers, Ali, Cam, John, Alice and Sunny.



These kids never had real showers before or felt hot water from a tap. They played in the pool & spent a day at the beach . We had relay races, swimming lessons, kite and shaker making plus an evening of singing , dancing, and a bonfire. Lots of good food was bought and transports arranged to make this happen.

These kids were selected for this camp after a talent contest in Wilderness.
Thank you Whalen's and GPI for making this possible.

.....from the pre-teens 'waka waka' group of Themba SilverTown!!!! THANK YOU"

"Hi Sunyata,

Thank you, but all we did was to send the money. You all are the ones who made all the good and helpful things happen! We know that any money we send you will be put to good use and it is nice to see the results. I was quite overwhelmed by the video clip and very thankful that you have the initiative to make these projects come to fruition. We think you are an amazing person. ☺ We pray for you almost every day that God will continue to give you the strength and ability to help these children and also keep you in good health. I'm sure Andrew is a great support to you and I'm glad you have him in your life. The Whalen Family"



[NOVA'S STORY- Love thy dog](#)

A good news story about a puppy, a girl from Canada and how a little effort and love can save a life!

[\(Click here or see below for more\)](#)

IN THE MEDIA

THE GLOBE AND MAIL 

Transformational Canadians

Through their vision, leadership and actions, each Transformational Canadians have immeasurably improved the lives of others. This fall, the Transformational Canadians program will choose exceptional individuals drawn from across six fields: business, science and technology, the environment, education, [health care](#) and the community

Sunyata Choyce, Founding director of Project COLORS

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/25/sunyata-choyce-founding-director-of-project-colors/article1773519/> Last updated Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010 9:57AM EST

Sunyata Choyce is the founding executive director of Project COLORS International (Children's Overseas Learning Opportunities and Resources), a non-profit humanitarian aid organization devoted to grassroots community development projects in George, South Africa. Ms. Choyce has been leading Project COLORS for seven years, largely on her own initiative with a small team of international volunteers – until her work bringing attention to the cause led to expansion.

More related to this story

- [Nominate: Who's your pick?](#)
- [Learn more about the program](#)
- [See the full list of nominees](#)



[Project COLORS in pictures](#) - [Learn more about Project COLORS](#) [Download this file \(.pdf\)](#)

Three years after the Project launch, the COLORS distribution program began, based in Ms. Choyce's home province of Nova Scotia. Youth from the program distribute basic first aid, dental, and school supplies from Ms. Choyce's foundation headquarters in Lawrencetown N.S., directly to children and poverty-stricken families around the world.

With a posting at the United Nations at the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in the Dominican Republic inspired Ms. Choyce to boost Project COLORS clean water efforts, educational programs and basic health care. She lives in South Africa where she is running COLORS on her own with only the support of visiting volunteers and funds from donors. There is currently no funding for salary as Sunyata is a volunteer herself until a sponsor is found.

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Features Writer | Top 20 twentysomethings
- 4:54 AM

To see more: <http://thechronicleherald.ca/Metro/1218932.html> **Top 20 Young Canadians**



Helping others
(Peter Parsons / Staff)

When you're saving the world one child — and one puppy — at a time, the days are hectic.

Lawrencetown native Sunyata Choyce is the founder and executive director of Project COLORS (Children's Overseas Learning Opportunities and Resources Society), which works to make sure humanitarian aid actually gets into the hands of those who need it most.

She lives in South Africa, where the need is great.

In the morning and find a kid at my door, or sitting next to my garbage can going through stuff, and they may or may not have most their clothes on, smelling of
said via cellphone from Thembalatu, George South Africa.

Many instances where these children have been abused . . . and they do see my house as a safe space, so often I'll take the kids in. Then I'll go to whatever I'm planning
which could be taking volunteers to teach or doctors to deliver 1st aid kits, and sometimes we end up bringing the children that we find outside of my house with us to teach
which is always an adventure.

At a random sick dog, pick it up and take it to the vet for shots, rehab it, then take it back to its often poor owners and teach them how to better take care of it.... And then,
we usually have swimming lessons for the local kids because they're right on the shore and there's a high rate of children drowning."

Her passion for Project COLORS comes from donations from Canadians. It was founded when Choyce was just 21. The work can be overwhelming, and she said good humour
maintaining her passion for it.

"At least two times a year I want to quit and run away from it all as this is a very stressful career choice. I am still passionate about it, for sure, because I do see that there's a
know how much the people here appreciate it," said Choyce.

"Significant things always happens and you realize it wouldn't have been possible if we weren't doing the work that we're doing, like getting children sponsored, or getting a stove
donation, or getting a young adult a job that they never would have gotten without our networking. That's what counts, and that makes me happy."

Emerging Leaders Summit.



Dear Sunyata,

Congratulations! We are delighted to tell you that you have been nominated for the 21inc Emerging Leaders Summit.

The Summit seeks 50 of Atlantic Canada's best leaders and entrepreneurs age 35 and under to participate in three days of intensive leadership development, policy dialogues, and relationship building. The Summit is held in St. Andrew's New Brunswick, **November 21-24, 2010.**

(Unfortunately Sunyata was unable to attend as she was committed to many COLORS obligations in South Africa. Thank you to Emerging Leaders for the lovely invitation and nomination)



"THANK YOU ALI and CAM for all your time and effort here in South Africa. COLORS, the teachers, the kids and puppies will never forget you. Thank you for teaching, building, caring for the dogs and caring for COLORS!" From COLORS

.....News article, George Herald South Africa.....

In other news:

Publicity UPDATE

Canadian 'Agents of Change' film crew arrives in South Africa

Published: 19 November 2010

The 'Agents of Change' documentary has been in the works since 2009 through Khazi Plant Productions, with its final two weeks of filming commencing in South Africa on 29 November. The crew's journey has been facilitated by Project COLORS International in an effort to positively promote volunteerism on the Garden Route.

An international documentary depicts seven 'Agents of Change', individuals who use their daily lives to uplift their struggling communities on the Garden Route of South Africa.

Sustainable volunteerism sounds like an oxymoron to most people, but these individuals featured in the *International Agents of Change* documentary are working daily as caregivers, soup kitchen coordinators, foster home mothers, community development officers and ambulance assistances... everyday, if they get paid or not.

Why? Because they all have something in common; a passion, a dream, a love for their communities and a drive to relieve poverty in anyway they can as they know a secret that most of us don't. The secret is the principle conviction that 'one person can truly make a difference'.

The documentary features and highlights the volunteer efforts of:

- Kynsna, Hornlee based, soup kitchen and foster home director, Annie Rodes
- Wilderness, Klainkrantz based, Project COLORS children's aid director, Sunyata Choyce
- Thembalatu, Silvertown based crêche teacher and community development officer, Alice Namzoko
- George, Rosemore based , Ambulance Assistant Elton Witboii
- Knysna, Leisure Island based, e-pap children's nutrition director, Shelly Godsell
- Sedgfield based, pediatric doctor Belinda
- & Klainkrantz/Hokwil based community development director s Monica and Watson Bertal

Producer, Ali Barnim, and Director of Photography, Cam Eras, have been not only documenting these amazing works here in South Africa, but also volunteering their time at each project so they can help support the endeavors of these amazing people and projects. Assisting with foster home/ soup

kitchen renovations, garden/ compost creation, child sponsorship planning, crèche playground renovations, weekly crèche teaching plus an upcoming camp for disadvantaged preteens in Thembalatu which is planned for 27 November in Klainkrantz.

...Stay tuned for documentary's debut in 2012!...

[House swap honeymoon at 70!](#)

[By Ali Barnim](#)

I first heard about Auntie Annie last summer. It was during a conversation with the director of COLORS, as she spoke overjoyed that she had just found a donor for a \$500 electric stove that was pledged to her by a stranger she just met in a pub. This stove was for 'Auntie Annie' an incredible 70-something year old grandmother who ran a soup kitchen and foster home in SA.

Before COLORS started helping Annie, she struggled weekly to feed the community from a broken old small woodstove outside her makeshift home where she cut her own wood and sometimes cooked in the rain.

I met Annie when we decided to pay her a visit during our second week in South Africa. Sunyata and the foster girls in the COLORS mentorship program had come up with a plan to get Annie and her husband Saki out of their house for a weekend to enjoy a much needed rest while we went in and restored the soup kitchen.

Annie was very welcoming and invited us into her home. A small makeshift bungalow which housed approximately 10 foster children of all ages and 5 adults (numbers that are steadily increasing). The house needed work, a lot of work. The tiles on the floor were splitting, the roof was made out of tin and cardboard which often leaked, the concrete walls were falling apart and the floor of the soup kitchen was dirt. Did I mention the cockroaches running in and out of wall cracks and all over the floors? YIKES! When we stepped into the backyard, I was shocked to see a four foot drop from the patio, which was on a steep slope. I couldn't believe that with so many children running around, that no one had fallen yet (or maybe they have?). We noticed one of the foster boys, age 12, down at the bottom of the yard, shoveling dirt into a pile under the blistering sun. Cam asked him what he was doing and he proudly stated that he wanted to build a garden. The soil looked hard and it was clear he was struggling.

"We pray and wish daily to expand our soup kitchen and feed more of the children suffering around us" Auntie Annie

Wish Granted

After spending a nice afternoon with Annie, Sackie and the kids, we headed back to Kleinkrantz. The Whalen Family, Terry Choyce and the SAGA Trust sent COLORS some much needed funds, so we to put a plan into motion to make not only the soup kitchen a workable environment, but to also restore the rest of the house.



PROJECT HOUSE SWAP - We bought supplies, tools, paint, etc. and Sunny, her husband Andrew, Cam and I went back the following weekend to begin the work. Sunny and Andrew gave their home to Sackie and Annie for the house swap. Annie and Sackie called this their "Honeymoon" as they never got one before.

It was a non-stop weekend of hard labour and the foster kids were happy to help. They were very excited to be doing this for Annie and Sackie. You see, Sackie and Annie suffer themselves, as they live in poverty, yet they find a way to give back to their community

by supplying food to the hungry and taking care of children who need help. Often times they don't know where the food or extra help will come from, but with the help of Project COLORS and other sources like Shelley's E-pap project, Fruit n Veg, & Youth For Christ they get through.



We worked all weekend, filling in cracks in the walls with filler, painting, building steps outside and building 3 large gardens complete with a compost. A carpet company even donated carpets for the kids' bedrooms. More building supplies and lighting were then donated by Phillipa and Calla who recently returned to the UK.

Now Annie's soup kitchen feeds the community's poorest twice a week instead of once and has a new inside kitchen with a concrete floor, windows, shelving, sink and stove.

ANNIE'S NEW GARDEN



Annie and Sackie's Honeymoon Adventure

Before Annie and Sackie came home to see their big surprise, they had another big surprise. They locked themselves in Sunny's house by accident! Sunny had to drive back and rescue them but organized free passes for them to go to a hotel spa to end their Honeymoon properly. When dropping them off for their massages and pool session Sackie said to Sunny "oh Sunny...no we can't go in there, you see they don't let people like us in these places" Annie just stayed silent for a moment. Sunny then said "Sackie you're their special guests, they invited you for free because of the wonderful work you do. They will not kick you out you're invited".

Sunny walked them in and immediately they were treated like royalty. A tear welled up in Sackie's eye having never been treated with respect in such a fancy place. When they were picked up hours later Annie was bubbling with delight. She said, "you know that was the 1st time my brain turned off...that massage and this gift...my brain is always on fire with worry of the children and it was for once at peace, thank you thank you". They then went to Calla and Phillipa, who were departing for the UK. Annie and Sackie got to go through all the building supplies they were giving away. As they drove off with the car jam packed with these amazing treasures, Annie started crying...she said "you know Sunny, why is it that we do all this work for so many years and no one has ever helped us like this or treated us with this much kindness until now, why was it always such a struggle and suddenly so easy all in one day". Then Sunny started crying seeing how much these small acts of kindness truly meant to the couple.

When Annie and Sackie arrived home, it was looking fresh and new! Annie was so surprised and she began to cry again. The kids beamed with pride that they helped make this all possible for them. Annie was most happy about the gardens, because now she had an ever lasting supply of fresh vegetables for her soup kitchen, so she can feed her community with a little less worry.



"Thank you everyone for making our dreams come true" Love Annie, Sackie and the kids!

By Ali Barnim

Our first day volunteering at Alice's creche in Thembaletu involved a very long walk to an ocean viewpoint with all 15 toddlers. On our way back, we were so exhausted and dehydrated that we stopped at a little farmhouse that gave us water. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw movement and at first I thought it was a mouse. But when I turned my head to get a better look, I noticed the "mouse" was actually a small puppy, struggling to move through the tall grass. He had no hair and his frail bones were popping out of his scabby skin and my heart sank. Alice told me that puppy was sick and would probably die within days.



I couldn't get the image of the puppy out of my head. I really wanted to help him. I told Sunyata about the puppy and that's when Project COLLARS came back to life again. We decided to save the puppy. I would commit to rehabbing it daily, so we sprang into action. We drove back to the farmhouse and with Alice translating, we asked the owner of the puppy, a skinny old man of 80 with few teeth, if we could take the puppy for 3 weeks to rehabilitate him. He agreed reluctantly (not really quite sure if he trusted us). We wrapped him in a blanket and took him back to Sunyata's home. The poor thing could hardly move, but was shaking uncontrollably. With further inspection, we noticed he had Mange, a deadly skin disease, no hair, about 50 ticks in him and was covered in fleas!

Immediately, we pulled all the ticks out, gave him a bath and fed him. I've never seen a puppy eat so fast! It was like he hadn't eaten since mother's milk. I named him "Nova" for Nova Scotia and was instantly in love with him.



The next day, we travelled to George where there is a free clinic, and we got his Mange shots. Typically in South Africa, since the townships are overrun with stray dogs and cats, they are put down right away. No one seems to care about the lives of these animals. They give up on them. But we fought for Nova!

His condition improved significantly! By the second week, his hair was starting to grow back, he began barking (which wasn't always a good thing!), and started playing more. Nova was becoming a happy healthy puppy. I even taught him how to fetch. He still continued to receive his mange shots on a weekly basis. By week three, we were feeling confident that he would survive and finally the day came where we had to take him back. I was sad to let him go but happy he would have a big farm to run around on and owners that cared about him.

We took him back to the farm and Nova's owner was thrilled to see him! He told Alice he didn't believe we would come back. He was forever grateful and held Nova very close to him. We gave him a bag of dog food, explained to him how to properly care for the dog and left.

A few weeks later as we were on our way to Cape Town to catch our plane back to Canada, we stopped at the farm to check on Nova and to say our final goodbyes. It was like seeing a new dog! Nova was much larger now, with a body full of shiny hair, and full of energy! He was even reunited with his mother and we caught them running around the farm together. I breathed a sigh of relief and couldn't believe this was the same puppy just 5 weeks earlier was so close to death.



This is the wonderful thing about Project COLARS and COLORS. They see a need to help, and they waste no time in making it happen. There is no time for red tape and discussions. Unfortunately, it's difficult to get funding for this project as animals are often viewed as insignificant.

There are many dogs and cats in South Africa who are abused, neglected, starving and sick. I thank Sunyata and Project COLLARS for doing the best they can to make the lives of an animals better.

"Please find loving homes for our litter of puppies...we don't want them to be put down," Alice.



Wish Granted



Since leaving South Africa, I read that Project COLLARS has found homes for a whole litter of puppies, taken in missing dogs and found their owners and nursed a mommy dog "ZULU" with 10 puppies back to health while bottle feeding each puppy to keep them alive. There are so many other puppies out their like Nova that just need the extra love and care to see them through.

If you love animals, this is a great project to support☺

Photo: Sunny's dad Lesley Choyce holding two of the rehabbing puppies



**Everything is possible because ONE individual, ONE company, & ONE
pledge sponsored EACH project.**

It is that easy to make a difference!

The Project COLORS International Society
Children's Overseas Learning Opportunities & Resources Society
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