



## *Children's Overseas Learning Opportunities & Resource Strategies*



### **Ever feel like you're juggling the world...?**

Sometimes we all feel like we are in a constant state of juggling work, play, money, health, relationships and family. For COLORS volunteers we are not only juggling our own lives, but we must adapt to juggle aid, supplies, programs, basic needs of the poor, community partners, contacts and funding to make our extended "juggling acts" come into balance.



Charging through the chaos of the developing and developed worlds..... more balls are thrown to us everyday, making our lives ever more interesting.... it is with your assistance, the blessings that find us, and the amazing people we work with, that we inevitably find our balance, take a deep breath and once again see the impacts of our efforts, remembering to take note of the flowers blooming all around us.

### **Amazing scholarship news: THANK YOU BILL & MELINDA GATES**

As unpaid, full time volunteers, it is sometimes hard to take care of yourself while taking care of others. However, because of this line of work COLORS volunteers have always been accepted with open arms by the communities we work in plus lent a helping hand by like minded charity's, family and friends back home . Every now and then, our volunteers are offered



unique opportunities to speak to the international world concerning COLORS programs, projects and views on development.

**\* It is now with great pleasure that we announce that two of Project COLORS volunteers have been awarded scholarships to be delegates at the South African National conference on HIV /AIDS held in Durban this March. It is with great thanks to The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for funding this scholarship and for believing in our work.**



HAVE YOUR SAY? We want you to use this as **your** chance to allow us to speak on your behalf.

How? Since this conference will have many of Africa's leaders and aid agency's involved in the direct programming and decision making regarding the fight against HIV/ AIDS, we would like to use this as a chance to voice **your** questions, views and even any solutions.

We are at a critical time when we must as a global society, take the time to "think outside the box"...come up with new solutions, re-work old solutions, come together in solidarity and support each other in fighting this escalating pandemic which is killing so many. Working with COLORS, our volunteers labor alongside and help assist those living with HIV/AIDS everyday. We see the dilemmas in ARV distribution, the nutritional issues in keeping immune systems in tack, the lack of education and understanding, the gaps in the system...and the debilitating effects HIV/AIDS has on mothers, babies, families, communities, and specifically the South African Nation which has an ever rising number of people dying of aids every day.

***Do you have anything to add to this? Do you have any experience you would like to share?***

Please write to us at Project COLORS International, and let tell us what you would contribute if you were a delegate at this conference. If you could pose any question or submit any ideas to the key decision makers regarding HIV/AIDS policies and programs ....what would they be? We would be honored to act as your voice at this event.

**Please submit YOUR SAY TO: [choyce@ projectcolors.com](mailto:choyce@projectcolors.com)**

### **Charlene's story**

**Photo: The Children at Jackie's Home receiving supplies and food from your Christmas sponsorships.**

WOW what a month in the Dominican! Things are always a little bit crazy here in and definitely never a dull moment in the Jackie's Home.

**You bought an orphaned baby a crib to sleep in.....yes you!**

**You bought a starving child food...one child at a time, each day.**



Thank you to all of the exceptional people that donated to the Christmas Card Sponsorship Campaign ....because of you we were able to supply the Children's home with much needed cribs and very needed emergency Food and Milk for the

children. Each baby crib was sponsored by each crib sponsorship card and each load of food and milk to the orphanage was directly sponsored by you. This is truly your love in action!

With the current economic crisis that is affecting Canada, the United States and the rest of the world, things have gotten very tight at the DR Children's home. Food has become more expensive and donations have become fewer from other groups also trying to help the children's home. Due to loss of jobs and the recession in general, the wonderful people who also used to donate food items to the Children's Home have been struggling just to try to get by with their own families.

However, thanks to a higher power and your continuous dedication to the children we assist, we always seem to pull through. An angel always shows up just in the nick of time!

Some good news at the orphanage; we are going to be moving to a new house in the next month. Yeh! A house that was bought and donated by a family of Angels in the United States. The children are finally going to be able to play outside again and take in all the fresh air and nature as this new house is quite far on the outskirts of the city almost entering the country side.



We still need lots and lots of prayers so that we can finish building the dormitories for the children as quickly as possible so that the children can be back to having their own rooms again with their own beds. Construction is under way, but far from complete.

Sending love from all our children here in the DR to you.

### ***Finding our way up the mountain...by Brittany McConeghy***

Well, I can't believe it! It is nearly the end of February 2009. Where did the time go? During my time in South Africa I have specialized in coordinating children's leadership camps and running the community outreach programs in Thembaletu. Our camp was held in the mountains of our partner organizations grounds, Eden Campus.

Thank you to all of the people who made donations from Ontario and Vancouver Canada. It is because of your generosity that allowed us to make this camp a reality.

The camp was then broken down into 3 sessions, allowing Sunny and I to have a more active role in the skills, and leadership workshops. It also gave us the opportunity to have one-on-one time with most of the children as well.

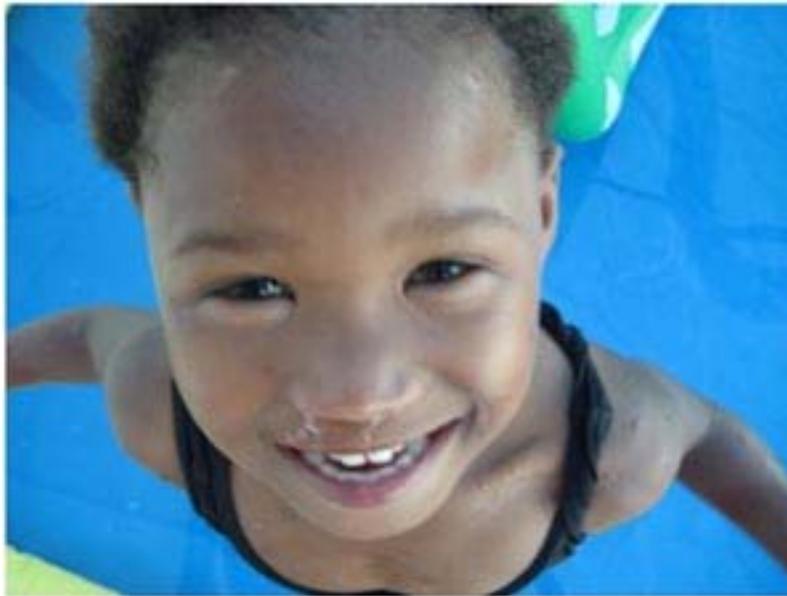


We teamed up with a group of Eden campus : <http://www.edencampus.co.za/about.htm>

Eden Campus youth, acted as camp leaders and mentors for the children. It is COLORS hope that once the children of Bethesda become 18 years of age, they will then further their education and life skills by attending Eden campus. With this goal in mind, we have created opportunities for Eden campus youth to empower our children by facilitating activities for the children to work towards higher goals.

We started with the Boys camp. We took 16 boys ranging from 6 - 16 to internationally renowned Outward Bound to participate in a High Ropes Course, where they learned how to work together as a team, communicate positively and openly, and most importantly, how to work through problem solving and decision making. These are all skills which are greatly lacking at the children's home, which is why COLORS programming is specialized towards providing the children with new opportunities to "think outside of the box" while promoting leadership & skill building. We are also partnered up with a local NGO here in George South Africa called Alpha Surf where our boys had a once in a life time opportunity to learn how to swim and surf with positive male role models (considering that Bethesda is largely made up of all females). Alpha Surf provided the boys with possible lifestyle changes and opportunities that can bring a sense of identity and confidence in a world that seems otherwise empty. Life skill workshops were instructed on the beach and then used the activity of surfing as a metaphor for each session.

The girls camp followed which was a nice change of pace, as we had 7 of the "pre-teen" girls with us. We spent the week swimming, participating in team building workshops, spa nights, and kayaking. We also had the opportunity to receive a donation to visit Monkey land (where Sunny used to practice primate rehabilitation), we learned about wildlife conservation and environmental preservation of endangered Monkey's and Birds.



(Photo: Punky learning to swim during away weekend with COLORS)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the camp consisted of 4 girls who stayed at our house for the week. The girls were split into 2 groups where they had to menu plan, grocery shop, and prepare meals, as well as 1 full day activity. The teens were given a chance to be young adults, and provided with the opportunity to learn how to communicate, budget money, and especially how to work together as a team, towards a common goal. We had a friend of Sunny's, Alison join us from Indonesia who facilitated an amazing and very beneficial self esteem workshop featured in our last newsletter.

A big thanks goes to Eden Campus for being incredibly generous in hosting our camps. COLORS is very fortunate to have such a positive partnership with Eden and its youth leadership and volunteer projects here in South Africa.



**Directors note:**

*"Congratulations to our Dominican Director, Charlene who is getting married this month and will soon have her 3<sup>rd</sup> child! Charlene, you are truly an amazing young women. . . .the world is your oyster."*

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*Jumping for joy! Thank you to SOS Children's services in Halifax for sending us a huge box of foot wear for our kiddies.....you have literally helped remind us that our work is truly done "one step at a time".*



*Three cheers for Monique at SOS who organized this package for us.*

*Our kids helped write this poem inspired by your donation:*

*"Remember us,..... when you buy something neat,*

*And remember our kiddies need shoes for their feet....*

*Whether it's warm or whether it's cold, everyone one needs shelter....*

*, the young and the old.*

*Thank you for loving us, "*

***Project COLORS International***

***[www.projectcolors.com](http://www.projectcolors.com)***

***Canada • South Africa • Dominican***

**AWARDS.....YOU CHOOSE YOUR HERO**

**Verge Magazine's Gallery of Canadian Young Global Heros - Call for Nominations**

**We hope you will have a chance to vote for one of COLORS volunteers as a Global Hero.**

Here are the names of all Canadian COLORS Past International Volunteers, please help support them with your vote before March 31st:

**Charlene MarcinKoisi, Brittany McConeghy, Rebecca Martin, Sunyara Cxoyce, Matthew Whalen, Catherine Robar, Caroline Swan, Margaret Mahany**----Please feel free to pass on a copy of your nomination to us at Project COLORS for our portfolio.

Verge magazine is currently accepting nominations for our new Global Heroes Project.

We want to hear about outstanding citizens who are making a difference by contributing to international development projects.

Selected stories will be featured in Verge magazine or on our website. They may also be included in our upcoming Global Heroes travelling exhibit that will be shown at venues across Canada.

**Tell us who inspires you.**

[Download a nomination form>](#)

Email: [globalheroes@vergemagazine.ca](mailto:globalheroes@vergemagazine.ca)

**Deadlines for nominations is March 31st, 2009.**

**Or see Applications below:**

**About You:**

1. Name:
2. Organization (if applicable):
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers:
4. Email address:

**About Your Hero:**

1. Name:
2. Position:
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers:
4. Email address:
5. Age:
6. Nominee's current location:
7. Nominee's hometown:
8. Nominee's blog or website (if applicable):
9. Summary of the nominee's development work. (Attach additional sheets if more space is required.)

10. Reason for your nomination – Tell us why your nominee is a global hero and how s/he inspires you. (Attach additional sheets if more space is required.)

Send entry forms to [globalheroes@vergemagazine.ca](mailto:globalheroes@vergemagazine.ca)

OR:

Verge Magazine Global Heroes Project

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**For full contest details, rules and a downloadable entry form, please visit  
[www.vergemagazine.org/globalheroes](http://www.vergemagazine.org/globalheroes)**