



Cape Town, South Africa

Home From Home, a cluster foster care agency



Home From Home
www.homefromhome.org.za

“Home From Home provides supported and supervised community-based foster care for orphaned, abused, neglected and vulnerable children through a network of small, family homes in disadvantaged communities in South Africa.”

- 2010 recipient of the STARS Impact Award



Facts.

Khayelitsha:

- Largest and fastest growing township in South Africa with approximately one million people
- isiXhosa for “new home”
- 90% black, 9% coloured, 1% white
- 35 km from Cape Town
- 52% of the total Khayelitsha population can be defined as economically active

Cape Town:

- Main languages spoken include Afrikaans, isiXhosa, and English
- The population is 3.5 million people; the second largest city in South Africa
- The world’s first successful heart transplant was performed at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1967
- Location of the world famous Table Mountain and Robben Island

South Africa:

- 11 official languages
- Currency is called the rand (ZAR)
- After the slow dismantling of the Apartheid system in the early 1990’s, the first multi-racial democratic election was held in 1994

Lessons Learned

- The challenges surrounding HIV/AIDS, such as ability to access antiretroviral medication (ARVs)
- The large gaps that exist between groups of people based on the color of their skin
- The benefits of speaking the first language of the community you are serving



Advice

- Expect the unexpected!
- The more you put yourself out of your comfort zone, the more accepted you will be by the community you are working with

My Projects

- Worked alongside South Africa’s Department of Social Development and UNICEF in a gap analysis, a comparison of three models of care each based in different South African provinces
- Planned and led a weekly boys therapy group following REPSSI’s Hero Book model, concluding with a group outing to a cheetah sanctuary
- Attended HIV/AIDS conferences (NACOSA)
- Led and participated in discussions with university students around AIDS orphan tourism based on journal articles, child development, research, and personal experiences
- Shadowed social workers at a public hospital
- Collected detailed information about each HFH child’s health, school, and family in order to upload the records to an online database as to make HFH more efficient and accessible
- Created daily programming for the children’s three week school holiday



Stephanie Peer