



# Diverse 2-Week Educate Program:

*Special Studies in South Africa*

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## Hout Bay, South Africa

A small township near Cape Town, South Africa situated in a valley on the Atlantic seaboard of the Cape Peninsula, a 20 minute drive from the Cape Town city center, almost halfway between Cape Town and Cape Point.

### Hout Bay Facts:

- Population: 30,000 to 60,000 including various cultures, traditions, and customs
- Official Language: English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu
- Main Religions: Christianity, Islam, and indigenous beliefs

### Choice

- To gain first hand experience about the problems facing Africa like illiteracy, poverty, hunger, disease, and environmental degradation.



## Project Information

One Heart Source (OHS) is a volunteer-led education program designed to break the cycle of vulnerability and injustice; through a mentorship program focused on building strong Math and English foundations.

- Using alternative teaching methods
- Providing academic and social support through schemes like mentoring and homework assistance.
- The focus was very specific to the child's academic needs.

## Community Partner

OHS works along side with the Imizamo Yethu community, an area where residents lack skills training opportunities that has resulted in suffering and hardship. One of the reasons why Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School was targeted to bring the mentorship program.

## Outcomes

Of Game-based learning:

- Students easily engaged to game activities due to their willingness in playing. The use of games encouraged them to keep learning and to erase the idea that learning was boring.
- Classroom games allowed students to focus well enough to learn better.
- Competition and teamwork was also motivating for students.

## Skills Utilized

- Assessment
- Communication Skills
- Cultural Humility
- Critical Thinking
- Rapport Building

## Developed

- Self-Confidence
- Creative Solutions

## Classroom Connections

Classroom education and volunteering can contribute to personal transformation; people change beliefs, perspectives and day-to-day behaviors once we developed a new awareness about a particular situation.

## Lessons Learned

- Students learn more effectively when they feel that they are among people who genuinely care about them.
- Sometimes students speak and act improperly because they are angry, hungry, troubled, tired, or frustrated. When we understand those we teach, we are able to help them contribute to lessons in positive ways.
- Volunteering is important but we need to have the right kind of action, purposeful action.



## Career Connections

Both social work and volunteering are driven by passion and by a commitment to a particular cause; acting for a better and fairer world devoid of poverty, illiteracy, disease, discrimination, and to secure respect for human rights.

## Advice

- Take advantage of a special studies abroad because it is a privilege and a gift, where you have an opportunity to change the lives of those who have nothing by providing your time and skills.
- Emerge into a genuine "cultural exchange" to gain a new perspective on life.

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