

Black Water Anyone? Welcome to Africa

So here we are, arrived safe and sound in George, South Africa!



Right away we are thoroughly into the continuous water issues that plague many counties in Africa. However, we feel very fortunate that we have been able to directly address our first water emergency here, by providing assistance directly and immediately to both the AIDS Hospice and Children's home which lie in an old German created compound based in the community township of Rosemoor, George.

(Beyonka, Seleda, Becca, Melidine & Marcheline)

Our first day of work:

Beyonka, a small girl aged 7 from the children's home, came to stay hello to Becca and I yesterday. On her way, she stepped directly on a shard of glass that launched straight up into her foot. Hobbling over, with blood spurting out, we rushed her into our small cottage and dressed her wounds with the first-aid kits donated from Canada.

As we disinfected and bandaged Beyonka's foot, the head nurse from the AIDS Hospice (in our backyard) comes to our door. She says, "*Girls, we have an emergency and we need your help. One of the patients just died and another is dying right now. The rest of the patients need to take their medicine and we have no water at all, and haven't had water all day...the community is dry.*" She asked for our assistance in finding water since we were the only ones on staff with a car.



So off we went across town where the hospice workers suggested, filling up buckets, coolers and random bottles... loading the water into the rental car. This water unfortunately was of a terrible quality (brown and black). Yuck!!!!

Becca and I decided that this was ridiculous, but did as they asked anyway.To offset this horrible water, we decided to run into a late hours store. We immediately found the

owner's son who gave us 1st priority in line and helped us carry cartloads of purified drinking water in to the car. Swipe...went the Project COLORS business card on the 1st of many times to come if this keeps up.

(NO this is not pop or soda...it's straight from the tap!!!)



Phew!.....Off we went and dropped off all the water. Everyone was so relieved.

As we brought the last few buckets into the hospice, we could hear a beautiful song coming from a small 4 year old girl in the back. She was playing by herself, while providing the final soundtrack music to add comfort to a lady dying of AIDS in the next room. I picked up the young child, who was obviously used to the constant state of dying all around her. She must have AIDS or TB herself...however, we chose not to ask.

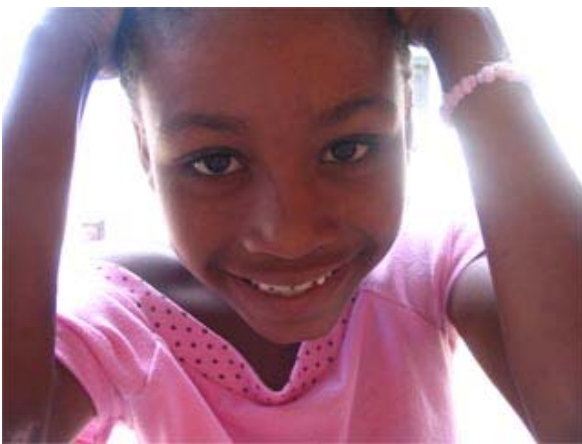
So...once we finally got water, it looked like this.
Poor Becca was in the middle of a shower.....

~Project Plans~

We had our meeting with the director, Dr.Louw, who is wonderful and believes that time spent with the children in mentorship would be the best thing we can do for them considering that they are all at high risk. Glad to see we're all on the same page. So our project plans for the rest our time here are being put into action with the following:

- * A mentorship program with the older teens and high risk boys.
 - * ESL classes and activities
 - * Day trip activities, and a 3-week camp for school holidays
 - * Leadership program with a select group of kids
 - * Assisting with a local food program for preschools in surrounding townships
-so many more ideas.....

Here's a like for the Eastlink documentary:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZMqt_Zu9mQ



So luckily the water issues have been resolved and we are both happy, healthy, and excited to be pursuing our new project plans for the coming months.

Here's the link to our water candid video on youtube:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=UqF1AAw0REs>

Stay tuned for adventures and new project plans to come.....!

Cheers, Sunyata & Becca