

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

### *Your gifts in action:*



*Your wishes are starting to come true early for the children of St. Mary's Bethesda Children's Home, South Africa!*



*Highlights: Eco-leadership camp for all the kids of the orphanage ~ The kids actively participated in learning about taking care of our environment, how to work as a team, how to swim, boat, & surf plus how to prepare healthy meals.*



**On top of this, the amazing Alison Plum arrived from Canada/Indonesia to do self-esteem and leadership workshops with our older teen girls for an intensive week! Luckily Alison survived an intense, Project COLORS welcome into the random world of organized chaos, where everything that could happen, did happen. Brit, Alison, and Sunyata somehow made it through with "flying COLORS"...and are now taking a well deserved break from the 24/7 work week of frustrations, delight, confusion, heartache, joy, miracles, madness and bliss.**

*A HUGE thanks to Brittany for co-ordinating the leadership camp and inspiring our kids, Alison for making an amazing impact on our youth, Bethesda for the transport and food support & Eden Campus for letting us use their incredible campus here in South Africa.....*

*& of course thanks to all of YOU who donated to the gift sponsorship campaign, YOU made everything in this newsletter a reality.*

***Stay tuned for news on your wishes coming true for the children in the Dominican Republic***

## Meet our new member of the COLORS Team.

**Brittany McConeghy** : “Ujani Everyone! I just

wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for all of your support within the last 6 months. Without you and your belief in my volunteer project with COLORS, this would not be a reality;

I spend the majority of my days implementing recreation and play therapy programs for the children in the sick children’s ward of the Hospice at Bethesda (caring for AIDS, TB, cancer and the terminally ill).

Last week, we had a chance to take some of the children on day trip to one of the local Beaches in George. Thanks to Joanne’s donations, we had very beautiful beach dresses to wear. Once we arrived to the parking lot I immediately noticed a big black and white sign that read

“DON’T FEED THE CHILDREN”. So...of course Sunny and I fed the children. Only in Africa! After spending the day swimming, building sand castles, shell collecting, and playing chuck the chicken, we treated ourselves to the most delicious ice cream and fresh strawberry sundaes. Once our tummies were full, and eyes and heads became heavy, we headed back to Bethesda for afternoon meds and naps. After returning the children to the hospice, I was notified that it was the first time the children had EVER been allowed on a day trip, and perhaps the first time these particular children experienced a day at the beach! Now everyday, when I greet the children in the mornings I hear “Brit-ta-nny Swim???”



I hope you choose to sponsor a Christmas wish through the COLORS card campaign. I’m really excited to have the opportunity to be here in South Africa to help organize all your food, water, education and activity sponsorships for the children on your behalf. Thank you again for supporting us!”.... **Brittany McConeghy**

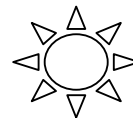
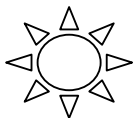
**SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR** “ Unfortunately, COLORS has fallen victim to multiple robberies here in South Africa. One of the many things that were stolen includes Brittany’s brand new MAC laptop. On Brittany’s behalf, COLORS is seeking a donation of a replacement laptop for Britney since she can not afford another one, being a full time volunteer. Feel free to write Brit directly if you or your company might be of some assistance in this area. "Brittany McConeghy" <brittany.mcconeghy@gmail.com>,”

“...hello...we are the children of the world ☺

We don’t get a chance to talk to you often...but we wanted to tell you how happy we are that you care for us. Our Aunties, Tunnies and Tias Sunny, Brit & Charlene from COLORS tell us everyday that our gifts of food, clothing, and fun things we do are all gifts from you. Our Aunties, Tunnies & Tias are our voice and we are very lucky that

they can share our stories with you, so you can help us grow to be happy and healthy.....

Love & bless you, the children of the world”



PLEASE PASS ON THIS NEWSLETTER... so others can realize that small steps of action can really make a difference to those in need. It really comes down to each one of us taking on some role of change no matter how large or small! ☺

**AMY, MIKE, Ana, Terry, Marcinkoski family, JADE cash and Devine Debrifs...**

Thank you so much for all your time and efforts creating and selling our Christmas sponsorship gift cards. This campaign would not have existed without your ongoing dedication to this vital annual fundraiser.

Also a special shout out to MARIA, who started her own campaign on behalf of COLORS in NORWAY! Maria was COLORS first intern last year. We are so thankful for her ongoing dedication to our projects and children!

*Create Hope...Create Change...Create Opportunity... for a child in need, Right now!*

Thank you to everyone who just joined our e-mail list:.....if you were not on the last e-mail list.....here's our last highlight from a very special project... A project that is GROWING each day through each donation.

# ***A wheelchair friendly home for Kate.....***



Meet Kate,

Kate is a sweet old women in her 70's who has spent most of her life disabled due to malnutrition & diabetes. Kate has no legs and spends her time sitting in an old chair in a makeshift little shack. Her daughter and grand son also live in this small two room cardboard and driftwood home.



(Photo above: Mario, ***Kate in blue***, Brit, Cathy, Buda, Japie)

Luckily Kate has been given a wheelchair, however, it impossible to use it in her home due to the rocky unlevel dirt and patchy concrete floor.

COLORS South African partner charity Bethesda has created an outreach program to help their home care patents like Kate, with basic but very important projects and home improvements such as wheelchair accessibility.

Bethesda's Mario and Japie to the rescue! Britney and I were fortunate enough to be invited to meet Kate and get to be apart of

making her life a little bit brighter. When we arrived we were greeted with big toothless smiles. The smell of propane was overwhelming, but the excitement of the pending home improvements overpowered the room even more.

Smash went Japies sludge hammer!...out went the dirt and old concrete...in came Mario with the wheelbarrow... Kate's grandson Buda runs around the outside of the house in total excitement that total strangers are now throwing dirt around his house.

Maybe he's a bit jealous that he's not allow throwing dirt around the house too.

**Before long Kate, has the gift of a whole new reality...accessibility of her own home!**

After assessing the need of Kate's home, COLORS followed up with providing antifungal cream to help treat the little boys ringworm infection, a good home 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, dental supplies plus a warm blanket leftover from last years project warm nights.

Thanks to a donation of Diabetic supplies recently collected by our staff in Canada, we were able to pass these supplies onto Bethesda doctors and nurses who attend to patients with diabetes like Kate.

**NOTE: COLORS HAS JUST SUPPORTED \$1000 Canadian towards additional projects like these thanks to your collective response!**

**COLORS International** is a youth led charity that strives to assist local overseas projects through the extension of effective, hands on initiatives helping children in need. Our international projects are based on educational activities & basic health with the goal of inspiring children and youth to make the world a better place, one step at a time.

To donate: Project COLORS, 83 Leslie rd, E. Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, B2Z 1P8, Canada