

Brief Update Project 01/2021

Cooperation Aid Project YOUPSA “After School Enrichment Program”

for disadvantaged and underprivileged children in the poor rural area in the Swartenberg, De Rust and Oudshoorn, Western Cape Region -South Africa



Ray and Alexis,

the both leaders of our Project-Co Partner YOUPSA – Youth Potential South Africa, whom we have supported more times in the past, always send us an update from their activities with the rural youth and children in the De Rust area, South Africa. We are so thankful, that they reporting to us, where our donations could be used for their charitable works in their extensive Afterschool Enrichment Program.



All photos: (YOUPSA with kindly permission to publish)

Childrens' Mural Art Project

Children are the community's best artists. Look at the beautiful murals that the YOUPSA children painted on two public buildings in their neighborhoods. With support of the Cape town based organization "Flowers for Africa" they first learned how to use paint brushes and rollers, and how to apply paint on the wall. Then they spent time designing their own unique flowers on paper and freehandedly transferred these to the wall using chalk. During the entire project children did everything themselves, from start to finish. Adults only provided the materials, mixed the different paint colors and gave guidance when asked.

Over three days the YOUPSA children designed and created mural art on walls of two different buildings.

Creating something big and vibrant in their own neighborhood was such a transformative experience for the children and for the entire De Rust community.



It was heart-moving to see the children organize and work together, full of energy and enthusiasm, paint a huge wall entirely blue, using long ladders and anything else to stand on while having incredible fun. It was such a great success, that Ray and Alexis plan to replicate this project in different areas in the future.

First professional art lessons for Christiana

One of YOUPSA's youth volunteers is passionate about drawing. Christiana has never had exposure to art lessons or anything similar outside of the farm she lives on. To allow her talent to unfold, YOUPSA is sponsoring her to take weekly art lessons with Thomas Vermuelen, the well-known South African artist living in De Rust. Christiana's artwork has progressed immensely over the past few months. She could not believe this is happening to her! This is wonderful for her personally and a huge inspiration for her family and community. We are so proud of her!



Outing to organic farm

YOUPSA's kids went on a special outing! Spensplaas is an organic farm project just outside



De Rust. Going on educational outings to explore the wider world, build relationships and learn new things is a vital part of the YOUPSA programs. Rural disadvantaged children hardly ever have the opportunity to get out of their neighborhood, yet they are so eager to explore and grow. Experiencing the space, freedom, colors, textures, smells, tastes and huge variety of plants, insects and birds in the field was absolutely exhilarating for the children! They learned many new things that they had never heard of, tasted or seen before - organic versus chemicals, why insects are important, how to make and use compost, about health properties of specific plants and herbs and much more.



Geometric line art drawing

We've been doing exciting geometric line art drawing to boost the childrens' ruler skills and confidence. Using a ruler is an important life skill for everyone. It requires the hands to perform different, but complementary actions. Most of the children in YOUPSA's programs are delayed in their fine and gross motor skills. They have not been exposed to activities that stimulate growth of these vital abilities, either at school or at home.

This type of drawing also improves the childrens' ability to train their vision to guide the hands, and to recognize the harmony between the lines.

