



2010

Activities for volunteers

Sir Lowry's Pass Village

- Helping at the day care centre for under privileged children
- Helping the Eagles Rising students plant vegetable gardens for people living in shacks
- Renovating shacks

Eagles Rising premises

- Renovating of buildings, painting
- Assisting the students with tunnel farming
- Helping with the outreach to children from squatter area
- Eagles Rising is also an ideal opportunity for the horse lover to get valuable practical experience with horses while supporting this worthwhile cause

Intercape

- Upkeep of gardens
- Assist with preparation of meals

We are able to make use of help throughout the year. However, if you want to interact with the students, you must be aware that students will not be here on the farm during December to mid January due to the holiday season in South Africa. During the school holidays through out the year there would be students remaining on the farm, or we would have special training school for under privileged Coloured leaders.

Please note that this is a Christian organization, no religion will be forced upon anyone but you need to respect it!

Prices for volunteers

The price per volunteer for 2010 will be R 8 800 South African Rands for the period of 10 days. The price includes outings in Cape Town but if students want to stay for longer and not repeat the outings or prefer not to participate at all in the outings the price will be R 6 300 per 10 days.

Please go to www.xe.com too check the prices in your currency.

Price includes

- Accommodation
- Three Meals a day
- All transport according to the program
- Quad bike ride in the beautiful Elgin Valley
- Cheetah Outreach where you can play with a cheetah
- Up on Table Mountain cable car
- Either a boat trip to Robben Island / or a boat trip without going to a museum
- V&A Waterfront

Price excludes

- Any activities and transport outside the program
- Pocket money for all travelers
- All Drinks
- Email/internet and telephone calls
- Flights to South Africa and back
- Travel and medical insurance

Entertainment for the evenings

- "Braai" (BBQ) with the students
- Drive up to Steenbras look out point
- A night out on the town
- A round of mini golf

SUMMARY

At this period in our history, there is a generation of desperately disadvantaged and disillusioned young people completing high school training with very little hope for their future. It is imperative that we reach them and help them to fulfill their destiny.

Eagles Rising is a Non-Profit Organization that operates from a farm called Elandskloof, at the foot of the Helderberg mountains since 2003. It is in these beautiful surroundings that a fulltime bridging year is provided for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have completed high school but are not ready to face their futures with courage and resolution. By the time these students leave Eagles Rising, they will have applied for and found further education or employment.

THE VISION

Inspiring and equipping disadvantaged young people to discover and attain their life's purpose.

MISSION

Our main objectives are:

1. To provide short term, medium term and long term mentoring and training programs for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, focusing on their academic, emotional, spiritual, physical, and life skills development, to better prepare them for integration into society.
2. To provide assistance in the development of disadvantaged communities by offering community training in a variety of social, family, health and economic skills.
3. To assist the development of school learners.
4. To assist students in identifying suitable careers, obtaining employment, and / or furthering their education. This includes aiding students in obtaining financial assistance where possible.

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN

1. Fulltime Bridging Year

The most important part of our training is the fulltime bridging year for which students who have completed high school can apply. This is a year of intensive training and preparation for their futures. They are ministered to in every area of their lives so that they may become whole people that will face their futures with courage and resolution. By the time they leave Eagles Rising they will have applied for and found further education or employment.

- The students enrolling at Eagles Rising come from informal residential areas, townships and a variety of backgrounds, ranging from ex-gang members, from homes with severe deprivation, prostitution, all forms of abuse and abandonment. Some of them live alone in a shack and try to survive. They enroll in schools in their areas but battle to find school fees.
- Most of the students have lived through some form of trauma or severe deprivation, i.e. violence; all forms of abuse, poverty, surrounded by HIV and Aids, many of them are heads of homes, while others are living on their own in a shack. We provide counseling to help them deal with and overcome their circumstances.
- They have little or no hope under their existing surrounding circumstances, of reaching their full intellectual, economic and social potential.
- These students are not able to contribute financially to their training here, so we need to find the support necessary for them to continue the training program here as well as to survive when they are back at their homes.

- The young people's involvement in the program brings about life change, which profoundly influences the families involved.

Benaiah Multi-Purpose Community Centre in Sir Lowry's Pass Village

Activities:

The following activities are all a part of the work that will be done inside of Benaiah Multi-Purpose Resource Center. Benaiah is one center containing the following ten components.

- **Early Childhood Development Resource Centre**

The first six years of a child's life is most critical. Connecting the dots developmentally during their foundation years is very important. This centre will be a resource to both teachers as well as groups of children with their teachers.

- **Family Development and Transformation**

Building solid foundations for families with the purpose of seeing healthy families develop through parenting skills; marriage guidance; and other areas addressing values and attitudes in families.

Conversations, Connections and Choices make up the triangle of conscious commitment. We experience family units as being very disconnected. Parents are the sensory gatekeepers during the first seven years of life. We want to assist them to become the best parents they can be.

- **Enrichment Centre for Primary and Secondary Learners**

The center will provide resources to help develop maths, science, technology and other essential skills necessary for their future world of work.

- **Centre for Imagination, Innovation and Creativity**

Developing the ability to employ original thinking to problem solving are critical life skills. The center will be a resource for opportunities in drama, music, storytelling and art.

- **Adult Basic Education**

This area is impact through providing assistance with literacy and numeracy, basic life skills such as how to write a CV and budgeting.

- **Technology Hub**

- **Business Development Centre**

This will teach skills in the areas of business, entrepreneurial training, technical skills, mentoring and coaching

- **Health and Wellness Centre**

The center focuses on training to educate and bring awareness to critical diseases; nutrition; medical support at each critical life stage; critical information and support for social diseases like alcohol drugs, fetal alcohol syndrome and victim abuse.

- **Re-Firement Centre for the older generation**

The center seeks to add dignity to the elders of our generation through workshops and to give them a sense of hope and purpose.

- **The Prayer Room**

THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA'S TOWNSHIPS

South Africa's "Dual Economy"

During his 2003 State of the Nation address, President Thabo Mbeki said that South Africa is a 'dual economy'. He presented a picture of the First and the Second Economies as a double storey house. On the top floor are the rich, living well. Stuck in the bottom floor, with no ladders to access the top floor, are the majority of South Africans who are poor. Up to **70%** of people in the second economy are economically inactive. **At present, these communities are so economically dysfunctional that they are incapable of self-generated growth and development.** (Track Two, vol 6, No 14, April 2006).

The immediate need for youths in townships is to be bridged from the second to the first economy. This will not solve the second economy's inherent problems, but it will address the bread-and-butter issues they face daily. This bridging process is what Eagles Rising is about, with its whole-person focus and skills development. Young people may starve to death or find a career in crime before the plans of governments or big business bring about feasible economic activity in township areas.

Youth program in South Africa

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), the Joint Enrichment Project (JEP) and the Institute for Pastoral Education (IPE) - three organizations working with youth in South Africa – came to the following conclusions about youth program in South Africa:

- 1) Program must be integrated and allow for the economic, educational and psychosocial needs of young people.
- 2) Program must be long-term.
- 3) Life skills are essential.
- 4) Program should have some immediate effect, even though the objectives should be long-term.
- 5) Program should enable youth to become self-sufficient and independent by the end of the program.
- 6) Program should ensure that youth are able to teach what they have learnt.

As you will discover below, our program are in line with these recommendations.

PROFILE OF AN AVERAGE STUDENT

- They live in extreme poverty. Although some students come from slightly better circumstances, most live in informal corrugated iron shacks or in government subsidized housing. Most share their accommodation with up to ten people, in a single roomed house.
- They have finished school, or are in the process of doing so, but due to circumstances, the chances of getting employment are virtually zero.
- Their matric results are extremely poor. They have no space to study and no money for school fees, after school activities or stationery.
- They are largely parentless. Most do not know their fathers, and often do not live with their own mothers as they have been passed on to family members to raise them. The situations at their homes are abusive. Some students have been gang raped.
- Families of up to ten people often live on the salary of one person, which is often less than R700 (US\$100) per month.
- **Yet our students have a will to survive and improve their lives. They respond to a loving environment and wholesome parenting in an extraordinary way. We have testimony upon testimony from current employers of past students on the amazing capacity and potential of students that have gone through the full-time bridging program.**

PARENTING, NOT INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Our students, age 18-25, live with us on a farm, full-time. We share and learn in this context. We are a surrogate or foster family. Those who have completed the bridging program often return to visit, or to find help in difficult choices ahead of them. Those who need more than one year to absorb the material are invited to stay for a second year or more.

Practically we provide what you would provide for your own children. We try to fast track our students, in one year giving them the life experiences privileged kids accumulate in 20 years. For most of them, we provide a host of first-time experiences: First birthday party, first time at the movies and restaurant, first opportunity to learn to swim or to drive a car, first time at an adventure camp. Most of our students have never taken a walk in a nature reserve. Climbing a mountain is a major achievement.

Accomplishing what we have set out to do cannot happen in the context of a "service year" or Bible School where students have to fend for themselves once the prescribed course is finished. We have to *finish the task* of establishing these youngsters in a new lifestyle, with real opportunities before them, and the ability to take and sustainably use the open doors before them.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Our weekend training is currently suspended due to a lack of accommodation, although we are still in relationship with more than 90 young people who came to our training weekends before.

Since the inception of the full-time bridging year in 2005, Eagles Rising has trained 94 students. Most have been placed in some form of employment or further education, although the current economic downturn has resulted in many losing their jobs. Here are a few testimonies:

Alfred Gcilitshana: "I was born in rural Eastern Cape, one of the poorest provinces of South Africa. I come from a family of eight. I had a very rough life growing up – physical abuse, substance abuse and constant trauma characterized my childhood. At the age of 12, my parents separated because of the constant abuse and we moved to Cape Town. I could not finish high school, due to financial problems. With extreme poverty in the house, I felt compelled to find a job at the age of 18 to support my sisters and my mom. I started at a salon and earned R50 (US\$8) per week. After a year I got a job at the city where I earned R400 (US\$50) a week.

"In a city that has one of the highest crime rates in the world; living in a township was a tough life. I saw no way out of that. Most of my friends died in gang fights and of substance abuse. My life expectancy was about 25. Circumstances were so tough that even your Christian life had no hope.

"The Fulltime bridging Program was a time of restoration for me. Through the curriculum and the way they parented us, I spent most of my days weeping. I was exposed to emotions in me that I did not know I had buried so deep. It was quite a challenge to know how broken and robotic I was. I had learned not to feel things. However, Eagles Rising was a safe place for me to let go. I became the child I was never allowed to be. I learned it was okay to cry; it was okay to be comforted and to be told that I am loved. It was also a fun time! The first six months of that year was the best time of my life. It was like a pillar for the rest of my life.

"I was employed by Eagles Rising after six months on the bridging program, as the PA of the CEO. Currently I am also helping with teachings; I manage the sports department and am happily married to Nwabisa! I never thought I would marry a woman from the community I came from, because young girls in my community are often so victimized and abused. I found a treasure in the midst of a broken community.

"Through Eagles Rising and the salary I receive I am able to help my family back home. I helped them build a brick house, which was a big breakthrough for the family, because we lived in a tin shack. Winter has always been my worst enemy because of Cape Town's infamous rainy season. The shack is always wet and sleep is near impossible. Eagles Rising is a beacon of hope to me, looking at our nation. Looking at how the young people here are impacted by the program, I see a model that can be duplicated to be effective in helping youth in our nation."

Thulisa Madonci: Thulisa is blessed with a vivacious, bubbly personality – and a good dose of common sense. Although blessed to have grown up with both parents, there was very little financial provision in their home. Her father is a factory worker. The family of eight lives in a house smaller than a double garage.

During her year at Eagles Rising, American and Bermudan friends visited our centre. They met Thulisa by chance, but were highly impressed with what they saw. Thulisa was offered various opportunities. She rose to the occasion, studied very hard and ended up spending two months in the States, hosted by Rotary. She returned to South Africa for 2 months to prepare for another adventure, that of studying in Bermuda. She has been accepted on a study program at a Bermudan University until 2011. The path her life will take has now been forever changed by this opportunity.

Mbulelo Mongo: Mbulelo grew up in Khayelitsha, one of the larger townships in South Africa. For many years his family could not provide for him – he often had to scrounge the dustbins of the poor to find morsels to eat. Yet, Mbulelo has an indomitable spirit. He grabbed hold of the opportunities afforded by Eagles Rising with both hands. He was one of the young stars of 2006. He was accepted to study towards a bachelor's degree in theology at a local college. He will graduate at the end of 2009. Mbulelo will never look back again!

These are exceptional stories, but no more valid than the lives of the rest of the almost 90 young people we have impacted over the past 6 years. The global economic downturn has taken its toll on the job opportunities of some former students. They are employed in jobs which are often first to be shed in difficult circumstances. Still, we stay in contact and help where we can to find further opportunities. Many are securely set in a lifestyle different from that of the past, with new choices before them.