

Durban • South Africa

June/July 2017



KNZC SOUTH AFRICA CENTRE NEWSLETTER #4



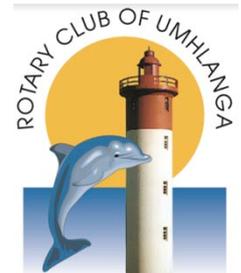
**SOUTH
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Who We Are and What We Do

Project TEN brings together young Jews with an aim to connect them via Jewish Social activism. TEN South Africa is one of the newest TEN centres. Based in Durban North, we are working in Amaoti, Pheonix, Tongaat and Durban CBD.

Our current projects focus on education, social development and agriculture, and we will soon expand to health as well. We work towards sustainable change that will improve the resilience of these local communities.

In parallel with our volunteering, our volunteers take part in Jewish Service Learning – evening activities where we look at the Jewish Values that inform our work, International Development, Personal Development and local culture. These sessions aim to provide context to the work we do and thereby enrich our volunteers' experience.

Micaela Browde
Centre Director



Projects

Protec

We are continuing with our last group project that aims to teach adults in the community how to better use technology and computers. We teach them the basic tools to get them started navigating the Internet and word processors. We have incorporated playful competitions to make it a more fun and memorable experience, and we recently celebrated the graduation of our first group! We are excited about their confidence in learning new skills that will help them in the workforce and in their every day lives.

Tumaini

Tumaini, meaning hope in Swahili, is a refugee center that we work at twice a week. Here we run a youth movement for the youth of the community, aged 13-20. We give them a safe space to talk about their feelings and create discussions about topics considering their daily lives. Most of these young people don't have an opportunity to speak to others about the hardships they are having. With this project we create a space that helps relieve stress and builds positive relationships.

Amaoti High School

After speaking with Mrs Maphumulo, the principal at Amaoti High School, we agreed that the students could benefit most from a library. We have utilized a small classroom that wasn't being used and transformed it into a new social and educational space.

We painted the walls and built shelves with old boards and desks to put this recyclable material to use. We filled them with books that were kindly donated to us by Rotary. Not only did this create positive learning and educational opportunities for the students it also created a safe and quiet space for them to spend time. For this, we also made a sitting space with rugs and beanbag chairs.

What's new?

We have two new major projects!

Zwakele Primary

Zwakele Primary School is a school in Amaoti township that lacks the proper funding for adequate resources and enough teachers. We have partnered with them to focus on grades 4-7. We provide both formal education while also being positive role models to the students. We spend the full school day with them, bringing new ideas and fun games to help relieve the pressure on the teachers and to connect with the students.

We have also built two new beautiful and soon to be fully functional spaces in the school – a library and a science room.



A New Venture in Agriculture

In conjunction with The Rotary Club of Umhlanga, we have begun our exciting journey on three different farms. We are doing and learning a lot! We have spent our time weeding, planting, learning how the irrigation systems work, and harvesting. This project has provided a lot of sustainability for the community. For example, by providing free labor we have given the farms opportunity to get a great head start on being fully functional. This causes many other positive effects. The farm will have more food to produce and sell thus creating more income to provide more jobs. When we leave we will have created a more sustainable way of income and local food for a community.

July Winter Break

The third cohort of Project Ten SA was very busy over the 3 weeks of the school winter break!

In the first week, our teams ran holiday camps at both Amaoti High School (for the Grade 8s) and Zwakele Primary School (Grades 4-7). At Amaoti High, the teams focused their activities on Life Skills – teaching the learners about responsibilities and helping them dream big. At the Primary school, we ran fun activities each day that were a mixture of physical activity and arts and crafts.

In the second week, the Project Ten team was joined by madrichim from Habonim Dror!

Our teams continued at Amaoti High School with the Grades 9s and 10s, and also worked tirelessly helping to upgrade areas of the QuadPara association of KZN (in conjunction with Rotary of Umhlanga); and also created a brand new library at Zwakele Primary.

In the final week we took total advantage of the empty schools and used the time to complete our work on the library at Zwakele and we also spent time upgrading Amaoti Primary School. We cleaned, painted and created play and sitting areas for them.



Getting to Know Cohort 3

An interview between two Cohort 3 members, Noam (Israel) and Sivya (US)

Noam: What has been the best thing about your time working with Project Ten? Why?

- Sivya: “ Getting to know the South African community through the volunteering projects. I don’t think I ever would have met people in the agriculture world otherwise.”

Noam: What do you hope to get out of the rest of your time here?

- Sivya: “I hope to have a better understanding of South African culture. While I know that I alone cant fix or change things right now I hope that it will give me enough energy and inspiration to keep doing this type of humanitarian work throughout my life.”

Noam: If you could give someone one piece of advice from what you have learned what would it be?

- Sivya: “ To be open. Imagine that you are an empty teapot. Arrive at a place or idea empty and then slowly fill yourself up with knowledge and the experience. Always keep an open mind.”

Noam: How do you feel yourself being impacted by this experience?

- Sivya: “I feel like a big part of this experience is living with 15 other people from all different backgrounds. Learning to navigate that social space has been an important challenge and an incredible way to learn and grow.”

Visit our website: tenprogram.org

Register for Project Ten: <https://ln.tfaforms.net/125>