



Newsletter July/August 2018

July is 'Mandela Day' month!

What a fabulous turn-out for our Mandela Day events! The Swop Shop walls were painted, and the Willem Appel Dam was cleared of a huge amount of rubbish! Well done Stanford community volunteers for your time and enthusiasm.

Watch the video called "Imagine Stanford" produced by David Morin of *creativeworksza*.

"Imagine a village where people care about each other? Look after each other? Help each other?"

[Imagine - Stanford](#)

Here is a breakdown of events:

Monday 16 July – local children and volunteers started painting and decorating the Swop Shop containers. It was a fun-filled morning. The children were a little shy at first, but as more joined in the fun, the area around the Swop Shop was transformed into laughter, colour and creativity.

Local musician HA!Man donated his time to entertain and encourage the volunteers.

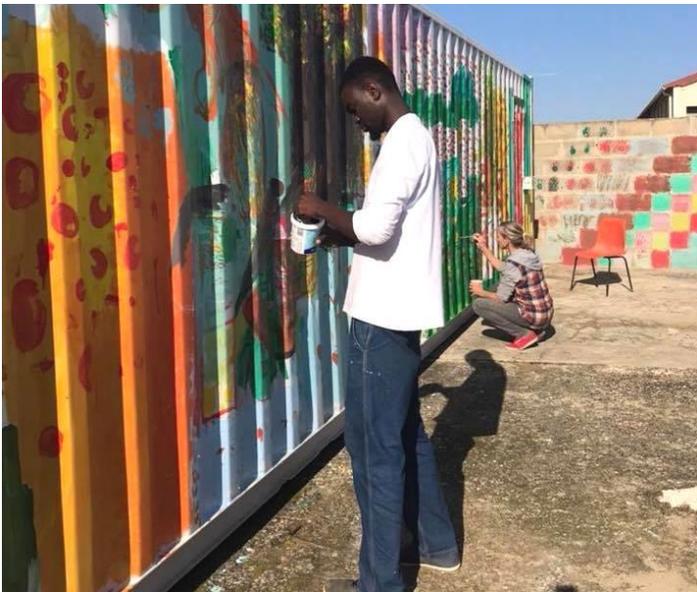
After finishing the painting, the children were taken into the local hall for some organized games run by volunteers.





Tuesday 17 July – local artists volunteer to put finishing touches to the container.

The children's art was blended into wonderful creatures and landscapes by local artists who gave their time willingly to contribute to the project.



Wednesday 18 July – teams of volunteers painted the outside walls of the swap shop area and local school children and their teachers formed teams to clean the area around the Willem Appel Dam. This initiative was led by Sheraine van Wyk of Whale Coast Conservation.





Comment by Sanette Upton – volunteer in charge of the children’s painting project:

“The time I spent with the children painting was such an eye opener. They were so eager and intense about making their mark on the wall. I could see that the activity lifted them out of their "whatever" circumstances for an hour of bliss. Some individuals found a simple thing like having to choose a colour an unsure thing to do. I also noticed how intriguing they found the mixing of colours. The stirring of the paint was watched by many onlookers as if magic was being performed. That day was Heaven on Earth.”



Some more wonderful feedback from Jenny October!

“While I was busy working a family come to my home and they were in tears, tears of joy and appreciation. I could not understand at that moment and thought that something bad was happening to them. But when the lady told her story I understand where the tears were coming from. In her bag she had a few clothes and other items she took from the swap shop when she exchanged her tickets. She showed me the toiletries and said that it’s been a difficult week for them and she was wondering how they would bath due to the fact that they didn’t have enough money to go and buy toiletries. But she was so glad that she could get soap, toothpaste and pads at your shop. Maybe a lot of them thank you when they come to the shop, but this lady was really happy to get what she wanted at the swap shop. It touched my heart just the way she expressed her happiness and I could see what an important role you play in this community.

So, I personally want to thank you (Elma) and the team of SCORE for the wonderful work you’ve done for our people on this side. Thanks for making some parents happy to get things at your shop. I will always treasure your goodness and what a difference you make in many people’s lives.

Keep up the good work, thank you so much.”



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Photo credits: Beatrice Pook/ Gill Wolters