



16th April, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to confirm that Ashley Lynn Scott volunteered at our "Cape Town Rural Teaching and Community Development" project from the 16th January, 2008 to the 30th March, 2008. This program is run through African Impact who is a community-based organisation based on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa. We work alongside disadvantaged African communities by supporting and encouraging improvements in education, childcare and health care. Our aims are implemented by groups of volunteers in pre-schools, a primary school, a library and after school care centre, and a clinic. Our volunteers are given the chance to take part in a variety of initiatives, which range from working as a teaching assistant to helping to build new structures in the towns.

During the majority of Ashley's time in Cape Town she worked as both an assistant pre-school teacher at Red Hill Township and an assistant primary school teacher in Ukhanyo Primary School in the township of Masiphumelele. Her hours of work were from Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

The pre-school is made up of 4 metal shipping containers and surrounded by temporary shelters (shacks) in which the families reside. At the time Ashley worked in Red Hill Pre-School there were approximately 20 children ranging in age from 2-6 years. The Primary School caters for 1300 children with approximately 45 children per class with one teacher. Ashley worked alongside the Grade 1 Teacher with children ranging in age from 6-8 years.

Ashley was very driven and enthusiastic towards all aspects of the project. Throughout her stay she showed us her initiative and self-motivation in planning and organising topics and materials, lesson plans and providing never ending support to the children, staff and communities she worked with. I feel she particularly enjoyed hands on, active aspects of the programme where she could be physically involved, the building project for example, along with creative initiatives; providing ideas and plans for art sessions in the library which were then implemented alongside other volunteers. Her forward way of thinking encouraged the start of projects and initiatives that will help the project and the communities and children develop in the future if continued.

Ashley took part in the physical education program run at the primary school and would work for a couple of hours each morning running these classes with the children. Some afternoons would also be spent coaching the older primary school children in sports such as netball, volleyball, soccer and basketball. Even though Ashley had never played some of these sports beforehand this did not stop her dedication. With Ashley's love of sport she easily managed to adapt, learn the rules and implement training exercises to improve their game.

In Ashley's short time here she managed to help rebuild and paint a house that was burnt down in the fires, erect a fence around Red Hill Pre-School and remove rocks, debris and trees from an area that is now the children's playground. She also did alot of hands on cleaning, collecting broken glass from the schools and manually sandpapering the metal container walls in preparation for a coat of paint.

She also dedicated 2 afternoons a week to helping children read at the local township library and entertaining children from the after care centre until their family collected them.

It is evident that she cared about her role deeply by the compassion and empathy showed on project and to everyone she came into contact with. Ashley was very well liked and worked well with other volunteers in the team as well as with the community members (i.e., teachers, librarians etc.) and worked very well with the children, managing to connect with the children even though the language was such a barrier. Ashley made such an impact with these children that they still ask me when she will return.

Ashley was a valued member of the African Impact team and we would love to have her return again one day. I have no doubt that whatever studies or occupation Ashley chooses to enter into she will give 100 percent of herself and be a dedicated and enthusiastic member. Ashley will undeniably be an asset to any company

If I can assist you with any other questions please don't hesitate to contact me on Amanda@africanencounter.org or telephone +27833458210.

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