

### **Sarah Hege (August – September 2008)**



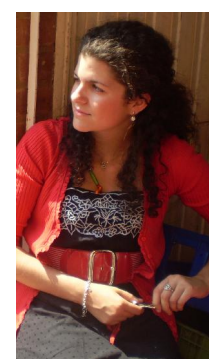
It is good to have people around to share the experience of the day, to talk, to discuss and to laugh a lot. It makes you feel at home and you are never alone.

It is a beautiful place to stay, either to relax after work or to spend time with the boys at the shelter, so that you can never be bored.

It gives you the opportunity to meet people from different countries and backgrounds, to share ideas and to contribute something – towards the project you are working with and towards the people you are staying with.

### **Carla Ramos (July – September 2008)**

Being a YDC family member has done so much for me. It is a wonderful place in so many ways. I have called it my home for the past two months and it will be so hard to leave. It can be a place of quiet, relaxing time; it can be an environment to work or study; it can be a fun, noisy and busy place. Basically the YDC is what you make it! From cooking Irish meals to making Zulu bread-meal time is always a joy! Living with the other volunteers is wonderful. You get to know about other cultures and countries while sharing your own. The girls I have lived with in my time spent at the YDC have become like my sisters and I will miss my 'home' dearly!



### **Marjon Evers (August – December 2008)**



Hi there, my name is Marjon Evers and I arrived in South Africa on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008. I'm a dutch volunteer and will stay at L'Abri until the end of November. My first impression is very good! I think it's a great opportunity staying in such beautiful nature and culture too. During my first week, I spent time with an Indian group, a YFC project and a Private School. I liked the diversity of these groups. I feel blessed being in South Africa and look forward to have many conversations. I hope and pray and trust that God would use me here, during my stay.

### **Esmeralda and Annelies (June / August 2008 – March 2009)**



Hi, we are Esmeralda and Annelies from Holland. We hope to stay and work with Youth for Christ for a period of 8 -10 months. We are currently staying at the Durban YDC and work in the Tennyson House project. We will be here in Durban until mid December and then we move to Pietermaritzburg until April 2009. We are enthusiastic to see the differences and the equalities between the projects in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

Time flies when you are here but it is really a great experience to be part of a new culture, no matter what age you are. In the beginning

you see a lot of new things and everything is different from our own culture. You meet a lot of new people and live in a totally new environment.

Being here, we've learnt that if you say: "I will see you at 10", it means somewhere between 8 and 12! ☺ But after a while you get used to all these differences and you being to adopt certain things from the culture. You then find that time is not that much of an issue anymore!

Zulu is a different language from our own language, so we have learnt to speak a few words. It is awesome as the children in the communities appreciate it when you can greet them in Zulu. The joy on their faces makes learning a new language worth it!

We both chose to work in the community and we really enjoy it as we see a lot, learn a lot and meet a lot of people. We really have a great time working in the three communities. We organise some little activities for the children who are coming in the drop-in centre. The children enjoy the attention they get from us and our colleagues and it is great as everybody is enjoying being together.

We do home-visits in the communities and help people get their ID's from home affairs. It is great if you have a driver's license as there is always a need for drivers. We drive a lot for the communities. Every Thursday we pick up bryani and distribute that to a lot of people in the communities.

We also work for 2 days in the shelter with girls from different ages and grades. We create possibilities for them to be creative and do some sports. We learn a lot from them, how they live and what they like to do. We also take them to school and pick them up after school.

Some days are quite slow though. It could be that there are no cars, or there is not much to do. It is nice to take these days to enjoy and find your own way to make the day as useful as you can. You can write a story for your weblog, or you can finally e-mail your friends or just relax with a good book or a good conversation with some colleagues. Everyday is different from the next, so you can be challenged by what the day will bring to you.