



18 January 2011

“Taking a gap year to work with Habitat on their Youth Build project”

Habitat SA’s new intern – Kirsten Bennett

I was in grade eight when I first learnt about Habitat for Humanity, and it was then that my love and passion for their message and goals was ignited. I began volunteer work through my school, Rustenburg High School for Girls, and over time my knowledge about the NGO was broadened. Before I knew it I was in grade eleven and voted on as chairperson of the committee called BRIC, which worked in partnership with three other schools.

Our main fundraising event is “Cyclathon” and is basically a 25-hour event that takes place on the Amphitheatre in the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town. We set up seven stationary bicycles and take 20 minutes slots where the people of the public and youth from our schools get a chance to give up their time for Habitat by cycling. The BRIC committee sells “bricks” or raffle tickets for R20 to the audience around the Waterfront. From there every hour on the hour we have a raffle draw and awesome prizes are won! We do this for two half-days starting on the Friday afternoon and ending on the Saturday evening. In 2011 we made a total of R62 000 from selling raffle tickets and from donations.

After graduating from matric, I was drawn to the idea of serving as an intern at Habitat as it allows one to get involved in community projects to an extent that is almost incomparable. Habitat serves as a way for the any person to help combat one of the largest problems existing in Southern Africa: the substandard housing. Habitat allows me to do this in a way which I thoroughly enjoy and is accessible and inspiring towards my peers.

I am passionate about helping the development of our country! At Habitat they see the need for proper shelter in South Africa and they refuse to sit, sleep and eat in comfort while there are those right next door, who have close to nothing. We live in a beautiful country, and as fortunate people, we have the privilege of recognising this beauty. But for the majority of the people living in South Africa, their vital needs are not met and the beauty of our country is diminished by the blinding concerns of getting through the day. I believe all people deserve to see beauty and experience a life where basic needs are met and where everyone has a roof over their heads!

By Kirsten Bennett (18 January 2012)