

# Children's Village

The Children's Village builds families for children in need, helping them to shape their own futures and to share in the development of their communities.



The project works with children who are orphaned, abandoned or whose families are unable to care for them. They give these children the opportunity to build lasting relationships within a family. The family approach in the Children's Village is based on four principles: Each child needs a mother, and grows up most naturally with brothers and sisters, in their own house, within a supportive village environment.

The village enables children to live according to their own culture and religion, and to be active members of the community. The project helps children to recognise and express their individual abilities, interests and talents. It ensures that children receive the education and skills training that they need to be successful and contributing members of society.

The project shares in community life and responds to the social development needs of society's most vulnerable children and young people. The project establishes facilities and programmes that aim to strengthen families and prevent the abandonment of children. They join hands with community members to develop self-reliance, support education and health care initiatives, and respond to emergencies where necessary.



<b>Project dates</b>	Start on any Monday
<b>Dates closed</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Country</b>	South Africa
<b>State/ Province</b>	Western Cape
<b>Closest town / city</b>	Thornton, Cape Town
<b>Details</b>	With the Children's Village concept, the organisation pioneered a family approach to the long-term care of orphaned and abandoned children. This concept is based on four principles:

- The Mother: Each child has a caring parent
- Brothers and Sisters: Family ties grow naturally
- The House: Each family creates its own home
- The Village: The family is a part of the community

There are a total of 17 houses in the village and each home accommodates eight to ten children. Each child is cared for as part of the family, and the children are raised like brothers and sisters. The head of the family is the "Mother", who provides the children with the affection and security they need for their sound development. The "mother" is supported by an "Aunt" and together they run the household. Household activities include all normal family activities, working within a budget, cooking, washing clothes, helping with homework etc. The village also has a park and recreation area, a kindergarten school, a library, a community hall and a youth house for children over the age of 16.

<b>Application subject to</b>	
<b>CV/ resume needed?</b>	Yes
<b>Police clearance certificate</b>	Yes
<b>Minimum age</b>	18
<b>Project highlights</b>	Volunteers will help to create a safe environment for the children to stay in.
<b>Your role</b>	Volunteering activities will include helping in the mornings with young children who are not at kindergarten yet, helping at the kindergarten, helping older children with homework after school, entertaining and playing games with the children, helping the housemother with children's daily activities, and could include helping with lunches, supper and cleaning.

**An example of a working day at Children's Village:**

Volunteering times: 8:00 - 16:30

**Each volunteer will be assigned to a specific duties:**

- Assist house-mother with house chores
- Supervise toddlers not yet in kindergarten
- Prepare lunch
- Serve lunch
- Collect toddlers from kindergarten
- Assist house-mother with shopping
- Supervise programmed activities
- Assist kindergarten teachers
- Assist staff with administrative tasks
- Supervise children with leisure activities
- Draw up programme for leisure activities and supervise homework
- Duties will also change as the need arises.

<b>Min duration</b>	Min. 4 weeks for older children; 8 weeks for younger children
<b>Special skills required</b>	n/a
<b>Language skills required</b>	Good understanding of English.
<b>Accommodation</b>	Not included. All Good Hope Studies accommodation options are available. Host-families are available in the area where the project is located.
<b>Meals</b>	Not included
<b>Local transport</b>	Not included. In case of Student House and Student Residence the volunteer will need to pay for a private transfer or a hire car. Costs range from € 110 / US\$ 140 (private transfer) per week. Host families in the area are within walking distance of the project.
<b>What to bring?</b>	Camera, toiletries, any medication, warm clothes if winter, pair of slippers to keep your feet warm, sun screen if summer (despite the heat it can still get rather cold in the evenings so make sure you still bring a couple of jumpers), rain jacket, adaptors, mobile phone, food, spending money, towel, household cleaning products, i.e. washing powder. All these goods and anything else can be bought at local supermarkets in South Africa.
<b>Optional Tours</b>	
<b>Is the work dangerous?</b>	n/a
<b>Potential health risks</b>	Some children have HIV / AIDS or TB