

# InSite 2015

## Pretoria field report



Field Report  
InSite

April 01  
[www.reckoning.nl](http://www.reckoning.nl)

"A mind that is stretched by a new  
experience can never go back to  
its old dimensions."  
- Oliver Wendall Holmes

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# goals and aims



## **Background**

InSite began in 2010/2011 with thirteen students from the Amsterdam International Community School. It is a voluntary program sponsored by Stichting Reckoning. Students apply and enter a six month leadership training program followed by a 10 day experience working in a developing country. Our first location is within an informal settlement in South Africa aiding a local NGO, Serve the City. The final chapter in this journey is the Night of Story Telling where each student via a creative format, demonstrates what was learned from this experience.

Since this first year, over 100 students and adults have participated. Students participate as a way to gain learning outcomes. Others participate as a way to gain a cross cultural experience as well as a way to expand their world view and help others.

## **GOALS and AIMS**

The goals and aims are broken down into categories: student, Serve The City/ local NGO, local community, and InSite

### **Student:**

1. Gain an awareness of ones strengths and areas of growth.
2. Take on new challenges/develop new skills
3. Plan and initiate all or part of their own activities.
4. Become Global Citizens
5. Implement good character and leaderships skills learned in training
6. If the student is in need of fulfilling CAS requirements, all can be met with this project.

### **NGO on site**

1. Work with the local community to find ways to:
  - a. empower for employment/earning income
  - b. learn new skills.
  - c. create hope and value
  - d. build sense of community and well being
  - e. break down barriers of social divide

### **On site community:**

- 1 Find employment/increase quality of life.
2. better opportunities for the children
3. Gain new skills
4. Restore dignity and respect
5. Improve relationships and perspectives between people of different races.

### **InSite:**

1. Bring together all the stakeholders and create a winning experience for everyone, with a spirit of solidarity.
2. Build a strong foundation of leadership based on good character and ethical decisions.
3. Train students to be able to innovate, work in collaborative groups and lead children in activities that promote healthy social behaviors.

These are overall goals for the program and each year, before the team arrives in the local context, the particular goals for the community work are planned, which is a result of collaborative discussions between the local NGO and the local community leaders.

Practical help initiatives geared to  
beautify and empower.

**service** in action

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# Projects: Pretoria (Mamelodi /Lethabong settlement)

Pretoria: This was InSite's second tour in this area. Serve the City has had a presence in these communities for over a year. Anli Ferreria, one of the co-directors of Serve the City, has developed relationships with key people within these communities and has lead a number of initiatives in with the aim of empowering and helping those living in abject poverty.

InSite was excited to be able to expand into a new area. This year, having a whole team from HvA, a local college in Amsterdam, and a few other volunteers opened up this tour as the aim of InSite is to pair up 2 different locations for an ongoing exchanged which has the potential of building relationships across borders.

## Projects in Pretoria:

1. Mamelodi: This is one of the largest townships in South Africa. It is home to over 750,000 people which doesn't include the informal settlements that are scattered throughout the area.

am dou the director of vision for life is the local contact we have for local work in Mamelodi. InSite met him last year while working in Mamelodi. He and his partner George Akhubele organized schools for the questions book project a computer class and painting a Sunday school classroom for a local church. Our students also participated in a drug rehabilitation clinic for young men.

2. In Lethabong, there are about 5000 people squatting in this community. This settlement was moved here five years ago after the government relocated them from their homes. They have no electricity, running water or public services. The homes are well kept, some with yards and gardens. In the center of the settlement is a community center sponsored by a faith-based ministry.

Lesile, the community leader that InSite worked with the previous year was not there, and he asked us to work with his colleague, Sepho.

Sepho helped us organized the painting of about 10 homes, laying cement flooring for 5 homes. InSite also cemented the floor of the feeding scheme where the children who have both parents out of work can receive a warm lunch everyday.



# Continued...

## What we did:

The morning began with a cementing team working on the floor of the feeding scheme while the rest of the students went to the drug rehabilitation clinic and the remainder of the team going to the church to begin the computer class and paint prep for the Sunday school room. Ntshongile from the team was busy ordering the paint and other supplies necessary to work for the remainder of the week.

Phiso and Mphahlele from the Stellenbosch area came up and helped lead the team in the work projects and games.

Phiso was able to arrange some homes to be painted and floors to be cemented in the area. Originally we arranged to hire interpreters for the week and ended up with Phiso. This was great because we needed all of them

During the course of a day there were so many various projects going on it was a challenge to make sure everyone had what they needed and that there was transportation for all the smaller teams.

When all the painting was done so team members switched to helping the mamas with the wash. That one simple act meant so much. Having white people do their wash unheard of

### **24 Questions Book Project:**

20 secondary schools were visited each day in between these other work projects for the 24 questions art book project which engaged about 200 students before the week was over.

This book spans a 24-hour day and has a question for each hour. The students answered each question in a charcoal drawing. These drawings were collected and some will be selected to be published in our book. It contrasts the images from students in South Africa and students in Amsterdam.

**Computer Training** In the course of a week 10 people earned a certificate in Microsoft Word training. In the Amelodi computer training courses are scarce and expensive. We observe a need for computer skills and this class will give the training and the certificate needed for them to find better jobs.

Phiso and Mphahlele worked alongside the mission for life organized the computer training class and volunteers from the mission led the course. There was a graduation ceremony on Saturday morning. It was a very special event. Each learner was praised and encouraged to continue on their journey in creating a better life.

It became apparent that the mission and the mission for life has similar goals. This was great as the volunteers in the area will not be active after Phiso and Mphahlele as looking for a local partner. We made an agreement that in the future Mphahlele would work alongside the mission for life and that Mphahlele from the Stellenbosch area will also be Mphahlele's local partner for our work in that area of South Africa.

This was quite an exciting agreement and to have Mphahlele work under the banner of the mission for life will give him the added support with the important work he is doing in Mankani.

Mphahlele and the mission for life are already looking at year-round connectivity with students and teachers as education is the central driving force behind the work we do.

# Continued . . .

## Let's talk Games.

Everyday the students organized structured games. Usually, these games would be played in the street. Each team would gather between 20-60 children in a large circle and play. They would teach them games like 'Simon says', or do the hooky poky. Some played relay games, other did the limbo or jumped rope.

It was amazing to see so many Mama's play, and join in the fun.

lot of the children and adults remembered us from last year. Everyday the number of children varied depending on the chores the children needed to do or if they had younger siblings they needed to care for.

Some taught them games and songs they also taught our students their games, songs, dances, etc.

The entire team split into game teams and came prepared everyday with groups games to play. Group play is an important component in the development of children. It teaches them needed social skills and group dynamics as well as a fun way to learn to follow directions and sharing.

In South African schools gym is not required in all schools so there is a greater need for these kinds of activities.

The simple act of playing games inspired this community to come together and have fun, to enjoy the simple pleasure of playing, singing and dancing together.

## **A message from George , the co-director of Vision for Life:**

Your services did not only develop us as an organization (Vision for life) but it also touched various angles of life of several people stretching from social, academic, psychological and physical in some communities of South Africa. Moreover, the services you and your team provided have long term benefits to the people more especially on the academic side and social side.

During your visits to South Africa, we learnt a lot of things from you guys. The information we gained, we also shared it with fellow colleagues and students.. The information helped in empowering both the teachers students and community.

From the preceding discussion when you were here in South Africa it is evident that there will be successful achievements we have managed to make so far. I therefore give all the credits to you and your team for the opening the paths of success and touch lives of many people and give them the reason to go.



Challenge, initiate, inspire and play.

# Creative

ways to connect



# Sustainability



## What does that mean?

Sustainability is a huge buzz word right now in the world of community development, non-profit work and new energy. Sustainability in the context of InSite's contribution in developing countries can be viewed as the ability for an InSite team to annually visit the same location and the aim that the participation with the local community has a long term vision which is carried out by the community, not the NGO or InSite.

Jaco Barnard, the former Director of Serve the City, said regarding this topic, "the fact that there is an annual focus in specific area's to help develop a community. Projects can be assessed and repaired if necessary. An annual tour can also bring sustainable uplift

of spirits on an annual basis."

In South Africa, InSite has primarily worked with informal settlements which are very different from townships. Informal settlements are basically people squatting on land that does not belong to them. Townships are recognized by the government and are sanctioned towns. STC chooses to work primarily with informal settlements as the needs are more urgent and there are fewer resources available for them.

Sustainable community development in informal settlements is in essence any practical improvement to the structures or lives of the people living in informal settlements. Those improvements are often very basic and require little resources and expertise. (E.g., painting a house, cementing a floor, starting a vegetable garden etc....). In townships the need is different. There is a better infrastructure with many wealthy areas with informal settlements on the edges or in certain parts. The needs in townships are more focused on moralities and crime than the physical needs we find in informal settlements.

## Sustainable projects:

InSite and STC relationship sets the model for other future sites as we have been able to determine how to work respectfully and mutually with those who have risen to leadership in the informal settlements. When deciding what projects InSite contributes STC sets the stage by prepping the local community with our visit and the extra help we can offer for a short period of time.

Projects should be focused on the need in the community, indicated by the community leader or suggested by STC after research and assessment has been done.

Criteria: Improve the lives of the people

1. housing
2. job creation
3. hope/inspiration
4. education

**Enkanini:** In the four years InSite has returned to this community, along the continued presence of Serve the City, we have been able to develop ongoing relationships with the community and the leaders. There is a foundation of trust that has been built and this has given us the privilege of being able to work alongside them to achieve long term goals: education with the children, job creation projects and developing a more sustainable feeding scheme project.

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**Lethabong:** Thomas, the director of Rosemary Hill Farm said three weeks after InSite left South Africa, "The people of Lethabong (adults & kids) miss them all and keep asking when those "umlungus" (white people) are coming back!"





A large classroom was painted for a local church which has over 200 children every week for Sunday School. It's now their favorite room.



These are some students who participated in Reckoning's '24' Book project. InSite led art classes with over 100 students in three different schools.



These are the graduates of the computer class InSite led over the course of the week. These women are now eligible to work in most companies.

'24', the book is available for purchase at [reckoning.nl](http://reckoning.nl) visit and read more about this fantastic exchange between students from two continents.



	InSite Expenses Pretoria 2015		
	Budget	Actual expense	per person
Flights- 14 people	€ 5600,00	€ 10715,54	€ 1530,79
Camping: food, tents, team building		€ 231,22	€ 12,17
Food/travel/accommodation at Rosemary Hill		€ 3556,62	€ 187,19
eating out: 3 meals		€ 146,75	€ 7,72
Projects:			
Supplies: cement, tools, art supplies, paint, bed, printing, ringworm medicine		€ 911,50	€ 47,97
Game supplies		€ 127,43	€ 6,71
Translators: 8 for 4 days		€ 248,15	€ 13,06
Administrative costs: stipend for Vision for life and Serve the City		€ 683,74	€ 35,99
Media rental		€ 440,00	€ 23,16
	Total	€ 2410,82	
	Total per person	€ 126,89	€ 1864,76
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>€ 17207,70</b>	
Fundraising total		€ 16400,00	
Outstanding due		€ 700,00	
Balance		€ 107,70	

working together, common vision

**thank you**

from Reckoning



Serve the City, South Africa

Vision for Life

Powerhouse Church, Mamelodi

Hoogeschool van Amsterdam

Lethabong Community

Yondela from the Enkanini Community

Rosemary Hill Farm

Mighty Fine Productions

Families and students who participated with InSite  
The many donors and contributors around the world

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