

# InSite 2014

## field report



Field Report  
InSite  
23 Feb - 3 March 2014  
[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

**RECKONING**  
where art leads

# 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 90 students and adults have participated. The students at the AICS use this program as a way to gain the needed CAS experience for graduation from the IB program. 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

# Projects: Pretoria (Mamelodi school/Lethabong settlement)

Pretoria: This was InSite's first tour in this area. Serve the City has had a presence in these communities for over a year. Jaco Barnard, the director 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 seven students from HvA, a local college in Amsterdam, opened up this possibility 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. This location will be the primary location of HvA as Enkanini is the primary location for the AICS.

## 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.

Charity and Faith Mission church is the home of a school: Bophelong Community Independent School, a hospice, Bophelong Community Hospice, a home for children with disabilities, not to mention a drop off box for unwanted babies.

- Since our first morning we were prepared to work met us with rain, we were unable to work in Lethabong. So we came here and began painting five new classrooms for the elementary school as well as painting the home for the elderly and students worked with the children with disabilities. We worked at this location on these projects until Thursday when the rooms were finished.

2. Lethabong: Informal Settlement. 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.

Jaco has developed a relationship with Lesile, who seems to be the community leader. He has an office in the community center and is very politically motivated. Working with him proved to be a little challenging as he seemed to have a personal agenda. On our initial visit, Jaco made it perfectly clear that the work we do there can not be affiliated with any political party (this is an election year).



# Continued...

## What we did:

Jaco did have a few meetings with Leslie before we arrived, and it was decided that we would be painting homes, and rebuilding a home of an elderly man. This included cementing the floor, and repairing the ceiling which leaked. In the afternoon, the students would organize their after school program by offering structured games for a couple of hours.

As the week went on, it was becoming more clear that Leslie had his own agenda and was primarily referring his friends for home improvements, as well as asking if we would improve his house as well. Jaco made it clear to him that we preferred to help those in the community who did not have the means to fix their own homes. On Thursday afternoon, Jaco and Shawna decided to canvas the community and find those who needed help and present those names to Leslie.

As they asked people in the community, they were surprised at the number of people who refused the offer to paint their house for free. It seemed like a third of the people asked did not want their house painted. But, it only took about an hour to find ten, which was the goal. The list was presented to Leslie and he agreed with the names on the list. One of the families asked if InSite could also cement the floor. The home was about 2 meters x 3 meters, and the three kids slept on the floor. At night, the rats would bite them. InSite gladly agreed to cement the floor.

When Friday morning came and the work began, all the water towers in the area were empty, which required the team to drive around to find the needed water. As the painting began, more people approached Jaco and Shawna asking if their homes could be painted. or cemented, and other needs they had. What caused the change? We can only speculate. We did what we could.

InSite finished the work day a little later, and in the end, we painted 18 homes, cemented 2 homes, and finished the home of the elderly man.

Later that day, we were talking with some of our translators and found out that the community center had locked it's doors because they did not want to work with us. This was strange because at the beginning of the week, they let us use the covered patio area to organize the kids. By Wednesday, the gate was locked. Nellie, one of the Mama's who translated for us, couldn't believe that they refused to help us. She went and asked if they would unlock the gates so we could wait in the shade, and they refused. This lovely woman opened up her home and patio to our team so we could sit in the shade after working all morning, waiting for our ride back to Rosemary Hill.

The other project we helped with was in cooperation with Rosemary Hill, a local farm which employees some of the residence of Lethabong. Over the past five months some of the Mama's who work at Rosemary Hill initiated and run a feeding scheme where they feed between 100-200 children every weekday. This is run through one of the homes of the Mama's. The food is donated by Rosemary Hill, and delivered at no cost. The Mama's have selected the children based on need. This seems to be the only meal these children get.

During the rainy season, the children have no dry place to eat, so Rosemary Hill wanted to build a patio covering for them. InSite/STC cemented the polls for the shelter and contributed to the total cost of this project.

# 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. Everyday there were more and more children and it began to feel like a party. They were teaching our students their games, songs, dances, etc.

Since InSite wasn't allowed to use the community center, our lead translator suggested we go to the soccer field instead on Friday. When we got there, there were a couple hundred children on the field waiting for us.

You can see the making of the huge circle made with all the children on the cover of this report. There was such a celebratory feeling to the whole afternoon. After a while, the big circle broke off into smaller circles and the InSite teams played and played. Then a local dance teacher wanted her class to perform for all of us. They danced for us for about 30 minutes straight - no break! They were amazing. The day ended with us dancing like fools in front of all the children.

Leslie said to Shawna during this time, that he was so happy to see all the kids playing like this. He said it must continue and that is was good for them to play. It was good to see the Mama's and young men playing and enjoying each other.

We found out that the community center just wants the children to nap in the afternoon. Apparently, they were jealous of what we were doing because the community liked it and it is something they don't want to do.

The main translator told us that he will continue to play with the kids. He is also coaching a football team in the community and is saving his money to go back to school in April.

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.

We heard comments like, "You came just to play with our kids? You are angels and God will bless you. Thank you for caring for our children."

"It's good that our kids play with white people."

"When are you coming back?"

Lots of hugs.  
Lots of laughs.  
Lots of fun.

For our first year in this community, we accomplished so much and are grateful we have something solid to build on. We made friends, beautified, enriched and inspired change that is sustainable for them.



Challenge, initiate, inspire and play.

# Creative

ways to connect



# Projects: Informal Settlement: Enkanini

Enkanini: Serve the City has been active in this informal settlement since 2008. Enkanini rests on the back side of an established township called Kaymandi. People started migrating to the Western Cape in search of jobs which caused Enkanini to explode from a couple hundred people in 2008 to over 8000 in 2014. Since it is an informal settlement, the residents have no plumbing in their homes, no electricity, and no public services including vaccinations, health education or other public health services.

InSite has partnered with STC in Enkanini since 2009 and had been able to see the benefits of creating a long term exchange over the years. With the use of social media, there has been the ability to communicate more easily and more often with some of the residents of Enkanini which has enriched our ability to come alongside in more effective ways.

We have been able to build trust with the local leaders by listening, and giving them the additional support needed to edge them out of abject poverty. This is a slow and tedious process and will take years before widespread change will be possible.

We focus on what we can do, not on what we can't. Over the years, the presence of STC has gotten the attention of Stellenbosch University as a number of the volunteers had attended this university. As a result, research projects, art students, and college professors have all contributed in action as each one grapples with the ideal of developing sustainable community development initiatives with the reality of thousands of people living in abject poverty when down the hill, Stellenbosch remains one of the most prestigious cities to live in South Africa.

Projects done this year:

1. Feeding Scheme - In the past, Feeding in Action would provide the food for the local mama's to cook for the children three days a week. Recently, the kitchen stoves were stolen which shut down this service. Working with some of the local mama's and Yondela, the community leader, InSite helped in providing a hot meal for the children everyday for five days. This is probably the only meal these children received.
2. Cementing steps - creating safety. Enkanini is unusual in that it is situated on a hill. During the rainy season, the erosion causes unsafe and uneven walkways.



the children. After these initial conversations that took place months before InSite came, it was decided that InSite would raise funds to buy solar lights so that they would have a safe way to do their homework as kerosene lanterns are dangerous. We would also bring as many shoes as possible to help get more children in school.

3. Education: As this is our fourth year in this community, we felt we needed a more focused long term goal. Education is a big need. School is not free in South Africa. Children are required to have a uniform, shoes, and school supplies, and pay monthly. This is a huge burden for families not earning enough to even feed everyone, let alone pay for school. InSite and STC began to investigate the local schools and see what could be done to strengthen the relationships between the local community and the school. Our first step in this process was to have STC meet with the headmaster of the local elementary school and open up the conversation about the needs of the school and the needs of



# Continued...

This focus sparked another initiative which is called, Liters for Light. This is a known project and method of turning a 2 liter bottle into a solar light during the day. Two former InSite students decided to raise funds to introduce this idea to the residence of Enkanini and have a group of them start a business installing them in the neighboring areas. This was a great addition to the overall focus on Education, as it promotes a safe environment for children to live and study.

About 20 lights were installed, and a local resident was trained and has continued to install these lights to others in the community. The benefits of having a long term relationship and commitment are beginning to materialize. He is being coached in what it means to have a business and how to keep it going. It's also great for the 2 former InSite students who are in a mentoring position and learning the value of time/money and how vital it is to follow through and have integrity.

Overall, here is what was accomplished with the education focus:

1. [Waka Waka Lights](#): 70 of these lights were distributed to homes of secondary students. These are the first waka waka lights to be distributed in South Africa.

2. About 300 shoes were distributed. These shoes were donated by Danielle Butter from [Hatshoe kinderschoenen](#). Children here need shoes to attend school, so this contribution helps make it possible for this to happen.

3. The school shoes, shirts and trousers were bought for younger students in Enkanini. Yondela was informed of our desire to help with any sort of education need. The kids were visited before they left for school, prioritizing the houses with 3 or more school kids as well as mothers who are not receiving any form of government funding. STC and Yondela spent time talking to the kids and mothers of these families - asking them what each kid needed. Later the kids were gathered and a list was put together specifying amounts and sizes. The items were bought and given to Yondela for him to distribute. The families were very grateful for the help.

There was funding left over and will be spent over the next year for more children to get the items needed for school. When a new batch is purchased and delivered, Reckoning will make this known on it's website, FB page and newsletter.

## The After school program: Games

As with the Pretoria team, the Enkanini InSite students planned and ran a five day after school program for the local children.

Here is a story to give an idea of the impact this can have on the families told from Anli, the Serve the City Project Leader.

It is always lovely to see how the kids get to know the students as they go there every day and how, by the end of the week, they have come to love them and value them dearly.

I have also seen how this leads to parents opening up and wanting to build a relationship once they experience a sense of care and sincerity. I met a lady, Sandile, who has had AIDS for 12 years and is the mother of three kids.

Because of the time spent with her and the relationship that was built, she felt comfortable to bring her daughter (probably 3 years old) to me every afternoon as soon as the games started - trusting me to look after her. As soon as the feeding scheme was running I could then walk her back to her mom, fetch a bowl, ensure that she gets food and take her back to her mom who was not able to do this herself. I am sure many inSite students had similar experiences. This leads to newly built trust, relationships and hope; which I feel is very essential.



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"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— Maya Angelou



# 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 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

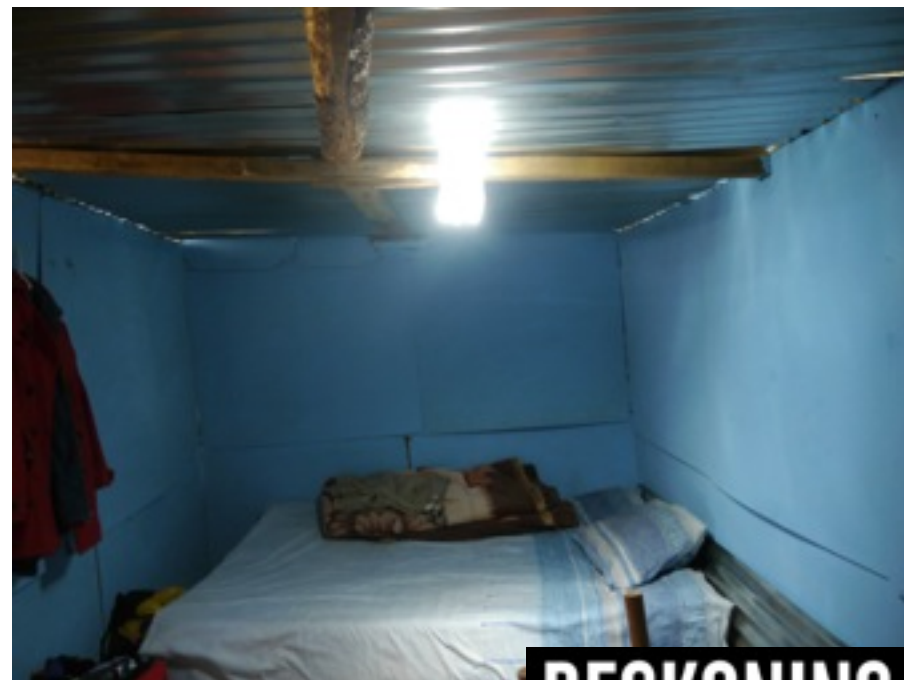
**Enkanini:** In the four years InSite has returned to this community, along the continued presence of Serve the City, we have been able to develop ongoing relationships with the community and the leaders. There is a foundation of trust that has been built and this has given us the privilege of being 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!"

To the right are before and after images of installing the 2 liter water light in the homes. The image above, is a home with no light. As you can see, it is virtually pitch black, even though, it is the middle of the day and about 35 degrees Celsius.

The below image is the same home with the 2 liter water light installed. This light is virtually free. The base cost for a home is R150, with is roughly €10. That is for installation and there are no extra costs or continued fees. As long as there is light outside, there is light inside.



**One of the 5 wall murals painted at the elementary school in Mamelodi,. This one came with a lesson about caring hands to the 60 school children who left their hand prints.**



**Liters of light - The first look of the first light installed. Booker is now installing these as his new business.**



**Waka Waka lights were given to 70 secondary school children to ensure a safe way for them to do their homework at night.**





**In Lethabong, InSite help contribute to the building of this patio so that the children can eat sheltered from the rain.**



**Shoes, Shoes and more shoes - Yondela , the community leader in Enkanini, created a way to distribute over 300 pairs of shoes to those children who needed them.**



InSite expense breakdown for 2014				
		Actual expenses	per person	estimate
Flights		€ 41.402,04	€ 1.035,05	€ 1.000,00
Food		€ 4.617,22	€ 115,43	130
Accomodation		€ 4.693,91	€ 117,35	100
Transport		€ 4.078,05	€ 101,95	150
<b>Total</b>		<b>€ 54.791,22</b>	<b>€ 1.369,78</b>	<b>€ 1.380,00</b>
Wishbone		€ 1.436,00	€ 35,90	€ 30,00
Camping		€ 161,56	€ 4,04	€ 30,00
STC donation		€ 1.000	€ 42,50	€ 0,00
Project Costs		€ 5160,74	€ 66,52	€ 100,00
Translation		€ 300,00	€ 7,50	€ 20,00
Insurance		€ 1.218,00	€ 30,45	
Unforseen		€ 531,00	€ 13,28	€ 50,00
Education donation		€ 300,00		
Waka waka lights		€ 700,00		
Liters for light		€ 1.652,00		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 12.259,3</b>	<b>€ 200,18</b>	<b>€ 230,00</b>
	Total/person	€ 12.259,3	€ 1.569,96	€ 1.610,00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>€ 67.050,52</b>		* 25% - expansion of InSite
Fundraising total		€ 65.000		*Balance of surplus:
Outstanding due		€ 3.500		*Liters for light - Pretoria
lights, education, etc		€ 2.652		*feeding scheme equipment-Enkanini
<b>Balance</b>		<b>€ 71.152</b>	<b>*€ 4101,48</b>	

working together, common vision

# thank you

from Reckoning

**Amsterdam International Community School**

**Serve the City, South Africa**

**Waka Waka**

**Hatshoe kinderschoenen**

**Bophelong Community Independent School**

**International School of Amsterdam**

**Hoogeschool van Amsterdam**

**Lethabong Community**

**Enkanini Community**

**Families and students who participated with InSite**

**The many donors and contributors around the world**

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