

- ~~I conducted and continue to study the histories of the city of Cape Town, the country of South Africa, and the continent of Africa through literature such as New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance by Charlayne Hunter-Gault; The Cape of Storms by Anthony Hazlitt Heard as well as reading Cape Town's local newspaper, the Cape Times. In addition to written materials, I have been corresponding with individuals both related and unrelated to the Amy Biehl Foundation who have intimate knowledge of South Africa. Among these contacts are several South African citizens, and American citizens who have traveled and spent time in South Africa for volunteer, business, educational and travel purposes.—~~
- ~~In case of crisis, my family members and I have created an emergency plan that includes appropriate responses in case of medical, financial, travel and safety concerns. We have set a schedule for twice-weekly conversations via Skype, and both my parents possess passports and are willing to travel to South Africa in case of emergency. Through personal friends, I have also established local emergency contacts in Cape Town who have offered to assist me in case of emergency.—~~
- ~~I intend to fulfill all suggestions by the Center of Disease Control to ensure my medical and physical safety, including registering my travel plans with the United States Department of Travel.—~~
- ~~I conducted various other research through several resources including ABF representatives regarding transportation, housing, cost of living, potential cultural challenges and my daily volunteer schedule.—~~

Part E: Project Narrative

1. The Omprakash partner I have chosen to serve is the Amy Biehl Foundation of Cape Town, South Africa. I chose to serve this particular organization because their mission to “Weave a Barrier Against Violence” through youth programs that “keep young people off the streets and away from the pitfalls of violence, drugs, alcohol sex and idleness” is virtually the same personal mission that I hold. My experience and dedication to teaching in disadvantaged communities is mirrored by the work of the Amy Biehl Foundation. I want to continue to use my skills to service struggling communities through projects and programs that promote tolerance and education. The ABF's mission, vision and reality are a perfect match for my service goals.
2. I will be volunteering with the ABF in Cape Town, South Africa during the months of April and May 2010.
3. During my volunteer time I will be conducting a specialized writing project titled “In Our Eyes” with students involved in HIV/AIDS peer education and prevention programs. This group of 41 students is made up of highly-motivated teenagers with experience discussing sensitive subjects. Through a series of in-depth writing lessons, I will teach these students how to write high-impact personal narratives about their life experiences. Before traveling to Cape Town, I will work with local Detroit students at BEST Academy to write similar narratives, which will then be placed into a book and given to the South African writers as a source of learning and inspiration for their own essays. I have completed this writing project with several of my previous middle school classes and have found it to be a valuable educational and personal experience for my students. Upon returning to the United States, I will combine the essays written by all students in both countries, and then seek to publish our work for the international public. Throughout the course of my experience, I will be writing several personal narratives of my own to include in our international work. I will also combine the writings of the South African students into a book format, and present it to my Detroit students through a series of

follow-up lessons. The essays will be specifically designed to teach students to find their unique voice; express themselves peacefully through writing; and thereby empower them to confidently share their stories.

In addition to “In Our Eyes”, I will volunteer my additional time to teach English to primary students, participate in their current sports programs, and serve as a guest reading role model and teacher in the Youth Reading Role Models program.

Below you will find a timetable that details the work I plan to do before, during and after my volunteering trip:

Project Timeline
<i>Before Project</i>
Week of January 25-31
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacted ABF founder Linda Biehl to discuss writing project proposal • Contacted ABF human resources manager Joanna Barry to discuss details of writing project, and personal travel information • Completed ABF volunteer application
Week of February 1-7
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued email correspondence with Joanna Barry, establish specific information relating to students intended to participate in writing program, facilities and site for after-school writing project, supply needs, additional volunteer opportunities during school day, budget information, personal housing and travel considerations • Continued email correspondence with Linda Biehl, elaborated on details of writing project as it relates to specific cultural and social aspects of student's background that need to be considered
Week of February 8-14
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained letter from Linda Biehl at ABF confirming project arrangements • Completed final Omprakash volunteer grant application.
Week of February 15-21
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin historical research on South Africa by reading “New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance” by Charlayne Hunter-Gault • Read local newspaper “Cape Times” daily for local news • Adapt current narrative essay unit lesson plans to account for time allotted (I will have a total of eight two-hour sessions with five separate groups of students during their after school programs. I will see each of the five groups once a week for a total of eight weeks.) <p><i>Personal Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make appointment with Dr. Jeffery Band at Beaumont Hospital Travel Clinic to obtain necessary vaccinations and prescriptions <p><i>Fundraising Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Royal Oak World Gym staff to arrange fitness center “Spin-A-Thon” fundraiser for

project supplies, including journals and pens
Week of February 22-28
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue historical and cultural research by reading “The Cape of Storms” by Anthony Hazlitt-Heard and “No More Strangers Now: Young Voices from a New South Africa” by Tim McKee, as well as continue on-line reading of Cape Times daily newspaper • Schedule meeting with BEST Academy Principal Ms. Delria Crippen to schedule writing project sessions with Detroit students and establish which students from the middle school population will participate
Week of March 1-7
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin first week of writing sessions with Detroit students and complete three of eight sessions this week <p><i>Personal Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with AAA travel agent and arrange flights, housing and visa requirements • Register travel plans with United States Department of Travel <p><i>Fundraising Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set final date for World Gym Spin-A-Thon fundraiser and begin event promotions at fitness center and through local paper, The Daily Tribune
Week of March 8-14
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete week two of writing sessions with Detroit students and complete three more sessions this week for a total of six out of eight sessions • Purchase project supplies that are unavailable in South Africa, including materials needs for each individual writing lesson <p><i>Personal Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make arrangements for international transactions with personal bank • Confirm arrangements for transport from airport to housing
Week of March 15-21
<p><i>Project Tasks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete final two writing sessions with Detroit students, including a cover art design and collection title contest • Submit essay collection to Image Printing in Royal Oak, Michigan and order 50 copies of student created books
Week of March 22-28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week is intentionally open in order to leave time to address any unforeseen circumstances that may prevent me from accomplishing timeline exactly as planned.
<i>During Project</i>
Week of March 29-April 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week is open in order to allow flexible time for travel to Cape Town, South Africa
April 5-May 31

- Complete volunteer work in Cape Town according to project details and scheduled described above. Please see Appendix A for three examples of a high-impact narrative essays written by 8th grade students who participated in a similar writing project while members of my classroom in 2008.

June 1 thru June 7

- Reserved for return travel to United States.

After Project

June 8 thru June 18

- Submit South African student essay collection to Image Printing in Royal Oak, Michigan and order 50 copies of student created books
- Return to BEST Academy and present South African student books to Detroit students and conduct five follow up lessons relating to how their writings were used to help SA students write their own stories.

June 18 and future:

- Write book proposal and present “book pitch” to editors and publishing houses
- Continue communication throughout summer months with the ABF and work to design upcoming year's service learning project.

4. Total budget for project and amount to be requested in the form of a grant:

Budget <i>All costs in United States Dollars</i>		
Housing	\$600.00 per month for two months	\$1,200.00
Transportation	To and from my accommodations to ABF office five times weekly Monday-Friday \$40.00 per month for two months -and- To and from Cape Town International airport, \$30.00 each way for two trips	\$120.00
Food	\$275.00 per month for two months	\$550.00
Airfare	Estimated cost based on current airfare	\$3,000.00
Vaccinations and health costs		\$300.00
Visa fees		\$255.00
Baggage fees	\$50.00 per bag, three bags	\$150.00
Project Supplies	Including but not limited to: journals, pens, pencils, photocopies of lesson and reading materials \$300.00 -and- 120 student-created books at \$4.00 per book, totaling \$480.00	\$780.00
Total amount		\$6,355.00

requested:		
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Without a volunteer grant from the Omprakash Foundation, I would be unable to complete this volunteer project with the Amy Biehl Foundation. My alternative plans for funding include seeking a substitute teaching position and saving my personal income in order to plan the trip at a later date, and/or seeking alternative grants such as those listed on Michigan State University's funding resources website.

Part F: Personal Statement

~~Katrina, an eight year old girl from Detroit, Michigan is the student who will always define my career as a teacher. I met her on my first day as a student teacher in 2006, when I walked into the adjoining third grade classroom to collect her. When I introduced myself to her with a smile and explained that she was supposed to be in my classroom, she said nothing and glared at me with a look of distrust and anger in her eyes that was a stark contrast to her small and innocent face. Upon entering our classroom, she calmly walked up to a table covered in supplies for the day and with one clean sweep pushed everything onto the floor. Without a word, she sat down and stared directly into my eyes once again, challenging me to respond. Those were the first moments of my journey with Katrina, and the beginning of a year full of learning, growing, heartache, triumph and understanding...for me.~~

~~The rest of the year, Katrina took me through many emotions. We had good days, bad days, worse days, and great days. Katrina taught me the most important lesson for a teacher: they won't do a thing until they know you love them. Really love them, and not in the obligatory manner in which teachers are expected to love their students, but in the selfless, non-sensical manner people love those that are important to them. Katrina tested me every day. She did everything she could think of to try to see if I would ever stop caring about her...some days I thought I would. By the end of the year, Katrina earned a "student of the month" award. As her teacher it was the best day of the year, and I was so proud. The very next day, she stole from me and physically attacked another student. I realized that progress in my students isn't something that I can assume; reality showed me that each day would bring forward new challenges and in some cases, old challenges that have resurfaced when I least expected.~~