

# hope 4 kids

? Elvira Preckl, you went to South Africa at the end of 2002 to work as a kindergarten teacher, and a helper for the kids in the Townships of Cape Town. Why did you choose to support South Africa?

- During my training to become a kindergarten teacher, my friends and I went singing in the street to collect money, which we wanted to give to a place in need.

I've seen the ruling poverty in the Townships, while I was doing a practical in Cape Town, the money went to these

schools in South Africa. That motivated me to do more for these kids.

At the same time I'm very fascinated by South Africa. It's an impressive country, which I got to know better during

my practical. The people are very sociable and openminded. So it wasn't a difficult decision to engage myself in this country, where the suffering is still a big thing.

? The idea is one thing, to realize it something totally different. How do you want to fulfil your plans?

- My vision is, that schools in Switzerland take care of a school in the Townships of Cape Town. I've already asked a few schools in Gossau, if they would like to do something like streetmusic, sales or other things, to support our project.

It is possible to give materialistic things just as well as money. The children of the one kindergarten in Gossau have already collected toys and clothing. The only problem then is the transport. It is very expensive to send the things and we don't use the collected money for the costs of the transport. So the things will stay in Switzerland till a familiar contact will fly to Cape Town and take the collected goodies in their suitcase. We guarantee that every object and all the money go directly to the children.

The project should also help to build up a friendship between the two classes. Kind of an exchange, both can learn a lot from each other. Of course if there are any other donations from private people, they are very welcome.

? How did you arrange your life in South Africa and your contacts to Switzerland?

- I've started working in Cape Town in the middle of January. In addition I want to dedicate some time to my project. Luckily I do know people who take me into the townships so I can see for myself what the needs are. My contact person in Switzerland is Sandro Florin from Flawil. He will manage the money that comes in, answer any questions, simply do everything from the

Swiss-Side. Because my friend is in Switzerland and I'm in South Africa we can guarantee an intensive and lasting contact between the two countries.

? How do you imagine the development of your project?

- We're still standing at the very beginning of it. But I'm sure there is a lot of potential and I hope to be able to use it. After all we don't want the project to grow too big, otherwise we cannot keep the personal touch of it.

? At the end of 2002 you dared the step out of your usual surroundings. Describe the feeling on the day you left!

- At the moment of parting I didn't feel comfortable to leave my family and surroundings. But the motivation, to tackle new things, was stronger at the end. I was looking forward to the adventure "South Africa" and started my work with lots of joy.

More informations at: [www.hope-4-kids.com](http://www.hope-4-kids.com)

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