



Infinite Family: Keeping in Touch

June 2010

Father's Day: the gift can be you!

Next Sunday is Father's Day and what better gift for the man who has everything than a contribution to Infinite Family?

Fathers everywhere will love your thoughtfulness and the Net Buddies will thank you for supporting the cause.

GIVE NOW

Next Online Open House, a 30 minute webinar on video mentoring

July 15 at 7pm
July 16 at 11am

[Register Now](#)

View the Infinite Family blog.

infinitefamily.blogspot.com

Contact us or make a donation at:

infinitefamily.org

info@infinitefamily.org

212-400-7446

PO Box 618
Yonkers, NY 10705

Infinite Family is a 501c3 non-profit charity.



Meeting for the first time: Keneilwe and Lori

When Lori Allison read about Infinite Family in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette nearly four years ago, she had already been searching for an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a lonely child. A former teacher

and stay-at-home mother, Lori wanted to extend her love to a child who didn't have a mother of its own. Keneilwe was just that child. A sweet, 12-year-old girl orphaned and living at Nkosi's Haven, Keneilwe sorely missed the mother she had lost.

Since 2007, for 30 minutes each week via computer and webcam, Lori and Keneilwe have been having face-to-face conversations through Infinite Family's EzNet. The connection was immediate. Within a short time, both Lori's husband and five-year-old son were joining their Saturday conversations. They celebrated birthdays together with funny hats and song. They shared Keneilwe's worries about her grades and triumphs as a competitive ballroom dancer. They bonded.

Now, for the first time, Keneilwe and Lori have met each other in person. Keneilwe and two other Net Buddies from Nkosi's Haven arrived in Pittsburgh and into the arms of their Infinite Family video mentors.

In next month's IF KIT, we will post the highlights of their 10-day journey from the crowded confines of South Africa to their video mentors' homes in Pittsburgh and New York City. Net Buddies will be posting their insights and reflections on their blogs on the EzNet and we will be sharing these, as well.

Join us by "holding thumbs" (the South African version of "cross your fingers") for a wonderful trip for Keneilwe, Lucky and Christina and their video mentors the Allisons, the Hohlfelders and Elizabeth DeVito!

ABC-TV's Person of the Week: Gail Johnson

Gail Johnson and her adopted son Nkosi founded a "shoestring" shelter back in 1999 for a dozen HIV positive mothers and their children. Today, 11 years later, more than 60 people live at Nkosi's Haven, Infinite Family's first partner and site for the IF Buddies' computer lab.



ABC Television had profiled Nkosi (South Africa's longest surviving child born HIV positive) and Gail Johnson back when he spoke before the International Aids conference in 2000 and upon his death the following year. Last week, with the World Soccer Cup starting in South Africa, they revisited the [story](#).

Today, there are 17 residential cottages, a library and a hospital at Nkosi's Haven. Often, Gail helps the mothers receive the antiviral medication they would not have been able to get elsewhere, extending their lives and time with their children.

"You get some mums coming in and they've been bedridden and within a week, they're sitting up. Within two weeks, they're sitting outside helping peel potatoes," Johnson said. "It's just great."

One angel, one woman to thank: the woman who never gave up.

Johnson wishes that Nkosi were here to see what he started, but the support of so many helps her continue the mission they started together.

This article was compiled from writing by ABC News reporters DAVID MUIR, JUDY ISIKOW and JESSICA HOPPER.

From Soweto Uprising to National Youth Day

In 1976, students in Soweto, South Africa rallied to protest the systematic under-education that they were forced to endure under Apartheid. On June 16, school children peacefully marched to protest the apartheid law that forced them to learn and be tested in all academic subjects in Afrikaans, a language most students and their teachers did not know.

Caught unawares, the security forces responded to the marchers with tear gas and live bullets. Hundreds were wounded and at least 23 students were killed. The Soweto Uprising led to student protests throughout South Africa and birthed the next generation of anti-apartheid activists.

Today, each June 16, these protests are commemorated as South Africans everywhere celebrate Youth Day. Youth Day honors all the young people who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid. To learn more about the Soweto Uprising and education under apartheid click [here](#) or [here](#).

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