



Infinite Family: Keeping in Touch



November 2010

In the News:

**Infinite Family @
Braai South African Restaurant
329 West 51
November 16, 7 - 9 pm**

**[Buy Tickets
Here](#)**

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

**December 16 at 7pm
December 17 at 11am**

**January 13 at 7pm
January 14 at 11am**

[Register Now](#)

Can't wait?????

**See a quick video
ON-DEMAND
introducing the Infinite Family
video mentoring program**

[Watch the Video](#)

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.

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Meet Siyabonga: Poet Engineer

Siyabonga wakes each morning to the grey light of early dawn seeping through the gaps between the corrugated metal & cardboard which make up the walls of his home. He rises, dresses in his frayed school uniform and hurries to the open tap in the center of his community. Siyabonga lives with his mother and younger brother in a squatter camp called Drummond on the outskirts of Johannesburg, South Africa.

School is an almost-four-mile walk down the side of a busy, paved road.

Siyabonga composes poetry as he walks, committing each line to memory with each step; a rhythm for his rhymes.

Siyabonga worries about his upcoming matriculation exams. He struggles with math yet dreams of studying engineering at University. Without the proper books or instruction, he knows that passing the test will be close to impossible.

A chaotic and crowded school day passes and a long walk home awaits him. Siyabonga needs to hurry home to complete his homework and chores before darkness falls, as homework by kerosene light leaves him with headaches.

But before he heads home, Siyabonga makes a detour.

Siyabonga navigates his way through a dusty field and across a swinging bridge over a ravine. Then he climbs the steps to a small brick building with a satellite dish atop it. He opens the door to a brightly painted room with computers distributed on desks throughout the room. He hurries to a work station.

Siyabonga types in the web address of Infinite Family's Ezomndeni Net. He signs in with his password, checks his email and quickly opens his blog page to add this morning's carefully memorized poem to his blog. He adjusts the webcam, puts on his headset and writes that same poem on the video conferencing room's whiteboard as he anticipates the arrival of his Infinite Family Video Mentor, Chuck.

Soon, Chuck's face emerges beside Siyabonga's on the screen. They smile and trip over each other's words with the eagerness of their greetings.

Chuck has found some practice tests for the upcoming graduation exams on a website. Siyabonga efficiently types the web address into the weblinks dialogue box. He bookmarks the webpage and saves it in a file with his name on it.

Chuck praises Siyabonga's poem and helps him polish the spelling of a few words. They alternate between laughter and furrowed brows as they share the details of their week.

Soon, their 30 minutes together comes to a close. Siyabonga is encouraged on his walk home. He has hope for the exams because his mentor, a man he has only ever seen on a computer screen, is actively advocating for him.

Cars speed past this lanky boy headed back to his shack, one of so many boys in so many shacks. But this boy knows he is different. This boy knows that a community of caring adults reads his carefully constructed and heartfelt poems. This boy knows that a man who lives in Pittsburgh, PA has his picture on his mantle and spends time each week working to make Siyabonga's dreams come true - dreams of a future that don't have him walking home to a shack, but have him entering a University classroom and a whole new world of opportunity.

This boy and so many boys and girls just like Siyabonga are learning the geography of an email field and the limitless possibilities of technology. They are using the resources of the internet to expand their horizons and support their community. The growing community of Infinite Family Net Buddies are overcoming these obstacles with the love, insight and opportunity presented to them by the Video Mentors of Infinite Family.

Thankful for YOU at Thanksgiving:



Infinite Family has been building a community of Net Buddies, video mentors, advisors, directors, donors and friends since 2005. Some of you have been with us from the very beginning when we were test-marketing the name of this nascent international non-profit at soccer matches, playgrounds and kids' birthday parties. Five years later, you are still there giving your insight, experience and support. We can't thank you enough!

As a special Thanksgiving gift to you, we share [a joy-filled video](#) filmed at Realogile High School in Alexandra Township, South Africa. The Net Buddies of Infinite Family have a dance troupe that practices on the courtyard in front of our computer lab. Please take a few minutes to celebrate your part in the success of

Infinite Family by enjoying these talented Net Buddies as they celebrate with dance.

Wishing you and those you love a very Happy Thanksgiving!



Need a more meaningful way to honor your friends and family?

Give the most unique gift ever and help our teens in Sub-Saharan Africa improve their language, technology and life skills and become self-reliant and thriving leaders in their communities.

www.infinitefamily.org/givenow.html

Give the gift of *Family*

You've Got Mail!

Any minute now you should be receiving a colorful new catalog with the smiling faces of some of Infinite Family's Net Buddies. We have just redesigned our [GIVE NOW](#) page and launched a new **Give The Gift of Family** campaign, just in time for the holidays.

Now – and all year – donors can support the many program needs of Infinite Family's teens and pre-teens with a donation or program gift honoring friends and family. We've identified five critical program needs, at ten giving levels, starting at just \$25. Donations can help train a Net Buddy as they learn the essentials of the computer (the building blocks of a stable and self-sufficient future), help feed a child or sponsor an Infinite Family video mentor and their Net Buddy. If you chose to honor a loved one with a gift of \$50 or more, we will send a personalized gift card and Infinite Family's new music CD, Infinite Winner, featuring the empowering songs of South African native Peter Ngqibs Ncanywa.

The happy faces of Infinite Family's buddies say it better than we ever could -Your support is changing lives!



GET SOCIAL! Follow Infinite Family at:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

Infinite Family, a 501c3 charity, inspires and motivates teens and pre-teens with very limited resources or support networks in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, so they build the confidence, skills and global perspective that promote success. It is the only mentoring program using weekly video conversations to establish long-term nurturing relationships. These relationships with adults internationally are designed to transform young people into fully contributing members of their country's sustainable, developing society.