



Infinite Family: Keeping in Touch



October 2010

In the News:

Meet The Family
The Village Experience
November 9, 5 - 8pm
Indianapolis, IN
Shop to benefit Infinite Family

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

November 11 at 7pm
November 12 at 11am
December 9 at 7pm
December 10 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

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Yonkers, NY 10705

Infinite Family is a 501c3
non-profit charity.

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A Moment with a Mentor: IBM, South Africa

Every Friday at 2:30 in the afternoon, Emily DuPlessis logs on to the Ezomndeni Net and prepares for her 30 minute video conversation with Ntanga. Emily, an IBM/South Africa Global Technology Services employee, is a Video Mentor with Infinite Family. Ntanga logs on looking for support after a long week of studies at Realogile High School in Alexandra Township. Even though her own work at IBM is crammed full of meetings, projects and deadlines, Emily is there to listen, guide and encourage her Buddy.



We asked Emily to share why she takes time out of her work week to volunteer as a Video Mentor with Infinite Family. Here's what she had to say:

What motivated you to become a Video Mentor with Infinite Family?

I believe all the different experiences of my life have equipped me to help others when they are faced with similar situations.

What insight have you gained into the lives of Infinite Family's Net Buddies?

Although the children have been hurt and have experienced pain in some way, they have gained new hope through Infinite Family. The children cherish all the time and effort we put in, and they value the video mentoring in so many ways.

What do you value most about your volunteer experience as a video mentor with Infinite Family? *Spending time with my Net Buddy, reaching out to her, and being able to support and love her. Being a role model to my Net Buddy and being able to encourage her to always reach for the stars.*

What would you say to people who are interested, but think they don't have the time to volunteer as a video mentor with Infinite Family?

Becoming a video mentor is a once in a lifetime experience. The time I spend with my Net Buddy is priceless. It not only benefits her, but it leaves me with a good feeling, knowing I have touched a life and put a smile on her face. I have given her my love and time. I personally work in the IT environment, and this program uses technology as a channel to reach out and touch lives in a positive way. It is rewarding!

South African Soiree November 16 to Benefit Infinite Family

Infinite Family will be holding its Fall Fundraiser at Braai, a South African restaurant in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday, November 16. Please help Infinite Family celebrate another year of transforming teen and pre-teen lives affected by



HIV/AIDS and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and support our efforts to expand video mentoring with new computer labs in more countries.

Braai will serve authentic South African light fare, complemented by a selection of South African wines and beers. Singers Grammy-award winning Maya Azucena and South African Peter Ncanywa will both perform. Peter gives the New York debut of his new EP, *Infinite Love*, which he has created to support Infinite Family. Additionally, there will be several dramatic readings from some of the teen's blogs. Over a dozen top New York restaurants have contributed gift certificates for the evening's silent auction.

The first 25 reservations are in for a special surprise!

For more information, email events@infinitefamily.org, call 212.400.7446 ext 6 or click [here](#).

Tickets are available for [online](#) purchase.

Looking for Infinite Family in all the RIGHT places!

When Colorado author [Tammi DeVille](#) was researching volunteer opportunities for her soon-to-be-released book [Changing the World on a Tuesday Night](#), she saw Infinite Family's intriguing virtual volunteer opportunity. She sent us an email and pretty soon was interviewing Linda Benedict, an Infinite Family Video Mentor living in Pittsburgh, PA, for her book. Now, Linda's inspiring story as a video mentor for Tumi, who lives in an informal settlement in South Africa, is being featured not only in Tammi's book, but also on the front page of [Volunteer Match's](#) website.



Infinite Family recruits heavily through the web with Video Mentors coming through [Volunteer Match](#), [Do Something](#), [Idealist](#), [Hands on Network](#), [Change.org](#), and [The Volunteer Center of United Way](#). Recently, a video mentor found Infinite Family while watching *Glee*. During a commercial break where cast members were touting volunteerism, she learned about [TAKE PART](#), an American Express program designed to encourage giving back. A couple clicks later and she was on her way to becoming an Infinite Family video mentor.

No matter how you find us, Infinite Family allows you to transform the life of a teen that needs your support. It is a unique and meaningful volunteer experience that starts and ends on the web!



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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.