



# Infinite Family: Keeping in Touch



February 2011

**In the News:**

**Amy Stokes**  
first 2011 CNN HERO  
in the  
**Huffington Post**

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

March 17 at 7pm  
March 18 at 11am

April 7 at 7pm  
April 8 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](http://infinitefamily.blogspot.com)

Contact us or make  
a donation at:

[infinitefamily.org](http://infinitefamily.org)

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Infinite Family is a 501c3  
non-profit charity.

## Colin Cowie named Global Ambassador

Infinite Family has joined forces with international lifestyle and entertaining guru Colin Cowie, who has agreed to be the first Global Ambassador. Cowie, who lives in the US and is respected worldwide for his sense of style and his reputation for throwing some of the most spectacular celebrations on the planet, returns regularly to the continent of his birth, Africa. He will be visiting one of Infinite Family's computer labs with founder and Executive Director Amy Stokes during a trip there in late February.



Colin is an authority on living with style; an author of eight best-selling books; a celebrated television personality who appears regularly on The Today Show, CNN and The Ellen DeGeneres Show, among others; and an interior designer and event planner. He has launched his own line of home products sold on HSN. Over 20 years in the business, he is a leader in the design and lifestyle industries. His client list reads like the guest list for the Academy Awards and ranges from the wealthy to celebrities to royalty to the political elite. Additionally, Colin is known locally in South Africa for his recent spectacular opening of the Six-Star hotel, The One & Only in Cape Town.

"We are delighted to welcome Colin as our first global ambassador," said Amy. Amy visits South Africa at least twice a year to start up new Infinite Family video labs, meet with local staff and various sponsors and partners. "Having Colin as an ambassador, especially as an African who spent his childhood in South Africa, means a great deal to us," she continued. "His warm and generous nature and determination to give back to vulnerable children wherever possible is of real value, shining the spotlight on our work. This trip will include a visit to the video lab at Realogile where Colin will meet the children and hear first-hand how Infinite Family is changing their lives."

Infinite Family warmly welcomes Colin!



## Recognizing the hero

Lesley Yaniv wanted everyone to know about her experience as a Video Mentor for Zethu, a young teen at Nkosi's Haven. Late last spring, Lesley found a way to literally broadcast the news about Infinite Family to the world when she nominated Infinite Family Founder, Amy Stokes, as a CNN Hero. In August, when Amy

received the phone call from CNN, Lesley wasn't surprised at all. "I believe in Infinite Family completely! I always knew this would happen!" she said.

Lesley's enthusiasm for Infinite Family and her personal initiative have yielded

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amazing results. Millions of people have seen the [inspiring videos](#) on CNN's website and the articles highlighting Amy's visionary work which first aired on CNN January 13.

Since Amy's debut as the first [CNN Hero of 2011](#), Infinite Family received 240 new applications from potential video mentors; traffic to our website increased 60% over December; new partnerships are developing and new donors are emerging - all because Lesley's mentoring experience inspired her to nominate her personal hero, Amy.

As Lesley says, "I am so excited that Amy Stokes is being honored and that Infinite Family is being given exposure to a wide audience. Here's hoping that this opportunity is a true game changer."

Congratulations again, Amy and many thanks to you, Lesley, for initiating this wonderful award!

### A Buddy's Struggle Ends



When I first travelled to Nkosi's Haven in 2006, Sthandiwe was too sick to come to the computer lab. I became acquainted with her through the photos taped to an office wall. ...a bushy-haired little girl in a pink sweater...a slight child holding a teddy bear... a little girl who crayoned words of affection and love for the staff at the Haven.

Throughout her short life, Sthandiwe struggled with an illness that takes so many. Sthandiwe's struggle ended too soon. Today, Sthandiwe is at peace, but being at peace is not a goal the living should fulfill at the age of 20-anything. Sthandiwe's struggle ended before she could find her answers, fill her spirit, live into her promise.

That is the fault of HIV, of AIDs.

Everyone at Infinite Family will miss her. We mourn that her questions will not be answered, her gifts unrealized, her love left unfound.

Help us reach more children who struggle, just as Sthandiwe did. Support Infinite Family by visiting our website and getting involved today.

Dana Gold  
Associate Director

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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.*