From: Amy Stokes amy.stokes@infinitefamily.org

Subject: Fwd: an article I just found Date: February 14, 2013 at 3:35 PM To: amy.stokes@infinitefamily.org

----- Original Message ------

Subject:an article I just found

Date:Wed, 14 Dec 2011 07:58:19 +0200 From:Bette Kun <a href="mailto:bette@bettekun.co.za">bette@bettekun.co.za</a>

Reply-To: bette@bettekun.co.za

**To:**Katy Keck (<u>katy.keck@infinitefamily.org</u>) <<u>katy.keck@infinitefamily.org></u>, 'Zoleka Petse' <<u>zoleka.petse@infinitefamily.org></u>, Amy Stokes <<u>amy.stokes@infinitefamily.org></u>, 'Dana Gold' <<u>dana.gold@infinitefamily.org></u>

## Janet Jackson thinks I'm special - tameTimes Jhb South

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How do you know you are special? Well, if Janet Jackson handpicks you as one of the 20 young people she will be honouring on her latest 'Up Close and Personal Tour' in Johannesburg, you are certainly someone special and Ntombi (15) from Nkosi Haven Village is by all means special and more.

## About 20 under 20



Janet Jackson will be honouring the world's youth leaders who are changing their communities for the better. At each concert of the 'Up Close and Personal Tour', the 20 people chosen and the person who nominated them will be VIP guests at the show. Ntombi has Lion King's Ron Kunene and ShockRa's Valerie Gamache to thank as they asked Infinite Family to submit two nominations for the 20 Under 20 and Ntombi was given the nod of approval from Miss Jackson.

Ntombi, a resident of Nkosi Haven, volunteered to help the Infinite Family programme when she saw there was a shortage of staff. She took on the responsibility of organising the children, opening the computer lab and being accountable for the safety and security of the children and the computers. Infinite Family is a programme initiated by Amy Stokes where children get the chance to befriend a person overseas and have weekly video chats and can email when ever they feel the need.

"There are many young people changing the world and I want them to be recognised during my tour. I want them to be my guests at my show and they

will come backstage as I learn from them how young people are changing the world," Janet Jackson said. Ntombi has been part of the Infinite Family programme for two years with her 'net buddy' first staying in Holland and now in New York. "She is like a big sister to me; I can tell her everything - what hurts me, what I am feeling," Ntombi said

"Infinite Family is extremely proud of Ntombi and her accomplishments. Her generosity has made a real impact on the vounger huddies at The Village and she has set an amazing example for those around her. We are excited that this

honour shines a light on the work of the entire Infinite Family. Ntombi is an ambassador for all the Net Buddies that have learned leadership skills and the importance of sharing their many gifts and talents," Katy Keck, Infinite Family Board Chair said. "I feel very special, excited and happy. It is definitely going to be a special night that I will remember for the rest of my life," Ntombi said.

Young Ntombi still needs to go shopping for her outfit for the glamorous night but won't be planning what she will say to Janet Jackson "I know I am going to get excited when I see her and will forget what I planned to say so I will rather just speak from my heart."

Vote for Amy Stokes to be the Top CNN Hero 2011.

Your vote can propel Amy Stokes to CNN Hero of the Year resulting in \$250,000 for Infinite Family. Visit http://heroes.cnn.com and vote for Amy Stokes.



Zoleka Petsi, Ntombi, and Amy Stokes

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