

a field report

march///15




A brief overview of Enkanini

Enkanini means a collective force. This rings true to the essence of this community as it began (and still remains) an informal settlement.

This means that they receive no support from the government, including; electricity, roads, trash pick up, or fire responses.

Enkanini is about 8-10 years old, with about ~8,000 residents currently. The demographic is primarily immigrants from the Eastern Cape of SA, mostly in search for work. The majority of Enkanini are Xhosa, with a minority of Coloureds (which is a cultural term here, not a racial slur)

Important note: The difference that is recognized here between black people and coloured people is cultural; black people are commonly defined as coming from a tribal background (eg. Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele..) Whereas Coloureds speak Afrikaans and have their own subculture.



In Enkanini we work primarily with Yondela, who has worked closely with us for the past three years. Although he doesn't claim any form of leadership within Enkanini, he is highly respected and extremely proactive within his community.

Yondela, like most of the residents within Enkanini is from the Eastern Cape. He is a professional chef and has worked as one for 5 years. However he no longer works for someone else as he is busy establishing his own catering business.

Check it out here: <http://ewn.co.za/2014/06/04/Shack-Fusion>

He is adamantly involved with the university, so much so that they built their 'sustainable shack' model, which he has been able to use for the past year.

To learn more about the iShack go here:

<http://realchangenews.org/2013/07/10/future-shack>

<http://earthworksmagazine.co.za/projects/ishack-more-than-just-shelter/>



This is Yondela.

///*Reckoning*///*Serve The City Collaboration*

InSite began in 2010/2011 with thirteen students from the Amsterdam International Community School. It is a voluntary program sponsored by Stichting Reckoning. Students apply and enter a six month leadership training program followed by a 10 day experience working in a developing country. Our first location is within an informal settlement in South Africa aiding a local NGO, Serve the City. The final chapter in this journey is the Night of Story Telling where each student via a creative format, demonstrates what was learned from this experience.

Since this first year, over 100 students and adults have participated. The students at the AICS, Almere and ISA use this program as a way to gain the needed CAS experience for graduation from the IB program. Others participate as a way to gain a cross cultural experience as well as a way to expand their world view and help others.

STUDENT

1. GAIN AN AWARENESS OF ONES STRENGTHS AND AREAS OF GROWTH.
2. TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES/DEVELOP NEW SKILLS
3. PLAN AND INITIATE ALL OR PART OF THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES.
4. BECOME GLOBAL CITIZENS
5. IMPLEMENT GOOD CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS LEARNED IN TRAINING
6. IF THE STUDENT IS IN NEED OF FULFILLING CAS REQUIREMENTS, ALL CAN BE MET WITH THIS PROJECT.

ON SITE COMMUNITY:

1. FIND EMPLOYMENT/INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE.
2. BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CHILDREN
3. GAIN NEW SKILLS
4. RESTORE DIGNITY AND RESPECT
5. IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS AND PERSPECTIVES BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES.

NGO ON SITE

WORK WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO FIND WAYS TO:

1. EMPOWER FOR EMPLOYMENT/EARNING INCOME
2. LEARN NEW SKILLS.
3. CREATE HOPE AND VALUE
4. BUILD SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND WELL BEING
5. BREAK DOWN BARRIERS OF SOCIAL DIVIDE

INSITE:

1. BRING TOGETHER ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS AND CREATE A WINNING EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE, WITH A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY.
2. BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION OF LEADERSHIP BASED ON GOOD CHARACTER AND ETHICAL DECISIONS.
3. TRAIN STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO INNOVATE, WORK IN COLLABORATIVE GROUPS AND LEAD CHILDREN IN ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTHY SOCIAL BEHAVIORS.



The Exchange Program

The Exchange Program was started during *InSite's* visit to Enkanini. The idea of the Exchange Program is to not create any idea of a dependency on whatever kind of project *Serve The City* or *InSite* is involved in, in the community. Our goal is to have every project pay forward to help others in Enkanini.

For example, if a house is painted then that person must help with another project. When *InSite* was painting houses, there were a lot of house owners that joined; painting theirs and other people's homes.

Right now *STC* is busy helping a good friend Booker, who did the Litres of Light project with *STC/InSite* last year, to rebuild his house.

STC is helping him supply the materials and build it. In exchange for this he is helping *STC* with after school art workshops every Monday and Wednesday.

This is also how we worked with Will when he needed money to support his business and family. After explaining we do not give away money (as we cannot afford that) however we do exchanges. He then helped me build the remainder of the shed the following two days.

We strive to keep the exchange program going to bring together the community in its richness of talent and skill.

As a team we really want to support small businesses and people that want to start small businesses. There are a few people in Enkanini that we are aware of and hope to support with the Exchange Program.

An *InSite* team member first micro loan to Yondela, to help him expand his catering business, as well as enriching the feeding scheme. The money that is returned back to us will go directly in funding new *Serve the City* projects.

If we contribute with a monetary investment towards someone creating a business a written agreement will be made. The agreement being that any monetary investment must be returned in the following ways:

-Providing a necessary good to a child or person in need within the community (with the same value of said investment)

Eg; providing a full school uniform to X amount of kids every year

-Providing a service to someone in need to the community

Eg; If a monetary investment is made to Will, then he can return the investment by providing X amount of free repairs for a family in need.

-When established, one must pass the same amount of money that was invested into their business to another community member trying to start their business.

Eg; You gave me 400 euros for my business, I can now start. Now I must give 400 euros to the lady starting a shoe repair business. She begins, the process continues.

Schools visits and support

For the first time since we started coming to Enkanini, we were able to visit both the elementary school and the high school. Ari and Yondela have initiated relationships with the headmasters. It's the first step in figuring out how Serve the City can make sure all the children in Enkanini are going to school.

At the elementary school, we were able to play games with the children during the school day. It was a privilege to be there. It was obvious that the teachers and the staff cared deeply for the children. They all were in uniforms, even sweaters and it was so hot!

We learned that the children receive lunch for free every day. That was good to find out as we have been trying to help Yonder sort out the best way to implement the feeding scheme in Enkanini. We also learned that art and sports have been removed from schools, so what we are doing with the children in these two fields are really needed.

Shawna and Matt met with two science teachers and ended up teaching a physics class on Friday. We did balloon races as they were studying Newton's laws. At the high school, there are about 45 students/class. They have only a 30 lunch break and all classes are about 1 hour. They don't have many labs or practical science classes due to time so our class was a treat for them. We hope to find more ways to support the overworked and underpaid teachers.

Ari has been working with the Art teacher at the high school who offers classes after school. She has been helping with the 24 Questions book project and has asked Ari to lead a visual arts after school class.



The Feeding Scheme

Throughout the past few years we have done the Feeding Scheme during our InSite trips.

This usually provides a free meal to about 200-300 kids a day during our trips. A local NGO Feeding In Action, used to do this on a regular basis in Enkanini, however stopped as Enkanini is an informal settlement and did not want to become politically involved.

The Feeding Scheme has not been active for a few years now due to FIA's absence. Yondela spoke to me about wanting to reimplement it. However without the funding it was impossible for him to start. This led to our new strategy to no longer provide free meals, as it is not sustainable, and charity is not our aim. We proposed providing a meal to anyone for R2. This is the equivalent of 15 euro cents.

We've started to provide food every Tuesday and Thursday after school.

This trial period is serving as a research to understand the various economic needs, as well as willingness to pay for a meal that used to be free.

During the InSite trip we told all of the kids they must bring at least two 2L plastic bottles in exchange for a meal. This was the first step in changing the expectation of getting food for free, there needed to be an exchange. This was overwhelmingly effective.

If successful, we hope this can provide Yondela and whoever he hires with regular income. We have a private investor willing to provide the



food for the coming year to help Yondela get started. We're busy discussing the future of the feeding scheme in terms of its sustainability. Yondela came up with the idea of either adding or replacing the feeding scheme with a weekend braai event.

Plates of food would be sold at more expensive rates however people would be receiving meat, and it would generate more money.

The money would then go into continuing the braai on a weekly basis, and directly feeding families that cannot buy food, as well as funding further STC projects.

Shoes and Waka Waka lights!

For the past few years, Danielle, from Hatshoe Kinderschoenen donates hundreds of shoes for the children in Enkanini. These shoes bring smiles to all the families. As you know kids grow out of shoes quickly and the quality of these shoes are so wonderful, they will be good for at least two to three siblings!

Waka Waka lights have also been a priority for Insite to bring. This year, the Melting Pot and Matt, one of our InSite leaders purchased 40 lights to distribute to school children.

Yondela, the community leaders decides who gets the lights and shoes, and how to distribute them.



The Shed Initiative

Serve the City used to store their supplies with *Feeding In Action*, another NGO in Stellenbosch. However, in the past year a former member stole and sold all of the supplies we've been accumulating for service projects.

Yondela agreed to let STC build a shed on the side of the research center, which will now be shared storage for both himself, STC and Insite.

Although InSite wasn't able to finish the shed during their week here in Enkanini, they laid the foundation for it, and allowed the opportunity for someone from Enkanini to finish it.

Will, one of my good friends in Enkanini has established himself as a local carpenter. Every day as I walk up the hill I see him and his pal building cabinets, cupboards, shelves, wine racks, you name it.

When I met him last year he was busy building his house for his wife and 3 kids. Unfortunately, it burnt down a few months ago. However, not defeated by struggles, he has built another house to keep his family safe.

I was able to hire Will and we finished the shed in 2 days. He is currently building the door for us to attach this week.



Enkanini is filled with lovely crafts

One evening I unexpectedly stopped by Yondela's house, to find it filled with people. I quickly realized that this was his choir. I wasn't even aware that he could sing before this, let alone have a choir.

I sat at the back of the candle lit room, listening quietly. The music reverberated with a warm force, transcending and life giving. I was introduced to all the beauty that brims throughout the community. They rehearsed meticulously, making sure that everyone sang with precision and harmony.

The following day I was telling Yondela how enthusiastic I was to hear them sing. "I have to see you guys perform!"

I then learned that there was a competition coming up with all of the regional choirs. It wasn't even a question that I was going. He told me that they don't have uniforms for their last song. I asked him where we could get them and he had told me his neighbor is a seamstress.

I was so excited! I told him, we'll buy the uniforms for you. We immediately walked to her house, arranged to buy the material the next day if she can finish by Sunday. She did and I bought a little extra material to have her make Anli a dress.

We were not disappointed.



24 Project Exchange

I was first assigned the 24 assignment last year by my teacher Johan Gustavon. The assignment was to tell a story with 24 images, every image representing that hour of the day. The story and the medium was up to us. My story became a research of what an ideal day looks like for a child.

I wrote up a series of 24 questions, asking friends in NL, California, and Malawi to have small workshops where they ask the kids to draw responses to the questions.

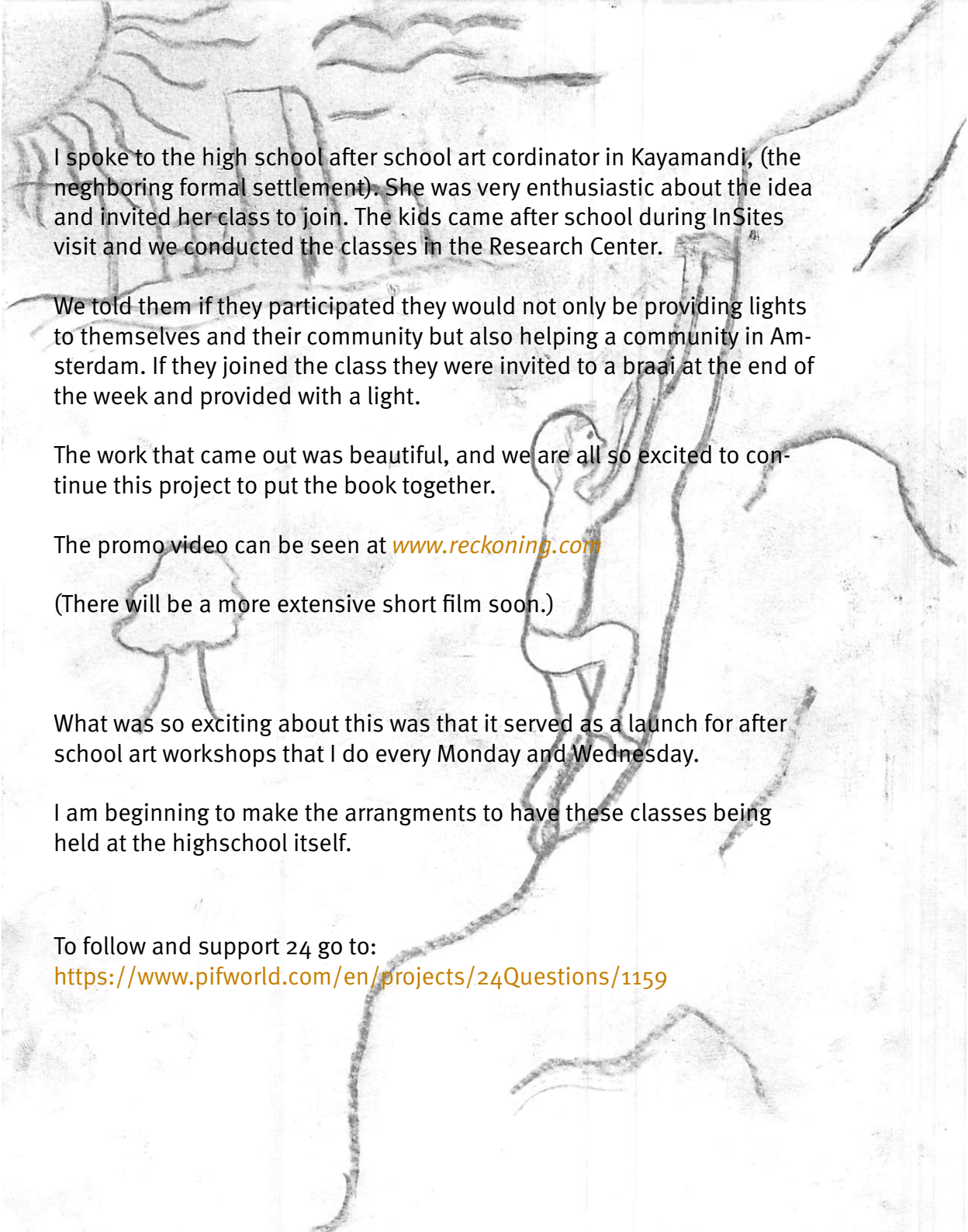
The kids made some beautiful drawings and encouraged me to continue this research in the future.

Last October we recieved a call from Yondela asking if we had any more Waka Waka lights for the kids, as the high school students are studying for their exams and need them for the evening.

Unfortunately, we had no lights, and no funds to provide them. After brainstorming on how we can provide this very necessary light we thought of the 24 project. Insite would initiate it. Reckoning would crowdfund it, doing all of the necessary publicity to get it off the ground.

The kids make the drawings, we put them in a book, and the money earned from their sales provides them with light. We went even further to include the kids that Reckoning works with in Amsterdam to be a part of this, completing the circle.

Enkanini helps Amsterdam. Amsterdam helps Enkanini. All through art.

A pencil sketch of a landscape. In the foreground, a person is climbing a large, gnarled tree trunk. To the left, there is a small, rounded tree. In the background, there are rolling hills and a building. The sky is filled with wavy lines representing clouds or birds. The drawing is done in a simple, expressive style.

I spoke to the high school after school art coordinator in Kayamandi, (the neighboring formal settlement). She was very enthusiastic about the idea and invited her class to join. The kids came after school during InSites visit and we conducted the classes in the Research Center.

We told them if they participated they would not only be providing lights to themselves and their community but also helping a community in Amsterdam. If they joined the class they were invited to a braai at the end of the week and provided with a light.

The work that came out was beautiful, and we are all so excited to continue this project to put the book together.

The promo video can be seen at www.reckoning.com

(There will be a more extensive short film soon.)

What was so exciting about this was that it served as a launch for after school art workshops that I do every Monday and Wednesday.

I am beginning to make the arrangements to have these classes being held at the highschool itself.

To follow and support 24 go to:

<https://www.pifworld.com/en/projects/24Questions/1159>

We planted a garden

One of the final things we did at Yondelas was to plant a garden. In the front of his yard we planted vegetables, and in the back we hired Will to build us a vertical garden. In the vertical garden we planted herbs to keep safe, and the vegetable garden we built a barrier, hopefully preventing erosion, and chicken wire to keep the chickens out

He, his wife and friends all take part in caring for the garden and we are excited for when it is ready to harvest. We hope that with maintenance, it will provide a bit more food to feed his family, his catering business, the feeding scheme and hopefully inspire others around him to plant their own gardens.

I spoke to his neighbor Phila, who asked me when we can plant a garden in her yard. After speaking about our exchange program she was more than willing to participate.



Vertical Garden



Front vegetable garden



Christiaan

We met Christiaan during the InSite trip as we had seen him by the road with severely injured foot. After getting to know him and his mother we had learned that he had been the victim of a hit and run a few months ago.

After being hospitalized he has not been attending school. He is now being sponsored by a private investor in Amsterdam to ensure that he and his siblings are put back into school, and feed every week. During our feeding schemes. Him and his siblings eat for free.

It's currently our mission to get Christiaan into school, and unfortunately proving difficult as so many schools are full.

However we are determined to make sure his needs are met and that he is given the same opportunity to excel in school.

Social Security is busy (slowly) investigating his living conditions, unfortunately if they are not improved soon he and his siblings will be taken away, split up and put into foster care (which isn't very reputable).

However, this is our chance to improve his and his families conditions as there is a property available in Enkanini that could be used to build them a house.

To sponsor Christiaan please visit:

<https://www.ammado.com/community/152846>



At home affairs, getting his birth certificate



Christiaan dressed in the school uniform we sponsored

Every day Ari, the director of STC is thrilled with ideas, because he sees so much that can be done. So many things to be excited about, people to work with and beauty that can be cultivated.

A new personal art project is about to go underway, which will be formally introduced in the near future. There is a lot of amazing initiatives happening, and a lot of things he cannot predict.

If you want to stay updated please follow:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/servethecitystellenbosch>

Instagram: [@itsarisnowing](https://www.instagram.com/itsarisnowing)

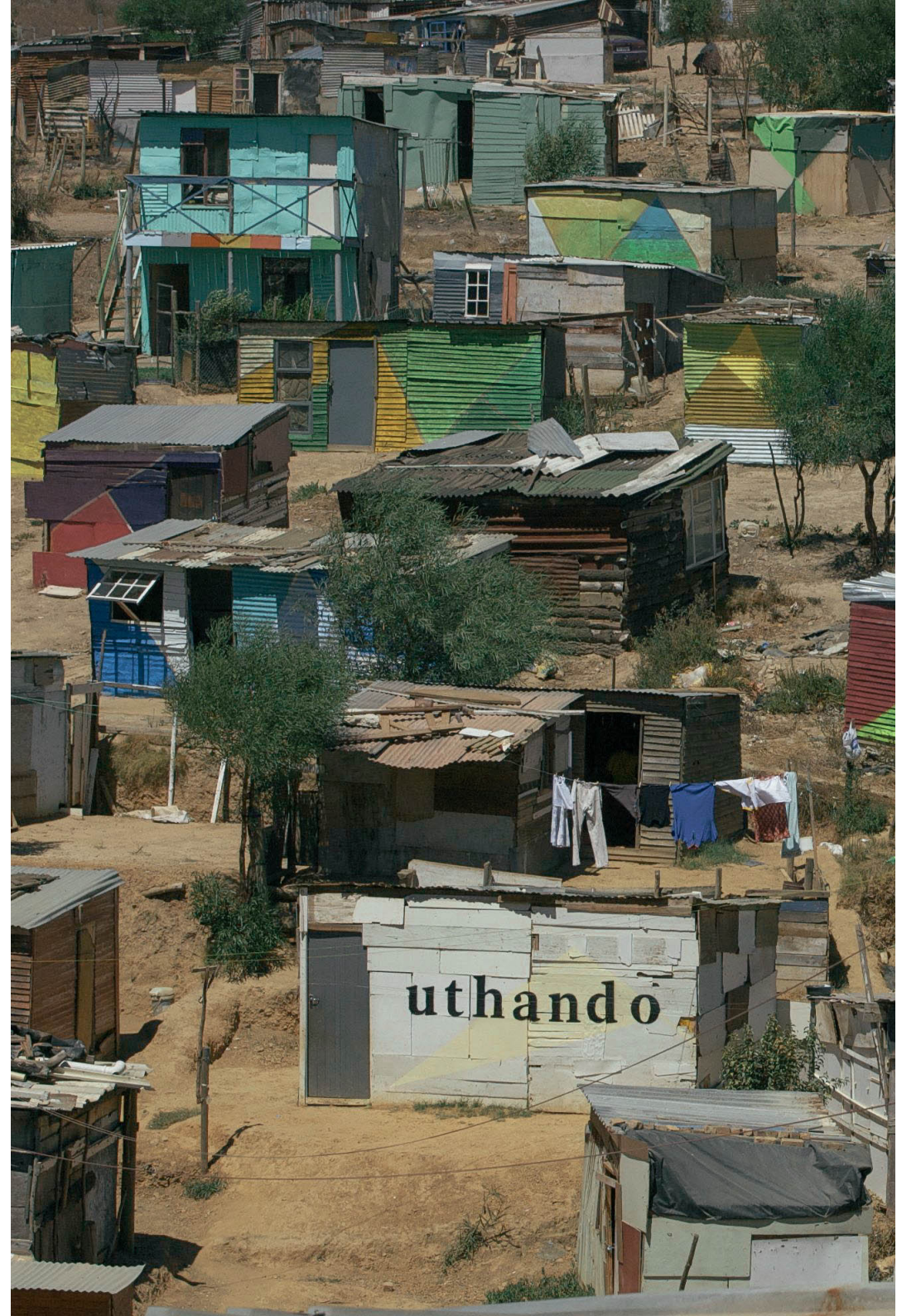
To learn more about Reckoning, InSite and a lot of really great things they're doing please do yourself a favor and visit

www.reckoning.com

www.reckoning.nl/insite

Please consider financially supporting STC, allowing us to give the time and resources to continue planting Pay it Foward initiatives.

Go to: <https://www.ammado.com/community/152846>



Thank you for joining our story

Amsterdam International Community School
Melting Pot at the AICS
Serve the City, South Africa
Waka Waka
Hatshoe kinderschoenen
International School of Amsterdam
Enkanini Community
Almere International School

Families and students who participated with InSite
The many donors and contributors around the world

