



Postcard



From: **Kynda,**
Florida, USA

Volunteered in:
**Melkhoutfontein
& Wild Rescue**

When: **2024**



Working as a Dreamcatcher South Africa volunteer was a transitional experience for me both personally and professionally. Over the past two months, I had the privilege of immersing myself into its multifaceted mission, collectively aimed to enhance the environmental wellness of communities, such as Melkhoutfontein. The opportunity was a flavorful blend of meaningful moments and inspiring impact. From adapting a local lifestyle, to meeting community members who transitioned from foreigners to family, as well as participating in trailblazing project work; every endeavor encapsulated the magical depths of Dreamcatcher.

Forming intercultural connections with my peers through collaboration, creation, and commitment towards a united cause was a transformative part of my experience. I particularly enjoyed the hands-on approach the program encouraged in nurturing such. Whether this was getting down and dirty assembling compost bins and gardening, going door to door completing research surveys, or indulging in a warm meal at our homestay. These activities contributed to the overarching goal in fostering social development.

An additional highlight of my volunteering included my involvement in the communications department. As a recent college graduate within its field, this role was specifically special to me. Dreamcatcher provided me with the chance to apply my academic knowledge and skillsets to real-life events for the first time ever! This ignited a close partnership with Anthea who guided me through the behind-the-scenes work of an NGO, from writing fundraising reports, to constructing a new social media strategy. I was deeply appreciative of Dreamcatcher for prioritizing the growth of the organization, as well as my own, and their desires to find common ground for success.

Having additionally witnessed both the input and output of the organization, was truly fulfilling. My participation as not only a worker, but a newly integrated local, allowed me to absorb the direct impact of Dreamcatcher from the perspective of the people it supports. Its insight was tremendously rewarding and wholesome. My volunteer experience was a colorful crockpot of lessons, life, learning, and love. It was one I will never forget. I look forward to the continued growth and success of Dreamcatcher South Africa and the community development of Melkhoutfontein.

Thank you for welcoming me into your world, and for being a part of my own.

Kynda

