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Growing Up Africa

About Growing Up Africa

Growing Up Africa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to design and build preschools through social, economic, ecological and educational sustainability. Growing Up Africa focuses on sustainable strategies that create instant change for young children and their families. These measures benefit the children directly and also change their families' lives, impacting entire communities and villages in Africa. We also work to inspire fun, with age-appropriate tools and toys, books, gardens, classroom furniture, eco classrooms and more.

Performing Miracles - One Village at A Time. A Catalyst for the Village to Reach Further.

The founder of Growing Up Africa, Deborah Terhune, believes that it's imperative to protect early education, particularly in Africa. As a real estate development consultant, Terhune has traveled and worked in Africa for more than 20 years and has seen first-hand the challenges Africa's children face. She believes that education is the most effective way to surmount the extreme poverty, the staggering unemployment, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and sub-standard education (in many areas no education at all). She was moved to make a difference. From here the transformation model was formed, giving children and communities opportunities that they would not have otherwise.

What They Are Doing to Help

The children's needs are simple but crucial, particularly in remote, impoverished areas. Building schools, one brick at a time, is not enough to make the change. Providing resources and funding for long-term sustainability is critical to the success of all good intentions.

When children are given a good educational foundation early in life, they find it easier to learn beyond Grade 1. 250 children have graduated and moved on to primary and secondary schools in the Sabi Sand area of South Africa from a small school called Happy Home School. A delivery agreement is in place for Basic Education and endorsed by the Minister of Basic Education in South Africa. The government's vision has prioritized the improvement of basic education.

Scheduled for 2011-2012 Growing Up Africa has partnered with Cornell University Sustainable Design Group to design and build additional classrooms, a community center, ablutions, Vo-Tech and computer classrooms and expansion of the current garden at Happy Home School.

How You Can Help

You can be a part of this ambitious project by visiting http://www.growingupafrika.org/make_a_difference.php. You can also learn more by watching this documentary about Growing Up Africa <http://youtu.be/mxudkB9X-ik>.

For more information on Growing Up Africa
visit www.growingupafrika.org.

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