



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS

Cape Town, South Africa

Community(s):	Philippi
Partner:	Amandla Development
Projects:	Athletics, business consulting, construction, performing arts, music production, dance, and public health
# Volunteers:	2018 (90) Trip Producer: Rob Biniaz '75 2019 (44) Trip Producer: Liz Jordan '88

Organized in collaboration with Amandla Development, a local non-profit that works with local community entities to empower citizens to gain equal access to quality education opportunities, YASC organized two service trips in the community of Philippi, which is located on the outskirts of Cape Town. The goal of our service trips was to help improve the lives of Philippi residents as we tackled problems in education, health, and economic development. Projects included teaching science, art, and other subjects to students in the primary and secondary schools, working with local public health officials and non-profits on critical public health issues, providing business consulting assistance to local entrepreneurs, building shelves in the local schools, running after-school sports programs, and working with youth in performing arts, music production, and dance projects and activities. We also organized a children's hearing and screening project. The local public health services are generally able to screen only 150 to 200 children per year in Philippi. YASC volunteers, working with local clinicians and resident experts, were able to screen nearly 3,000 children in the two years. Of those, 10% required follow-up care and a handful suffered from potentially dire infections and cysts that required immediate treatment or surgery. As a result of these efforts, the government health service reexamined its own screening process. The work was more than medical. It was about education, facilitation, and building and developing trust - the kind of service that will resonate for years to come.

YASC has continued the successful partnership with Amandla Development to promote a culture of reading with students in Philippi with two virtual book clubs in 2021 and 2022 for 9th grade learners to promote a love of reading for pleasure and making personal connections to literature. Interactive virtual discussions were held as after-school activities at Amandla's Safe Space in Philippi. Learners from Grade 9 participated with the support of Amandla Student Mentors to read the text, prepare for virtual group discussion, and express personal connections to the text through written discussion and artistic expression.

About the community:

Philippi is an underserved community of approximately 200,000 residents located in the Cape Flats area of the city of Cape Town southeast of the central business district. Historically a farming community, its population took off in the late 70's and early 80's as apartheid policies drove migrants from other parts of South Africa into settlements in the area.