

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Frederic Desaunois

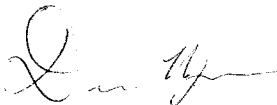
From 18 January 2009 to 17 April 2009 I had the pleasure of knowing and managing Frederic Desaunois during his three month volunteer experience in Cape Town, South Africa. In a program which has over two hundred international volunteers a year, Frederic was not only able to make a huge impact on the township school and local community he was assigned to but he proved himself to be one of the most profound volunteers we have had to date. During his time in Cape Town, Frederic showed a tremendous amount of independent initiative, strong communication skills, and a natural leadership style touched with empathy and humor.

Fred was given an initial post at Hyde Park Primary, a disadvantaged, overcrowded, understaffed and under-resourced school located in an impoverished community in the cape flats area called, Parkwood. Many of our western volunteers come to similar placements in Cape Town and are immediately overcome with cultural shock due to the abject poverty that exists which usually translates into feelings of intimidation and fear. Frederic reacted completely contrary to the normal response. By the end of his first month of volunteering as an information technology specialist, the children were calling his name and flocking to his side as soon as he entered the room. These children, I believe, were better off for having Frederic in their lives as a positive male role model.

Immediately he impressed me with the level of foresight and knowledge of information technology by initiating a dramatic change in the school through setting up a massive switchboard and linking all computers in the school together. Despite the fact that English was not his mother tongue, he continued to learn new vocabulary so he could interact more professionally with the local staff and children. After the school began its public holiday, Frederic made sure that his experience, passion, and motivation were put to good use by searching out another community computer lab in the informal settlement of Vrygrond. There he began educational lessons for both adults and the youth of the community teaching basic computer skills and life skills such as creating a CV and letter of motivation.

People enjoy being around Frederic. He is such a pleasure that I have seen local South African teachers, family members, other volunteers, students, and our staff all gravitate towards his positive energy and constant upbeat attitude. If Frederic were given any task to achieve and he possessed the required skill set then I would have no doubt that he would not only accomplish the task, but do so to the highest degree possible. I completely recommend Frederic Desaunois for any and all positions he applies himself to.

Sincerely,



Dana Myers
Director for South Africa