

"Partners Across the Ocean"

Zion-Benton Township High School*Illinois Beach Sunrise Rotary*Shades Club

South African Partnership Community Committee

What is Partners Across the Ocean?

Beginning in the year 2000 a collection of ZBTHS teachers, students, Rotarians, school administrators and community members have come together to do their part in improving the education of township students in South Africa. Through fundraising events, a stream of regular donations, speaking honorariums, and a large grant from Rotary International, this program has been carried by its community support. This generosity and hospitality offered by the community to its partners from across the ocean is one of the great stories of the Zion-Benton area the past six years.

This educational project primarily serves the township of Khayelitsha, near Cape Town. Khayelitsha which means "New Home" is an African Township in all its paradoxical meaning. Once a symbol of the oppression of apartheid these townships and their residents are the hope of the "New" South Africa. The home to people with great energy and a vibrant culture, but also a place with a very high rate of violent crime. Khayelitsha is the home of both squatter camps, with metal shacks and water taps but also more permanent brick homes, often for its long term residents. Its population, which is almost entirely from the Xhosa group, has been estimated at approximately 1.5 million.

Please use the contact information below to request our most recent newsletter, available both electronically and in print form.

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