

- SOUNDS Adventure -

Making a video for the

2018 RI Convention in Toronto



The adventure started at OR Tambo, Sunday 15th April when Brenda Erickson and Hal Rifken from the USA rendezvoused with Edie and Robin. The motivation was to collect material for a video depicting SOUNDS in SA, but especially the partnership with Peace Corps and Rotary, Partners-4-Peace, for a release at the House of Friendship during the RI convention in Toronto.

Jan and Marba joined the team on the 16th to visit Berakah in Mamelodi, still a thriving community, and then on to crèches near Verena where two Peace Corps Volunteers introduced SOUNDS to eleven crèches in 2016 and 2017. These are now being looked after by their local counterpart, Simon. Tea and cake were served at Simon's home.



This 4- to 5-year old builds words, but still struggles to read



A grade 4 child in a remedial group who all enjoy SOUNDS. She is reading already

The team set off for the KZN hinterland on the 17th to visited PCVs and Counterparts at their schools, homes and lodges.

Having been serenaded by marvellous choirs at one school, wined and dined and submerged in the local SOUNDS culture, (building three-letter words from a noughts and crosses puzzle, splitting up three letter words down your arm), the return trip on 18th was highlighted by the stories and memories from the last three days.



The kids were creative - a matrix of letters turned into three letter words



Left: One of the four choirs that sang for the team

Right: Hal taking a video of 3- to 4-year olds with their teacher in a garage as a classroom



Dawn on the 19th saw the team and Clive at Little Voices, Hope of Nations, (a crèche in a garage) and Pennies in the middle of Pretoria where children built their first three-letter words, but struggled to read them - that will quickly come.

Overall, it was a very memorable trip and lots of fun. The big job of putting together hours and hours of filming and then editing it into a short story of SOUNDS now awaits Hal. Mariana and Tom will be at the RI Convention in Toronto to witness the launch of this video that bears witness to a wonderful week and the wonder of SOUNDS.



Simon, a born teacher, with his mother, Jan, Edie and President Robin



Peace Corps Volunteer teaching grade R children with input from Brenda



Evelyn in front of her new class of grade R children; they already read a few words