

Plettenberg Bay

December 2016

Dear Born in Africa

I would like to start off this letter with a huge hug and so much love!!!



They say when one door closes another one opens, so this should be an exciting time for me, but yet I feel so sad. You have not only supported me financially, but you've become a part of my life that's so hard to let go. Not being a Born in Africa student anymore saddens me, saying goodbye isn't my strong point, which is why I am very glad that you've instilled the mentor program for students that finished their studies, because now I will be able to stay part of the Born in Africa family.

I've been in the BIA program for 10 years and I still remember the first time I was called from class to attend the BIA meeting with Mrs Jacobs like it was yesterday. At the time I didn't really understand what the program was about, all I knew was that I was going to get school clothes and go on camps with other students. This thrilled me because I knew it was going to help my parents with some of their financial struggles. My sister Danelle was already in the program at the time, so I felt very blessed because I had seen how much of a difference it had made in our family's life.

Over the years the mentoring sessions with Joyce and Belinda helped me communicate more, as I was a very shy child. I made friends with some of the other BIA students during these sessions, like Candy and Mandy, and I was pushed to speak in groups and share thoughts which inspired confidence in me.

In all honesty, when I think back of high school and what I thought I'd want to be when I grow up, I never really thought of life after School, because I knew my parents didn't have the means to send me to College or University. Little did I know BIA would step in for the rescue. I will never be able to thank you enough for all the help I've received from you.

I really struggled throughout the years with transitioning, not only from High school to University, but also from Plettenberg bay to Cape Town. I didn't know anyone when I first arrived. And I felt so sad because I didn't know if I was ever going to be able to make friends, being the shy girl that I was, but I did eventually make a few. It took some great effort and time, but I did manage to get used to the fast life of Cape Town, which I am now going to miss dearly.

Next year I will be doing community service in Humansdorp at the provincial hospital. There I will be all on my own again, but this time I'll be closer to home and more confident in my abilities. Starting this new chapter in my life, means that I will have to grow up even more, and very quickly as well. I will not be referring to myself as a student anymore, which will take some getting used to.

Thank you BIA staff and sponsors. All of your effort, time and energy spent means so much more than can ever be explained. I am about to walk into a future I never thought possible. I will be able to travel (God willing) and see places, meet people, and build a great life. God bless you!!

Message to other students: Persevere, believe in yourself, and don't give up. Also, try not to procrastinate too much ;) and remember whenever you feel discouraged, that there are other students that might share those feelings. So rely on each other for motivation and encouragement, because we are a family.

Yours Sincerely, Charne Majavie

