

Infinite Family

Mentoring Africa's Future



July 2014

Infinite Family



Infinite Family is doing innovative work mentoring underserved South African students.

- Our platform supports personal, face-to-face interaction with adult volunteer mentors around the world. Our mentors promote self-reliance; they augment what's taught in the classroom and the home through topics that prepare students for their adult lives: Communications, Education, Life Skills, Technology and Career Preparation.
- Our role is to marshal, manage and apply the resources required for successful distance mentoring, often under extreme circumstances.



Our Belief and Passion



When adults around the world share their time and valuable life experience, the students they mentor perform better in school, make better decisions, prepare for their futures, and move toward self-reliance and a better life.

Mentored Students at Tau Raupulana High School Achieved Better Matric Scores than Peers in 2013

2013 Matric Exam Results	Tau Raupulana HS Infinite Family Mentees	Tau Raupulana HS Non-Mentees	North West Province
Did not pass	1 4.8%	11 12.5%	3,838 13%
Higher Certificate (FET College)	2 9.5%	29 33.0%	4,887 17%
Diploma (some University programs)	5 23.8%	34 38.6%	10,249 35%
Bachelors' (University degree)	13 61.9%	14 15.9%	10,166 35%
Total Learners	21 100.0%	88 100.0%	29,140 100%
Overall pass rate	95.2%	87.5%	87%
Diploma + Bachelors	85.7%	54.5%	70%



Vision, Mission and Model



Vision

Infinite Family envisions an Africa transformed by its youth, whose self-reliance leads to a better life and a stronger society.



Mission

To promote self-reliance—to augment what is taught in the classroom and the home to help develop resilient, responsible, and resourceful students as they prepare for their lives as young adults and beyond.



Model

Adults mentor African teens individually and face-to-face via the Internet. They are role models who teach, discuss, challenge, encourage, befriend, and love; they are agents of self-reliance.



Context



Mentoring labs are located in apartheid era townships, informal settlements and disinvested neighborhoods – the backdrop for well documented challenges that include inadequate shelter, nutrition, education, healthcare and safety.

- These challenges profoundly affect the behavior of an entire population and extend generational cycles of violence, ill health, isolation and a lack of opportunity.
- Teens and pre-teens suffer the most as scarce adult attention and protection are directed to the very young.
- Infinite Family brings trained adult role models into the lives of teens and pre-teens to help them break these patterns and build a better life.



A typical township or settlement home

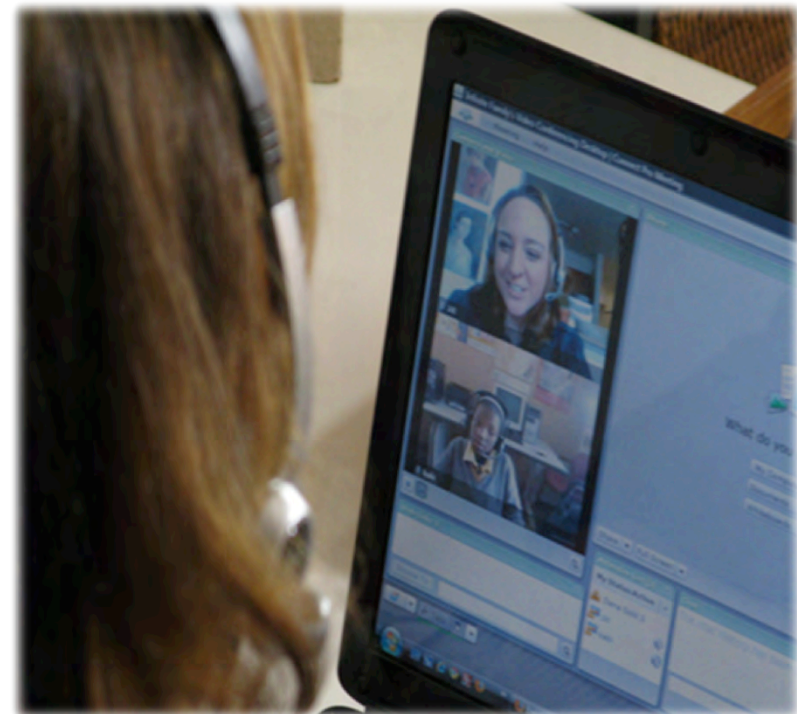


Video Mentors



Video mentors are adult volunteers worldwide who serve as role-models, sharing their real life experience and demonstrating the important of self-reliance and independence to building a successful future.

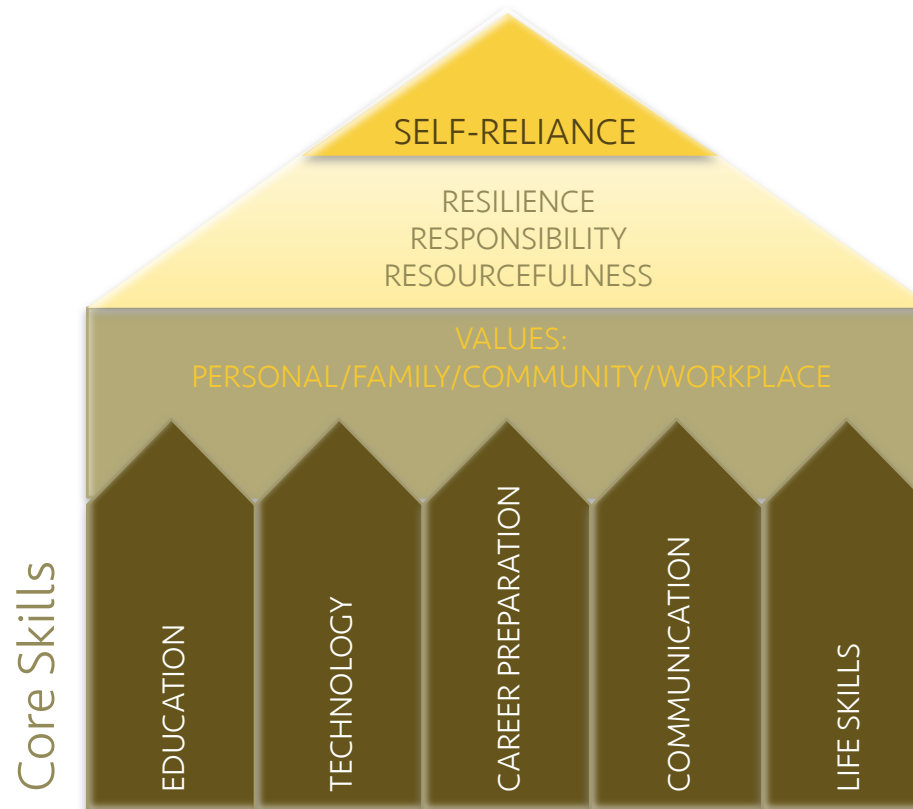
- Mentoring is conducted via computers and the Internet
- 30 minutes per week with their Net Buddy – to teach, discuss, challenge, encourage, befriend, and love
- Extensive online training and feedback
- Personal, face-to-face, interactive



Mentoring Model



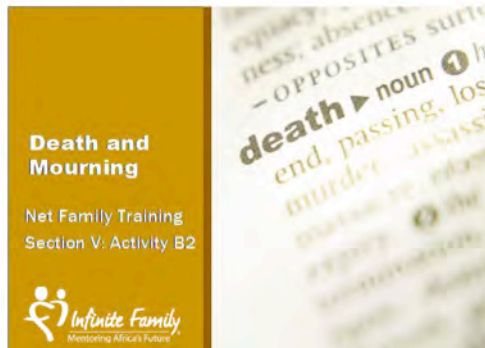
Infinite Family's video mentors help their Net Buddies build the skills that allow them to become productive and independent young adults.



Mentor Training



Mentor training is available online, anytime, to fit the schedules of our worldwide mentoring community.



Monitoring and Evaluation



Infinite Family’s proprietary monitoring and evaluation system, ImpacTracker 4.0, measures SMART outcomes that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.

SMART Outcomes (based on two years of mentoring)	
Communication	60% of Net Buddies will demonstrate effective use of their communication skills (i.e., using appropriate language and tone) in class, among friends and family, and in formal conversation after the first year.
Education	60% of Net Buddies improve their overall grade by one level and 50% of Net Buddies in Grades 10-12 choose maths (not maths literacy.)
Life Skills	50% of Net Buddies make decisions and act in ways that positively affect their health and wellness, their personal relationships, and that demonstrate responsibility, resilience, and resourcefulness.
Technology	100% of Net Buddies use a computer and the Internet for at least two of the following: to research topics for school, investigate job opportunities, communicate appropriately via social media, and understand the wider world.
Career Preparation	After the first year, 50% of Net Buddies in grades 9-12 know information about different jobs or careers they might be interested in, such as their descriptions and educational requirements. After the second year, 50% of Net Buddies in grades 11-12 have knowledge about a general field in which they would like to pursue a career (such as health, natural, or social sciences, tourism industry, education, communications, legal system, etc.) and have started to prepare for it.



LaunchPad



Infinite Family's LaunchPad is a clean, well-lighted space that focuses our Net Buddies on building their own new future.



"BT is once again proud to collaborate with Infinite Family and be involved in this project as it reaches the most vulnerable in our society. The project enables youngsters to significantly improve their career prospects by acquiring much needed computer skills."

Keith Matthews, BT

"Infinite Family's pioneering work is an imaginative and far-sighted way to bring 21st-century technology, crucial skills, and global awareness to young people in extremely challenging situations."

Mike Kane, Perkins+Will



Mentoring Africa's Future

Current Partners



All of our partners care about the future of South Africa's teens; Infinite Family aligns their strengths to achieve sustainable, long-term impact.

NGOs and Schools

Alexandra Child Care and Support Centre

Mehlwana Senior Secondary School

Nkosi's Haven

Tau Rapulana High School

Tsogang Sechaba Community Project

Corporate Partners

Adobe Systems

Adopt-a-School Foundation

BT

Dial-a-Nerd

Glencore

Internet Solutions

Kumba Iron Ore

Salesforce.com

Sun International

YFM



Contact and Additional Information



Amy Conrad Stokes
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Infinite Family USA
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1372
New York, NY 10115
United States
Tel: +1.212.400.7446 x-11
Mobile: +1.917.757.5524
amy.stokes@infinitefamily.org

Zoleka Petse
Deputy Program Director
Infinite Family South Africa
Albury Park, 1 Magaliezrecht Ave.
Randburg, Johannesburg 2196
South Africa
Tel: +1.212.400.7446 x-15
Mobile: +27(0)82.314.1968
zoleka.petse@infinitefamily.org

Infinite Family Website: www.infinitefamily.org

CNN 2011 Top Ten Hero: www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/archive11/amy.stokes.html

Infinite Family's First LaunchPad mentoring lab: <http://tinyurl.com/1st-LaunchPad>

