

Supporting Dreams in South Africa

In a small township built on the remains of a garbage hill, four small buildings nestle the corner of two roads. One of the buildings has a broken roof, and one has a car battery pumping solar panels. There is the laughter of children to be heard. This is the Callahan Family School for Children, a school and orphanage in Intabazwe, a township in Harrismith, South Africa. Every year, UCF in South Africa LEAD Service-Learning in Sustainability teaches students how to lead a sustainable, global service project and impact the lives of children and wildlife in Harrismith and Nambitit, South Africa. This year, the children in the orphanage need a roof for the girls building and beds, bedding, and curtains for the girls' and boys' buildings.

Every child deserves a safe place to sleep, a roof over their head, and a blanket to keep them warm. My name is Brooke Leggiero, and as a student leader hoping to learn how to impact others around the world sustainably, I hope to work with the community partner in Intabazwe in making these basic needs a reality for the children in the orphanage. During May, eight of my peers and I will be traveling to South Africa to execute this project and many others after a semester of preparing, learning, and working. My project is to provide beds, bedding, and curtains for the girls' and boys' buildings. I will also work with my peer on her project to fix the caving ceiling in the girls' orphanage.

While providing for these children's basic needs, I am also working to connect the community with an NGO partner. Meeting needs at their root can create a long-lasting, sustainable change. Pinpointing the community's needs as a whole and partnering with an NGO to provide preventative and sustainable impact can create a lasting change in the kids, not only now but in future generations. It would be amazing to see children one day not having to go to the orphanage because their families were provided for and could stay together.

To reach my goals, I must fundraise for the beds, bedding, and curtains, order the frames, mattresses, blankets, and curtains, put together and lead a team of my peers to keep the children safe and build the beds/set up the room, and partner and fundraise with an NGO for the community. The beds, bedding, and curtains will be purchased from a business in South Africa. Following is the cost of the bunk beds, bedding, and curtains:

	Estimated USD	Total Items	Total Cost
Bunk Beds	\$159.02	20-25	\$3,180.40-\$3,975.50
Bedding	\$4.00	30-40	\$120.00-\$160.00
Curtains	\$5.00	2	\$10.00

As I expectantly work towards this amazing project, I would love your support to make this dream a reality for these kids. Every single project is community-funded, and I would be so grateful if you would partner with me in donating. You can find more information about the program and the link to donate at: linktr.ee/ucf_southafrica

Thank you,
Brooke Leggiero