

# South African lessons

Watsonville's Mount Madonna School's senior class returned Monday from a 17-day service learning trip to South Africa



Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu hosted Mount Madonna School students, including, from right, Carl Ward, Aimee Kerr and Cyrus Kamkar for a discussion about joy and social justice during a visit to the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town.



Mount Madonna School students Emily Villarreal, Aimee Kerr, Brigg Busenhart and Indigo Kelly react to an up-close-and-personal interaction with a hyrax atop Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa. The hyrax is a herbivorous mammal native to Africa and the Middle East, which are superficially similar rodents but are genetically more closely related to elephants and manatees.



Phoebe Grant of Soquel spends a joyful moment with a youngster at Botshabelo Children AIDS Village in Magaliesburg, South Africa during a 17-day learning journey she and her Mount Madonna School classmates took to South Africa.



Mount Madonna School student Aimee Kerr, of Morgan Hill volunteered in the Educare Center at Philani Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition Project in Khayelitsha Township outside of Cape Town, South Africa. Khayelitsha is a crowded home to hundreds of thousands, many living in a massive shantytown comprised of corrugated metal shacks without indoor plumbing.

PHOTOS BY SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL



Mount Madonna School students Indigo Kelly and Gracie Howley, far left and second from left, and Aimee Kerr, bottom right, join their voices, spirits and hearts with teens from Tembisa Township near Johannesburg, South Africa. The international choir headlined the bi-annual Uxhumano Festival during the students' 17-day learning journey to South Africa.

**Highlights of the trip included meeting with Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, volunteering at a preschool in the poverty-stricken Khayelitsha Township near Cape Town, bringing 15 duffle bags filled with clothing and medical supplies to Botshabelo Children's AIDS Village in Magaliesburg and joining forces with local youth to perform in a choir.**

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