



True Measures

OVER A PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS, I participated in an international build with Habitat for Humanity where we built six homes in a township in South Africa. This photograph depicts a woman who would be receiving one of the homes that we built. Her current home (center) was made from scraps of metal that did not protect her family from the weather. Her new home (right) would keep her and her family safe and comfortable.

Having grown up in a country where material possessions are the central focus of daily life, becoming immersed in a simpler culture was an eye-opening experience. The people valued things that were necessary for sustaining life,

such as food, water, and shelter. The individuals that we encountered had very little, but did not complain about going without. During my time in this township, the people's positive attitude increased my understanding that a love for your family, a strong work ethic, and a passion for all that life has to offer, are the true measures of a strong, fulfilled person. These characteristics are attractive across all cultures, and this experience reminds me that cross-cultural interaction gives us the opportunity to realize the amazing things that everyone has to offer.

KRYSTIL REINSTADLER

Student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.