Volunteers work at the African Angels School each morning; assisting in the classroom, running small group activities such as arts and crafts or sports, reading with the children, giving one-on-one attention in study tasks and generally helping to run the school day.

Volunteers also take part in afternoon community development initiatives including:
- Sports Development
- Children’s Home of Safety Project
- Gardening Initiative

*The afternoon initiatives change according to current needs in the area and may be different during the time that you volunteer. We guarantee that volunteers will take part in meaningful, productive afternoon initiatives during their time in Chintsa.

Who Should Apply?
Enthusiastic and creative people looking to assist teachers in the classroom and help with the daily running of a rural South African school whose children are supported by the African Angels organization who recognize their significantly disadvantaged backgrounds and offer support through a sponsored education. This project is ideal for teaching students looking for teaching experience in a challenging classroom environment and people considering a career in teaching and/or social care.

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Volunteer Profile
A minimum age of 18 applies for all VA32 placements. African Angels volunteers require a good level of spoken English and the ability to work in a highly motivated team. Early childhood teaching experience/ an education background would be an advantage but is not essential.

This will allow maximum benefit to the project objectives.
African Angels was formed in 2007 by Lou Billett, an Australian now living in South Africa, and Tracy King, the owner of a local Playschool and Baby Care Centre. A trust was established in South Africa, with 3 trustees, Lou Billett, Tracy King and Peter Meier. The Trust is a registered Non Profit Organisation (NPO) in South Africa.

African Angels’ underpinning philosophy revolves around the belief that the most effective way to drive positive change in South Africa, is to ensure children receive a good quality and continuous education in South Africa, from pre-school to matriculation.

In 2012 the organisation saw the need to establish an Independent School close to Chintsa, in order to effectively cater to the individual needs of the children in the program. The African Angels Independent School provides a high quality education to some of the poorest children in the area and provides a continuous and stable school environment for the children.

A cornerstone of our success is that the parents/carers of learners take part in the program as partners. They are required to contribute a nominal monthly fee towards their child’s education, to ensure that their child attends school, and to participate on the African Angels School Board.

To find out more about African Angels or to support the program by sponsoring a child visit www.sponsoranangel.org

The African Angels School

The school has been established on what was the site of an old, unused and dilapidated government high school. With the assistance of several groups of VA32 volunteers the school facilities and classrooms have been uplifted totally creating a safe, clean, bright learning environment for the Angels complete with jungle gym, library and computer lab!

Upon opening in 2012 the school housed grades 1, 2 and 3. Each year it grows (just like the Angels!) by adding a grade. Currently the school caters to learners from Grade R - 5.
The Project
Teacher & Learner Support

The African Angels School provides one of the best opportunities for education in the area, where it is an unfortunate reality that government schools lack. In the Angels School class sizes are relatively small, teachers are dedicated and caring, and learners are given the care and attention necessary to move forward with their education. As a volunteer you will provide much needed support to both the Angels, teachers and the school staff who are already involved in the lives of the children.

Volunteers work alongside teachers to fulfil the daily needs and requirements of the learners, in and outside of the classroom. Project tasks include:
- Reading and completed maths tasks with children one-to-one and in small groups
- Assisting teaching staff in delivering lessons and preparing lesson materials
- Creating and facilitating activities in art, song, dance and structured play
- Assisting teachers in resource development
- Attending to the children’s needs during meal and nap times
- Assisting in the general running of the school, from over-seeing playtime to supervising the children getting on and off the bus and more!

*Volunteers are placed in the most appropriate grade classroom according to current needs, or may be asked to assist in various grades throughout their time with the Angels. If you have particular skills and passions we will always try to use them during the project (e.g., you are great on the computer and would like to teach some lessons in the computer lab, you love to play netball and would enjoy running some sports activities), please let us know upon booking!

A Typical Day

Volunteers join the Angels on the bus from Chintsa each morning and assist in the classroom during their school day, Mon—Fri from 7am to 1pm. Afternoons are spent on our Community Development Initiatives (see over page), evenings and weekends are free time.
Interactive Sports Development

The VA32 sport’s development initiative is an exciting drive to introduce and develop on-going growth and appreciation in the sporting arena in socio-economically challenged areas of the Wild Coast. For the most part, schools lack the resources and the capacity to provide effective sports opportunities for their learners.

It is into this void that the VA32 volunteer team employ their energy, enthusiasm and skill.

The initiative strives towards creating a formal sporting framework where new sport’s disciplines, teamwork and the understanding of sport etiquette are developed. In a country such as South Africa, sport is able to encourage not only a healthy lifestyle, but also develop necessary social skills and peer understanding that is essential to the stability and well being of our society.

The sports development initiative relies heavily on volunteers to drive this program forwards. Twice weekly volunteers run sports sessions in the village; drills, skills practise and games in football, rounders, rugby, volleyball, netball, cricket and any other sport which appeals. The recently developed Chintsa Sports Centre hosts these sessions with access to a football pitch, netball and volleyball courts.

Gardening Project

Monday afternoon is reserved for gardening! VA32 assist local learners and volunteers in helping to care for the plant and vegetable gardens at Chintsa East School and teach the children how to look after and harvest their plants, flowers and vegetables.

Children’s Home of Safety

Volunteers visit a local Children’s Home of Safety one afternoon a week where extra hands are desperately needed to help the fulltime staff in this under-staffed, under-resourced children’s home. Typical activities involve playing sports with the children, structured play, reading and helping children to complete their homework.
VA32 has an on-going commitment to supporting the African Angels Independent School and works closely with local non-profit organisation Friends of Chintsa to achieve these aims through completing building, upliftment and maintenance work on the school facilities as well as supporting teachers and volunteers in the development of the schools. To date the school has received the following support from Friends and VA32 volunteers: classroom upliftment in 7 classrooms, toilet block renovation, the building of a jungle gym, bike track and computer lab plus consistent maintenance and school care!

A bit more about Friends of Chintsa

VA32 and local non-profit organisation Friends of Chintsa work in partnership. The organisation manages any financial donations which are given to the VA32 projects, and channels them into initiatives which address current social and environmental issues in and around Chintsa.

VA32 volunteers help to support these initiatives through their involvement in programs such as the Wild Coast Schools, Community Preschools and African Angels Projects and can get further involved with on-going Friends initiatives during their time in Chintsa.

A few ways to get more involved!
- Join the UNSTRESSED Surf School at the weekend which is run by the local surf community and teaches local children the basics of surfing and ocean awareness
- Be an active part of the regular sports development initiatives going on in Chintsa
Volunteer Life

Orientation
A pre-project familiarisation and orientation, will take place upon arrival in Chintsa. This will involve an introduction to the local area, volunteer routine and house as well as a familiarization chat about life and what to expect in South Africa.

A project specific orientation is also provided before volunteers are placed in the pre-schools. It includes: a project overview, in depth introduction to VA32, introduction to the preschools and teachers, lesson & resource preparation and available resources.

Orientation is designed to help volunteers to settle into their new environment as quickly as possible and to understand where their energy and enthusiasm can be used best on project.

Accommodation
VA32 has a volunteer house in the small seaside village of Chintsa East. Volunteers will stay in shared accommodation (two or six per room) in the “vollie” house overlooking Chintsa beach & lagoon. The house is within a few minutes walk of the beach & volunteers will have access to canoes, boogie boards and beach accessories through local backpackers Buccaneers. Accommodation has most mod cons (including daily visits from the monkeys!) and is fully serviced and managed by our house manager Nomakwezi.
Meals

**Breakfasts** are *early and healthy*. Volunteers will have access to a self–help breakfast which will include fresh fruit, toast and jams, cereals, tea and coffee. Please note that yoghurt and fried breakfasts are not included.

**Lunch** is in the form a packed lunch which includes a *sandwich and a piece of fruit* prepared by house manager Nomakwezi. White and brown bread, cheese, tomato, lettuce, cucumber, jams and peanut butter are available as sandwich fillings.

**Dinners** are scrumptious, home cooked, sit down meals. These will be prepared by VA32 staff and we cater for vegetarians at all times. Volunteers also have the opportunity to enjoy traditional Xhosa foods at our once off Xhosa Dinner Party. Other theme menus include a Mexican evening as well as a truly South African weekly “braai” (BBQ).

*Important Note: Participants must advise VA32 of their dietary needs (e.g. vegetarian, allergic to nuts etc.) upon bookings. Participants with very specific dietary needs may be required to supplement their meals at their own expense.*

Chintsa

There are several small restaurants and bars in the village that do specials for volunteers. Thursday night is “fun night out” as all VA32 volunteers from the different projects usually meet up.

Local tour operator African Heartland Journeys (mother company to VA32) run surf schools, beach horse rides, game drives and quad biking which are all bookable through the VA32 office at a reduced rate for volunteers.

Local backpackers **Buccaneers** also welcomes volunteers to use their swimming pool, boogie boards, canoes, take part in their afternoon free activities and use their bar. A great place to meet like minded travellers and plan future adventures!

The VA32 Office & Support Centre offers:

- 24 hr personalised contact person
- Professional, full time VA facilitators for planning & mentoring
- Weekly feedback, troubleshooting and planning sessions with co-ordinating team
- Transport to and from projects
- Access to the VA32 internet café and telephone
What’s included in the program fee?

- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure (Monday arrivals only)
- Accommodation in shared, serviced camps
- Three meals a day whilst on project
- All project related transport
- Support of our experienced on-site project co-ordinator
- Welcome pack with all project info, and meal and drink vouchers for local Chintsa restaurants and bars, 1 free hour internet upon arrival, free VA32 T-shirt

What’s not included?

- Flights
- Personal Insurance
- Snacks, drinks and meals outside of project
- Extra excursions and trips

The Booking Process

Contact us on info@volunteerafrica.co.za or +27 (0)43 738 5523. Our travel and bookings guru Karen will email an application form to you asap. This needs to be filled in and returned to us and upon receipt we will invoice you for a 35% deposit which is needed to confirm your placement on project. The remainder of the fee is due one month prior to arrival.

N.B., You need to inform us of your flight details so that we can arrange for one of the team to pick you up from East London airport.