



## JCP proves that a little can go a long way

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**The Community-based Project (JCP) module in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at the University of Pretoria consistently proves that a small project can become something much bigger and have a much larger impact on a community than originally planned.**

The JCP module requires students to dedicate 40 hours of their time to a community project that they plan and execute themselves. These are usually projects about which the students are passionate and in which they feel they can make a contribution in their personal capacities. The projects of three groups of students have captured the attention of the public. These projects involved an Antonov AN-2 aircraft, a life-changing trip to Stella in North West and the painting and furnishing of a new home in a rural township in Pongola.

### Antonov AN-2 aircraft

The first group, comprising Rowan Price, Ross Coetzee, Ruan van der Westhuizen, Michael Oosthuizen and Jason Tollemache, assisted in the servicing, maintenance and ground support of an aircraft called *Little Annie*.

The AN-2 is the world's largest single-engine biplane designed to fly passengers and cargo to remote locations.

*Little Annie* was donated to the Just Love Mission, a non-profit organisation that aims to change the lives of communities in a positive way through aviation awareness and the spirit of *ubuntu*. The aircraft is its mascot. The original owners specially flew her to South Africa from Russia in 2013.

The trip, which had to overcome flight clearance issues, weather, corruption and the theft of precious Avgas fuel, took two and a half months instead of the planned two and a half weeks. During the trip, which covered 19 750 km (22 countries), approximately 19 500 litres of fuel and 470 litres of oil were consumed.

The students learn valuable skills from their involvement with a project of this nature. While reflecting on the project, Ross said: "I found the experience interesting and I rather liked it. To some, *Little Annie* is just an old plane with no potential, but to others with vision, she can be something much more."

The first Antonov AN-2 aircraft was flown on 31 August 1947



and, after 67 years, the Russians still affectionately call the aircraft Annushka, or Annie in English. The nickname is based on the classic comic strip and subsequent film, *Annie*. *Little Annie* and her story have already gained much attention in the aviation community and she can truly make a meaningful difference in communities that are difficult to reach.

### Stella High School

The second group comprised ten engineering students: Benjamin van der Merwe, Hein Naudé, Eleandri Oosthuizen, Hanrie Steyn, Maretha Strydom, Hennie Louw, Niel Verwoerd, Carel Wessels, Ruda Oosthuizen and Rudolph Dinkelmann.

They originally planned to visit the Stella community to improve the high school's athletics field by laying a new long-jump runway. While planning this project, the group was approached by a member of the community who had initiated a feeding scheme in the informal area. They were asked to further assist the community by building a structure under which the children of the community could receive food and shelter from the extreme weather conditions in the area. They completed both these projects with the help of donations from Afriforum and Wesmelk.

### Pongola township development

The third group, a group of BSc Quantity Surveying and Construction Management students, decided to dedicate their time to help an elderly woman who cares for orphans in a rural township in Pongola.

Nico Brecher, Wessel Badenhorst, Chanel Morris, Frans Gerber and JP van Rensburg all worked together to paint and furnish a home the local Bible study group had built for the woman.

The group built two tables for the kitchen, a wardrobe and a bedside

table for her new home. They were very thankful for the opportunity to help those in need. The paint needed for the outside and inside

of the house was sponsored by Junk Hardware. On the last day, they used the rest of their money to buy food to feed the orphans. ➔



➔ *JCP students preparing the soil to lay down a new long-jump track at Stella High School.*



➔ *Looking good! The finished long-jump track at Stella High School.*



➔ *The JCP team with the furniture they built and the food they sponsored in the rural township in Pongola.*