

LOVE PERSONIFIED

The sky is clothed with a pale shade of blue, the sun is boasting with a ray of orange, yet it is still freezing. Winters are for many things, I think to myself. Things like reading, watching your favorite television show with family but most importantly reminiscing. Reminiscing about that one Wednesday afternoon that changed the trajectory of my life.

From the moment I joined the Born in Africa, I have been accepted. My pictures were hung in rooms I have never been in, my name was mentioned lovingly amongst loved-ones, every card was carefully crafted and some flew over multiple oceans just to see me. If this is not love personified, then I do not know what is. A lot has happened in the six years since I joined the Born in Africa program. I grew and developed, met the most amazing people and discovered that 'Ubuntu' is not truly an African phrase. The notion that 'I am a person because of other people' is softly woven into every human near and far and because you believed that an outstretched hand is the saving grace that this world so desperately needs - I could achieve my wildest dreams.

Thank you for dreaming about a future for little girls and boys born in Africa, long before we knew dreaming was possible. I finished now my studies, and I am busy looking for work. In the meantime I want to give back to Born in Africa and give my expertise as drama teacher. Twice a week I go to the Born in Africa classes and teach drama to the learners. I love it! And they learn a lot.

I hope you will fondly remember me as I continue the journey that you started and attain the vision of becoming an economically self-sustainable adult. I will forever be grateful for the chance you have given me, thank you for allowing me to be the first graduate in my family. It is because of you that the little girls and boys in my family and community will now know that dreaming is possible!

May you continue to change the world one child at a time, cause we all know that godparents wear the cape. You are the real heroes!

In love and appreciation

Michaela Whaite (July 2023)