

THANK YOU BORN IN AFRICA

Time flies very quickly, as I am sitting here at my own desk in one of South Africa big Media Company I wonder where the time went. Just the other day I was writing thank you letters for my God parents but here I am today writing what could possibly be the last letter I ever write for Born in Africa. However, I sit here and write this letter looking back at my journey and I see the wonderful work Born in Africa and my God parents have done for me. Today I can say that I am who I am because BIA made me.

When I first joined BIA I was just a little girl who wanted to be given a chance to become great in life. Little did I know that my dreams would come true. My journey with BIA was a good one yet full of challenges. When I say challenges I look back at the times where I felt that I needed to do more to become better. This was not difficult at all because of the support and motivation that we got from the BIA staff in Plettenberg Bay. There is not a day where I visited the BIA office and left with a heavy heart. I always left the office with a big smile and joy in my heart, even though I was facing difficult times in my life I got new hope every time I went to the BIA office.

2012 I remember Belinda driving us to Cape Town for my first year at the University of the Western Cape. I was definitely nervous but having Belinda there helped me to keep calm and look forward to my tertiary life. Growing up without a mother and a father was not easy but today I look back and see everyone who became a parent to me at BIA.

At a very young age I had to learn to be responsible and I had to grow up fast. I had to realise and make a decision in my life to either feel sorry for myself because I do not have parents or I had to choose to make the most of my life. The best decision that I took was to acknowledge my potential and realise that there is more to life than feeling sorry for myself. My life is what I want it to be because of the opportunity I was given by BIA.

I am grateful of what BIA has done for me. There is not a day that I ever went to bed hungry when I was at university and it is because of BIA. There is not a day where I stood in long lines at university trying to sort out my registration. There is not a year where I could not get my results because my school fees were not paid. BIA made sure I had everything and because of them my experience at university was the best.

I am now in Johannesburg and I do not know where the future will take me. But I am hopeful that there are great and much bigger things ahead of me. I will be with Media 24 for a year and I want to stay here for some time to gain experience. Next year I am hoping to enrol at Wits University of a one year Masters course in Journalism. I am looking forward to that because I feel my experience here at Move Magazine will help me in a big way.

I would say so far so good. I am learning a lot and I have also published my article in Move Magazine. The people here are very friendly and they offer help when I need help. The first month has been good; I am looking forward to the rest of the year. I am happy that I am finally a journalist. I am looking forward to doing great things here in Johannesburg and back at home in Plettenberg Bay.

I do not regret taking the decision of leaving BIA this year to start working because I want BIA to see what they have done for me. They have made me stronger, passionate and BIA has shown me that dreams can come through if we put our minds to it. My dream is slowly but surely becoming a reality and thank you to BIA. I will never forget what you have done for me. I was blessed to have been part of the BIA Organisation.

THANK YOU BIA. THANK YOU TO MY GOD PARENTS. THANK YOU BIA STAFF you guys ROCK my world.

LOVE x

MANDY