

Norwood charity walkers take on South Africa

19 December 2006

Breathtaking scenery and stunning weather provided a spectacular backdrop for Norwood's final Challenge Event of 2006 – the **South Africa Walk**. Thirteen participants trekked more than **120km over five days** through forests, national parks and vineyards before finishing with a climb to the top of Table Mountain. The event took place between 25 November and 3 December and raised **£30,000** for Norwood, the UK's leading Jewish charity which supports children and families with disabilities and social difficulties.

There was a great sense of camaraderie among the walkers as they helped each other negotiate the demanding terrain in daytime temperatures that never fell below 30 degrees. The majority of the walkers were first-time Norwood Challengers, however, **Jane Jaffe was taking part in her 24th event** stretching back to 1994. Another participant, 25-year-old James Fine, is a Norwood service-user who lives at one of Norwood's residential homes in North West London.

Speaking at the end of the walk, Jane Jaffe said: "What an incredibly diverse and challenging week. Every day was different, the scenery was breathtaking and the highest point of the week – quite literally – was climbing Table Mountain. We've made lots of new friends and it was a privilege to have shared this unique and unforgettable experience with James and his carer Marliya. They were truly inspirational." James was also moved by the experience. He said: "I have had a fantastic time."

Abi Rose, Challenges Co-ordinator who helped to organise the event, said: "The group became very close and helped each other along the route. The fact that James was present made us remember why we were there and what Norwood is all about. The money raised will go towards helping Norwood provide vital services for children and families in the community".

The South Africa Walk is one of 10 Norwood Challenge events that took place in 2006. Next year will feature some new and exciting international destinations including bike rides in Wyoming, Vietnam and Cambodia. For further information about any of our Challenges, or to register to take part, call the Norwood Challenges Team on 020 8420 6834, email challenges@norwood.org.uk or log on to www.norwood.org.uk/challenges

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