

TAKING TIME TO LIVE WELL

I'm a bookworm I read everything from Agatha Christie to the back of the Corn Flakes box! I also love a good pedi. Lastly, you'll never make a difference to your cause if you don't wholeheartedly believe in it, so work nonstop for it. If you're passionate, it's easy. Good campaigners tend to be curious, flexible, and very determined.

I've been president of the institute for almost three years, and the fundraisers I interact with blow my mind. We train and support individuals and NPO staff who want to further their careers in fundraising. There's so much good work going on in SA, and I'm delighted to be a part of it. It's difficult to single out one organisation, but The Sunflower Fund, which fundraises to cover recruitment costs for stemcell donors, and Breadline Africa, which provides educational support for kids under six, never cease to amaze me. This is a challenging but heartening industry to be in.

I never thought I'd meet Brad Pitt. but, then I did! Before starting Words that Count, I did fundraising work at the St. Mary's Hospital in Pinetown. One day, on my day off, the hospital manager called me saying I had to be at work. Brad and his team were filming an HIV documentary film there. Imagine my surprise when I thought I was coming in to manage a crisis, only to shake Mr Pitt's hand!

My goal is to give fundraisers a voice. It's a lonely life, but SAIF hopes to change that. We have a brilliant threeday course called the Fundamentals of Fundraising, where four members teach the basics of campaigning. Sometimes, sharing information and past experiences is the best way to learn.