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Orange puts disease in perspective

By SARAH GREEN

Toronto's Shamin Mohamed Jr. delivered 19,000 nutritional supplements and more than 500 condoms during a visit last month to AIDS-ravaged South Africa.

But it was the delivery of \$1 worth of oranges to 40 children at an orphanage that had the most profound impact on the 18-year-old activist.

Mohamed, who founded the Children's AIDS Health Program when he was just 16, bought two bags of oranges on his way to the Umlazi township orphanage in Durban when he learned the children had nothing to eat.

"One child asked, 'Do I get the whole orange for myself?'" the Runnymede Collegiate graduate said.

"It was a very different experience. It's one thing to talk about (the AIDS pandemic). It's not the same as seeing it."

Mohamed is one of 12 youth delegates from Canada and around the world attending the upcoming AIDS conference in Toronto on behalf of the Foster Parents Plan. Go to www.letsstopaids.org for details.