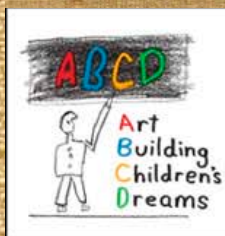


ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams



ISSUE 1 SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

Report on Frank and Lynn's Visit to Tanzania in January

This was a very successful trip for several reasons:

1. We added 7 new children to our program which brings our total now to 47! Please take some time to visit the website (www.abcdreams.ca) to read their stories and see their artwork. If you have any friends, neighbours or family members who might be interested in supporting the education of one of our new children, please put them in touch with us.

2. We held our first and very festive ART DAY when all 47 of the children and many of their caregivers attended for art-making, lunch, and a special Awards Ceremony for children who had done well in school last year! The children also picked up their bags full of school supplies. We had well over 100 in attendance and it was wonderful to see the children all dressed in their Sunday clothes. Seven of our secondary school children received electronic calculators as awards for improvement in school and 10 of our primary school children received dictionaries for their improvement.

3. We attended a meeting with the village leaders Ward Association and are working with them to form a local ABCD Advisory Group. This group can one day assist us in monitoring the children's progress between our visits to Tanzania. The goal is that the local community can support and continue the good work of ABCD.

4. We entered into discussions with Kisuluni P.S. to institute a Breakfast Program for all of the children (220) at this school. This is in response to hearing from school officials that children arrive at school with no breakfast and that this is hindering their academic progress.

(REPORT *con't* on page 2)



All the children and caregivers at Art Day



Award presentation at Art Day



ABCD Marangu West Advisory Committee

CHARITABLE STATUS RECEIVED FROM CRA!

Details on Page 2

CHARITABLE STATUS RECEIVED FROM CRA!

We are very proud and happy to report that our application to Canada Revenue Agency has been approved and that ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams is now a fully registered Canadian charity! We can now issue tax receipts for donations and are working on our receipting procedures. We can also now approach Foundations, Corporations and Businesses for further support for our children. This marks the turning of a new page in the growth of our organization and augurs well for our capacity to further help the children.

(REPORT *con't from page 1*)

In addition we accomplished our other necessary work: visiting the children at their schools and meeting with school officials, visiting the children and their caregivers at their homes, purchasing school supplies, school uniforms and personal care items for the children and of course paying at banks for school fees. In the 30 degree plus heat, all the hiking was exhausting but very rewarding work, and we are very happy to report the many of the children look healthier, happier and are achieving better results in school.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE WORKING!

We are so happy to share with you some of the wonderful success stories which have come about in the 3 years since you have been supporting the children through your donations to ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams. We see these positive changes in our contact with the children every year and now we are receiving documented evidence from teachers, parents and the children themselves that your connection with them is having a truly beneficial effect on their well being and education.

Here are a few examples:

Abeli

Last year in 2009 Abeli stood at 14 out of 49 pupils in his class! His highest marks were in Science, History and Kiswahili (Swahili language), and Sports. Abeli's teacher reports that he is polite and cooperative. This is a quote from his teacher: "comparing with the previous days e.g. 2008, he is free and happy to share ideas with other students in the class. Also his attendance now is good"

Honest Peter

Honest Peter is attending Uomboni Secondary School and is now in Form 3. Last year his highest marks were 73% in Physics and 61% in Chemistry. His teacher reports "he is making tremendous progress in class. His attendance is also very good". Honest Peter's English is improving greatly and he was very helpful to us with translation during interviews at our 2010 Art Day.

Hyasinta

Hyasinta is now attending Lombeta Secondary School in Form 1 after doing well in her last year of primary school. Her report is good, with a B's in Science, Swahili Language and General Knowledge. Her teacher reports that she is improving and that she loves Art. Hyasinta was thrilled to be awarded a scientific calculator at our first Art Day Awards Ceremony for her improvement in school.



Volunteering on an ABCD Trip to Tanzania by Robyn Zolnai



The children say "Hello!"

the trip progressed, I gained more confidence and was able to become more enthusiastic with my photographs and communication with the students and parents.

When Frank and Lynn announced that I would be able to join their 2010 trip as the photographer I was overjoyed! With my previous travel experience and photographic training in hand, and with appreciation for Frank and Lynn's work in Africa, and with my enthusiasm for adventure I was right on board.

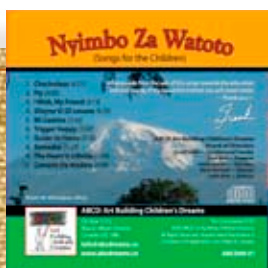
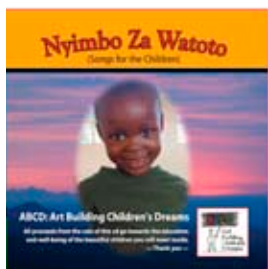
For ABCD's previous trips to Tanzania I had been responsible for updating the student profile binders. It was then, through photographs, that I began to meet the students and the families involved with ABCD. However, there is something to be said about meeting an individual in person that you have only been introduced to by photographic documentation. My excitement and anticipation about the opportunity to meet the children face to face was immeasurable.

On my own previous travels I had felt well prepared in every way. However, I found my experience in Tanzania to be very emotional and that emotional adjustment took some time for me to adapt to. There is nothing like walking through a schoolyard in rural Tanzania while hundreds of children dance, play, laugh and stare while you pass them... overwhelming really. I stayed close to Frank, Lynn and Joseph, quietly snapping images with my camera. As

ABCD students are beautiful, brilliant and so welcoming. I witnessed first hand what can be done to improve and change not only one individual's life, but also that of their family and community, through the gift of education. My trip with ABCD was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience (which I hope to repeat in the very near future!).

CHANGES IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurie Bowers has resigned from the Board and we would like to thank her immensely for her hard work in the early development stages of ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams. We would also like to welcome Joe Crone to the Board and say that we are looking forward to working with him on future projects and programs for the benefit of our children in Tanzania. Read all about Joe on the website.



NEW LOOK TO OUR WEBSITE www.abcdreams.ca

Our webmaster, Franca has been working hard to improve our website so please take some time to see what has been done to make it more informative, easier to navigate and a place where supporters can read the latest developments about ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams. Our blog posts are now included in the website...we enjoy reading your comments on the posts so feel free! The children's photos and stories and artwork are being updated. Plans are underway to open a webstore for on-line purchases of our children's art, African crafts, CD's of music and more. So please visit us often at www.abcdreams.ca

BY THE WAY YOU CAN ALSO HELP THE CHILDREN BY ORDERING OUR CD OF WONDERFUL MUSIC ALL DONATED BY THE MUSICIANS, CALLED NYIMBO ZA WATOTO (SONGS FOR THE CHILDREN). JUST SEND US THE \$20 AND WE'LL MAIL ONE TO YOU. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.

ABCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Frank Smith** Founder and President**Lynn Bird** Treasurer/Secretary**Sarah Bartram** Director**Leslie Ehm** Director**Joe Crone** Director**Bringing Light to Our Children** by Lynn Bird

Over the past two years we have been considering the current state of lighting in the homes of our children. The children cannot do homework or extra studying because they don't have lighting. For most there is no lighting and for some there is a limited amount of light from a small kerosene burner. The burning of kerosene is a health and safety concern for our children and the kerosene is an additional expense to the family.

The cost of solar lighting components is coming down and with the strength of our Canadian dollar; a solar installation project looks very possible. ABCD has made a connection to a company which has developed the hardware to allow a school, or an individual (which could be one of our graduating students) to charge single lamps, a set of lamps and cell phones, for a fee. This could allow for lamps to charge during the day at school for example, and then be sent home with students in the evening. For perhaps less than \$1500 we can offer one of our graduating children a business opportunity in the form of a micro-credit loan to start up a solar charging service in his/her village.

PLEASE DONATE

If you donated in response to our last mailing in January we thank you very much!

If not, and if it's been some time since you last donated, please visit the website to see how easy it is, and to see what your donations actually accomplish for the children.

Remember, you will now receive a tax receipt for donations over \$20! IMPORTANT...Please note that we will be receipting electronically. To avoid your tax receipt going into your junk mail filter, please add the following email address to your address book:
accounts@abcdreams.ca.

Tax receipts will be issued annually before the end of February but you may request to receive an immediate tax receipt following a donation.

**MESSAGE FROM FRANK,
THE FOUNDER**

Once again, thank you for your support of the ABCD children. It makes the work we do so much more rewarding to know that there are folks like you out there who have the same aspirations for these children as we have.

Whether you are a dedicated supporter who is connected to the life of a particular child in Tanzania, or a supporter who just wants to give for all the children, know that your generosity is working. The children's lives are better and they are happier.

Many people have also given by volunteering their time and talents to make this endeavour a success and on our website we have tried to list them all.

It swells my heart to feel this commonality with so many people who just want to make a positive difference in a child's life. Thanks.