

ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams



ISSUE 2 SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

Report on the 2011 Visit to Tanzania by President Frank and Treasurer Lynn

ABCD is now improving the lives of nearly 500 Kilimanjaro children – we are paying for all of the education costs for 55 children and now also are providing funds for almost 400 children to have breakfast before school in two primary schools! The new children added to the program and the second primary school to receive a breakfast program were recommended to us for assistance by our newly formed local advisory committee.

Our local advisory committee is called the ABCD Marangu West Advisory Committee. Its membership consists of the community Village Education Officers, the Superintendent of Education, the Community Development Officer and our Agent/Coordinator. The committee is chaired by the Ward of Marangu West, Rose Lyimo. We are very happy that this committee has agreed to work with us. We look forward to a thriving partnership with them for the benefit of the ABCD children and their communities.

We can happily report that many of the children are improving in school and in their general well being. It was heartwarmingly clear to us that ABCD has become a trusted member of the community, and that this has resulted in children who are both happier and improving in their academic performance.



ABCD Marangu West and ABCD Canada

Our solar light project is also growing under the direction of Director Terry Maynard. A small group of teens in Canada assembled components from solar garden lights, and a small group of teens in Tanzania reassembled them into home reading lights. This project has tremendous potential to allow students to read and do homework at night.

Our Art Day celebration was a big success. It was a day filled with art, songs, dances, awards and delicious lunch. It was wonderful to see all the children together having fun. The first 'graduate' of ABCD, Scola George Masimba, was thrilled to receive her sewing machine and overlock machine. Now she can become an independent, self-supporting tailor, thanks to her ABCD supporters. Hopefully, one day, she will be able to make the school uniforms for our own ABCD children.



Scola George Masimba was thrilled to receive her sewing machine and overlock machine.

LIGHTS FOR LEARNING AND HOPE by Dire

It filled my heart to see senior ABCD students in Tanzania assembling solar powered reading lights with components recycled by Canadian students from Banting Memorial Secondary School in Alliston, Ontario!

The ABCD children in Tanzania live in remote areas without electricity therefore it is difficult for them to do homework in the evenings. Consequently ABCD has started a recycling program here at home by offering volunteer community service hours to Ontario secondary school students for the collection and disassembly of the lights. The solar panels and LED lights are taken to Africa while the remaining plastic parts are recycled.

Senior ABCD students in Tanzania are assembling the solar reading lights, which may lead to a micro-enterprise opportunity of supplying affordable reading lights to other families. The ABCD students in Tanzania are currently testing the duration of light and recharge times to determine the best design for the sunlight in their region.

During the Canadian Earth Week in April 2011, additional discarded solar garden lights and LED Christmas lights were collected through the Habitat for Humanity Restore location in Alliston and the local Canadian Tire Store.

It's hoped that as ABCD students in Tanzania develop their skills at assembling solar reading lights, the collection of discarded solar lights in Canada can be expanded.



Solar students Canada

ABCD Children Success Story Bulletins...Your Donations are Working!

There are many more listed on the website but here's a sampling to whet your appetite:

AIRINI

stood at 7th in her class of 28 in primary school with 5 B's! She enjoys English and History.

ADELINE

did not miss one day of school last year and got 6 B's and 1 A! Her teacher rated her progress as 'excellent'!

RICHARDI

His class standing has improved to 38th out of 307 in his third year of high school! His favourite subjects are Math and Physics.

OSKAR

was first in his class of 31! His best subject was Art. His teacher noted "Oskar has changed, especially in his lessons/character and his cleanliness".



Director Terry Maynard



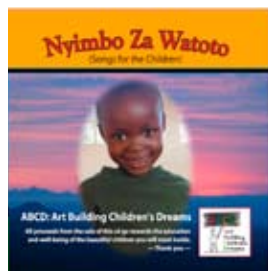
Solar students Africa

NEW VOLUNTEERS TO THE ABCD TEAM!

We're happy to welcome Shai Laserson, Sebastian Fabian Masaro and Merrin McHugh to our team of amazing volunteers. See Shai's article in this issue on how he is utilizing social media to benefit ABCD. Shai is majoring in Marketing at university. Sebastian is studying Accounting at college in Moshi and is our good friend and agent/coordinator in Tanzania when we are there. He is also our liaison with the ABCD Marangu West Advisory Committee. Merrin is

studying International Development, Grant Writing, Fundraising and Volunteer Management at college. They are a powerhouse of talent for ABCD and we are lucky to have them on board.

www.abcdreams.ca



ABCD and Social Media

by Volunteer Shai Laserson

We've made it easier than ever for ABCD supporters to get ABCD news wherever you like to spend your time. We are happy to offer our supporters and friends two more ways to keep in touch with us... **Facebook and Twitter.**

Get involved, spread the word, post pictures, start a conversation and share your thoughts by visiting our Facebook group or following us on Twitter.

On Facebook, you can find and 'like' us at: www.facebook.com/ABCDchildren



You can also 'follow' us on Twitter, by visiting: <http://twitter.com/abcdreams>.



Be on the lookout for our upcoming **YouTube** Channel in the near future, featuring videos produced by the ABCD community.

CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our amazing Board of Directors consists of:

Frank Smith – President and Founder

Lynn Bird – Treasurer and Secretary

Joe Crone – Director

Terry Maynard – Director

A big *karibu* (welcome in Swahili) to Director Terry. Read all about him on the website. He is a great asset to the team.

And a big *asante sana* (thank you in Swahili) to Leslie Ehm and Sarah Bartram, who have left the Board, for their wonderful work for ABCD during their terms as Directors.

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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 \$15 AND WE'LL MAIL ONE TO YOU. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.

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

Elementary Schools Raise Funds for ABCD

by Director Joe Crone (Teacher/Singer/Songwriter)



Concert at Castlebridge P.S.

I love working with students at elementary schools to help them create great benefit concerts for ABCD. The concerts consist of students performing my original songs. Each song can have an accompanying dance or drama, and all songs can have a character education theme. The evenings are always a resounding success with the school's communities. Not only do the children sing about helping others, their performances usually raise substantial sums for ABCD children. Concerts were recently held at Light of Christ Elementary School in Aurora, Denne PS in Newmarket and Castlebridge PS in Mississauga. **Way to go kids!**

For more information about school fundraising concerts in the GTA and surrounding regions visit: www.joecrone.com

THINKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE

Here are some of the initiatives under consideration for the years ahead:

1. Developing a purposeful travel opportunity for groups to work with us in Tanzania. **See enclosed flyer about this exciting trip!**
2. Working with CRA to expand the ABCD objectives allowing us to provide assistance to schools with infrastructure needs, to families whose homes need repair, and to our graduating students who need small loans for future plans.
3. Working in partnership with Rotary Clubs here in Ontario and in Kilimanjaro on matching grant requests for funds to start major school improvement projects.
4. Formulating a fundraising campaign, under the leadership of volunteer Merrin McHugh, for successful grant applications to Foundations and Corporations.

Latin Dance Party Fundraiser

What a Night! by Director Terry Maynard

Last November's Latin Dance Party fundraiser sure lived up to the first three letters..FUN! It was hard not to have fun with the Latin music of Cassava Latin Band playing at Beit Zatoun Cultural Centre in Toronto.

The fun was not limited to just the dancing and eating though. It was all to do with the teams that set up the food, the bartenders, the greeters, silent auction coordinators, and certainly in the way Frank danced...like he was being attacked by bees, but, with a crazy, fun look on his face. As the night progressed that same look became contagious to everyone.

The night was a 'perfect storm' of entertainment and fundraising with the ticket sales, silent auction, bar sales, and donations raising more than \$5,000. What a great example of "joyful giving"!



"Crazy Latin Frank" with everyone, all dancing up a storm

