

ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams



ISSUE 3 SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Report on the Past Year and the 2012 Trip to Tanzania

This past year has been such a productive year for ABCD in so many ways. Our Board is a great team and our volunteers are the best! We have all been very busy:

- ◇ Applying for approval of an expansion of our charity objects from CRA to allow us to contribute to infrastructure projects in the local community
- ◇ Applying and receiving our first foundation grant
- ◇ Partnering with Rotary Clubs here and in Tanzania on matching grants
- ◇ Making presentations at schools, conferences and clubs
- ◇ Developing our on-line eBay sales of artwork on facebook and twitter:
www.facebook.com/ABCDchildren <http://twitter.com/abcdreams>

Our annual trip to Tanzania was amazingly productive in so many ways. First of all we had a team of wonderful volunteers who accompanied us for two weeks! These very talented and big-hearted folks were excited and eager to do all they could for our ABCD children. During their stay in the Marangu West community, they were busily involved in teaching activities at a local vocational training centre, planning and delivering a creative after-school program for the children, initiating an exciting, solar light social enterprise, and painting and renovating a room at a local primary school to become transformed into a library. Our team of volunteers also connected with

many of our families at the ABCD Art Day which was full of friendship, fun, music, theatre and art.



Donating Medical Supplies

After the volunteer team went home, the ABCD Directors stayed on to pay for the school fees/supplies/uniforms for all of our children. We also added several new and needy children to the program. We coordinated some plumbing repairs and delivery of supplies to a local medical dispensary. We signed an agreement for ABCD funding of a computer centre at Ngaruma Vocational Training Centre. We also welcomed 4 invaluable local Advisory Board Members to the ABCD Board. A third primary school was added to the ABCD Breakfast Program bringing the total children now being fed breakfast by ABCD to well over 1000! All in all, this trip was a huge success...so much accomplished with so little money, much support from the local community, and a whole lot of giving from the heart by our volunteers. ABCD has truly developed a strong bond of friendship, collaboration and mutual respect within the local community.



**ABCD
Team
2012**

ABCD Funds A Primary School Library



Library Before



School Staff

Thanks to our generous supporters and our fabulous team of volunteers, ABCD was able to create a new library in Makomu Primary School. This is a very poor school so the whole community was very excited that books were now available for the children. The school dedicated a small classroom, which had been used to hold firewood, for the library. Students and staff cleaned it out and made some wall repairs, our volunteers painted it, and ABCD hired a local carpenter to build a large reading table and large bookshelf. Many of the books came over from Canada with our team, and ABCD made a large local purchase of Swahili primary school textbooks. The library is now very popular with the children. ABCD is committed to improving the educational environment in Marangu West and is planning an expansion of our School Library Program.

ABCD Children's Art!



ABCD Supports A Local Art Initiative

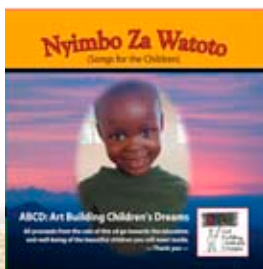


ABCD Director Terry, Ben and students

Ben Nzomo is a Tanzanian artist whom we have come to know during our trips to Tanzania. This man has a big heart. He has set up a small business near Moshi where he teaches orphaned teens various art skills such as painting, carving and wire sculpture.

Ben calls his enterprise the **Kilimanjaro Region Art School** and his goal is to teach these teens to become self-sufficient artists by responding to the tourist trade with creative products.

ABCD has agreed to promote and sell the art of these students and Ben on the ABCD website. Please visit our website www.abcdreams.ca to find the link called Art for Africa to help these young artists. A small percentage of sales goes to help our ABCD children.



*** CD FOR SALE *** 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.

Request For Donation

Dear supporters,

Because of your financial generosity, ABCD has been able to touch the lives of children half a world away.

Your contributions are responsible for sending 55 children to school.

We have been able to start a solar light project that allows students to study at night.

As of February 2012, over 1000 children are now receiving a hot breakfast at school. Children who are not hungry learn better, attend school more frequently and have a brighter future.

Other projects that ABCD is involved in include the creation of a computer lab, a new library, volunteers traveling to Tanzania, and the support of local artists through online art sales.

Because of your generosity, you are making a real difference in an impoverished part of the world, and we sincerely thank-you for that.

We are asking you for your continued financial support, and to spread the word about ABCD. Your contributions are the reason why all these good things are happening. So much has been done and there is so much more to do.

Donate Laptops for Africa!

If you have a functioning laptop, 2003 or newer, and have no use for it, donate it to ABCD and we will clear it out, refurbish it and take it to Africa for use in schools.



Message from Tanzania – “Hello ABCD Supporters”

We’re so happy to be a part of ABCD as advisory members because we can advise the ABCD Board of Directors on the effective destination of the funds which they have been bringing to our community. We’re happy that ABCD has been helping our poor families to make sure that their children are attending schools and meet their dreams by paying their school fees.

ABCD has made a big effect in our community since they started to help here.

Through school fees support, our children from poor families have been in school the same as those from rich families. The children from poor families can now stay in school and they are happy about being in school so that they can meet their future dreams.

Through the Breakfast program, ABCD been funding three primary schools breakfast to all students. We can now see some changes in academic performance to increase both thinking capacity and understanding capacity.

Through the Library Project, as there are shortages of books in our schools, primary school students from Marangu West schools can now get access to a Library.

The Computer Centre Project is what we are waiting now. For sure this Centre will be a good source of information not only for the students but also to the whole community. When this Computer Centre starts we will cope with the world and learn more. Very big **THANK YOU TO ABCD**.

Apart from this support, ABCD also is taking a good responsibility of providing school supplies and personal supplies such as exercise books, text books, pens, pencils, mathematical sets, rulers, rubbers, reams of paper, dictionaries AND School Uniforms, Skin Oils, Tooth Pastes, Bar Soaps etc.

We the ABCD Advisory Board Members highly appreciate what ABCD is doing for our community. We will keep on making sure that what they are aiming to do is being done in the right way and gets to the right destination.

Sebastian Fabian
Masaro-
ABCD Agent,
Coordinator



Tibrus Mlay –
Ward Education
Coordinator



Agnes Kessy –
Community
Development
Officer



Rose Lyimo –
Ward Executive
Officer





**Solar
Light**

Solar Lights and Social Enterprise

The Tanzania trip volunteer team not only showed ABCD students how to build solar reading lights, but taught them how to set up a social enterprise to run their own business building and selling solar reading lights.

ABCD students are building solar reading lights from discarded solar yard lights brought to Tanzania by the trip volunteers. The lights are made by replacing the battery in the discarded yard lights and then mounting the LED lights on top of discarded water bottles refilled with water. Therefore, from a green perspective, this enterprise recycles solar yard lights from North America AND water bottles found throughout the forests of the Kilimanjaro region.

To help the students of the Ngaruma Vocational Training Center, ABCD has entered into an agreement to set up a student-operated business to build affordable reading lights for local families. ABCD hopes in the future to ship hundreds of discarded solar yard lights to Africa for transformation into useful reading lights.

Do you have any solar yard lights that are no longer working? We would be happy to come and collect them! Help us give the gift of light for learning. Contact us through the ABCD website!

CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

ABCD is happy to welcome **Merrin McHugh** to the Board as Director with the responsibility for grant research, writing and application. Her expertise in this field through her college studies has already proven invaluable...her first grant application to a wonderful organization called the Blossom Foundation was successful!

A warm welcome is also extended to 4 of our distinguished friends from Marangu West, Tanzania who have joined the Board as Advisory Board Members:

Rose Lyimo, Ward Executive Officer
Tibrus Mlay, Ward Education Coordinator
Agnes Kessy, Community Development Officer
Sebastian Masaro, ABCD Local Agent and Coordinator

We are very fortunate to have such strong support in the community to do our work in bettering the lives of children through education.

Solar Light Class



www.abcdreams.ca

PLEASE DONATE...and BUY OUR CD!
(order at www.abcdreams.ca)

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.

ABCD's 2012 Major Fundraiser



Join us

for a great time dancing
to great music provided by

the Blackboard Blues Band

This is our biennial fundraiser and it's going to be a blast.

Art, music, silent auction, drumming and DANCING!

Reserve the Date: Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012

Tickets will be available soon.

We'll send you an announcement.

COME TO TANZANIA WITH ABCD IN 2013!

Following the success of our first volunteer trip in 2012, we are offering this opportunity again for 2013. This is a wonderful chance to help ABCD in its work in Tanzania, meet the children and their families and get a taste of Africa.

We are holding our first information meeting on Saturday, June 23, 2 PM in the community room of the York Regional Police Station, 240 Prospect Street, Newmarket, Ontario.

Testimonials From Our 2012 Volunteers

"Through their soulful spirit the children of Kilimanjaro taught me another lesson about the joy of living life fully. I loved their energy, their music, and their curiosity" LINDA

"This trip was so good for my soul. What a gift these children in Kilimanjaro gave to me and I'm so grateful for meeting them" CHRISTINE

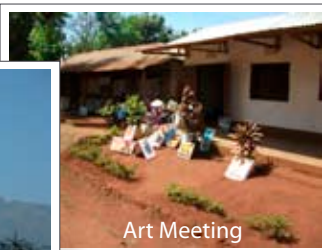
"I felt good that my visit to Tanzania was about starting sustainable projects such as a solar light building, an eBay Art Store, and a Computer Classroom" TERRY



Solar Light Class



Mount Kilimanjaro



Art Meeting