

# ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams



**ISSUE 4 SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER**

**[www.abcdreams.ca](http://www.abcdreams.ca)**

## **Volunteer Trip 2013 – What an Adventure!** by Frank Smith

**22 extraordinary people** joined Lynn and I on the ABCD 2013 volunteer adventure... 11 from Canada and 11 from Australia! The Canadian team was a diverse group of eager, retired and working folk with an endless supply of skills and talents to contribute. The Australian team consisted of 6 university students and their leader from Deakin University in Melbourne, with Ken and Angela Wall and Ken and Carol Sharpe, 4 ABCD OZ friends who coordinate the operation of ABCD Australia assisting needy children in the Fiji Islands.

It was amazing to have these folks from 'down under' in Tanzania with us to share our aspirations to be of use to the children of Kilimanjaro. At home in Australia, they had committed to, and planned for ABCD, a business/employment conference in the city of Moshi for about 45 Tanzanian secondary school students. So when the Aussies arrived, the 3 day conference was all organized and ready to go! It was an incredible conference full of creative learning, fun, personal development and once in a life-time experiences for the Tanzanian youth. Great connections were made between the students from Australia and the students and teachers from Tanzania.

After the conference, the Australian team was united with the Canadian team in the community where ABCD works, Marangu West. Our one BIG team was then divided into 4 work locations where an incredible amount of classroom wall painting and teaching was done. We were overwhelmed by the energy and passion and by amount of work accomplished this year!



**Group in Tanzania**

Plans are underway for the Volunteer Trip of 2014. Departure will be in February again and if you are interested, or want to make preliminary inquiries please feel free to contact us through the ABCD website. Watch for our September information session.

**ABCD Canada**  
**ABCD Australia**  
**and now announcing...**  
**ABCD UK!**  
by Frank Smith

ABCD CANADA is very happy to have its partner organization, ABCD AUSTRALIA sharing the same goals and aspirations to alleviate poverty and increase education opportunities in the developing world. We were very happy to welcome good friends Ken Wall and Ken Sharpe, ABCD OZ Directors, to Tanzania this year and to meet and work with them in person. They are doing wonderful work in the Fiji Islands.

I am very happy to announce the creation of ABCD UK! Another good friend, John De Ronde, who lives in the United Kingdom, but also resides in Tanzania for lengthy periods, has founded ABCD UK to help children and schools in another region of Tanzania. John and his Board will fundraise in the United Kingdom to help the community of Liyamungo Sinde. Congratulations and welcome aboard, John and ABCD UK!

# Getting The Team Ready for Africa by Joe Crone

## Good Eye

**ABCD** volunteers traveling to Tanzania from Canada spent the day together in early December getting to know themselves, and each other, before traveling to Africa. Terry Maynard led participants on exercises that focused on personality styles and how these personality styles think, act and feel. This led to invaluable insights regarding how various personality styles might interact with each other, not only in the familiar surroundings of Canada, but also overseas in Tanzania. Participant David Sisak said, "I particularly enjoyed the personality evaluation exercises. Not so much for what I learned about the others, but more so for what I learned about myself, and how I interact with others in random situations."

After the personality and learning styles activities, Joe Crone facilitated role-playing and situational workshops that focused on global inequality, trade, and cross-cultural misunderstandings. Through participating in "Operation Blockhead" volunteers engaged in a global trading game that mimicked the realities of the global marketplace. "The Ambassador Game" led to insights into cross-cultural misunderstandings that can lead to prejudice and stereotyping.

After the workshops participants and facilitators shared in a potluck dinner, reflected upon the day and chatted about the upcoming trip to Africa. David Sisak sums up many ABCD volunteer's feelings by saying, "All in all, I felt the orientation played a critical role in getting everyone comfortable, and familiar with each other well before the trip, and contributed in a large way to the trip's great success! Bravo ABCD!"

We gave two digital cameras to the students and they went *wild* snapping photos. They had a pretty good eye! Terry



*Sebastian*

## New Children Added to the ABCD Program

by Frank Smith

During the 2013 trip to Tanzania 6 new children were added to the program based on observations of their living situations and recommendations from our Advisory Committee. Details about the children are available on the website now and they are all in need of supporters to help them through their education. Please consider supporting one of them.



**KELVIN**



**MARIA**



**ABELI**



**ISAAC**



**STEPHAN**



**TERESIA**

## A Computer Center at Ngaruma Vocational Training Center

by Lynn Bird



Ngaruma VTC classroom BEFORE

Last year, our 2012 team of high spirited volunteers spent some time at Ngaruma Vocational Training Center painting a room earmarked as a computer classroom.



AFTER

Over the past year ABCD, in partnership with Rotary Clubs in District 7070, funded the computer classroom which included: window glass,

curtains, electrical wiring upgrades, air-conditioning, materials and labour for furniture. Students and teachers from the schools carpentry program worked together to build the tables and chairs. Masonry students assisted in preparing the new walkway and front entrance.

This year, just before our arrival in February, the new computers were installed. And then...we were surprisingly faced with a significant challenge: NO instructor! The likelihood of us finding a trained IT instructor from the local community was small. Within a week however, thanks to a meaningful coincidence, a newly graduated computer instructor was identified. Another synchronous moment occurred when we met volunteers from Germany (Sabine & Matthias Mau) who agreed to join ABCD in our support for computer learning by funding the installation of an internet connection and making a contribution to the instructors salary.

With the dedicated efforts of our local volunteers, John De Ronde and Sebastian Masaro, students now have the opportunity to learn a new skill and improve their employment opportunities.

## Breakfast Programs by Lynn Bird

Several of our volunteer team members were thrilled to spend some time assisting in Ngaruma Lutheran Parish's kindergarten classroom in Marangu. It wasn't long before they became aware that very little food was available for the kindergarten children and no food at all available for the full day students in the vocational training programs.

When ABCD board members Frank and Lynn were informed, the Ngaruma Lutheran Parish kindergarten and the vocational training program were both added to the list of schools needing to receive funding for breakfast programs, bringing the total number of breakfast programs in primary schools to 6. Approximately 1500 students are receiving food support from our generous donors.



Volunteer Holly assists in kindergarten



Volunteer Ken enjoying kindergarten

## Testimonials

Absolutely amazing, a very well organized trip. I feel strongly that we did make a difference in the students' lives, whether working at their school or donating supplies. Even if it was only getting the children to laugh, smile, learn new things, or tap into their curiosity...it's a great start. **HOLLY**

I had a wonderful opportunity of a lifetime. The experience was like watching a movie in slow motion: it penetrates every cell of ones brain, and takes a permanent home there. There is another world out there. **GLENIS**

The trip as a whole had a significant impact on me; it was without a doubt the happiest I've ever felt at any point in life. It was life-affirming—it confirmed what I had always thought about the wonders of humanitarian work but never had the chance to experience. **SARAH**

# Creating Libraries

The students and teachers of four primary schools in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania are now wonderfully proud to have a “maktaba”, (library in Kiswahili) at their school.

Each library was provided with locally purchased textbooks, donations of story books, tables, chairs and shelving.

The four schools, selected by our local Advisory Committee, Kilaremo Primary, Kiunguni/Komalyangoe Primary, Komela Primary and Makomu Primary are all within a 45 minute hike of our lodge.

The weather was HOT, the roads dusty and rough but our volunteers hiked every day to paint the inside and

outside walls of the rooms to create clean and bright spaces for these libraries.

Our volunteers were also very creative in creating long roller poles from bamboo and duct tape, and paint trays out of cardboard boxes lined with plastic.

The teachers and students were very grateful and often came to spend time with the volunteers, sometimes even pitching in to help. Our goal of improving the educational climate in schools is greatly expanded with the addition of these library learning environments thanks to our generous donors and a wonderful team of volunteers from Canada and Australia.



Library signage at Makomu Primary

by Lynn Bird



Volunteer Herbert on the job



Sorted books at Kilaremo Primary



Herbert preparing to paint at Kilaremo Primary School with teachers Mr. Kitali and Mrs Ngowi looking on



Volunteer team preparing to paint the library at Kiunguni/Komalyangoe Primary School L to R Ashini, Carol, Jessica, Lynn, Ken and Yannai.

KILAREMO PRIMARY SCHOOL  
P.O. BOX 25,  
MARANGU.  
13<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

ABCD: ART BUILDING CHILDREN'S DREAM.  
P.O.BOX 1113  
MOUNT ALBERT, ONTARIO  
CANADA LOGIMO.

**REF: THANKS FOR YOUR DONATION TO KILAREMO  
PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

The heading above is concerned.

Dear ABCD friends, We are saying thank you for all good things you doing at our school. Dears you have spent much your time to make a journey from Canada; in order to visit us.

Dear friends we are saying thank you very much to enable our pupils to have a porridge in the morning. We know it is very expensive but through your kindness you have made this be possible.

We also say thank you very much for painting our school library and look very beautifully. We also thank you to the books which you will buy for our school library .

We wishing you merry journey from Tanzania to your motherland. Greetings to all your friends, welcome again and fill at home.

GOD BLEESYOU.

From  
Kilaremo Primary School.

School Official



# Solar Reading Lights for TZ

by Terry Maynard

When I spoke to Joe Scholz, a retired teacher who was one of the volunteers on the 2013 trip, the first thing he said was 'I'm recovering from culture shock.' Joe was very surprised at the lack of resources at the schools. However, he was equally surprised at the resourcefulness of the students who were building solar reading lights. Joe is passionate about the solar reading light project in Tanzania. He was impressed that students had collected the used plastic bottles to make the lights. Challenges such as a broken drill, no tools, and bottles that would not stand up

did not hinder the progress. The students were resourceful and found ways to drill holes and make wood bases to make the lights stand securely. ABCD agrees with Joe's conclusion that educational infrastructure is needed in order for the solar reading light project to become a self-sufficient social enterprise.

Back at home Joe still feels guilty each time he turns on a water tap or sees food in the garbage.



Joe Scholz teaching students at Makomu Secondary School



Students invent base to secure solar reading lights

The ABCD volunteer trip changes the lives of both the participants AND the children of Kilimanjaro.



Charging reading lights in the Tanzanian sun

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. You will 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. Thank you for caring.

## ABCD Grant Application and Fundraising by Merrin McHugh

**The work** of a grant writer with ABCD ebbs and flows due to application deadlines and project start dates. In the end months of 2012 we were working hard to finish a new grant application for the Blossom Foundation, encompassing a number of new projects to embark on this year in Tanzania. It is our pleasure to announce their continued financial support of our work for this year! We are excited to put their donations to use, and plan on continued work with them in the future.

Over the winter, those of us who did not travel to Tanzania have been busy at home researching various fundraising opportunities. This includes researching the funding interests and histories of possible partnership foundations, compiling information for a database of possible grantmakers, and sending out letters of inquiry in order to make initial contact with large donors. We are excited for the ABCD Board meeting this spring and all the opportunities it will bring for discussion, brainstorming, and planning of new projects. We are at the ready to begin putting pen to paper on new program planning and fundraising initiatives.

### *'n more Testimonials*

Ken and I had the opportunity through this trip to meet the children we had supported, meet their families, see their homes and get a feel of what life is like for them, what they are dealing with. This was amazing – what an experience. **KEN AND KATHI**

The trip overall far exceeded anything I could have ever expected! From our accommodations and meals, to transport, and general well being. ABCD had everything well organized and ready even before we left Toronto. Would I go again? Without hesitation! **DAVID**

## Art for Africa by Terry Maynard

**ABCD** has a natural connection with Tanzanian art entrepreneurs since this could be a realistic employment option for some of the ABCD supported students. To support local artists we are coaching artists to develop global online sales through eBay and ABCD's website. There are still some major issues to overcome such as reliable online payment, shipping, and consistency in quality of the art. During this year's trip we gave local art instructor, Ben Nzomo, sets of writing cards duplicated by ABCD as a fundraiser. Ben was thrilled to see his paintings of Maasai Village Life duplicated into sets of writing cards for him to sell. Ben sent his thanks:

**From:** BEN ROGERS NZOMO kenya  
**To:** ABCDreams

hallo habari yako rafiki yangu here am doing well am happy because of good cards that you make for my school suport be blessed for that work have nice blessing time and pass my greetings asante sana



To purchase Ben's Writing Cards Set visit the ABCD website [www.abcdreams.ca](http://www.abcdreams.ca) and click on **Art For Africa**.