

ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams



ISSUE 7 SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

www.abcdreams.ca

TRIP TO TANZANIA 2016...COME WITH US IN 2017!

We got so much accomplished on the trip this February! Directors Terry and Frank with volunteers Christine and Edwina got busy right away on arrival in Moshi purchasing and picking up school supplies and other items. Then the time seemed to fly by... Christine and Edwina did amazing work painting 4 classrooms at Makomu Primary School with help from local volunteers. Terry and Frank attended many meetings with students, school leaders, ABCD Tanzania, and families, and visited the sites of our infrastructure work. The leadership conference for girls was a big success. Dinner at family homes was a new addition to our itinerary this year and it warmed our hearts (and filled our stomachs) to experience such generosity. Art Day once again was so much fun seeing the families and students all together again.

COME WITH US to Tanzania in 2017!

You can assist with ABCD projects, teach in a primary school, meet sponsored children, learn about life in Tanzania, visit local markets, go on safari or climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Contact us at info@abcdreams.ca for information.



Remote Schools & Grateful Children by Terry Maynard

As the crow flies, the schools are not that far apart. But, as the Nissan 4-wheeler drives, it can take hours. At one point I thought we'd have to get out and start walking up the hills to one school. But our trusted Field Agent, Sebastian, is also a keen driver and we made it safely to each school.

I learned on this trip that students with low marks in primary school cannot move on to secondary school! That's the policy. I find this disheartening. When I heard that one of our students, Monica, was in this situation I was concerned for her.

But, with a few phone calls, we located Monica for some counselling. It was pretty clear (thanks to Sebastian's translation) that Monica was a hands-on learner and struggled with the predominant verbal teaching styles in primary school. When she was offered the opportunity to attend a vocational school for tailoring her eyes went wide and her entire being glowed. I was so proud to be part of this ABCD outreach.



Having fun teaching in Tanzania 2016



MESSAGES FROM AFRICA

Thomas Kaniki and **Sebastian Masaro**, Chairperson and Treasurer of ABCD Tanzania respectively, have kindly sent messages for our newsletter. *Due to space limitations, they are excerpted below with URLs to the entire messages.*

From Sebastian: “On behalf of ABCD – Tanzania and Marangu West Community, we are thanking much ABCD – Canada and we hope that we can keep on doing the good work which we are doing now to improve the lives of poorer people of Marangu West through education”. <http://www.abcdreams.ca/Tanzania/Update1.pdf>

From Mr. Kaniki: “As the Chairperson of the board of directors of ABCD Tanzania, I’m very happy and proud of my work to see that Marangu West is a place where vulnerable and disadvantaged children are achieving their dreams”. <http://www.abcdreams.ca/Tanzania/Update2.pdf>

Dreams ARE Coming True for the Children of Kilimanjaro by Lynn Bird

So many of our ABCD children have grown into young people still holding onto their hopes and striving for an education. The reality is that dreams of an education only come true for those with families that can afford the cost of education, or for those fortunate enough to have a sponsor such as ABCD.

Being sent by the government to regional schools for Form 5 and 6 Advanced Levels is quite an accomplishment for students after Form 4 (grade 12). Jovin, Miriam, and Oscar are currently in Form 6. Dreams of becoming a teacher, accountant, and doctor are within reach for them. Following in their footsteps in Form 5 are Audifasi, Amani, Benson, Charles, George, Levina, Tumaini, Nahari and Jeska., Form 5 & 6 education costs are approx. \$1,400 annually which includes their accommodation and food at school.

Our students in post secondary school college programs include Richard and Yudatade (Tour Guiding), Jackline and Epifania (Tourism), Melkizedek (Religious Studies) and Lusya, Mary, and Hyasinta (Primary Education). Their education costs are approx. \$1700 annually.

Honest Peter is studying in Dar es Salaam in his first year of a university degree program in social work and his costs are approximately \$2500 per year.

We are so proud of these senior students and so we appeal to our supporters to make a donation of any amount to help them nurture their dreams for a meaningful future. One in which they can help their families and their communities.



Epifania and Jackline



Mary



Mom with Jovin and Adeline

Read about them on our website and make a note of their names on your cheque or Paypal donation so that your donation can go directly to their education.

Our New

by



Website Design

John De Ronde

Recently, our intrepid and very patient webmaster, Franca, suggested that our website format was looking a bit dated and maybe lacking sparkle and zing! Our website was several years old but...how do you judge the look of a website?

Franca was right of course...there must be a design format which seems to be in vogue at any one time, until a new taste or visual look becomes popular. As web design moves on, so must we!

The new site design incorporates all the latest bells and whistles of course, but it carries new information not available on the previous sites, and has a much sleeker, more dynamic feel. The banner has become an active part of the site where the old one just sat at the top. We continue with the three-column format below the banner to bring you up to date and to create easy, one-touch links to inner pages and related sites and topics. Our web template is aptly named 'Dazzling' and it does seem to convey a bright, sparkling new web presence for us. We hope you enjoy it!

After many years of discussion, and the last couple of years of true collaborative planning, we are so excited to announce the formation of ABCD Tanzania! This is a local group of village members, educational leaders and local government leaders who have come together to be registered as an official Community-Based Organization. They will work with ABCD Canada in addressing the needs of Marangu West communities. Their self-empowerment means that they can fundraise independently, assess the needs of their people and apply funds (some of which will come from ABCD Canada) to address those needs. We hope to continue in the future to build their capacity for helping the people that they represent.

Welcome to the ABCD family: ABCD Tanzania by Frank Smith



Dinner With Families

by Terry Maynard



One of the things that stood out for me about this year's trip was the look of joy on the mamas' faces as we dined with them at their homes.

We had not yet arrived at mama Robati's home before she came darting out of her hut with a glowing big smile. Arms stretched out, gleefully announcing Karibu, Karibu (welcome, welcome). It was humbling for me to sit at their table, to let the mama wash my hands, to eat food that was so precious and scarce. I think our field agent Sebastian noticed my discomfort. He turned to me and whispered in English "it is a great honour for mama to kill a chicken for you". The smile on the mama's face and the saying of grace in swahili was the invitation to eat and enjoy. Over dinner it was great to hear how the children were doing in school.



DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL

by Terry Maynard

“I want to be a pilot. I want to work in gardens. I want to run my own computer repair business.” This is exactly what we were hoping to hear from students attending our first 2-day leadership conference for girls called “Discover Your Potential”. The conference was funded by a grant from the **Social Justice Fund of Unifor International**. Many thanks to **Unifor**.

Many young women in the Kilimanjaro area see limited career options, often formed by their world view such as nurse, seamstress, or teacher. ABCD Tanzania and ABCD Canada worked together to design a conference to help the girls realize their potential. The girls learned from two local professional women about leadership, entrepreneurship and how to discover their potential. ABCD Director Terry also facilitated two workshops on exploring skills and aptitudes for possible career paths. There was also time for fun and games! What a special experience this was for these girls.

This was a very successful first joint event for the newly formed ABCD Tanzania and ABCD Canada and it is a great sign of the growing strength of their local governance and capacity building.

PAYING TRIBUTES TO ABCD VOLUNTEERS

by Lynn Bird

Our success in helping children to realize their dreams for the future can be attributed to our volunteers who generously give of their time and energy. While their interests and skills may vary, our volunteer’s commitment and dedication to ABCD’s mission remains constant. A big THANK YOU to:

Franca Leeson, web developer and manager. Franca ensures our website is relevant and fresh looking. The same is provided for ABCD UK, ABCD Australia and ABCD Tanzania.

Catherine Marshall, graphic designer. For many years Catherine has designed our spring newsletter. Her expertise is a real gift to us.

David Gonsalves, accountant. David has provided our financial statements. In addition he has provided ABCD’s treasurer with much patience.

Christine Owen, volunteer trip supporter and the leader of the successful initiative that provides personal hygiene kits to young women.

Our annual visits to Tanzania are supported by many volunteers. A special Thank You to each one of you for the smiles that you brought and work that you did.

In Tanzania this year, several local volunteers worked along side their Canadian friends. Two thumbs up for Emanuel Mush, Fides Masaro, and John Lyimo for pitching in with the classroom painting. ABCD students Nahari and Jeska were also on hand offering their assistance.



We value our volunteers and working together we make a difference!

Thinking back on my trip with ABCD this February one thing stands out larger than any other...the people.

The people are warm and friendly. Everyone says “jambo” (hello) and shakes your hand. They love to laugh and are happy even though they have so little. They appreciated everything we did for them, from the school supplies and books we brought, to the painting we did at the primary school. They were delighted to hear our rudimentary swahili, gently correcting us if we got it wrong.

The children were wonderful. We came across two girls, about 7 years old, sitting in the grass, threading long strands of grass through their hair, with big smiles on their faces. The boys run around, some barefoot, with an old leather soccer ball, enjoying a very raucous game with shouts and laughter.

So it's the people I think of when I look back at my trip. It's their warm smiles and welcomes, their laughter and curiosity about Canada and snow (they see the snow on Mount Kilimanjaro but will probably never experience it first hand). How lucky am I, that I saw for myself this amazing country and met so many wonderful people?

“I'm going to be brutal, I've seen many business start-ups here in Tanzania and they last 6 months, maybe a year and then go out of business with huge debts. I don't think we want that for Fides.” This was some of the best advice I received (from John De Ronde, ABCD board member living in Tanzania) when helping one of ABCD's students start her own business.

Even though Fides has successfully completed her education and no longer needs support from ABCD we agreed to give her guidance for her self-employment aspirations. An easy solution for Fides' Office Stationary and Copy Service would have been to simply give her the \$2,400 she needed. However, John's advice is so very true...many failed businesses and personal debt are caused by the easy fix.

Over the last two years Fides has created two business proposals with financial forecasts. The first plan showed her business was not feasible in her home town. Fides is now researching business opportunities in a larger town that looks very promising. I have no doubt that Fides' persistence over the last two years will result in her starting a successful business.

The financial models created for Fides are now being used for other ABCD students seeking self-employment.



TANZANIA VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

by Edwina Sutherland

SELF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE...

Not a quick fix

By Terry Maynard



Note! We are looking for a volunteer with **financial bookkeeping** experience.

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 within 30 days. Thank you for caring.

ABCDreams CROWD FUNDING

by Shai Laserson



This past year, ABCDreams launched our first crowdfunding campaign on GoFundMe.com, and we'd like to thank all the supporters who helped us raise **over \$800**. Your support helped provide a new library for yet another school. With your efforts and generous support we were able to purchase:

- 2 newly built bookshelves
- Paint to create a new blackboard
- A newly built 7ft by 4ft table
- 10 chairs

But the story didn't end there! The bookshelves, table and chairs were all locally built, helping provide employment to the local community.

Lastly, we'd like to ask for your help in sharing our Facebook posts, tweets and future crowdfunding campaigns with your friends and family.

Supporting ABCDreams doesn't always have to be measured in a monetary value. The simple action of sharing your passion and our passion can go along way.

Thank you all for your ongoing support!



Crowd Funding at a glance

ABCD Collaborates with Wilfred Laurier University Students



ABCD was pleased to have recently supported a team of MBA candidates from Wilfred Laurier University. Their Global Initiative Project included a report on the relationship between ABCD Canada and ABCD Tanzania. We look forward to further review of their report recommendations, and to future collaboration on international development best practices.