



JOIN THE 2018 ABCDreams ANNUAL TRIP TO TANZANIA!

We are happy each year to bring volunteers with us to share in the work we do and become immersed in the culture and life of the people. It really is an experience of a lifetime for all who make the journey.

This year Lynn and Frank were accompanied by two wonderful volunteers, Jan and Cori, who contributed immeasurably to the trip. You can read their own impressions elsewhere in the newsletter, and from our viewpoint, their participation was invaluable. They worked in a school, painting classroom walls and also prepared and taught a very creative workshop about Canadian culture. They hiked the hilly, forested trails with us to the schools where we are funding projects (kitchens, toilets, classroom renos, breakfast programs, libraries). They were also there to witness the launch of a new small business enterprise which you can also read about in this newsletter.

After their volunteering was over, Jan and Cori had the opportunity to add a safari to their adventure and visited great game parks of Tanzania.

Here's your invitation to come along on our next trip to Tanzania in February of 2018 for a truly unforgettable adventure. Contact us at info@abcdreams.ca for information.



Volunteer Team at Local Waterfall

DREAMS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE ARE COMING TRUE! by Frank Smith

News about successful ABCD students keeps coming from Tanzania!
Sharing this list with you, our supporters, is such a pleasure:

Audifasi, Adeline, Nahari – achieving in Form 5
George, Tumaini, Levina and Benson – achieving in Form 6
and **Benson** scored the **highest in his region on the Form 6 mock exams!!**
Airini – started Nursery School Teacher Training
David – completed 3 years of masonry studies
Richardi and Yumatade – completing Professional Tour Guide School
Hyasinta and Mary – completing Northern Highlands Teacher College
Mary C – Kilema Health College – completed Certificate in Lab Studies
Epifania and Jackline – completed Diploma Travel and Tourism
Lusia – Hillmark Institute of Tech and Hospitality Management
Josephat – completed IT Diploma
Honest Peter – Institute of Social Work Degree Program – Year 2
Oscar – University of Dar es Salaam – Year 1
Joven – National Institute of Transport, Dar es Salaam – Year 1
Melkizedek – Religious Studies
Miriam and Amani – Inst. of Rural Developmt. Planning, Dodoma – Year 1

These are the 23 students who have achieved beyond the first 4 years of lower secondary school.
Coming behind them are 34 lower secondary school students also working hard to achieve their dreams. Watching their successes fills our hearts with happiness for them.



Airini



Oscar



Jackline and Epifania

A GIFT FOR NEW START

by Terry Maynard

ABCD is very proud of the students who persevere and complete their education. In recognition of their accomplishments, ABCD gifts these students with Graduation Certificates and Awards of \$150 for the purchase of clothing and transportation (for interviews), communication, materials or tools related to their career paths or as start-up funds for self-employment. Here's how it has worked so far:

Fides – wholesale clothing to sell in the open street market

Honest – masonry tools to start apprenticeship

Delivina – sewing machine to work as a seamstress

David - masonry tools to go to work

Anna - electrical tools to go to work

Even though this is a small gift, it is our hope that it will be like a tiny acorn, planted and growing into a beautiful tree.

MEET OUR NEW ACCOUNTANT, IRENE BYRNE by Terry Maynard

A few accounting tips over lunch saved a lot of time in preparing ABCD Financial Reports. That's what our initial meeting was like with Irene Byrne, the new ABCD accountant. Irene has a heart for community development. I first met Irene 10 years ago when she purchased one of my Africa photos at a fundraiser. She has volunteered in Tanzania through Rotary and is a Rotarian with the Alliston Rotary Club.



Our Treasurer, Lynn Bird, said "I worked with Irene in the preparation of the 2016 financial statements...she learns quickly with fantastic insight."

We feel blessed to have Irene share her gifts and passion with ABCD.



Presenting David with his
Grad Award



Happy David

A WORD ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS by Frank Smith

There are not enough words to express our gratitude to our volunteers for the devoted time and energy that they invest into our efforts to help the children of Kilimanjaro to realize their dreams through education.

Many facets of our operation depend on the expertise of volunteers. They are listed here as a small gesture of our appreciation. Continuing thanks and a collective hug goes out to:

Franca Leeson for Website Design and Management

Catherine Marshall for newsletter Graphic Design /Layout

Irene Byrne for Accounting Services

Christine Owen and **Edwina Sutherland**

on Days for Girls project

Board Members **Lynn Bird**, **Shai Laserson**, **Terry Maynard** and **John de Ronde** for their untiring service on the board

And a collective hug also goes out to the many volunteers who have accompanied us in the past on our working trips to Tanzania. We can't do it without you.



Teaching about Canada

VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE

TRULY A MEMORABLE AND REWARDING VOLUNTEER TRIP

by Janice Kubiak



Volunteer Cori painting

What started as a chance encounter on a ferry to Pelee Island became the opportunity of a lifetime. For the other volunteer, Cori Proudlock, this was the realization of a lifelong dream.

The accommodations were better than expected – a private home on the slope of Mt. Kilimanjaro with security and the ability to make our own meals. Our days were spent hiking part way up Kili to a school where we painted a classroom and held lessons with primary students about Canada and maple trees and gave maple syrup tastings. The engagement of the children was very rewarding.

Great weather made for more wonderful hikes to see other ABCDreams projects, waterfalls, an early morning sunrise, the Marangu market, along with time in and around Moshi and Marangu experiencing some local cuisine.

Near the end of our time, Cori and I took advantage of the proximity of the famous games parks of Tanzania and had an amazing 4 day/3 night safari adventure.

Finally, at the ABCDreams finale event called Art Day, we celebrated students receiving awards and school supplies, some of which were donations we had brought from Canada. The mamas served a delicious lunch and there was singing, dancing and expressions of gratitude. Truly memorable!

CARE ABCD

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ADDRESSES SOCIAL NEEDS

by Terry Maynard on behalf of Lynn Bird

ABCD Canada is helping 5 local women start a business to manufacture personal hygiene kits to improve school attendance in female students and to reduce infections.

Since 2014, ABCD Canada volunteers Christine and Edwina have made and sent over 400 kits under the Days for Girls organization guidelines, and this year a group of 26 school girls reported that the kits have helped them not only with missing fewer days in school, but also resulted in eliminating urinary tract infections.

In order to sustain the supply of kits and to generate local employment, ABCD Director Lynn assisted community nurse Eva to form a social enterprise with 5 local women using ABCD Canada start-up funds and business ideas from Days for Girls charity.

The women named their enterprise Care ABCD Tanzania. ABCD Canada will be the first customer to purchase their kits and then donate them to local school girls. The women are very engaged in the business and are developing skills in manufacturing and sales. In addition, they are supporting the economy by purchasing materials from local suppliers.

This small business start-up is a great example of how social enterprise can effectively address social needs.



Director Lynn Bird with the first members of Care ABCD Tanzania

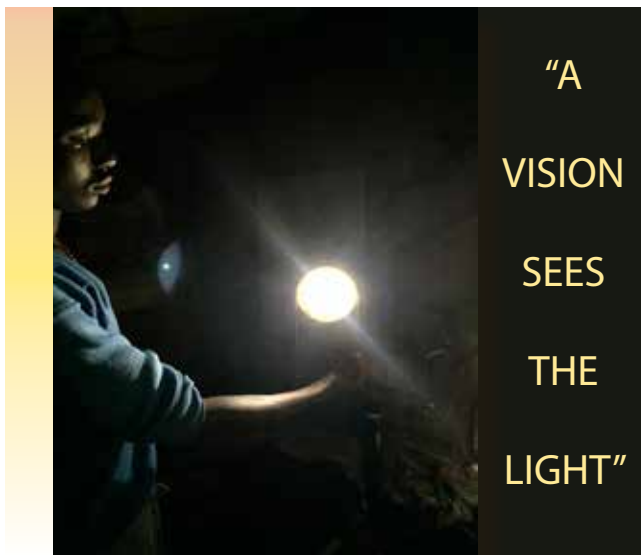


Planning the start of Care ABCD Tanzania

Almost 10 years ago, when I first volunteered for ABCD, I tried to figure out how to offer solar light to students as an alternative to the unhealthy kerosene lanterns used to do their homework. I never dreamt that this challenge would result in ABCD students operating their own solar light/cell phone charging social enterprises.

According to local teachers, students with no or limited light did not perform as well as students with adequate light for completing their homework. This sparked the need for ABCD to find a solution that was affordable, sustainable, and healthier than fuel-burning lanterns.

For a number of years, various volunteers, including myself, visited Tanzania with donated garden solar lights in order to teach students how to build solar lights with discarded water bottles. There was limited success since the batteries in the solar lights eventually needed replacing. Batteries were often hard to source and not affordable.



A couple of years ago, Frank became acquainted with Adam Camenzuli, a Canadian university graduate interested in social enterprises for developing countries. Adam was in Tanzania introducing his Solar Light/Charging social enterprise called KARIBU Solar Power (karibu-solar.com). This is a “business in a box” designed to be an affordable source of light and social enterprise for people living in rural areas of Tanzania. It is a solar charging kit to charge lights and cell phones.

In 2016, ABCD purchased 19 of the Solar Light Charging kits for some of our most needy families. This provides affordable light for students to complete their homework, for families to light their homes, and also a way of generating income for the family by charging neighbour’s lights and cell phones.

Take a look at the success on our ABCD blog at:
<http://abcdreams.ca/2016/07/solar-lights-have-been-delivered/>



SOLAR LIGHT SAGA and FINALLY SUCCESS

by Terry Maynard





ANNOUNCING!! **ABCD GALA FUNDRAISER – BE THERE!**

by Frank Smith

This is a heads-up to mark November 25/17 on your calendars.

We are excited to announce a **gala fundraiser** at the Mount Albert Community Centre, in the lovely little town of Mount Albert (only 15 minutes from Newmarket).

Music by the amazingly energetic, well-known and very popular...
Blackboard Blues Band...dancing...drumming...
culinary delicacies...art display...silent auction and more.

**It's an event not to be missed. Have a great time and support a great cause.
Tickets will go on sale soon. Stay tuned for further announcements.**

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.