



## 2019 Volunteer Trip to Tanzania by Frank Smith, President

**For this year's trip** to Tanzania we had a great team consisting of ABCD President Frank, ABCD Treasurer Lynn and two amazing volunteers, Susan and Jackie.

Both of our volunteers were retired teachers and we were able to place them in two different educational environments for their two weeks of volunteer work. One week at Ngaruma Vocational Training Centre and one week in a classroom we set up in our hotel's conference room.

At Ngaruma VTC Susan and Jackie taught English to Year One and Two students who ranged in age from 14-mid 20's and who were all learning in the trades. The classes were very large but Jackie and Susan designed creative lessons during the week which culminated in a lively school-wide debate on the comparative importance of mothers and fathers in the Tanzanian family!

For their second week of teaching at our hotel's conference room classroom, Jackie and Susan had 15 students who had all completed Form 4 (Gr. 12) and were waiting for selection by the government for their next level of study. Intensive English teaching with a conversational focus was the subject and these students were eager to learn and very receptive to the creative ideas of our volunteers.

Jackie and Susan contributed in many other ways to the success of this trip and we can't thank them enough for their invaluable participation.

Lynn and I were busy visiting most of our ongoing projects at schools, meeting with local individuals and interest groups in the villages, planning budgetary expenses, discussing needs assessments with ABCD Tanzania, and connecting with as many students and families as we could.

The grand finale of the trip was the traditional Art Day celebration where families and students came together with the ABCD team for food, art, music and dancing and to receive their annual school supplies and academic awards. Even our team performed! What a wonderful way to end a wonderful trip!



Jackie teaching English



Susan & ABCD student

ABCD  
volunteers  
and board  
members  
entertaining  
students





# Update on Care ABCD Tanzania Social Enterprise - Days for Girls

by Lynn Bird, Treasurer



Mama Digna



Mama Digna and Mama Eva



Care ABCD Tanzania

**The mamas** in the Care ABCD Tanzania cooperative have had a very busy year. Not only are they busy making the personal care kits for girls, they have also visited many of the schools in their area as well as a trade fair in Arusha to promote the benefits of the personal care kits for girl's health and improved attendance at school. The mamas have also been making liquid soap and selling it to the local schools.

Recently 2 members of the cooperative, Mama Eva and Mama Digna, travelled to a Days For Girls workshop in Uganda for further training. They returned home with several prizes for sharing their ideas and feedback for a better program! The prizes? A sewing machine and an overlock machine. Congratulations to them!

During our February volunteer trip, ABCD Canada purchased 50 of their kits to be donated to school girls thanks to a donation received from the Rotary Club of Newmarket.

## Increased demand for ABCD Students' Post-Secondary funding by Frank Smith, President

**It is exciting** to see so many of our students progressing through lower and upper levels of secondary school, and on to vocational training, college or university.

Once our students leave lower levels, they must leave their local community for schools in cities far from home, such as Dar Es Salaam, Arusha and Dodoma. More than half of all the students we currently support are in college or university, and 12 more are waiting to hear if they will be off to college or university next year. Our budget is feeling the pressure! This year ABCD decided not to take on any more students so we can ensure enough funding is available to support this increasing number of successful students who are in our program now.

**Any additional dedicated support from our supporters would be most welcomed.**

# ABCD Treasurer Lynn goes to the United Nations

by Lynn Bird, Treasurer

**Treasurer Lynn** is the Vice-President of the Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora Newmarket (CFUWAN). She was thrilled to be invited to join the Canadian delegation of 17 attending the 63rd Conference of the Status of Women (CSW63) at the UN in New York. The priority themes for CSW63 were social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable development, and the empowerment of women and girls.

CFUW is an organization of over 8000 women in Canada who are committed to the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of education, improvement of the status of women and human rights, and active participation in public affairs in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

As a delegate to the UN, Lynn met many women showing leadership in addressing the need for inheritance rights of widows in India, as well as the elimination of child marriages in Yemen and female genital mutilation in Kenya. Of particular interest to Lynn was a presentation on the role of Canadian families in giving girls the confidence to pursue a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The highlight for Lynn was the opportunity to meet Canada's Minister of the Status of Women and International Development, Maryam Monsef. Members of the CFUW delegation met with Minister Monsef to discuss the need for a National Child Care Program.

Lynn with fellow delegates from the Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora Newmarket



Lynn at the United Nations



Lynn meeting UN Delegates from around the world



United Nations



# ABCD President Frank's 2018 Trip to Tanzania

by Frank Smith, President



New drinking water tank



Happy supported student



Frank & mamas, Care ABCD Tanzania

**I decided** to make a visit to Tanzania in September, 2018 to do some preparatory work for our official volunteer visit in February, 2019. Under our new policy of biennial instead of annual visits, our last volunteer visit had been in February, 2017 so I felt drawn back. I also wanted to take a few days to be with ABCD Director, and friend, John.

The visit was only a couple of weeks in length but very productive. I visited some ABCD infrastructure projects, such as recently erected water tanks, and also photographed some possible projects for future consideration. Meetings with the Care ABCD Tanzania mamas group were very positive in regards to their development as both a viable business and a local source of health improvement (see more news in the article written by Treasurer, Lynn).

Good foundations were laid for ABCD's forthcoming volunteer trip in 2019.

## Volunteer Testimonial on Tanzanian Trip

by Jackie and Susan

**Our time** in Tanzania was absolutely amazing. Working with young adult students on improving their English was so rewarding. Their desire to learn and all of their questions were truly humbling. The people we interacted with were welcoming and loving.

The experience was both eye-opening and wonderful. The beautiful countryside with its abundant fresh fruit was incredible, and the warm reception of the local villagers and schools was heartily heartwarming – a truly immersive experience that we could never find as a tourist.

We were also impressed by the impact that ABCDreams has on children's education. This ranges from financial aid for improving school facilities to supporting at risk children. All in all, a most rewarding time, and we would recommend volunteering with ABCDreams to anyone with a heart to serve.

This organization has touched so many lives – not only those of the students' who are given support, but also the volunteers, whose lives are forever changed.



Time off at the waterfalls

# Canadian Federation of University Women and ABCDreams Collaboration

by Lynn bird, Treasurer



Lynn at IWD

**March 8th** was International Women's Day, and the Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora Newmarket (CFUW) invited Treasurer Lynn to be the keynote speaker at their event held at Trinity United Church in Newmarket! Lynn introduced the enthusiastic audience to Days For Girls and ABCDream's project of helping girls and women in Tanzania with their menstrual health needs.

ABCD volunteer Christine was in attendance with Lynn to assist and share her expertise as a personal care kit maker. Christine continues to make personal care kits for post-partum women in Tanzania.

Donated funds received by ABCDreams during International Women's Day allowed the purchase of 100 personal care kits made by ABCD Care Tanzania. These kits were then donated to school girls in Marangu West to facilitate better health and school attendance. ABCD Care Tanzania, the active



Photo credit: Greg King

Lynn being introduced by President Lynn Havard

Christine with donated fabric



women's cooperative formed just over 2 years ago under the leadership of Mama Eva Ngowi, is making a healthful impact in the lives of girls and women in Marangu West.



School stoves

## Using Kitchen Stoves Safely

by Frank Smith, President

**We were grateful** to Head Teachers and school cooks for attending a meeting at a primary school kitchen to discuss the safe and efficient use of the kitchen stoves which ABCD has funded in the past.

It was an open-ended discussion and, by the close of the meeting, we all agreed that:

1. these high efficiency stoves are designed to use less firewood, which is a government requirement
2. the doors on the stoves must be kept closed to maximize cooking heat production
3. the chimneys must be kept clean to increase the draw and prevent smoke from entering the cooking area
4. the stoves and kitchens are the responsibility of the schools to keep clean and well maintained

Safety signs will be displayed in the kitchens and ABCD Tanzania will ensure that the results of the meeting will be shared with all schools.



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 \$15. Tax receipts will be issued within 30 days. Thank you for caring.

## 2019 ABCD Fundraising Events by Frank Smith



10-piece Blackboard Blues Band brought non-stop high energy for dancing

There are some exciting plans being hatched for fundraising events in 2019 and we urge you keep an eye on our website for announcements and details to come.

During this spring we once again have a team entered into the Canada Africa Partnership bike ride in Toronto! We're called The Dream Peddlers! Please go to this CAP website to sponsor one of our team members: [www.canadaafricapartnershipride.ca](http://www.canadaafricapartnershipride.ca)

Later this year we will be holding our biennial gala fundraising dance. The 2017 gala was very popular so when the time comes, don't delay to get your tickets.



Frank with student interested in ABCD

## Community Outreach / Presentations by Frank Smith

ABCDreams board members are always willing and excited to have the opportunity to talk to organizations, clubs, schools...anybody!... about our work in Tanzania.

Recently, I had the chance to go to Richmond Green Secondary School with a display about the work of ABCDreams. It was a blast to talk to young people about students in Africa and what they are up against in trying to get an education there. Invite us and we'd be thrilled to come and talk!

## Tribute Giving by Terry Maynard

I was deeply moved, walking down the hallway of my local hospital, noticing my mother-in-law's name on the donor's wall. I remember her making a tribute gift to the hospital in memory of her late husband. It was a great feeling to be in a building that helps so many people and knowing my loved one helped to make it happen.

You can have the same experience by arranging a tribute gift for your loved one. Simply contact [LBird@abcdreams.ca](mailto:LBird@abcdreams.ca) to dedicate a gift. For a long lasting legacy, consider a Planned Giving Plan in your name or corporate name to make a difference in a child's education in Tanzania. Talk to your bank or financial advisor regarding the process and benefits of Planned Giving.