



Life in Tanzania

by John de Ronde, Board Member

2020 Covid19 hit Tanzania in late February last year. In the early stages, the then president followed most other countries with prevention protocols. In May, he arbitrarily decided to suspend activity and declare the virus beaten. By June 1st, he declared Tanzania open for business. Most Tanzanians could not really afford a lockdown. People live day-by-day in what we now call the gig economy (see the street tradespeople photo). This means constant last minute rescheduling, short-term contracts and free-lance work as opposed to permanent jobs.

2021 Tanzania now has its first female and Muslim president. Under the previous political regime, Tanzania did grow economically and is now accepted into the middle income ranking ladder, albeit on the lower rungs. We trust that this impetus will be maintained under the current leadership.

Covid19 has not yet finished of course. We still have no idea of the scope of infections at this time and there is fear of an oncoming wave in the months ahead. The new president has already started to redress the situation. We can only hope for a swift recovery.

Meantime, ABCD Canada and ABCD UK remain active in their respective villages where life goes on as normal. There have been reports of some fatalities but not nearly as many as expected. Schools continue to open and children go on with their play and their dreams of a better life.

ABCD IS ADDING 25 NEW CHILDREN!

ABCD is proud to welcome 25 aspiring doctors, engineers and teachers who are well deserving of our support. We were anticipating adding only 12 children, however we were so moved by all applicants' stories and drawings, that we added them all. Would you consider taking on the support of one of these needy children? See their artwork and be inspired by their stories here: <https://www.abcdreams.ca/index-of-children/>



The gig economy of Tanzania



TERRY BOLDLY GOES

by Terry Maynard, Board Member



Terry contemplating ABCD



Kinukamori Waterfalls



A Happy Monica

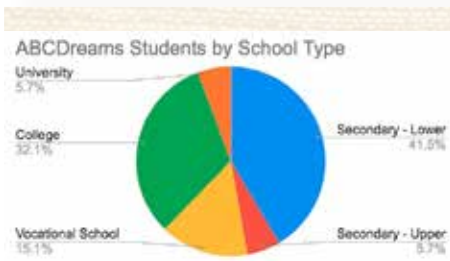
As I prepare to move on from ABCD – Art Building Children’s Dreams, my time on that rock at Kinukamori Falls is one of my fondest memories of my 10 years of volunteering. I’m not the type of person who has a lot of ‘religious experiences’, however, that time on the rock was extremely spiritual for me. I could feel the mist of the waterfalls and the warm sun beaming down to the bottom of the gorge. There were white butterflies fluttering around me like dancing snow. The high walls of the gorge were laden with huge plant leaves that looked like something out of a science fiction movie.

Earlier that day, Frank and I had tried to locate a young student named Monica. Her teacher told us that she came from a very poor family and was no longer in school. We eventually found her by herself sitting in a bus shelter. Frank treated her to a pop at a nearby canteen and asked her what she liked to do. When Frank discovered her interest in sewing he offered her the opportunity to study tailoring at the Kilema Vocational Training Centre. On hearing this Monica’s eyes grew wide and the biggest smile I had ever seen on a child grew across her face as she nodded yes. We had just reached out to a child in her plight!

The spirit of ABCD to help those in need goes with me as I start a retirement business called Nature’s Presence which uses nature to uplift people. I will never forget ABCD and all the ‘Monicas’ in Tanzania that ABCD is helping. I am truly thankful to Frank and Lynn for their tireless efforts and vision to uplift the hearts and hopes of children in Tanzania.

Our Students Are Growing Up!

by Terry Maynard, Board Member



ABCD students are succeeding through the school system with many graduating and entering the workforce. It’s a great result, yet challenging to cover the additional costs of post-secondary education. With the help of our supporters, we will continue to strive and provide an education and so a good future for ABCD students. We are also discussing the feasibility of adding more needy students into the secondary stream of schooling.

THANK YOU TO DIRECTOR TERRY

by Frank Smith, President

It's with mixed feelings of sadness and happiness that I write this farewell to Director Terry. Sadness that he is leaving our Board but happiness because I know that Terry will remain attached to ABCDreams as it has become such a part of his heart.

Terry has new adventures ahead of him sailing, canoeing and sharing his love of the outdoors as a means to guiding people towards finding peace in these troubled times.

For many years Terry has drawn upon his innate compassionate nature to volunteer for ABCDreams doing the work needed to help youth in Tanzania make a better future for themselves. Terry has travelled twice to Tanzania as a volunteer. He was instrumental in delivering programs at an ABCD conference for girls. He taught young boys how to assemble makeshift solar lights. And he counseled many youngsters encouraging them to reach for their dreams. Back in Canada, Terry gave freely of his time and energy to help organize fundraising events; establish and manage ABCDreams Google platform and public communications strategies.

On behalf of the Board, Terry, and on behalf of the many, many children whose lives you have touched and futures you have enriched, I thank you immensely.

ABCDreams Board Changes

by Frank Smith, President

It's with a mix of feelings that I announce changes to the Board of ABCDreams. Director Terry has decided to resign after many years of volunteer work for ABCDreams and is looking forward to new adventures in his entry into the world of sailing, camping and canoeing. You can't take the compassion out of some folks though... Terry will continue to utilize his counseling skills and knowledge to help others in his new venture Nature's Presence. And I am sure he will continue to be attached in some way to ABCDreams. Thank you Terry.

I am excited to announce that Megan Mitchell is joining the Board! Megan is a loyal, long-time supporter and volunteer with ABCDreams. She has seen first hand the positive impact that the funds received from our supporters has had on the lives of young people in Tanzania. Megan's expertise in leadership, counseling and teaching will definitely enrich our Board. Please read her full bio on the ABCD website.



Terry facilitating leadership initiatives



Terry shows how to make solar lights



Terry and Fides work on self-employment business plan



Welcome to Megan Mitchell



Urgent need for new toilets

Progress By ABCDreams UK

by John de Ronde, Board Member

Covid19 has taken its toll on the fortunes of ABCD UK. We normally raise funds during the English summer by attending community events, setting up a small marquee to sell Africana and the artwork of the pupils. As of March last year, all these events were cancelled. However, we stayed active throughout the summer months working on a collaboration project with two Rotary clubs in the UK and a third in Moshi, near to the villages where we work.

In November 2019, the boys' toilet block at the village secondary school collapsed into its own pit (see picture below). November 2019 saw some very heavy rains. The soil below the concrete base over the huge pit gave way so bingo - no more toilets! This is not unheard of in other parts of Tanzania.

Our collaboration project involved raising funds through Rotary district grants as well as with the UK Rotary Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund. The first stage of the project saw the building of a handwash facility, now complete and in use. Stage two would see the building of two new toilet blocks for both boys and girls. This stage of the project is ongoing but, again, funds are needed and hopefully we can see a finished project soon.

The Struggle Of ABCD Grads

by Frank Smith, President

It's a difficult time in the world as a whole, and for the graduated students that ABCDreams has been supporting over the years, it is especially difficult and frustrating to find employment in their chosen fields of study.

The economy of Tanzania during this global covid crisis has made finding a career position in one's area of study a huge challenge. There are some, such as Adeline, working in the aviation industry and Honest Peter, in social services, who have been able to find positions. However, others have had to take on other jobs, in retail for example, to bring in some money. Levina has embarked on an on line business selling clothing. Richard and Yumatade are driving for hire but beginning to find some work in the safari guiding business as tourism very slowly comes back to Tanzania.



Honest Training to be a mason

On a happy note, we have just learned that Honest, one of our students from several years ago (2012) continues to find work in masonry after he received masonry training at vocational school and his sister Delivina is using her training as a seamstress to earn income for her family.

What The Mamas Are Doing For Their Villages

by Lynn Bird , Board Member



Mama Digna making masks

ABCD continues to support the initiatives of Care ABCD Tanzania, the women's cooperative formed in 2017, with the help of ABCD. In spite of the challenges Mama Eva and her ladies have faced with sourcing kit materials and supplies locally, government regulations, and the impact of the pandemic, they have stayed committed to addressing some of the greatest health related needs in their community.

The cooperative was formed with a focus on making personal hygiene kits to help girls manage their menstrual health and hopefully improve their attendance at school. The cooperative soon expanded their efforts to include selling hand soap and cleaning solutions. We are proud of our association with these mamas. Your continued support will help these women to help their villages!

Laptop Project Helps Senior Students by Frank Smith, President



Benson with his computer

A while back, we started a laptop project to help post-secondary students with their studies. A laptop is an essential part of their requirements at college and university. With the funds generously donated by you, our supporters, we have been able to buy a few laptops locally and present them to the needy students.

The project is on a 'loaner' basis meaning that when the student has completed their studies, their laptop is available for another student. This project has been very successful and laptops have been passed on to several of our senior students.

Your continued donations allows ABCDreams to upgrade or to replace aging laptops for our seniors. This is one of the initiatives that your generous donations go towards! Thanks so much.

Enjoying Breakfast by Frank Smith

Thanks to ABCD supporters, our breakfast program in 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools is continuing to provide a hot, nutritious breakfast for about 5000 students every day of the school year. Students line up with their bowls and are served hot millet porridge with nuts and some sugar mixed in. It starts the day off well for the children and school leaders attest that attendance and academic performance is improved with the breakfast provided.

Just for the experience, I've served the breakfast myself when on volunteer trips and it's certainly a special time of smiles and chatter as children gather around enjoying breakfast.



Full tummies and sharp minds

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.

(CAP) Canada Africa Partnership ABCD Fundraising Bike Ride 2021

by Frank Smith,
President



A Group at start of Leslie St Spit



A Group at Port Credit

The annual CAP ride took place in June and it was a wonderful success for ABCDreams! We would thank all those folks who supported us in our fundraising ride. From the bottom of our hearts... THANK YOU!

Due to Covid restrictions, it was not a group ride but a ride nevertheless in which many people from many participating charities cycled or walked 15 kilometres in their own communities during the first week of June for sponsorship of their charities.

ABCDreams formed a team called The Dream Peddlers! Riders/walkers headed out from their own communities and from anywhere in the world! We are proud to say that the ABCDreams team was the lead fundraising team in the whole event! Well over 200 people sponsored our team!

Many thanks for your continued support of the children of Kilimanjaro and we hope that all of the ride supporters will be with us again for next year's ride!

Join The ABCDreams Facebook Group

It is coming up to 2 years since President Frank created a private Facebook Group named Friends (Marafiki) of ABCDreams. We now have 77 members! Students past and present, supporters, volunteers, Board members and interested friends have joined. Members are posting success stories, favourite images of Africa and Canada, words of gratitude and memories of past events. We invite you to join and say “**Jambo**” (Hello)!

