### ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams





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www.abcdreams.ca

# **ABCD Directors Return to Tanzania!**

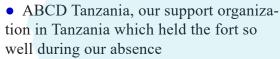
### by President Frank

It was February 2019 when ABCDreams directors last traveled to Tanzania to monitor the projects in Tanzania. Then the COVID crisis hit the world along with travel restrictions. While we were unable to travel for those 4 years, our hard working support organization ABCD Tanzania were able to continue the projects and keep us fully informed of the work via the internet.



Grad Students and Director Megan

President Frank and Director Megan traveled to Tanzania in January for two weeks. It was a busy time of meetings with:



- Care ABCD Tanzania Mamas Group who continues its great work helping girls to stay healthy and in school
- School leaders such as Mr. Makaka and Mr. Kaniki who are devoted to their schools
- Post-secondary students studying at various locations: it was wonderful to see how they have developed
- Secondary students who had been added to the program who we had never met in person, so it was wonderful to introduce ourselves to them and take their photos



Frank Meeting Students



Meeting Secondary School Students

It was a very productive and rewarding trip. Plans for future operations were discussed and there was a very valuable renewal of relationships.

ABCD: Art Building Children's Dreams

# ABCDreams UK at 10 years by Director John



**ABCD UK Project** 



**ABCD UK Project** 

ABCDreams UK launched in 2013 with a program to support primary school pupils with their school fees; we are now supporting these same pupils in secondary school!

There are 3 government primarys and one secondary school in the village that we are supporting. In 2013, with the help of volunteer Martha, a primary teacher from Australia, and the support of her family and friends and our donors in the UK, we rebuilt a primary school toilet. Martha also started a project to supply sanitary pads for the older girls. Martha's sanitary pad programme has now been absorbed by a local NGO called Binti Msafi, and it is also supported by ABCDreams UK.

#### Since then we have:

- Improved working conditions for school cooks by building a new kitchen at ARI School (Agricultural Research Institute) and installed new fuel-efficient cookers in all schools.
- Refurbished a second kitchen and built new boys and girls toilets with a handwash sink.
- Note: the official opening is in February 2024. More funds are needed...see **PayPal.me/abcduk** to help.
- Funded an entire school planting program, now called 'Seed4Feed'. Since the secondary school stands in arable fields totalling 10 acres, the students plant corn and beans, the staple diet for school lunches, annually. What could be a better use of funds and youthful energy?

# Fundraising Friendsy! by Director Megan



Dream Peddlers at the CAP Ride

In early June, the Dream Peddlers took to the streets of the Greater Toronto Area to raise money for ABCD as part of the Canada Africa Partnership (CAP) Ride.

This year we decided to target our goals to raise funds for two breakfast programs. Not only did we surpass our goal of \$10,000 and raise enough to fund three breakfast programs, but we were also one of the top "friendraising"

teams. That means we had one of the greatest numbers of individual donors to our campaign. Can you guess how many we had? Over 125. We couldn't be prouder. Thank you to all of you for donating – and to our determined bikers Lynn, Ted, Aidan, Janis, Frank, Christine, Joe, Delaina, Julian and myself. If you want to peddle with us next year, let us know!

# 20 New Children Added To ABCDreams Program! by President Frank

I am very happy to report that ABCDreams has added twenty young students to the scholarship program. This means that they will be able to continue their education through secondary school and all the way to university if they are successful.

Our partner organization in Tanzania, ABCD Tanzania, interviews all families that have applied for support and has selected these young students using many criteria, including the level of poverty of the family and the child's success in previous grades.

These children are all entering Form 1, their first year of secondary school. They are all very grateful for the support and eager to do well, as their smiling faces proclaim.



Abdulazizi and Grandma

Please take the time to read their stories on our website and consider contributing towards the education fees for one of them:



For only \$10 a month you can fund a child's education for a year!



Sabas



Adela and Mama



Irene



Join the private group <u>Friends (Marafiki) of ABCDreams</u> on Facebook to connect with other supporters, volunteers, Board members and current and past students. We also have our website, <u>ABCD - Art Building Children's Dreams</u>, which is another great way to peek into Tanzania and stay current on events.



**CFUW donation to ABCD** 



Magreth

# A New Supporter for Magreth

by Director Lynn

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Aurora Newmarket is a women's non-profit association that works to improve the status of women, promote human rights, public education and social justice. Recently, the club received a one time sum of money and was receptive to sharing some of those funds in support of the education costs of Magreth, one of our newest students to be recommended by ABCD Tanzania in need of financial support. Magreth has graduated from Form 4 at Mlanga Secondary School and has been accepted to Form 5 at Sanje Secondary School in Morogoro, an 8 hour drive from her home. Thanks to the assistance of CFUW Aurora Newmarket, Magreth can now afford the meals and boarding costs while away from home. Magreth's mother is the sole supporter selling the local banana brew and she struggles to support Magreth and her two siblings with their educational needs. Magreth wants to be a doctor.

# **CARE ABCD Tanzania Expands!**

by Director Lynn

The original 5 women that formed CARE ABCD Tanzania in 2018 has grown to include 10 women and 2 volunteers. The original plan in 2018 was to sell personal care kits to young girls and their mothers in Marangu West ward of Kilimanjaro Region to manage their menstrual cycle with dignity and in improved health. Today, along with personal health information, this dedicated group of mamas are providing each girl entering Form 1 at two



Meeting ABCD Care Mamas Group

local government high schools with a personal care kit along with instructions on how to use and care for it. These kits will be replaced every two years. So far this year, they have distributed 210 kits. Along with the manufacturing of personal care kits, the mamas in the cooperative have prepared and sold 260 liters of soap to schools. The success of CARE ABCD Tanzania has spread throughout the region and Mama Eva, the Chair of CARE ABCD Tanzania, has been approached to visit the mamas in a neighbouring ward to share her knowledge and expertise. We are proud of the mamas in CARE ABCD Tanzania for their commitment to their community.

# June Music Fundraiser Was a Blast!

### by President Frank

In June of this year, a longtime ABCDreams friend and supporter, Joe, organized a fundraiser in a popular restaurant/pub in Newmarket, Ontario called Castle John's. It was an awesome event!



Silent Auction

Joe is a member of a band called The Weekday and this was their public debut! The place was packed with fans. Raffles were held for amazing prize baskets. ALL, yes ALL of the silent auction crafts and art objects brought over from Tanzania in recent visits were sold. Amazing!

Everybody had a great time with great food, music and sharing friendship knowing the worthwhile cause being supported...and enough funds were raised to support one of our breakfast programs. Big thanks go out to Joe and his wife Delaina as well as The Weekday group.



June Music Fundraiser Event





The Weekday Band

# Tanzania Today

### by Director John

Tanzania will be the third fastest growing economy in Africa for this year (UN report April, 2023). The economy is booming and the general wealth is improving for everyone.

The new president has devoted considerable funds for school maintenance, so new classrooms are being built and old ones refurbished. Electricity and school toilets remain an issue but there are improvements for schools, even those in remote parts of the country.

Overall, the general cultural situation in Tanzania is positive and hopeful of a brighter future and it is hoped that current president 'Mama' Samia will continue her commitment to development.



Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

## Volunteer Joe Goes to Tanzania!



Wondering How Much To Give?

\$25	\$400
1 x school uniform 1 x school supplies 1 x year of school breakfast one student	1 x laptop for post secondary student 1 x field studies for a post-secondary student 2 x windows for a classroom
\$50 1 x new school desk 2 x school uniforms 2 x school supplies 2 x year of school breakfasts	\$800 1 x advanced level secondary school 2 x laptops for post secondary students
\$100 1 x year of secondary school	\$1000 - \$2500 1 x year of vocational school 1 x year of college
\$200 1 x new window for a classroom 2 x children for a year of secondary school	\$3500 1 x breakfast program for 500 children 1 x year of university

My name is Joe. I am thrilled that I will be going with Frank to volunteer with ABCDreams in Tanzania in the new year! I have taught in elementary school for 33 years and I now spend most of my time playing and creating music.

I hope that I can bring what I have to offer, and learn a lot about Tanzanian culture and music traditions. I am excited to be going into classrooms that are supported by ABCDreams and to share my love of music with children...even to teach some English through music.

I hope to write songs about my experiences using the children's voices and to be absorbed in the rich music of Tanzania in songwriting. This trip will be as much of a learning experience for me as a teaching experience.

#### **Thank You For Caring**

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.

"Envisioning a world where vulnerable children achieve their dreams for the future"