



Northern Magic Fund for International Development

Dear Friends,

As we draw closer to the end of the year and look forward to a New Year full of bright prospects, it is my hope that you all had a merry Christmas.

The year 2005 was not a year full of headline-grabbing events at Northern Magic Fund, but was, nevertheless, an improvement on previous years in our way of doing things and actual realization of results on the ground.

Tuition fees for students

The year saw us manage to pay school tuition fees for close to 200 students, who would have otherwise stayed at home without any hope of acquiring high school education. We were also able to maintain one primary school student – Vinani - in boarding school for the whole. We will not also forget to mention the only one student we are sponsoring in university – George Joram Ouma.

Through your efforts of benevolence, four students that we sponsored last year qualified to join university (although they are yet to join), with yet a good number qualifying to join other institutions of higher learning. In this category of students, we have one ever-nagging question glaring before us; after High School, then what? This is because, currently in Kenya, most high school graduates find it extremely difficult to secure jobs. Without any kind of professional training, one is bound to walk the streets looking for a job for many years.

Projects

Although we had hoped to accomplish three renovation projects this year, due to reasons of logistics, we only managed to complete one – the Mtondia Primary School project. This project was, by and large, an improvement on a previous one that we handled at the

Majaoni Primary school (Photos on these two projects are available for comparison on request). We are looking forward to doing even better next year.

Selection of students for scholarships

Currently, the selection of new students applying for scholarships for next year is on course. We have already given out more than two hundred application forms to students. Most of the students are those already in high school. Yet, an equally good number is that of students who completed their primary (elementary) course this year and are to join high school next year. Their national examination results were announced and released yesterday --30th December 2005 – by the minister for education. In two to three week's time, the students will have known the secondary schools they will have been selected to join.

Internet services

We had hoped to have an internet line installed in the house where I live for ease of communication but seventeen months down the line after we made our application to the only telephone landline provider, we have not received a positive response. This has, inevitably, affected prompt communication to anyone from here, as we have had to solely depend on commercial public services. It is hoped, though, that more competitors for the provision of this service will be licensed to join the market and perhaps offer better services to the public.

Communication with students

A few of you have in the past tried to write to students you are sponsoring and sometimes not gotten replies from them. This has mostly happened because the students, at the time of applying for sponsorship – especially standard eight graduates - would not have acquired the addresses of their new schools and would only have provided addresses of their of old (primary) schools where it would be very difficult for them to get letters after they have left. We have, nevertheless, tried our best to sort out this problem and hopefully, will not recur.

Lastly, I wish to thank all of you for the immense support you have accorded me this year and wish you all a happy and fulfilling New Year. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Andrew.