



Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2013

Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours!

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

To make a secure, online pledge with Visa, simply visit our website:

www.NorthernMagic.ca

Click on

"How can you help"

Proceed by clicking on

"Donate Now"

Please specify your preference in the space provided:

- Sponsor a secondary school student
- Give the gift of a donation
- Donate where most needed

OR

Cheques can be made payable to:

Northern Magic Fund
P.O. Box 17026
Ottawa, ON K4A 4W8

Please indicate on your cheque which of the above options you wish to select.

The Northern Magic Fund would like to wish you a bright and happy holiday season. In this newsletter, you will find updates on the Fund and the work made possible by the kindness of valued friends like you.

In 2002, Diane Stuemmer wrote in her book, the Voyage of the Northern Magic: *"One ambitious young man's dream is to become a physician. We've discovered there's no better feeling in life than to help make someone's dream come true. Although this aspiring young doctor doesn't know it yet, his future is looking pretty good."*

The young man Diane was referring to was George Ouma and 2013 has been a very exciting year for him.

George's dream came true when, after almost ten years of hard work, he received his medical degree.

Graduating in April, he started his internship at a hospital in Kenya where he is, like medical interns everywhere, working insane hours.



Dr. George Ouma

He was thrilled to be able to pay his sister's university fees this Fall, and is engaged to be married later this month.

Congratulations, Dr. George! Diane would have been so proud of you.

"I have no words to express my feelings. Indeed no words to express my gratitude to you. Deep in me is joy to see my dreams realized! Bright light have I seen at the end of long tunnel! Surely bright is my future that late Diane mentioned in her book! At last ... THE MAGIC DOCTOR!"

Thank you Herbert for your dream to sail around the world! Your dream made it possible to know this part of the world; that is now changing many lives in Kilifi, and now my dream realized.

Congratulations to the Northern Magic Board members, and to all donors for not giving up supporting my education from high school to now a medical doctor. I was lucky to have met you. No doubt without your support, I will be still in the quarry!

Thank you once again. I will forever be grateful! "

Dr. George

Herbert Visits Kilifi

Herbert Stuemmer travelled to Kilifi, Kenya this past summer and was happy to report on our progress there.

For those who have followed our story from the start, you may be interested to know that Herbert met with many of the people who were the impetus for starting our Fund. Boniface, the then teenager the Stuemers met on the beach, is now married, gainfully employed at a hotel, and recently became a father. Hamisi is also married and has 3 daughters. Although the cow the Stuemers gave him in 2001 is since gone, her offspring now represent a herd of three, with a fourth on the way. Mark is a driver and recently started a new career in real estate.

Herbert said it was heartwarming to see these boys, born and raised in a mud hut village, now living in apartments complete with electricity and running water. He also enjoyed visits with Andrew Thuva, George Ouma, Christine Kahindi (George's high school principal) and Susan Dana, our wonderful on-the-ground volunteer.



George Ouma, Christine Kahindi and Herbert Stuemmer

Next, it was down to business. Herbert visited each of the twenty-two secondary schools where we sponsor students. While visiting the schools, he met with many of the 133 students who had received scholarships from the Northern Magic Fund this year. He interviewed quite a number of them and we are happy to have included with our newsletter a DVD showing several of those interviews. The general consensus is that the students are excited to learn, grateful for our help, and appreciate that they would not be able to attend school without our assistance.

Herbert also met with a few aspiring post-secondary students who were appealing to us for financial assistance with their dream of a university education. With our doctor's education now complete, the Northern Magic Fund has chosen to sponsor a new post-secondary student, this time a girl! Elizabeth Mzungu started her University program in Accounting this fall. At our Annual General Meeting in September, Herbert described Elizabeth as a 'firecracker': smart, ambitious and passionate about learning. We look forward to witnessing our newest student's progress.



Elizabeth Mzungu

The Magic Continues

There have been many other success stories this year! In addition to the 30 sponsored students who completed their high school education this month, two of our donors who had sponsored students through their post-secondary studies were happy to share that their students are now college graduates. Faith Rukaria recently graduated as a Hospital Laboratory Technician and Elias Karisa completed his studies at the International Teaching and Training Centre in Nairobi. Elias has since secured a position in a private school in his region teaching grades 7 and 8 math and science. His sponsor tells us that he had passed his national exam, ranking second out of 350 candidates. To celebrate, his mother had cooked him a special meal—green bananas and chicken—and his sister had given him a t-shirt with "Bravo" written on it. Our student sponsors are so proud.

One of our former students, Andrew Kadzoya, received a motorbike from his school for completing his national exams with an A. The motorbike was an incentive the school had come up with as a reward to motivate students to work hard. In an article in their local newspaper, it was mentioned that Andrew had been the beneficiary of a scholarship through the Northern Magic Fund. He has since been offered a scholarship from an international organization for his university fees.

Congratulations to all our graduates!

Share the Magic!

On this festive occasion, we would like to extend a very warm thank you to all our caring donors. It is because of your generosity that we are able to share such heartwarming and hopeful stories about our students in Kenya.

With so many worthy causes, and world disasters requiring immediate assistance, your continued support is greatly appreciated. In order to continue our good work, the Northern Magic Fund needs assistance throughout the year. New donors are few. May we ask your assistance?

When you are with friends, family and colleagues, help us spread the word.

Please mention our fund and the great work we are all doing. We know that one of the reasons you support us is, because unlike other charities, many with very high administrative costs, that you appreciate this Fund is wholly volunteer run and apart from minimum expenses, your donation goes directly to the cause you intended—the education of Kenyan youth.

There are many ways you can help us Share the Magic:

- Directly sponsor a student — your commitment of \$40 per month will give a child the lasting gift of a secondary school education.



- Make a contribution to the Fund for the general pool of students.
- Give a donation in the name of a loved one and put it under the tree! (We can provide a gift card.)
- Host a fundraiser
- And most important of all, help us spread the word!

However you choose to help, your donation is greatly appreciated. A tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$25 or more.

Wishing You and Yours a Magical Christmas!