

# Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2017



## HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

To make a secure, online pledge by credit card or PayPal, simply visit our website:

[www.NorthernMagic.ca](http://www.NorthernMagic.ca)

Click on



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

## Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours!

During this festive season, we would like to extend a very warm thank you to all our caring donors for your continued support. It is because of your thoughtful support that we are able to share heartwarming and hopeful stories of our work in Kenya.

Over the years, we have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful people in Kilifi, Kenya who have helped to make the Northern Magic Fund the success it is today in this impoverished corner of our world. We would like to introduce you to one of these special people, Christine Kahindi.

Mrs. Kahindi, as she is known to her students, is the principal at Katana Ngala Secondary School. She is a tireless advocate for students who performed well in primary school but simply have no means to attend high school. She seeks these students out, inviting them to join her school, sometimes personally paying for their uniform when they do not even have the means for that. She tells them about the Northern Magic Fund and has them send an application form to us.

She was, in fact, the person who referred one of our very first students to us back in 2002. This exceptionally bright and desperately poor young man was George Ouma who today is a successful medical doctor, now married with two children. George tells us that long before introducing him to the Northern Magic Fund, "out of her kindness and special love for needy students, Mrs. Kahindi would personally supplement the little I could afford to pay on a weekly basis. She is my heroine!"

We were delighted to learn that Mrs. Kahindi was recently awarded 2017 Principal of the Year. This honour is given in recognition of outstanding leadership. She humbly attributes the award to her relationship with the Northern Magic Fund. She tells



Christine Kahindi receiving her Principal of the Year Award

us that the sponsored students have better grades as they are able to attend classes regularly and concentrate on their studies without fear of being sent home for lack of fees. The higher grades reflect well on her school's performance under her leadership.

*"I have no words to say what the Northern Magic Fund has meant for the students and for myself. Surely, when a poor needy child has someone to pay for his/her fees, all his/her world has turned to be alive. This child will now face a bright future which has meaning. He/she will know that if they pass their exams well, they will be able to go to university and get a degree. In turn, they will get a good job to assist not only their immediate family but also their extended family members. The home and village will know a difference. There will be development in the homestead.*

*For me personally, it has been a big blessing seeing poor and needy children go through their school and passing so well. It has also assisted me in my promotions. And now, I can retire a very happy woman knowing how many children I have assisted through the Fund who have become people with well paid jobs. Even this year, my best performing students are those sponsored by the Northern Magic Fund. I expect them to do very well. God bless your organization."*

It is with sadness that we let you know of the passing of Hamisi earlier this year.

Hamisi was one of the boys the Stuemers family first met on the beach in Kilifi in 2000. The boys



Hamisi with his shark-tooth necklaces

invited the Stuemers to their village where they talked at length about what could be done to improve life in Kilifi. The Stuemers set Hamisi up in a jewelry business, making and selling shark-tooth necklaces to the Northern Magic Fund as well as to tourists on the beach. Hamisi was just 32 years old when he succumbed to undiagnosed Hepatitis B, leaving a wife and 3 young children. RIP dear friend.

# The Magic Continues

The Northern Magic Fund is grateful to all of you for your kind support which has provided the gift of a secondary school education to ninety-seven students this year. That's quite a remarkable accomplishment and we hope you share our sense of pride in what we have been able to accomplish together. Twenty-three of these students completed their high school education and wrote their national exams last month. We wish all our students much success in the years to come.



Elizabeth Mzungu

Elizabeth Mzungu, the University student the Northern Magic Fund has been sponsoring, completed her four year Bachelor of Commerce degree this year and will be receiving her diploma later this month. Elizabeth recently wrote that she had applied for a position in her field at a number of businesses and although she had not secured anything just yet, she tells us she remains optimistic that she will have a job soon after her graduation. She wrote *"It's my great pleasure to give my thanks for the unconditional support the Northern Magic Fund gave me and a chance to make my dreams valid. I really appreciate the time and resources you gave me. If it were not for you, I don't know where I would be right now. Thank you so much and may the Almighty God reward you. I am so humbled and blessed to have you in my life."* We are proud of Elizabeth and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

With Elizabeth's University studies complete, we look forward to considering applications for another needy post-secondary student. This next university education scholarship will be with thanks to a very generous donation from one of our valued long-time donors.

## Come Join Us in Kenya

Would you like to follow in the footsteps of the Stuemmer family in Kenya and tour the place that left such a deep imprint on their hearts? Now you can! We are planning an excursion to Kilifi and other parts of Kenya for donors and friends in 2018. The trip is a collaboration between a Northern Magic Fund supporter and a sponsored student, Sammy Kahindi, who graduated university with a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Management.

This will be a custom guided tour and will include time in Kilifi, seeing the sites, meeting some sponsored students and graduates and possibly carrying out a volunteer project. There will be time for the beaches and a safari to some of the famous game parks of Kenya, as well as a city tour of Nairobi. The excursion will take place in the Summer or Fall of 2018. It will be a 10-14 day visit and Sammy can assist with arrangements if you wish to continue your travels after the tour.

The estimated cost for the full two-week trip is \$2,400—\$3,200 per person and will include all travel and accommodations in Kenya, entrance to game parks, guiding fees and some meals (does not include airfare to/from Kenya). Pre-trip support will be offered to help you prepare.

In order to gauge interest in this adventure, please contact **Andrea Prazmowski** at [prazfive@gmail.com](mailto:prazfive@gmail.com) by January 15th, 2018. The trip is contingent on having a minimum number of participants. Andrea will be happy to address any questions you may have and will send more information as well as a short questionnaire to help with refining the itinerary.

## Share the Magic!

With so many worthy causes vying for your donation dollars, we are grateful to all of you who have chosen to entrust your donation to the Northern Magic Fund. In order to continue our good work, we need help 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 appreciate that one of the reasons you support us is that unlike other charities, many with very high administrative costs,

this Fund is wholly volunteer run, and apart from minimal 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.



- 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!