

Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2021



HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

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

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

The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Despite two challenging years and so many worthy causes vying for your donation dollars, we are honoured that you continue to support the education of Kenyan youth in this impoverished part of our world.

The Kenyan school year, which typically follows a three-semester calendar year, was disrupted when the schools closed in March 2020 for the pandemic lockdown and remained closed for the rest of the year. After nine months at home with no access to learning materials, our students returned to class in January to pick up where they had left off. These students, including twenty-six who became high school graduates, completed the school year in July.

A new school year is now underway and we are delighted to have been able to continue scholarships for 125 returning students and to welcome 49 new students whose dream of a high school education has just begun.

In addition to these 174 high school students, we continue to sponsor 11 students in university who are pursuing a degree in a variety of programs. We wish all our students, new and returning, the very best with their studies.

We are sure you will share our pride in learning that this past June, a long-time beneficiary of our Fund became our second student to graduate as a medical doctor. From previous newsletters, you may



Dr. Morris Mwangome

recall Morris Mwangome who had been attending medical school in Russia. Along with his graduation photo, he sent a heartfelt note:

"Words fail me. They do not seem sufficient to express the gratitude in my heart. They say it is not gratitude if it remains unexpressed. I am eternally grateful to the Northern Magic Fund for supporting me. It has been a long journey but I thank God for being there for us. To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world. You are the world to me!"

Morris returned to Kenya shortly after his graduation. He tells us that it was such a pleasure to see his family who were happy to have him home after seven years away. He is living in Kilifi with his Mother, younger sister and older brother with his wife and three children. His medical practice will have to wait a bit longer as he must first sit for a Kenyan medical licensing exam in February after which he will be posted for a one year internship. Warmest congratulations Dr. Mwangome and all the best in your future.

Now to bring you up-to-date on our first student to graduate as a medical doctor. Dr. George Ouma was pleased to write to let our donors know how the power of educating a student can go well beyond that one young person. He wrote how he is so appreciative of the education he received as a beneficiary of the Northern Magic Fund and how he is paying it forward .. in a big way!

"Early 2002 was the year that I saw a glimpse of hope when I received my first funding from the Northern Magic Fund. This was the year that I stopped working at the quarry and instead became a full-time high school student. Little did I know that these would be the first baby steps that you would take with me and that you would keep holding my hand and walking with me until I was strong enough to walk on my own."

Paying it Forward

When I graduated as a medical doctor in 2013, I found this to be a way of life, holding someone's hands and helping them make those baby steps until they too were able to walk on their own. My wife, Florence, and I believe that changing our family's fortune and living standards and making some long-term investments will ensure generations to come live a better life. We have covered the expenses for six relatives to complete a secondary school education. I also fully funded a university education for three of my siblings. One sister is a graduate in Dietetics and Nutrition, another sister is a Nurse and my younger brother is in his final year of a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering.



Dr. George Ouma

In addition to paying for education, we provided capital to another five relatives to start businesses. Two of these are cousins whom we helped to start a welding workshop where they fabricate metallic window and door frames. They are now running their own business and supporting their families. We do not expect to be paid back. Instead we expect they will now support and educate their siblings and children, therefore continuing to pay it forward.

We had also employed six people in our taxi/public transport business in the four years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it had been a very profitable business, it was as so many others a casualty of the pandemic. It is our plan to restart the business and expand it once things return to normal, providing even more jobs.

It also pleases me to have been able to move my parents into a very decent two bedroom house with water and electricity. It really is a huge transformation for my family and it has just started as I intend to do even more in terms of investment and creating jobs for others. These plans, however, will have to wait just a little while longer as both Florence and I have returned to University to continue our academic journey. She will complete her resident program in Psychiatry next year. As for me, I am now halfway through a 4-year program in Radiation Oncology at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, a program that was unfortunately not available in Kenya.

This will be my second Christmas away from home. Although I meet Florence and our children (Martha and Enoch now 6 and 4) online almost every day, I am only able to fly home once a year. I am hoping that the new Omicron variant will not threaten my plans to visit my family in Kenya in February.

I can't wait to complete my residency program and do even more of what gives me satisfaction .. helping many others break the cycle of poverty. I will be forever grateful to the Northern Magic Fund and to each and every donor. Many hugs to you all!

George Ouma

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!