

Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2022



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:

- Donate where most needed
- Sponsor a secondary school student
- Sponsor a post-secondary student

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!

We are grateful to our donors throughout the year and are happy that the holiday season brings us this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. Although the past three years have brought many challenges, we hope you share our pride and see the difference your donations are making.

Your generous donations allowed 170 students to attend secondary school in 2022, 42 of whom began their dream of a high school education and 32 of whom have just completed theirs.

The Kenyan school year, which had typically followed a 3-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 without access to learning materials, our students returned to class in January 2021 to pick up where they had left off.

In order to get back on track, the students have been attending a compressed school year ever since, foregoing the one month breaks between semesters. The final compressed school year has just ended and we look forward to receiving application forms for new students as they return to the former academic year format in January.

In a previous newsletter, we had noted that the majority of application forms from new students mentioned the inability to study after sunset as a major challenge. Electricity is rare in this impoverished area and there is little money for kerosene for lamps. One of our valued donors had suggested that we look into solar light as a solution.

started in 2019, all of our students in all grades are now benefitting from this clean source of energy.

Many have expressed their gratitude for this gift which, after a long walk home and completing household chores, allows them time to work on school assignments after dark. The solar lamps had an added



Form one students being presented with their solar lamps

We did exactly that and in 2019, when Herbert Stuermer visited Kilifi, he was able to personally distribute solar lamps to each of the students who had started Form One that year.

We are delighted to report that this program has been a great success and now ensures that every new student entering high school receives a life-changing solar lamp. With the program having

bonus of benefitting not only the student but all those living in the household.

Each Fall, the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation hosts a Historical Tour honouring persons who are buried at Ottawa's Beechwood Cemetery. This past September, the late Diane Stuermer, founder of the Northern Magic Fund, was one of four 'Women of Influence' to receive this honour.



Herbert Stuemer with sons Mike & Chris at Diane's plaque unveiling

Herbert Stuemer, with sons Mike and Chris, attended the unveiling of a Great Canadian plaque which will stand along the road near Diane's grave highlighting her life's achievements.

The plaque reads:

Adventurer, philanthropist and author. A brush with cancer in 1995 led Stuemer to embark with her family on a sailing expedition around the world. Beginners, they battled storms, pirates and lightning strikes. Stuemer frequently volunteered during their journey, opening the Northern Magic Fund to support students in Kilifi, Kenya. During the voyage, Stuemer wrote weekly dispatches for the Ottawa Citizen, generating more response from the public than any series in the paper's history. Returning in 2001, 3,000 people greeted them at shore.

The Magic Continues

In addition to the high school students we have been sponsoring, we continue to support seven post-secondary students attending a variety of degree programs and are pleased to have added two new students for the 2022/2023 university school year. In September, John Emmanuel Baya started his Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Biotechnology and Marshall Masha Kenga will begin his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in January.

We are proud to let you know that three of the recipients of a post-secondary scholarship from the Northern Magic Fund completed their degree programs this year. Convocations for all three will be in mid-December.

Maggie Yaa - Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education
 Salama Iddi Kalama - Bachelor of Science in Accounting
 Emmaculate Kahindi - Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics

These young ladies have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Northern Magic Fund for providing them with this chance for a brighter future. Sincere congratulations to Maggie, Salama and Emmaculate. We wish them all the best in finding employment in their respective fields.

For many of us, the holiday season is a time for reflection on the past 12 months. As we reflect, we share these successes with you. We are grateful for your caring support without which these students' dream of an education would be just that .. a dream!

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a joyful 2023.



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!