



Northern Magic Fund for International Development

Dear Friends,

Today marks the end of the tenth month of the year – October 2005. We are moving into the final month of the final term of the year in the academic calendar of the Kenya Primary and Secondary education system.

University students

George Joram Ouma, the only student we are currently sponsoring in university, resumed his studies in the second week of this month at the Kampala University in Uganda. He had been on holiday, during which time he had an opportunity to be attached to practice his skills at the Kilifi District hospital – a public one. He has started his final year at the university.

There are other students who completed their secondary school studies last year and attained grades that could qualify them to get places in the universities. Although the grades give them hope of proceeding for higher education, there is the ever-hanging ominous cloud of uncertainty of where to get funds to enable them realize their dreams. We hope we will not be able to disappoint those who gallantly struggled to achieve the good grades they achieved.

Secondary school students

National examinations for final year students in secondary schools started on the 21st September 2005 and are to be completed by mid-November, 2005. We have quite a number of Northern Magic Fund-sponsored Form four students in different schools that are currently doing the examinations. We, at Northern Magic, wish them well in their examinations.

Boniface Kitsao, one of the boys who first met the Stuemers at the beach in Kenya, is one of those doing the examinations this year. He should have completed his secondary school education last year, but after a scandal that saw his former school closed last year by the Ministry of education here, he had to repeat a year. We hope this will not be in vain.

Primary school students

Final year primary (elementary) school students in standard eight will be doing their national final examinations in the third week of November 2005. It is from this group of students that many of the bright and needy students will come from and be selected to join Form one in secondary schools next.

Mutawali Saniti (also known as Vinani) was at home for a week this month after his school was closed due to administrative problems at his school. The problems were, however, sorted out and the school re-opened. Mutawali is now back at school.

School disciplinary and administrative problems

This year, we have had a number of cases of indiscipline reported in different schools. Some led to cases of arson. While these have purely been both government and internal administrative issues of the affected schools, it is worthy noting that their happening has had to interfere with the smooth learning of the students – including those you are sponsoring. In cases where there have been damages at school, all students have had to bear the burden of paying for them and indeed, sent home to their parents to bring money for the damages. Unfortunately, the students you are sponsoring, being part of the school community, have not been able to escape this eventuality.

Projects

We are still considering several proposals on our desks. The Calgary South Rotary Club and the Wild Rose Foundation are also considering whether they could chip in again in the next selected project. We hope this will be soon. We are also hoping that many other donors will come in to boost our efforts.

As we move into the last month of the academic year for primary and secondary schools, I wish to thank every one of you who has in one way or another seen to the gradual but steady growth of the Northern Magic Fund. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Andrew.