



Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2019

Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours!

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:

- Secondary school scholarship
- Post-secondary scholarship
- Donate where most needed

OR

Cheques can be made payable to:

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

During this holiday season, we would like to extend a very warm thank you to all our donors for your continued support. It is only with your generosity that we are able to share heartwarming stories of our work in Kenya.

Herbert Stuemmer visited Kenya this past summer and wrote *"This is probably the most rewarding trip I have made to Kilifi since we started. Thank you all for making this happen."*

In previous visits to Kilifi, Herbert had done video interviews with our high school students. He tells us that one of the highlights of this visit was an added opportunity to meet with, and interview, a group of former students, some who had travelled several hours just so they could tell him what having an education had meant to them and how much they had appreciated our support.

Herbert said that there were many occasions when he could not hide his tears as these students recounted their stories of humble home lives, meagre food (in some cases going several days without a meal), loss of parents and lack of hope.

"I was so impressed with our graduates. Today they are teachers, clinical officers, engineers and pilots, all trying to help their communities and paying it forward by ensuring

other family members benefit from their education as well."

We hope you will take a few minutes to watch these powerful Alumni interviews which you will find on our website at www.NorthernMagic.ca.

Herbert enjoyed his visits to the high schools and meeting the 140 students we had sponsored this past year. He noted that *"Although a lot of equipment like computers are still rare, it seems that our funding has helped the schools quite a bit. Katana Ngala Secondary School, which many of our students attend, was the only school I visited that offered a computer program with, as I recall, seven computers for the whole school."*

Herbert also had an opportunity to meet several students who had applied to our Fund for financial assistance with their post-secondary studies. We are pleased to have been able to offer two new university scholarships. In September, Katana Avrily Neema started her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Amani Katana Charo started his Computer Science program. We wish them all the best with their studies.

As part of the application process, our students are

asked to let us know of their accomplishments but also their challenges. One of the most common challenges mentioned is being unable to study after dark. Electricity is rare in this impoverished area and there is little money for kerosene for lamps. We had researched solar lights and agreed to provide a light to each of the new students entering their first year of high school. Herbert personally delivered the solar lights during his visit. We are anxious to see if the addition of light to the humble homes of our students will result in improved grades.



Herbert delivering solar lights to the students

Herbert also visited George Ouma, our medical doctor, who is returning to school this month for a Master's program in Oncology. When asked why he chose to do that, his answer surprised Herbert. He explained that he sees many aids patients and women with cervical cancer and that there are no specialists available for these patients. He wanted to do something about that.

The Magic Continues

There is another special young man whom we would like to introduce to you. Morris Mwangome was a past beneficiary of a Northern Magic Fund high school scholarship. He had been passionate about pursuing a degree in medicine and surgery since he was in primary school. Even then, he understood the challenges his country faced. One of those challenges was a shortage of doctors. Another was poverty and he knew that it was through education that he could break the cycle of poverty and provide solutions to other disadvantaged youth like him. He completed high school studies with excellent grades and after working for a few years, was offered a partial scholarship to Med School .. in Russia! Can you imagine leaving your home, your friends and family, living in a country far away and taking your medical school studies in a foreign language? Morris is doing very well and is, in fact, in his 5th year of a 7 year program. His scholarship pays his tuition fees however nothing else. He had appealed to us to continue our support for additional expenses (food, lodging, local transportation, books, medical supplies, etc). We were happy to do so. Although his training is abroad, Morris looks forward to returning to Kenya to start his medical practice.



Morris Mwangome

He wrote: *I had to beat all odds to become who I wanted to be. It was a tough journey. I had lost my dad a long time ago, my Mom was illiterate and my elder sister had dropped out of school. I had to help my Mom selling fried fish at the market so I could stay in school. I thank God after the primary school national exams, I emerged top pupil in our school. The light dimmed when I was supposed to start high school but because of lack of fees, could not. This is when the Northern Magic Fund came to my rescue. Through the fund's unflinching support, I excelled in secondary school and was the top student after my national exams with an A-. I now qualified to pursue a degree in medicine and even received an admission letter to the University of Nairobi but could not make it. The fees were simply too high. I was left with no other option but to stay at home, look for work and join later.*

After two years at home, working at every opportunity, I heard from a friend that the Russian Federation, through the Kenyan government, was offering partial scholarships to bright and needy students. Five slots were being offered for medicine and

surgery countrywide. I applied for the scholarship and on the 28th of October, 2014, I left Kenya for Russia and saw my dream coming true!

My studies here are conducted in Russian. The first year was a full course of Russian language training with only some basics in medicine and surgery. Different from most European countries, foreign students here are not allowed to work at all and this made my situation worse as I had no other means of generating a single coin for my upkeep. I am so grateful for your endless support which has made life easier for me as I can now focus on my studies.

I always remember a quote by Diane Stuemmer, "To the world you may be one person but to one person you may be the world." The Northern Magic Fund has been the world to many disadvantaged people like me and I'm going to work hard to keep the magic alive.

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!