



# Northern Magic Fund

Christmas 2020

## 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](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

At this time last year, no one could have predicted what the year ahead would bring. Who could have imagined that 2020 would be such an unprecedented and challenging year, a challenge shared by people around the world.

Just like here in Canada, students in Kenya were sent home in mid-March, originally intended to be a temporary measure to slow the spread of Covid-19, a virus we knew very little about. Unlike Canada, however, they were unable to continue their studies online as access to computers is a luxury they simply do not have. As the school year in Kenya begins in January, the students were only in their first semester when the lock down began. Our students were forced to stay home for the remainder of the school year which normally ends in November.

By mid-summer, when it became unlikely that students would be able to return to school this year, an opportunity to reallocate the funds was presented. The cost of tuition for the 160 students who were to attend high school in 2020 would cover tuition and living expenses for seven students to complete a four-year government-sponsored university program.

We asked the high school principals to submit scholarship applications for students who had applied and been accepted to university. To qualify for one of these scholarships, the student must have been sponsored by the

Northern Magic Fund in high school and must be financially needy. In order to help as many students as possible, preference was given to those accepted to a government-sponsored program.

From the applications we received, we were able to offer the gift of a university education to four female and three male students, accepted to a variety of programs:



Form 4 Students Return to Class

B.Sc. Nursing;  
B.Sc. Health Records With IT;  
B.Sc. Electrical and Electronic Engineering;  
Bachelor of Economics & Finance;  
Bachelor of Education;  
Bachelor of Education (Special Needs Education); and  
Bachelor of Commerce

These grateful students began their studies in September and while a few of them are currently attending virtual classrooms, the majority are settled in at their respective schools. We are assured that all of them will be in class by January.

These new university students join the six students who were already attending university programs on Northern Magic Fund scholarships.

When it became apparent that a computer at the university level is not a luxury, rather a necessity, we provided each of our post-secondary students with a laptop as part of their scholarship.

We wish all of our post-secondary students, both new and continuing, much success with their studies.

Our Form 4 students (last year of high school) returned to the

classroom in October. They will have the schools all to themselves while they complete their second term and will now be writing their National Secondary School final exams in March 2021.

The other secondary school grades, including those stu-

dents we had accepted from the 2020 application forms, will resume their studies in early January, picking up where they left off when the lock down began.

Many of you will remember Mrs. Christine Kahindi, the long-time principal of Katana Ngala Secondary School and the person who referred one of our very first students to us back in 2002. We had featured her in an earlier newsletter when she was awarded 2017 Principal of the Year which she attributed to her relationship with our Fund. She had said that she could now retire a very happy woman. It's official! We wish her congratulations on an outstanding career and best wishes in her well-deserved retirement. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with Katana Ngala's new principal, Mr. Kapanga Shuma.

# The Magic Continues

We had received many best wishes and words of encouragement from our donors in response to our story about Morris Mwangome, the student whom we introduced you to in last year's Christmas newsletter. Morris, attending med school at a university in Russia, certainly made an impression on our donors. It's no surprise. He is an impressive young man. Morris is now on the final leg of his journey, a journey not without challenges. We'll let him tell you in his own words:



Morris Mwangome

*This year hasn't been fair to me. First, as we were doing our routine medical checkup, I was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, an interstitial lung disease with no known treatment. Then came corona virus, a new disease that we had zero knowledge about. The virus made it even worse for me as I am now in a high risk group. I had a recent chest scan which showed that the fibrosis has not progressed. This is good news!*

*In March, the university was closed. We all went into lockdown. Studies turned online. This has been a very bad experience for all students. At some point, I thought about the disadvantaged students who have access to neither electricity nor internet. I'm extremely privileged to have access to both. All exams were conducted through Zoom video sessions.*

*In July, the lockdown was lifted. We could go out a little bit but with face masks and strictly observing social distancing. Wearing masks has become the new normal.*

*We resumed classes in September. Most classes are now offline. It's a great feeling to be back in class, to be back in hospital. That's where we belong!*

*I'm so excited to be in my last year. I will sit for my final exams in May 2021 with graduation scheduled for June. I am really looking forward to this day. It has been a long journey. I can't wait to return to Kenya, especially Kilifi county, to start practicing medicine. The community needs my services and I'm looking forward to helping them. Thank you to the Northern Magic Fund for your endless support. I truly appreciate it!*

*Finally, I'd like to advise people to observe the new normal. Wear masks and observe social distancing. The buck stops with us. We can rebuild our economy but we can't rebuild our lives! Let's observe all measures recommended by the WHO. We shall overcome this pandemic.*

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2021.*

## 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!