

Nourishing Minds

A Quarterly Newsletter published by The Jifunze Project

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The Jifunze Project works alongside individuals living in under-served parts of rural Tanzania to help them create innovative, empowering and sustainable educational opportunities that will expand their possibilities for livelihood and enrich their lives.

Happy 2nd Birthday CERC!



This July, we are excited to mark the CERC's second full year of programming. The past two years have been exciting ones, filled with amazing growth and change. While we were initially only able to offer services to our child and youth members, we are now pleased to have expanded to include members of all ages, ranging from early learners to adults. Over the past year we have also made exciting additions to our program offerings, including the Computer Program, which teaches members how to use modern technologies; a fantastic range of Saturday Programs, such as drawing and painting classes; and a number of additional enrichment groups like the Drama and Garden Clubs.

While we are pleased with our own progress and expansion, it has been even more exciting to witness the positive changes in the community itself. After two short years, we already see evidence of the CERC's impact in Kibaya. Before our work here began it was rare to see children reading outside of the classroom; however, since 2003, teachers and parents report an increase in pleasure reading among their children and students. We're so excited that the work of the CERC is helping to foster the development of a reading culture here in Kibaya. Thank you and congratulations to all the community members, staff, donors and other supporters who have made these past two years so successful. We wish the CERC many fruitful years to come and look forward to working together with all of you to fulfill this goal.

New Mural Brightens Up the CERC

Thanks to Susan Ketner, a visiting artist and Jifunze Project volunteer, a bright and freshly-painted mural covers the once-bare shipping container at the edge of the CERC playground. The mural, which is the result of collaboration between Susan and the CERC teachers, depicts various community groups joined together by the spreading



Visiting artist Susan Ketner has created a wonderful mural outside the CERC

branches of a tree. One section of the tree shows Maasai students learning the alphabet, while another shows young adults studying at the CERC. The mural also includes farmers and shopkeepers. The members of the center were excited to see the container evolve into a work of art. On many days, an audience of interested observers gathered to watch Susan paint. In addition to decorating the CERC grounds, we hope that the mural's theme of inclusiveness will also serve to make every member feel even more welcome and at home at the Center.

Hongera (Congratulations) Mary!



Executive Director Carrie Oelberger and Mary during Mary's visit to Philadelphia before beginning her fellowship in NYC

We would like to congratulate Mary Malekela, Jifunze Project Management Advisor, on her selection as a 2005 Ford Motor Company International Fellow. Mary was one of only four Tanzanians invited to represent their country at a three week fellowship conference in New York City. The fellowship program provided education and support to community leaders from around the world who

Don't take our word for it...

are engaged in community development. Fellows presented leadership challenges, drawn from their personal and professional experiences, for discussion with their colleagues from around the world. They also attended seminars and workshops on a variety of leadership and management topics.

We at Jifunze congratulate Mary on her prestigious accomplishment and look forward to the knowledge she will be able to put into practice here at the CERC!

Karibu (Welcome) Jenny!

Jenny Rabinowich, our newest Jifunze Project volunteer, joins us from the Haverford College Center for Peace and Global Citizenship. During her two month internship with Jifunze, Jenny will work to expand the CERC's health education program through collaboration with the CERC teachers. Some of the improvements in store are a new series of interactive activities focused on monthly health topics, the opportunity for CERC members to develop their own content for health displays, a health question box where members can anonymously submit questions to be discussed and answered, and the creation of a "health corner" where members can access health education resources.



Jenny enjoying her work at the CERC

Arts Group Tackles Issues of Domestic Violence in Latest Performance

Members of the Maarifa Arts Group, a local Kibayan drama/arts group, continue to make their home at the CERC, practicing five nights a week in the ELC room. Since February, Jifunze volunteer Emily Harney has worked to help the group build their dance and drama skills. Through movement classes, games, and improvisation Emily encourages them to push their limits and experiment with new techniques. Members have developed greater confidence in their skills, gained further understanding of their bodies ability to convey emotion, and improved their use of performance space. Committed to using theater to address community issues, the group put their new skills to use in creating and presenting an original work at the CERC in late June. The work focused on domestic violence and the complexity of gender relations in Tanzania. A short comedy sketch and a music/dance performance completed the program in which the members' passion for the arts came through strong and clear!



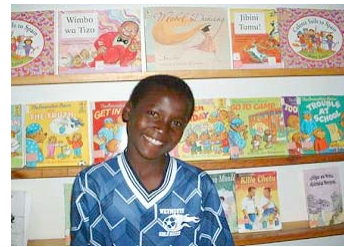
Drama club members practice for their latest performance

Let our members tell you themselves!

"... I was very appreciative of the programs which were offered at the CERC. The programs helped me very much in the national Form IV examination. For example, topics which were taught at the CERC – Environmental Conservation, Cholera, and Storytelling – assisted me with a number of the questions on the national examination. Also, the CERC was a very helpful place for me to complete personal study for my national examination. The large range of books at the CERC meant I could always find the book I needed when studying a specific topic. The CERC is such a great place that I know of fellow students who are studying (in boarding schools) outside the Kiteto District but frequently attend when they are home on their school holidays."



Haliba Maliki, Secondary Room (translated from Kiswahili)



"We really love Saturday Programs at the CERC because we learn so many things, like how not to get diseases, how to draw, science and caring for the environment."

Stanley Crecence, Primary Room (translated from Kiswahili)

Donor Spotlight: John Whitehead



John Whitehead, former Deputy Secretary of State and retired CEO of Goldman Sachs, has been an invaluable presence on our Advisory Board since its founding in 2001. In addition to the extensive advice and support he has offered, Mr. Whitehead has also supported Jifunze through numerous financial contributions through the Whitehead Foundation.

After leaving his post in Washington in 1990, Mr. Whitehead continued to serve as a dedicated philanthropist, active in many educational, civic and charitable organizations, including the Jifunze Project. He is a former president of the International Rescue Committee and has traveled the world for the cause of political refugees. In 2002, Mr. Whitehead was honored by The Aspen Institute receiving their Corporate Leadership Award. The institute lauded him for "developing a socially responsible private sector, building a well managed nonprofit world and championing a multilateral approach to resolving the world's most pressing problems," as well as "helping to redefine the private sector of the 21st century." We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Whitehead for his enormous and long-standing support of our work. His contributions to our development are too numerous to count.