

# Nourishing Minds

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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.*

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## Learning that Lasts

Could you learn to drive a car without sitting behind the wheel? Or become a master chef without using ingredients and recipes in a kitchen? Of course not... it's the opportunity to learn actively and gain hands-on experience which makes for successful learning. Active learning puts students in the driver's seat, creating learning that lasts.

The CERC's new *Elimu Vitendo* - "Active Learning" - program, launched in April 2006, is designed to



*Hands-on computers, Monday afternoons*

provide learners of all ages and abilities with the opportunity to learn through hands-on experience. As a result of difficult learning environments and a lack of familiarity with these methods, teachers in Kibaya are often unable to facilitate active learning in their classrooms.

Providing *Elimu Vitendo* activities at the center

enriches Kibaya's educational opportunities. Focusing on active learning techniques at the center introduces local teachers to the value of these methods and encourages their use in local classrooms.

The program began in the CERC's Primary and Children's Room with exploration of basic computing on Monday afternoons. More programs, including historical reenactments for Primary students and children, debates on free trade in the global economy for Secondary students and youth, and Medicinal Plant Cultivation for Adults, are being added regularly.

The *Elimu Vitendo* program promotes self-sustainability for the CERC. The concept, schedule and content of the program were all developed by the CERC's teaching staff. As such, the program represents the CERC's first independent venture in educational programming.

## Transition Moves CERC Closer to Self – Sustainability

May 4, 2006 marked the beginning of a major transition for Jifunze and the CERC. On that day, Mr. Bakari Mahanyu arrived at the center to begin his training and orientation as the new CERC Program Coordinator. Mr. Mahanyu's arrival is the result of a request to the Kiteto District Council that an additional teacher be assigned to the CERC to act as Program Coordinator, assuming many of the responsibilities formerly carried out by the Jifunze Program Development Advisor (PDA).

Since the CERC opened, the PDA position has played a vital role in supporting the development of educational programs. The replacement of the Jifunze PDA position with an internal CERC Program Coordinator is a major step towards self-sustainability for the CERC.

Supervised by the CERC Director, the new Program Coordinator is assuming responsibility for facilitating program development and managing the international internship program. Mr. Mahanyu, a local primary school teacher with a diploma in Education Management, has over 15 years of teaching experience,



*New CERC Program Coordinator, Mr. Mahanyu*

including facilitating seminars for fellow teachers on participatory classroom methods and English language instruction. His background, combined with his dedication to enhancing the educational opportunities

available to members of the Kibaya community, make him a valuable addition to the CERC team.

## Jifunze-CERC Makes Headlines!

On April 28, 2006, Jifunze and the CERC made national headlines in Tanzania. *Majira*, one of Tanzania's foremost national newspapers published a feature length article on the Jifunze Project and the CERC. The article praised the CERC as a model for education development in Tanzania, and urged the local and national government to support its work to the greatest possible extent. The article can be found on our website at: [www.jifunze.org/about/press.htm](http://www.jifunze.org/about/press.htm)

## Congratulations on a Job Well Done!

In May 2006, Jifunze saw the successful completion of the first CERC Project Assessment.

In addition to gathering background information on education in the Kiteto District, the assessment consisted of performing a survey of the Kibaya community's awareness of the resources and programs available at the CERC. Also, a survey of current members' usage of and attitudes towards the center was performed.



*Awareness assessment reaches community-wide*

The survey was conducted by CERC teachers working in teams. They surveyed over 750 students at the six nearby primary schools, as well as 142 students at the Secondary school. In addition, they surveyed community members, visiting twenty households in each of Kibaya's five surrounding villages, returning surveys from 125 adults and 15 youths not attending school. The information gathered in the community awareness survey together with views gathered from current CERC members will allow the CERC to more successfully tailor its programs to meet the educational needs of the community. The following is an excerpt from the *CERC Assessment Outcome Summary*:

"The CERC Project Assessment succeeded in surveying 1,656 people from the surrounding community... of those without CERC membership the majority had prior knowledge of the Center before the day of the survey... and a large proportion were interested in becoming CERC members. 84 percent of the overall sample responded that they would like to join. When asked why the respondent would not like to join, lack of time due to other commitments was a common answer. Of those who were current CERC members, many felt that the wide selection of resources was what they appreciated most about the CERC. "

The fruits of the assessment are already appearing. Since completion of the survey the CERC has already experienced an influx of new members, especially in the Primary and Children's Room and the Basic Literacy Program. Also, a new kindergarten class, from Ngarenaro Primary School, has joined the Early Learning Center.

## Kwa Heri Kait

After more than nine months of living and working together, in early June we said goodbye to Jifunze Intern Kaitlin Decker. Staff and volunteers gathered together in the Secondary and Youth Room to take tea together and wish Kait all the best.



*Kaitlin with CERC Staff*

During her time with Jifunze, Kait worked as Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, supervising an overhaul of the center's user and membership statistics collection system. Kait also collaborated with CERC staff to carry out the first ever Community Awareness Assessment. Her excellent work will have a lasting impact on the center's sustainability, providing staff and management with accurate data and the skills with which to continue to assess the center's programs.

## Donor Spotlight: The Rodeph Sholom School

We would like to extend our greatest appreciation to the staff and students of the Rodeph Sholom School in Manhattan, New York City. As part of their annual Tamchui Project, which teaches students of all ages about the world of international development, the school organized for a generous donation to be made to the Jifunze Project along with two other organizations.

Tamchui was an excellent experience for everyone involved. The students not only generated the funds for donation but also took the initiative to learn about the organizations and their respective causes, participating in activities and talks to greater their understanding of international development. The Rodeph Sholom School sets a remarkable example of empowering education.

## Change of Address

We would like to take this opportunity to inform all of our readers that Jifunze's official address has changed.

If you would like to send correspondence or donations via post please use:

517 Summit Court, Media, PA 19063. Thank you!