

Nourishing Minds

A Quarterly Newsletter published by the Jifunze Project

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517 Summit Court
Media, PA 19063
U.S.A.

email: info@jifunze.org
website: www.jifunze.org

Box 67
Kibaya – Kiteto – Manyara
Tanzania
tel: +255.27.255.5332/5372
email: info@kitetocerc.org
website: www.kitetocerc.org



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.

Volume 5 Issue 1

January 2007

It's Official!

We are very proud to report that on November 15th, 2006 the Kiteto CERC was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Tanzania, the Honorable Edward Lowassa. Although the CERC has been in operation since July 2003, this is the first time a representative of the national government has been present to officially open the building, as per the Tanzanian custom. Mr. Lowassa was joined by a number of other ministers from the Tanzanian Parliament, all of whom were very impressed by the CERC and the programs it offers to the Kiteto community.

In addition to performing the opening, the Prime Minister was able to participate in a community



Prime Minister takes a tour of the CERC

forum wherein the CERC leadership presented the history, mission and goals of the CERC, as well as the challenges it has faced along the way. Immediately responding to some of the challenges presented by the CERC leadership, Mr. Lowassa pledged to provide the funding necessary to construct an additional water tank to harvest rain water and requested that the Kiteto District Council

make internet access available to the CERC at no charge.

The visit and praise received by the Honorable Edward Lowassa has greatly strengthened our goal of

achieving national recognition of the CERC model in Tanzania. During his visit, Mr. Lowassa also responded to the issue of national recognition and promised to further discuss the matter with his colleagues in Parliament. It is our hope that national recognition will not only enhance the ability for the Kiteto CERC to serve its community, but also provide the framework for the

initiation of other CERCs throughout the country.

Over the last 3 years our remarkable success has not gone without notice in Tanzania, and many people outside of Kiteto have expressed interest in bringing the CERC model to their communities. We see it as imperative however, that before expanding our presence in Tanzania we receive strong backing from the national government to ensure lasting sustainability. It is our aim that over the next year we will be able to continue the conversation with Mr. Lowassa and his colleagues to ensure not just the success of the Kiteto CERC, but also to provide the means to expand our mission within Tanzania: to continue creating "innovative, empowering, and sustainable educational opportunities that will expand... possibilities for livelihood and enrich... lives"!

We would like to thank all those who donated to the Jifunze Project in 2006, for supporting our goals and making our success possible.

CERC in the Community

Two recent events, World Aids Day and Uhuru Day (Independence Day), had the CERC out in the community, displaying its resources and programs for all. World Aids Day took place on December 1st. Mkuki, the CERC's own youth music group provided an original educational performance which focused on the effects of HIV/AIDS on families and communities. Following the performance, a well-known doctor from the Kiteto hospital gave an informative presentation on the physical aspects of the disease. Attendees left with a more thorough and accurate understanding of HIV/AIDS, and a new perspective of its effect on their lives.

The second event, Uhuru Day, took place on December 9th. After joining in the yearly parade through Kibaya, the staff of Jifunze and the CERC



Community kids gather to check out CERC computers

set up a tent devoted to introducing community members to the center. In the tent, passersby could check out toys and games for children, academic

books, and even computers. The tent received a constant flow of excited individuals over the course of the day.

In all, it was an excellent opportunity to break down barriers and speak one on one with many members of the community. We expect to see many from the Kiteto community coming to use the CERC.

Welcome New Volunteers!

The Jifunze Project is pleased to receive two new volunteers to its Tanzanian staff, Christina Villanueva and Will Bryson, through its fruitful partnership with VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas).

Christina Villanueva comes to us from the Philippines where she has been working as a pre-school teacher for over 8 years. Christina will be using her extensive experience in collaboration with Christina Gabriel, the Early Learning Center (ELC)



New volunteers, Will and Christina

Coordinator, to further improve the programs offered to the kindergarten students of Kibaya. With her assistance, the services of the ELC will also be extended to the Kindergarten teachers themselves through the creation of a resource library and trainings.

Will Bryson will take action in the Computer Lab of the CERC, holding staff trainings, community classes, not to mention keeping up with the day to day maintenance of the CERC's technological resources. Originally from England, but a 10 year resident of Scotland, Will holds a B.A. in Computer Science. His skills are vital to the development of the CERC's computer program.

Both Will and Christina will be working with us for 18 months allowing them the time necessary to promote exceptional growth at the CERC!



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