

# NOURISHING MINDS

*A Bi-Annual Newsletter Published by the Jifunze Project*

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## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



A VISIT BY THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER, ANDREW MCALISTER



ZAINABU MRISHO AND IDD JUMA ISMAIL RECEIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS



THE CERC PARTICIPATES IN A COMMUNITY EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE CIVIL SERVANTS DAY



## NATIONAL SUPPORT GAINS MOMENTUM

At the end of March we were thrilled to welcome a visit from the Prime Minister's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG). Representatives of the office came to the CERC in order to complete a full report of its operations, allowing the issue of CERC National Recognition to be discussed by Parliament.

While in Kiteto, the guests worked extremely hard to learn all the facets of CERC operation and management, most days working until 10pm! Greatly assisted in their work by Mary Malekela, Jifunze Management Advisor, and Yahaya Ndee, CERC Director, the representatives spent four days in Kibaya filled with meetings and discussions with CERC members, staff and local government officials. The representatives were greatly impressed by what they had learned and completed a favorable twenty-seven page report.

This visit came as a follow up to the CERC's official opening by the Prime Minister himself in November 2006. Since his visit, we have continued to discuss recognition on both the regional and national level. Thus far, the interest and support we have garnered from individuals throughout Tanzania is promising.

## GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FUN!

Earlier this month, the CERC hosted its first field day on the newly constructed play area adjacent to the CERC grounds. The play area, which offers a space where children and adolescents can participate in educational games and sports activities, is equipped with netball and volleyball courts, as well as a large open space for games and other activities. Children participating in the inaugural festivities were encouraged to invite their parents to enjoy the activities, giving those who were unfamiliar with the CERC a chance to learn more about its educational offerings for both their children and themselves.



A PORALG REPRESENTATIVE CHATS TO PRIMARY MEMBERS ABOUT THE CERC



MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN A THREE-LEGGED RACE AS FRIENDS AND FAMILY LOOK ON

(cont. on pg. 2)



A VOLLEYBALL MATCH BETWEEN PRIMARY MEMBERS

The idea of constructing an additional play space at the CERC was in large part due to the success of our playground, which opened in early 2004. The playground is filled with children's laughter throughout the day and is an example of our holistic approach to education, allowing our young members to learn through play. The playground is used daily as

part of Early Learning Centre activities and is open as a place to unwind for our Primary and Youth members after their study time.

In January our playground received very high praise when Victoria Dunning, Director of Grant Making for the Global Fund for Children, called the playground "the best [she'd] seen in East Africa"! She went on to comment that, "the children's laughter and playing was a refreshing contrast to the often serious, often challenged reality. The Jifunze oasis is a place to play and learn, as it should be".

We are extremely proud of our work at the CERC and are pleased to know that our supporters appreciate our dedication to providing an atmosphere that is both fun and challenging for all ages. It is this which allows us to be a truly effective Community Education Resource Center.

If you would like to read more about Victoria's trip to the CERC please visit [www.jifunze.org/press.htm](http://www.jifunze.org/press.htm) where you can find a link to the article quoted above.



MEMBERS PERFORM CARTWHEELS DURING THE GYMNASICS COMPETITION

## BRIDGING THE GAP

In May, Jifunze's Senior Program Manager, Thomas Robson, traveled to Tanzania as part of our new bi-annual strategic planning schedule. Until 2006, Jifunze had held international strategic planning retreats between the U.S. and Tanzania offices on a yearly basis. It was decided however, that as we move closer to the completion of our capacity building program, these visits will become increasingly necessary to meet our goal of a July 2008 phase out.

During his May visit, Thomas held meetings with Jifunze's NGO partners as well as government officials, CERC management team members and leadership, in order to assess our progress thus far and establish directions, goals, and targets for the next six months.

Thomas will return to Tanzania in October of 2007 for a series of meetings with national government representatives, to ensure the support needed to guarantee the CERC's sustainability for many years to come. Additionally, Thomas hopes to overlap with our newest VSO volunteers due to arrive in Kibaya in late October so that he may help orient them to their new lives in Kibaya.