



NEWSLETTER, JULY – AUGUST 2009

1. First graduation

Give a Heart To Africa is proud to introduce its first class of graduates.



Out of 24 students, 20 completed our 3 months course in English, Business and Computers. 16 of our students graduated, 9 with Honours and 7 with Merit. It was quite an achievement for them all as most of our students have never used a computer before, some did not know how to multiply and divide, most have only primary education and some have not been in school in over 20 years. But receiving education was very important to them so in order to pass, they formed small study groups and studied late after school, they took turns practicing computers in the afternoon, they were teaching each other how to calculate a profit and quizzed each other for final exams. So when they came up to receive their certificate as their friends and family cheered them on, it was a very proud moment in their life. And we were immensely proud of them.

2. Home Visits

In order to get to know our students better, to learn about their lives and to understand their struggles better, we visited two of our students each Friday. As a token of appreciation we brought with us a small gift, such as 1kg of rice and a carton of juice but it certainly did not compare with their generosity. Considering that some of our students live on a dollar a day with which they have to feed their children, the fact that they cooked food for us, prepared fruit or bought us soda was very humbling to us all and clearly a testament to their level of hospitality and generosity. We were fortunate enough to be invited to their homes and meet their families, and have a small window into their life. After conducting these home visits, we began to understand just how much our students struggle to support their children and for this reason we have decided to start an 'Adopt a Family' program

3. Adopt a Family

Adopt a Family program is designed to help selected students with school fees, food supplies and business capital. These students were carefully chosen and interviewed to ensure that the program will be very targeted and effective. Names of these students, photos and their stories are posted on our website along with a table format description of their immediate needs so we encourage you to learn more about their lives (www.giveahearttoafrika.org) Should you, your family or your friends decide to adopt one of those families, please, contact us at monika@giveahearttoafrika.org Your donation can be for a very specific cause such as Helen's school fees or a bag of maize for Calvin's family but specially given the high school fees we understand that it may take several donors to reach the full amount so we truly appreciate a donation of any size. Once donations are made, our website will be updated regularly to inform you of the amount outstanding and/or completed. 100% of your donation will go to support our student's families and GHTA volunteers will ensure that the full amount is indeed applied for the specific cause, thus our volunteers will accompany our students to the school of their choice and pay the school fees, they will purchase the bag of maize or rice and deliver it to our students. Should you wish, you can keep in touch with your adopted family via e-mail as all of our students now have an e-mail account and continue to improve their typing and computer skills. We truly thank you for your help and support in this regard as education is the only way out of poverty. Unfortunately, in Tanzania even primary and secondary education is quite expensive, leaving behind generations of uneducated young women and men who could otherwise be very productive and contributing members of their society.

4. Our Volunteers

We would like to express special thanks to our International and Tanzanian volunteers who were kind enough to help us out during the months of July and August. We could not have completed our first semester without them!

Celine Brinck – Germany/France

Celine was supposed to volunteer with GHTA for 4 weeks but fell in love with our students and the children in our after school program and decided to extend her stay by 7 weeks. She continued to find new ways to teach our students computers, she stayed with them in the afternoon to answer their questions and she coached them through their final exams. We truly appreciate all of her support and dedication



Katy Mackenzie – Scotland

Katy responded to one of our fliers which we posted in Arusha, a city located approximately 1 hr from Moshi, and we cannot imagine this semester without her. Katy planned on staying for 2 weeks and then travel for 6 weeks but she ended up teaching for 4 weeks and even cut her vacation short to attend our graduation. She started a conversation program with our students every Thursday which was an immense help to our students.



Stephanie Muccilli – Canada

Stephanie is a recent graduate from McGill University majoring in International Development and African studies and her knowledge of Kiswahili was very welcome and appreciated by our students. She immersed herself in the Tanzanian culture, eager to explore and learn. Her warm spirit and outgoing personality allowed her to bond with our students the first day she met them and they immediately welcomed her to their homes. She was an immense help during final exams and graduation and we look forward to sharing with you a video documentary she made her and will edit upon her return to Canada.



Emanuel Shani - Tanzania

Emanuel has been volunteering in our school every day for the last 2 months without ever expecting anything in return, just wanting to help his fellow Tanzanians. He helped us translate during class, he translated our lesson plans and final exams and he truly cared about our students. We could have never done it without him!



Herson Mwangwala - Tanzania

Herson came to our school every day with Emanuel and joined us for home visits as well. He has been instrumental in translating our lesson plans and final exams even on the weekends and we wish him only the best in his studies as began to attend a Safari Management College 4 weeks ago.



Gidion Njuga - Tanzania

Gidion teaches at Moshi University and has been kind enough to take time from his busy schedule and teach accounting in our school every Thursday morning. Our students benefited from his presence and raved about his teaching style. We would also like to congratulate him on his recent marriage to his lovely wife Pendo.



Masoud Njau - Tanzania

Masoud is an owner of a local computer supplies and repairs shop and not only has he volunteered teaching computers in our school but he also fixed our laptops free of charge.



5. Human Rights

Aginatha from the local Human Rights department was kind enough to present to our students on the topic of history of human rights in Tanzania, marriage law and family law. This presentation was very beneficial to our students as most of them are not aware of their basic rights and we look forward to more presentations in the next semester.

6. Next Steps

We will be interviewing and signing up new students on September 1st and 3rd and Give a Heart To Africa's next semester will begin on September 7th. We will also offer an intermediate course to those students who completed our beginners course with honours and/or put significant effort into their studies. Our intermediate course is structured to be very challenging and fast paced, we will introduce a 'discussion group' once/week on pre-selected topics such as history, politics, philosophy, literature etc. in order for our students to gain a broader perspective. We will also purchase a library card for our intermediate students so they can continue to learn and explore other subjects.

Thank you kindly for all your support

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to visit our website www.giveahearttoafrika.org

Or contact us at info@giveahearttoafrika.org

You may also follow us at www.giveahearttoafrika.blogspot.com or join our Facebook group – Volunteer in Tanzania . Give a Heart To Africa

Sincerely, Monika Fox
General Manager

