



NEWSLETTER, JANUARY – MARCH 2010

1. Graduation

On April 2nd, 23 of our students completed Give a Heart To Africa's six month course in English, Business and Computers and five of our students graduated with honours. Our top 5 students were Salma (90%), Upendo (84%), Azizi (83%), Selina (81%), and Agatha (81%). We would like to congratulate all of our students. Despite their difficult living conditions and arduous lives, they studied very hard over the last six months and completed our program with success.



2. Success Stories

Happy & Neema Coffee Company

Happy and Neema are the first students whom Give a Heart to Africa was able to assist in starting their own business. They are very hard-working single moms, each supporting 3 children on their own, so finally having a steady income has given them the financial security for which they were longing. They are the proud owners of a small coffee company. They purchase coffee beans, roast them, grind them, package them, and sell them to customers and businesses alike. We wish them all the best and would like to express sincere thanks to Rich who very generously sponsored their business.



Luvitan

Lusajo is our recent graduate who opened up a stationary store at Ushirika university where he offers primarily printing, photocopying and typing services to students and local schools. He works very hard, at one point holding 3 jobs and going to school, and we hope that the business fundamentals which he learned in our school will translate into a successful business.



Upendo

One week before graduation, one of our top students, Upendo, was able to find a job at a climbing & safari company in town where she will continue to learn about the daily operations of a small business. She will also be able to further improve her English as she will be in daily contact with tourists. Upendo's dream is to become a teacher so securing steady employment will allow her to save money for teacher's college, which she hopes to attend in 2011. She is a lovely young woman, always pleasant and smiling, and she will definitely make a wonderful teacher some day.



Salma, Miriam, and Selina

Over the next 3 months, Give a Heart To Africa will assist Salma, Miriam and Selina in starting their own businesses. We will provide an update in our next newsletter. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these students, please contact GHATA for more information.

3. Library

Every six months, Give a Heart To Africa purchases library cards for its intermediate students to encourage them to read and study after school. Each library card costs 10,000 Tsh and, given that many of our students live on 50,000 Tsh a month, this is simply unaffordable for them. We were very pleased to see that after receiving their library cards, many of our students used the library as a quiet place to study as well as signing out various books every 2 weeks.



4. Internet Café

As part of their computer studies, all of our students received a 2 hour internet course at a local internet café. They each received an e-mail account and were familiarized with Google and Wikipedia.



5. Barclay's Bank Presentation

Barclay's bank manager, Edward Noah, was kind enough to visit our school and present to our students on the Tanzanian banking system and how to open a bank account. Statistically, only 11% of Tanzanian citizens own a bank account. Our students found his presentation to be very informative and truly helpful to those who are planning to start their own business.



6. Interviews and new semester

Give a Heart To Africa's volunteers interviewed over 80 hopeful students on April 3rd and, of those, we chose 40 students who began their six month study adventure on April 6th. We will update you on their progress in our next newsletter.



7. New house and school

On April 2nd Give a Heart To Africa moved to its new home. We are very pleased to have a new school next to our house built by our landlord. Our volunteers no longer have to carry laptops every day and our students do not have to walk as far as they used to. The house is also closer to town so it's more convenient for our volunteers. We are all happy with our lovely new home and school.



8. Adopt a Family

As mentioned in our previous newsletters, Give a Heart To Africa strives to support some of its students and their families financially. With your very generous donations, we were able to send two of our former students (Siyanga and Calvin) as well as the daughter (Helen) of one of our students (Happy) to High School. As the education system in Tanzania is extremely expensive and virtually unaffordable for the majority of its citizens, we would like to continue this program.

Thus, we would like to introduce to you two of our former students who are in dire need of assistance in order to improve their lives

Neema Peter Munishi

Give a Heart to Africa focuses on students over the age of 20, however 'Baby Neema' was one of our exceptions. Originally not accepted during the first round of interviews, she came back to get another chance. When we told her we were not able to accept her because she is only 16 years old, she broke into tears. She asked for a chance to attend our school because both of her parents are HIV positive and do not have the money to send her to school. GHTA accepted her and she completed our school program, however Baby Neema is too young to start her own business.

Further education is truly the only way for Neema to have a better future. She very much wants to complete her High School Education and would be very grateful to have the chance to do so. GHTA is asking for your kind support to send Neema back to school.



Azizi Athumani Kipitu

Azizi was definitely one of the brightest students Give a Heart To Africa has the privilege of educating thus far. He completed our 6 months course 2 weeks ago and graduated with Honours. He was born in Tanga to a family of 6 children. He is 26 years old and unfortunately both of his parents passed away so he moved to Moshi to find a better life. He lives with his friend Ibra (in the red t-shirt) who has been a great moral and financial support to him. Azizi's dream is to obtain a University Degree in Business Administration but as a first step towards his goal, he has to finish his High School Education. GHTA is asking for your kind support to send Azizi back to school.



9. Volunteers

Give a Heart To Africa would like to thank its International Volunteers for their support and dedication, for volunteering their time and warmly embracing our students. It is solely thanks to our volunteers, their volunteer fees and fundraising efforts, that Give a Heart To Africa is able to continue to support its school, students and the students' businesses. THANK YOU!!!!!!

Vanessa – Canada



Lisa – Canada



Jamie – USA



Sarah – USA



Alison – Canada



Tristan – Canada



Alex – Canada



Eve – Canada



Sandy – Greece/USA



Danielle – Canada



Laura – UK



Akina – Canada



Matthew – UK



Wouter - Denmark



International Volunteers are vital to the sustainability of our organization, so should you or anybody you know be interested in volunteering, please do not hesitate to contact GHTA for more information.

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 read stories written by our volunteers at www.giveahearttoafrika.blogspot.com or join our Facebook Cause – Give a Heart To Africa and Group – Volunteer in Tanzania . Give a Heart To Africa

Sincerely, Monika Fox
General Manager

