



Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust- Foxes' NGO

Mufindi Moments

October/November 2015

Foxes' NGO Celebrates First Form Four Graduate!

The first is undoubtedly the most memorable. This month, Foxes' NGO celebrated the Form Four graduation of Datrai Masonda, the first of our Children's Village children to complete Form Four. (Form Four is the last year of O-level.) Over the years, she has worked steadily through school as a shining example to her peers of the power of education when taken seriously. It should also be noted that as a girl, Datrai's accomplishment is even greater; girls are far less likely to complete their secondary school education nationwide due to unequal gendered policies.



Former sponsored student, Ngojea, offers congratulations to Datrai.

On Graduation Day, over 50 people from Foxes' NGO came out to support Datrai in this exciting day, including our wonderful friends from African Book Box who have helped to raise funds for education initiatives like student sponsorship from which Datrai has benefited. At the Graduation Ceremony, Senior Manager Geoff Knight was the guest of honor on behalf

of Chairman of the Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust and gave a great speech that reflected on his days as a teacher in Mafinga. He ended with a song, to which all the parents and students sang and danced.

Also during the ceremony, the headmaster and school board recognized the achievements of Datrai as the first vulnerable child (orphan) to complete Form Four at Madisi Secondary School. Donations were collected from attendees that will go towards an education fund for future vulnerable children and their studies. After the ceremony, everyone gathered together in a classroom for a huge feast, complete with soda and beef! This is not the end of the road for Datrai either. After her Form Four exams, she will continue on to her A-level studies (Form 5 & 6), and then university!

Her plan is to attend Medical School and become a doctor. If she puts her mind to it, there is nothing Datrai can't do!



African Book Box Friends Arrive On-site!

Each year, Foxes' NGO welcomes members of the board for our Canadian partner charity, African Book Box (www.africanbookbox.com) to visit their Mufindi friends, visit their projects, and plan for the upcoming year. Beginning in September, Foxes' NGO has played host to ABB once again with the arrival of Birgit, a director of the board for ABB, her husband Allan, and their two sisters (and nurses!) Hanne and Donna. Birgit dedicated her time aiding the finance department in identifying more efficient reporting systems and mapping out plans for the voca-

tional school. Allan capitalized on his mechanical prowess, helping to fix anything with an engine! Nurses Hanne and Donna spent many hours working tirelessly in the on-site clinic, bringing a special focus on wound care. This hard-working group was joined by Anne and Ruth, directors of the board for ABB. Now with all three directors on-site, exciting meetings between the ABB Board, FCWCT Board, and senior Management have commenced as all look toward making 2016 the most successful year yet!

AFRICAN
CHILDREN'S
BOOK
BOX
SOCIETY



Kindergarten Outreach Program hosts Second Week-long Seminar

This month, we had our second week long seminar for our Interactive kindergarten outreach program! We had 24 teachers in attendance from nine villages and twelve classrooms. On the first day, our 24 kindergarten teachers were joined by 12 village leaders, head teachers, representatives of the schools, chairmen of the school committees and the district education officer. They came to learn about our program, see it in action and learn how they can better support their kindergarten teachers. Over the course of the rest of the week, the teachers covered many topics including: the history of Maria Montessori, sensitive periods of a child's development, classroom management, how to create and keep a prepared environment in the class, how to engage their school committees, and how to become a better teacher. They also learned how to make and teach materials for the different subject areas of the classroom. They made materials for teaching sensorial and practical life and learned how to teach 14 math materials and 8 language materials.

We had two wonderful guest lecturers visit from the Olive Branch for Children (OBFC) in Mbeya to lead the seminar- Farajala and Duadi. This was Farajala's third time visiting Mufindi as a leading Kindergarten teacher and Duadi's first! They are both talented and vetted teachers in Mbeya and the OBFC

programs. A Finnish university lecturer named Hannele also gave invaluable input during this seminar as she has extensive expertise in early childhood education. Anne and Ruth from our Canadian partner char-



Kindergarten Teachers pose with their new certificates!

ity, African Book Box, surprised the teachers with a morning seminar. They told wonderful stories and taught how to use books in the classroom, which the teachers loved! It was a very fun and exciting week with lots of ideas being shared.

Bethi, interim head teacher of the Interactive Learning Kindergarten, raved about the seminar, saying, "I loved learning how to make stories and

change stories to adapt them to our environment here. And how to use easy language when telling stories so that the kids will understand." This sentiment was shared by other teachers as well. Kindergarten teacher Wanini shared her thoughts on story-telling, saying, "I enjoyed learning what the development of a story should be. Even those who don't have access to books can learn to tell stories." Many of the teachers loved learning about the history of Maria Montessori. Pre-school teacher Doricus explained, "I was very happy to learn a more thorough history of Maria Montessori. It was so interesting for me to learn when it all started."

The Kindergarten Outreach Program will continue beyond this seminar. Each school and teacher will receive numerous follow-up visits to monitor and evaluate the progress of the teacher and classroom. All participating teachers left with a standing invitation to the monthly seminars. Schools that were new to the program also left with a mobile library book box for use at their school. Also, prizes were given out for performance and participation during the seminar!

C.I.E.E. Student Interns Arrive for Another Exciting Semester!

It is that time of year again! Our favorite CIEE student interns have returned once again to Mufindi to engage in research, village homestays, and service. CIEE or the Council for International Educational Exchange has been a formal partner of Foxes' NGO since April of 2014. Since then, the NGO has worked closely with the study-abroad exchange program. Students arrive in Mufindi to conduct field research on an NGO-approved topic that aids in illuminating project successes and short-comings. This year such topics include a comparative analysis of our Milk Powder Program and an in-depth look at barriers and facilitators of Vocational (sewing school) School

participation. On November 1st, 12 excited students arrived to the NGO to begin their field research. During their month-long stay, students will live in village homestays spread throughout 6 different villages to conduct research with the help of a local Tanzanian Research Assistant. On weekends, students return to the NGO to participate in trainings and volunteer work. Also while living in the village, students are aiding the NGO in designing and disseminating a World Aids Day campaign, working towards the ambitious goal of getting 1,000 people tested during the World Aids Day celebration/vigil held on December 1st in Igoda Village. Karibuni kwa wote!



CIEE students engaged in a mind-mapping activity that allowed them to explore concepts they encounter at the NGO like development and HIV.

New Energy-Saving Stoves Make an NGO Debut

We have a saying at Foxes' NGO- any friend of Dr. Leena's is a friend of ours! And that continues to hold true! Florian Knaus, a former Engineers without Borders volunteer, has spent the last 3 months working across Tanzania to introduce a new energy saving, smokeless stove made from locally re-sourced materials. When Dr. Leena met him at Illembula Hospital aiding in a stove construction project, she invited him to visit Mufindi and teach NGO staff to construct this new stove funded by



Florian demonstrates the brick-laying technique!

Mufindin Ystavat, Friends of Mufindi in Finland. The stove uses clay bricks, dried in the sun, and baked once the stove is complete. With the help of a handful of fundis (contractors), House Mamas, and guest house cooks, Florian led the construction of this stove over the course of two jam-packed days. The first morning of the seminar, Florian taught a class on the dangers of smoke inhalation from kitchen fires, explaining how inhaling the smoke of a "three stone" stove has the same health risks as

smoking cigarettes, particularly for women and children who spend more time in the kitchens than anyone else. This class also reviewed the mechanics of the stove. Low energy means that this stove uses a fraction of the amount of firewood that other stoves use, with the cooking pots sitting inside the clay stove to cook food faster. An example of this stove was constructed during the seminar to be used for the nursery and kindergarten classrooms to cook lunch each day. Based on the reception and success of the stove, the NGO will consider building these stoves for each of the Children's Village houses. Thank you, Florian!



The finished product!

Home-Based Care Monthly Seminars Kick-off!

On Wednesday October 21st, the Home-based Care Program held its first of the regular monthly seminars, planned to educate Home-based Care volunteers on health initiatives. The Home-based Care Program (HBC) is a program made up of 20 local Tanzanian volunteers in 10 villages who live and work in their home village to advocate for those too sick to leave their houses. HBC volunteers act as the eyes and ears of Foxes' NGO, helping to streamline visiting doctors to those patients in need, disseminate notices about upcoming mobile clinics, and educate their community members about health risks like HIV, Tuberculosis, alcohol consumption etc.



HBC volunteers are often the first responders to medical emergencies in their communities. Because of this, the more information they have, the better they can assess a medical need. With the help of Nurses Hanne and Donna, who have specialized training in wound care, a seminar was designed to educate volunteers on assess-

ing the status of a wound and treatment. The seminar was kicked off with a brief overview of the NGO administration by Manager Jenny Peck and Head of Administration Isaya Mwila. The aim was to help volunteers better understand the resources at their disposal and the support they will be given on various challenges they encounter. Next, Hanne and Donna began their talk about wound care with a review of bacteria and the skin's role in preventing bacteria from entering the body. They then explained the various types of wounds one may encounter and how to assess the healing of the wound based on the color! A colorful handout was designed, laminated, and given to all the HBC volunteers detailing the information. Red is a healthy healing wound. If a wound is yellow in color, that means that you need to take the patient to the clinic because infection is coming. And if the wound is black, the patient must be taken to the clinic immediately! To hammer home this lesson, three cakes were baked with different color frosting. HBC volunteers identified the "health status" of the three cakes and then ate them! The day wrapped up with a practical lesson on wound treatment, with HBC volun-

teers changing a dressing themselves on a wound care patient.

It was a great day of educational fun and a wonderful culmination to Hanne and Donna's time spent at the NGO. Thank you so much, Hanne and Donna! Your work will live continue to live on in the education of the HBC volunteers.



The seminar finished with a practical session on wound dressing.

Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust was established in 2005 to support projects aimed at combating the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Mufindi district of Tanzania in East Africa. This project came to be known as Foxes' NGO. We aim to provide shelter, sustenance, education, and medical care for orphans, other vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS within the project area. This work is made possible through the partnership of our sister charities all around the world— Orphans in the Wild (UK), Mufindi Orphans (USA), African Book Box (CA), Mufindin Ystavat (FN).



Mufindi's First Halloween Parade!

Queens, kings, firemen, princesses, and mosquitoes. This was Halloween in Mufindi! And it was a wonderful first Halloween! In the late afternoon of Oct. 31st, children gathered in the office led by Manager Jenny Peck and Medical Co-operant Henna, to make masks and hats for their costumes. After a quick practice session of "Trick or Treat" ("First, you knock on the door..."), the children marched to Dr. Leena's house where they performed their first "Trick or Treat" and received candy and cookies! Then, they made their way to Protea Guest



The Halloween Parade led by a New Zealand All-Black!

House where they met Anne and Ruth who greeted the Trick or Treaters with enthusiasm and more candy! Next, the children hit Mianzi Guest House and then stopped at each Children's Village house to greet the House Mamas, show off their costumes, and get candy. Though Trick or Treating is not a Tanzanian custom (or Halloween), the children immediately understood the fun of the game and

enjoyed dressing up and eating candy! They cannot wait for next year's Halloween parade!



Trick or Treaters at Dr. Leena's House!



Trick or Treaters found their way to Protea House to visit Mama Anne and Mama Ruth!

Candid Camera Around the Children's Village



Manager Jenny Peck poses with her former students from her Peace Corps Days as a secondary school teacher! Everyone looks so grown up!



Fellow secondary school students pose with Datrai on her big day!

Kindergarten Teacher Daudi from Mbeya opens the seminar with a history of Maria Montessori!

