

Education Is Power Graduates Show Results



EIP Graduate, Zipporah Mugure

For Canadians, being far into the northern hemisphere, we see December as a dark cold month; however, if we take a trip to Kenya and Tanzania things are warm and bright - and so are the results of Education Is Power with nine post secondary graduates shining through in 2016!



EIP Graduate, Stephen Kamau (right)

See summary of graduates at the end of the newsletter.

Support EIP's Triple Hope Campaign

Until the end of 2016, you can triple your impact by supporting EIP's Triple Hope Campaign. Thanks to the incredible opportunity from the Karen and Fred Green Fund of the Vancouver Foundation, for this short time before 2017, Education Is Power will receive \$3 for every \$1 donated to support our online campaign co-led by Spencer Middle School in Victoria, BC and Prince of Wales Secondary in Vancouver, BC. Students from these two schools are pioneering EIP's new outreach programs which utilize Skype video chat to link young Canadians with their East African counterparts. These outreach programs are designed to inspire young people to become more involved in making a better world, while also contributing to fundraising actions that support EIP's educational initiatives in East Africa. Please check out the campaign at www.educationispower.org/campaign and donate to Education Is Power to have your donation tripled.



Spencer Middle School in Victoria BC Skype chats with Kenyan high school students, Dec 2016

As of December 29th, EIP is just over halfway to reaching its \$10,000 target which is the maximum amount that will qualify for our triple impact matching funds grant by the Karen and Fred Green Fund of Vancouver Foundation. Donations can be made online or offline. Please visit our Triple Hope Campaign at www.educationispower.org/campaign to donate and learn more. Thank you so much to those that have already contributed!



Spencer Middle School, Victoria BC

GET INSPIRED WITH EIP FILM: *THE WILL TO LEARN*

Just released is the captivating new film "The Will To Learn" which promotes Education Is Power's work in Kenya through the eyes of local Maasai people. Creator of the film Adam Schurman, is a budding professional filmmaker from Toronto. Adam couldn't help but become connected to Education Is Power's work in Kenya thanks to a nice twist of fate. Firstly, Adam participated in the Canada World Youth (CWY) exchange program in 2012 in Kimende, Kenya which is the same community where Education Is Power bases its Kenyan operations through the support of partner Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO). It turned out that Adam shared some mutual Kenyan friends with EIP founder Dave Cuddy since they both frequent the Mama Wakang'u household whenever they visit Kenya even though the two of them never met before. Fortunately, another mutual friend of the two named Lucas Karn who met Dave through tree planting work in Alberta brought Adam and Dave together to produce "The Will To Learn".



Adam adjusts his camera for a shot in Laikipia North with EIP student Juliet Nyausi

Even though Adam and Lucas both participated in the Canada World Youth program in Kenya, they had never been to the remote Maasai region of Laikipia North where the film takes place. Education Is Power (EIP) has been working in Laikipia North since 2009, enabling many young people to go to school there, as well as supporting primary school teachers and other community programs. Lucas informed Dave about his and Adam's trip to Kenya and offered to lend a hand to Education Is Power, noting that Adam had just recently finished film school and was looking for a new filming project while in Kenya. Since the educational challenges are especially difficult in Laikipia North, and furthermore the traditional heritage of the Maasai can sometimes be at conflict with education, especially for girls, it was decided that Laikipia North was the place to film and shed more light on these issues.



Left to Right: Adam Shurman, Lucas Karn, and EIP representative Alex Nasioki in Laikipia, Kenya

Adam and Lucas's new Massai host family in Laikipia was a 250km journey North of Kimende, involving some seriously bone rattling roads over wild savanna where elephant herds are the main threat to stopping traffic! Here, Adam and Lucas would base their filming operations out of a very welcoming Maasai home near EIP partner

Lokusero Primary School. The two would make many friends and become connected to the community, helping to set the way for future EIP volunteers wishing to travel to Laikipia North and support local teachers, students and other EIP initiatives. At just eight and half minutes long, the film captures an important story shown through the lens of local Maasai, that traditional Maasai's views are changing to embrace education as a means for better livelihoods; while young Maasai, and especially females, see education as the key to a better future. Watch the film and see for yourself how these young Maasai have an incredible will to learn:

www.educationispower.org/willtolearn

Education Is Power Restructuring

Education Is Power is building up its Kenyan organization. The Kenyan team is currently designing its five-year strategic plan as it also applies for registration as a Kenyan non-governmental organization. This new Kenyan based organization is anticipated to create a better Kenyan presence and ownership of Education Is Power, while helping to increase fundraising and boost EIP's overall impact together with the current Canadian registered Education Is Power. An increased focus will be put on extra-curricular educational programming for Kenyan youth including leadership and personal development. Additionally, an added component in advocacy will be incorporated to help ensure inclusive quality education for all while promoting lifelong learning (As per UN Sustainable Development Goal 4).



More to come on this EIP restructuring, including EIP Canada's search for new board members in 2017, after Canadian founding members Dave and Ken Cuddy focus on this development on their visit to Kenya and Tanzania in January.



Introducing EIP's Post-secondary Graduates of 2016

All of these students would not have had the opportunity to further their education without the support of Education Is Power.



Samuel Wakang'u Kiarie graduated from a Master of Environmental Studies (Community Development) at Kenyatta University.

Sam became a founding student of Education Is Power when he started his Bachelor of Science and Environmental Education in 2008. He has put a lot of work into the development of EIP in Kenya, which has been a great benefit for the organization given his vast experience in community development. Sam has played a crucial role in developing EIP's environmental outreach programs in Kimende, Kenya which brings kids outside of the classroom to learn about ecological sustainability.

Currently, Sam works as the program coordinator for Daughters of Charity Kenya.



Isaac Lonyiku Karmushu graduated from Koiyaki Guiding School in Maasai Mara National Park, Kenya. He now holds a diploma in Tour Guiding and Natural Interpretation.

The school is specifically designed to help young Maasai become proficient at touristic guiding while working to conserve and protect Kenya's unique ecosystems.

Upon graduation, Isaac has entered a paid work experience through his school where he is now guiding at OI Seki Hemingways Mara.



Zipporah Mugure graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) at Mount Kenya University.

Zipporah currently works as a financial manager at the Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO). She also does some financial consultancy work and is in the process of starting her own consultancy firm which would provide extra income beyond her regular full time job.

Beyond her busy work schedule, Zipporah is a mom of young twins. Yet, she still manages to find time to be an incredible asset for EIP, taking a leading role in EIP's financial management as well as mentoring many younger EIP students.



Stephen Kamau graduated with a Bachelor of Tourism Management at Moi University.

Stephen became a founding student of Education Is Power in 2008 when he began his tour guiding diploma with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. He continues to be a key driver to the overall success of EIP. Through his tireless efforts, Steve leads extra-curricular activities for EIP high school students ensuring that they gain important practical skills and career insights. He also leads in EIP operations in Kenya, overseeing that school fee payments are met on time, along with the collection of student information and photos, resolving issues with student's families, and facilitating Skype and letter exchanges between young Canadians and Kenyans - just to name a few.

Currently, Steve's education and experience with EIP has led him to contract work with the United Nation's World Employment and Social Outlook initiative. As well, Stephen has started his own company called Kereita Wilderness Ventures which specializes in rainforest walks and mountain hikes for local Kenyans and international guests.



Ken Kamero graduated with a Bachelor of Tourism and Events Management at Moi University. Ken has been a big help in organizing fundraising events for Education Is Power, attracting involvement from his school and other community groups in Kenya. He also participates in mentoring workshops where EIP post-secondary students encourage and motivate younger students to engage in community development and maximize their career planning. Ken has already been putting his education to use by managing five major events in 2016 with a university events club that he leads. He is also gaining employment as a freelance events manager.



Yvonne Wanjiku has graduated from her diploma in Primary Education (Special Education) at Machako's Teacher's College. She herself is blind and has found it uplifting not only to work alongside other colleagues who also have vision challenges but to be able to be in a position to teach young students who had similar challenges she did as a young student. She is currently volunteering in her community as a primary school teacher and hopes to find employment when school begins for the year in January.



Joseph Gitau has graduated from a Bachelor of Business Information Technology at Mount Kenya University. He majored in business management and computer networking. Throughout his education he has been able to work in contract employment in youth empowerment and leadership with a local scouts group, while also volunteering for EIP. He currently works as an IT technician for an Internet cafe. He aspires to continue his education with industry required IT certifications which will make him more employable as a network security specialist. Joseph expresses his great gratitude for EIP and feels very strongly that education not only helps the individual but has a trickle effect for the

surrounding family and community.



Ruth Wangari is from Kimende, Kenya. She has always taken care of her family by cooking and caring for her younger brothers. In early 2016 she completed her Diploma in Baking Technology at Valentine School of Cake in Nairobi, Kenya. Since graduation she has started doing some catering jobs including making special cakes for birthdays and special occasions. She aspires to continue her studies in business to one day create a her own catering company where she can employ and train others to cater for special occasions.



Dennis Luhende of Shinyanga Tanzania graduated from Mwanza College of Business Education with a Diploma in Procurement and Business Administration. Like many of EIP post-secondary graduates, Dennis is an alumnus from the Canada World Youth program, where he gained skills in community development and responsible global citizenship during the six month international education program. Dennis is grateful to combine his new business skills with his international experience. He is currently in the job market while he is expanding his family's farming business and caring for his sick mom.

Education
is power



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TRIPLE HOPE CAMPAIGN

For African Kids and Youth

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Only by realizing this target can Education Is Power take root as an organization and ensure that our progress continues. From humble beginnings in 2008, when EIP Co-founder Dave Cuddy held a fundraiser with his classmates in Quebec City to support Kenyan post-secondary hopefuls from Dave's Canada World Youth team, Education Is Power has evolved through 100% volunteer efforts to currently support 56 Kenyan and Tanzanian students at schools in East Africa. It is important to note that Education Is Power does a lot more than just pay for school fees and text books. EIP facilitates leadership and teambuilding programs for disadvantaged east African high school students, offering practical experiences that build confidence and inspire new horizons for better livelihoods. EIP also supports east African teachers to ensure better learning environments at under resourced Kenyan and Tanzanian schools. Furthermore, EIP inspires young Canadians to act locally while giving back globally to make the world a better place.

Please donate before it is too late and triple your impact at www.educationispower.org/campaign.

(Cheques dated December 31st and arriving the first week of January will still be accepted for the tripling.)