

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Tanzania



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Building, Dirt & Donations



Work on the building of Projects Abroad Academy is making steady progress. When we visited the site in Meserani in early July, the roofing and flooring were almost complete. The volunteers are currently digging the foundation for the kitchen and toilet facilities. In July, we had as many as 12 volunteers from various countries working on the project.



Are you planning to volunteer in Dar es Salaam this year?

Check out the Life in Dar blog written by Seleman Pharles to learn more about the food and social life of the city known as "The Haven of Peace."

[Life in Dar Blog...](#)

Volunteer for a Year

By Seleman Pharles
Communications Assistant

Caroline Tieck (20) from Germany volunteered in Dar es Salaam for one year.

Originally, Caroline made plans to volunteer with the Care Project in Tanzania for six months and the move onto Projects Abroad Fiji for six months. However, she was so pleased with her experience in Dar es Salaam that she decided to remain in Tanzania.

Caroline gained a great deal of experience as a volunteer. She worked at a local orphanage where she kept the children busy and happy. She then moved to a primary school where she taught disabled children English and Mathematics. Caroline loves children and was very fulfilled as a volunteer.

She spent her last few months helping a local government owned hospital named Mwananyamala, where she was able to help doctors in the labor ward to deliver babies, as well as some other small tasks.

Caroline was very frustrated at first with the difference in culture, but she was eventually able to cope. "Be careful and don't treat this country as if it is home. It is completely different, so you should be open minded," advises Caroline.

She extended her stay in Tanzania because of the positive treatment she received from her host family as well as in her placements.

Caroline is grateful for the experience she had and says that "Projects Abroad really helps volunteers to find their hidden talents."

Upon returning home, Caroline is planning to become a paediatrician or a midwife.



The Art of Painting

by Seleman Pharles (Tanzania)
Communications Assistant



Kondo Ali Kabongo is a Tanzanian artist from the Lindi region, well known for his talent even though he does not have a formal education in art. He began drawing when he was in primary school. Initially he painted for fun, but in 1996 he decided to turn his artwork into a profession.

After completing secondary school, he had nowhere to go, so he stayed at home assisting his father. His father, the late Ali Kabongo, was also an artist who specialized in carvings. The late Mr. Ali recognized Kondo's talent and decided to pay the fees for him to study at an art college in the neighbouring region called Pwani. He began his studies at Taasisiya Sanaa Bagamoyo but his father passed away before he could complete his education. Kondo did not have money to pay his school fees and was forced to leave college. He decided to join his friend in Zanzibar who was already a famous painter where he was able to learn by assisting his teacher in painting different portraits.

Kondo eventually started his own business where he painted and sold his work. He now has various shops in Zanzibar, Mombasa Kenya and Dar es Salaam. He sells smaller paintings for 5,000Tsh and up to 500,000Tsh for the larger ones.

Projects Abroad invited Kondo Kabongo to do a painting workshop with the volunteers. During this day volunteers in Dar es Salaam received instruction from Kondo and painted their own art. The volunteers were very happy to learn how to paint.

Kondo mainly paints Maasai people and animals. He also teaches students at his office and plans to open up a fully registered school for art.

Microfinance volunteers partner with Medical Project to offer health training to local women



In June, the Microfinance and Medical volunteers teamed up to offer free educational workshops to the women participating in the Microfinance Project. Two separate health training workshops were held at Ngarenaro Hospital, a government funded clinic for women. Nearly 60 women participated and received information from Dr. Kivoyu, the director of the clinic who typically escorts volunteers to regional medical outreaches.

Dr. Kivoyu lectured on topics concerning family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and cervical cancer, which affects many women in Tanzania. The presentation of a female condom elicited giggles of embarrassment from the women; as did a demonstration on how to properly wear a male condom. Dr. Kivoyu utilized a photo book that showed graphic images of the results of STDs in hopes that it would motivate the women to take proper care of themselves and their partners.

Following the workshop, the women and volunteers shared a traditional Swahili lunch and later private counseling with the doctor. The event was well received by the participants and Projects Abroad Tanzania is hoping in future to offer the health training on a variety of topics on a quarterly basis.

Click Before it is Gone

By Sarah Greaves (UK)
Journalism Project Volunteer



“Oh alright then,” I said to Thomas, my Maasai guide, as we clambered into the front seat of the *daladala*. “It is a wonderful view and I just hope that I do not get flung through the front window and split my head open like an over-ripe melon.” He seemed to like this sense of humour and we set off, no seat belts, bowling along the highway to the Maasai Saturday market at Oldonyo Sambu. We passed fields of sunflowers, wheat, and Maasai herding their goats and cows at the edge of the road. Later we entered a different terrain of rolling hills in the distance, and dry sandy ground where the Maasai, in different clusters, watched over the cattle; their blankets a sudden touch of colour with some red and some blue. Clouds of dust puffed up and swirled around them, adding a touch of surrealism; a suggestion of a mirage, yet something timeless.

People were just off-loading at the market when we arrived but I was immediately drawn in by the vibrancy and colour. I was riveted by a truck loaded with Maasai, all in red, sweeping in and almost keeling over. ‘No,’ said Thomas, firmly, ‘We go to the village first.’ So off we went. We passed through a village and smelled leaves from a pepper tree. A “tornado *kidigo*” of dust, appeared not so far away and heading towards us, but vanished as it approached.

The Maasai herdsmen and women were bringing their stock to market - goats with fatty bottoms and black and white cattle with huge horns with some having humped backs. What a sight, as the livestock headed towards us, whacked by their owners with a stick to keep them on the right path. Small children, were part of the work force and had their own little sticks. Thomas liked having his photograph taken as did some other Maasai but others refused. I took photographs of them in the distance as it was all so incredibly beautiful.

We had an encounter with a handsome bearded Maasai in startling blue, and he communicated to Thomas that he would give my parents 20 cattle for me as a wife. I laughed and said I was too old at 74. He replied, “That does not matter as I am 82.” We parted, laughing.

To read more about Sarah’s trip, [click here...](#)