

THE DARAJA SOCIAL

Building Bridges Between Communities - Daraja Foundation's Gazette



Photo by  @lulurayphotos

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The powerful impact of volunteers

BY DEVIN MATTHEWS, BOARD MEMBER

The growth and success of Daraja Foundation's programs are a testament to the powerful impact that our volunteers have in the community and within the organization. Those volunteering can be local or from abroad and can assist in numerous activities such as planning fundraising events, writing proposals, strategy planning and also helping to develop Daraja's social media presence.

Every year, volunteers come to Zanzibar from around the world to share their individual skills and expertise. During this time, volunteers have the opportunity to train the youth in their particular areas of interest which then guides them in conceptualizing their own ideas and visions. This results in the youth becoming empowered and gaining the confidence to go after their goals and dreams. In addition to sharing their knowledge and advice, Daraja volunteers also form lasting friendships with the youth and will often return year after year. Volunteers become a part of the Daraja community during their time in Zanzibar and will often find ways to stay involved after arriving home.

Our volunteer community goes well beyond our abroad program. Several youth who have taken part in various Daraja programs are now volunteering as mentors, teachers or coordinators. Daraja Foundation continues to be inspired by the meaningful contributions from all of our volunteers. Those who become involved are constantly adding value to and shaping the model that empowers so many youth. Our sincere thanks goes out to everyone involved in making this foundation such a unique success.

An update from Zanzibar

WRITTEN BY ARSHEEN DHALLA

Empowering our girls. As we focus on empowering the girls involved with Daraja and supporting women around the world, Daraja is continuously getting involved with awareness events and female-centered programs. This year's theme for the Zanzibar Half Marathon was *kimbia bila shaka* which means *run without fear*. The run raised awareness around gender equality and women's empowerment. It was an incredible event to participate in with the girls from Flo House - it brought everyone together on the streets of Zanzibar.

Recently, the GirlUp club of the International School of Zanzibar organized a wellness day at a new women's health center in Zanzibar called Wajamama. There were many participants including our group of girls from Flo House and Mazizini Children's Home. The aim of the event was enable participants to have fun, meet new people, share the importance of healthy living and gain education around overall physical and psychological well-being. The group was introduced to zumba, bootcamp and yoga. This allowed for everyone to meet great people. Daraja looks forward to a lasting partnership with local organizations such as Wajamama and ZanFIT. The girls from the foundation were very grateful for the opportunity to spend the day around such inspirational women.

Celebrating success. Suleiman and Kassim were both Zanzibar Learning 4 Life students who participated in English classes and the Global Bridges Program. After their training and contributions they became recipients of college sponsorships with the support of Daraja and ZL4LF donors. Three years later, they reached a special milestone in their educational journeys and received their college diplomas in science. We also celebrated graduates from the Kawa Training Center including Khadija, Hamad and Khalfan. Khadija completed English and computer courses and will continue on with her education. Hamad and Khalfan were club members of the Bike Shop and also part of the Flo House transition program; they are now both working in tourism and hospitality after completing training at Kawa. Highlighted in the second part of this issue are some more recipients of our 3-year Global Bridges Program with ZL4LF. A full list of recipients and photos will be shared on our website next month. We admire and celebrate their determination and continued success.

Returning visitors. We were happy to welcome Suzanne and Celina to the Flo House. It was a pleasure to have our international partners in Zanzibar. Suzanne returns each year to teach and advise our students on small business start ups, and continues to provide valuable business resources through One Love Africa Foundation. In 2017, a container of bicycles was sent to Zanzibar from Edmonton for the bike shop, this would not have been possible without Celina and her family through their work with Bicycles for Humanity.

Gratitude. The months of May and June brought Zanzibar much needed rain and a month of fasting during Ramadhan. It is a quiet and cozy time where the culture, values and history are bright and beautiful. It is common to eat together, share stories, give back and be thankful. The foundation received a lot of gifts in the past few months from local businesses in Zanzibar, families in Dubai and an individual donor in the Seychelles. We received donations of classroom supplies, bedding, clothing, toys and food. Big thanks to Odyssey Nursery, Stone Town Traders, Lost & Found Hostel and Tembo Hotel for all of your generous contributions last month. We are extremely appreciative to have your support.

Giving back in YYC

WRITTEN BY SHAUNA HARRISON

The second Daraja social event in Calgary was held at Raw Canvas and was a great success. People of all ages gathered together to create a sunset painting, sip on vino and have some laughs all while raising funds to support the projects currently underway in Zanzibar. An amount of \$250.00 was raised from this event and will allow for the girls from Flo House to attend fitness classes at Wajamama Women's Centre starting in August.



Our next upcoming event is a HIIT class held at Passage studios on July 19th at 5:30 pm. It is a \$10.00 minimum donation with all proceeds going towards the foundation.

Passage Studios has also kindly decided to highlight the Daraja Foundation as their charity of the month so be sure to check out their schedule on their website. Every karma class that you see for the month of July will have 100% of the proceeds donated to Daraja. This is a great opportunity to check out the studio while taking advantage of the opportunity to support the foundation. We look forward to connecting with everyone again and seeing some more new faces at our next event!

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring an activity in YYC for the Daraja Foundation, please reach out via email to volunteer@daraja.ca.



Global Bridges Program - Featured Sponsorship Recipients



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Certificate in Secretarial Studies



Suleiman & Othman
Diplomas in Culinary Arts and Front Office



Khalfan
Tour Guide Certification Course



Zahra
Form 6 Studies



Lailat
Travel & Tourism Courses



Sabiha
Information, Communication & Technology Diploma



Salama
Degree in Economic Development Studies



Najma
Air Ticketing Certificate



Kassim & Suleiman
Diplomas in Science