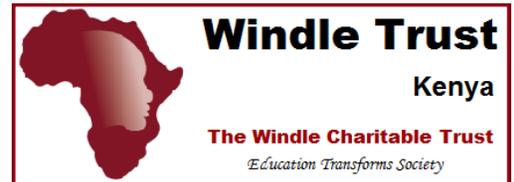


*Thank you Note from WUSC-SRP Alumni...*



# Monthly Newsletter April ,2016

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## When Education Changes the World Positively

Hello there,

I just graduated this month (April 2016) with a degree in Actuarial & Financial Mathematics from McMaster University. Isn't that exciting? Yes, it is! At least to me. A few years back, holding a university degree was just but a dream for me. And now it is a reality. That is why I decided to write this thank you note to the organizations that made it possible for me to get to this point.

I hereby express my heartfelt gratitude to World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and Windle Trust Kenya (WTK) for the rare chance that was granted to me to pursue higher education at McMaster University. The two organizations, their benefactors, their partners and many individuals who work either as their employees or volunteers have made many dreams possible. Mine just happens to be one of these many dreams and I am very thankful for that. This note would be incomplete without thanking McMaster University and its Student Refugee Program (SRP), who ensured that I transitioned into the university life and a new life in Canada with minimal difficulties. I salute the young women and men, who generously volunteered their time, effort, and intellect at the McMaster University Local Committee. In spite of the highly demanding academic commitments that

they had, they still made it their responsibility to ensure that the sponsored students were alright as they settle into the university life. In addition, there are thousands of students who contributed to support the sponsored students financially. I may never know many of them, but their generosity is eternally appreciated.

I happened to stumble upon the story of Dr. Hugh A. Pilkington, who made a huge personal and selfless effort so that disadvantaged youth could have access to education. I must say that it is one touching story, given how he tragically died while trying to follow what he strongly believed in. It is great that his name lives on through Windle Trust Kenya (WTK), and all the other Windle Trust offices in different parts of the world.

The idea that education changes societies for the better is not something abstract but a reality of our world and having organizations such as WUSC, Windle Trust and their partners, whose activities revolve around this idea is not something to be taken for granted. What they do goes a long way and I, as a recent graduate from McMaster University, stand as a testament to that. I say, once again, Thank you! And keep on changing the world, one disadvantaged youth at a time.

*John C. Kon, WUSC sponsored student (2010/2011 group)*

- ❖ *Thank You Note from WUSC-SRP Alumni*
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## Collaborations with Institutions of Higher Learning



*Inset: A section of the team that met at MMUST for the collaboration discussions.*

On Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, the DAFI team participated in a meeting with senior university officials to discuss and agree on the initiative to establish Turkana University College in Kakuma as a constituent college of MMUST. The MMUST Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Planning, Research and Innovation, six other senior officials represented the university, UNHCR was represented by two staff and Windle Trust was represented by the Executive director, Finance and Administration Manager and the two DAFI project staff.

One highlight of the discussions was the need to subsidize tuition fees for refugee students and develop a concept note detailing the modalities of operations. The college is expected to benefit refugees in Kakuma refugee camp. On Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, the mission team met four representatives of the Vice Chancellor of Moi University in order to follow up on the progress of the draft MoU that Windle Trust had previously shared with the University for signing. The university agreed to fast-track the review of the document for the purpose of signing within 2016.

## Young Achievers Education Day Celebration

On Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> the WTK Scholarship team together with the Top Students celebrated the Young Achievers Education Day at Nairobi. The event brought together partners such as the Government of Kenya, UNHCR amidst others in recognizing the achievement of refugee scholars in academics. The keynote address was given by WTK Executive Director Dr Marangu. The young achievers were feted with certificates and Medals and the event was crowned with the fashion talent galore



*Inset: Audience listen keenly to speech by the Top students*



*Inset: Top students and Dafi Scholars in a Q&A panel with students*

## *Farewell Celebrations for a long serving P.T.A Chairman*

Tawakal secondary school has been known for its excellent performance in K.C.S.E exams. These good results are attributed to hard work, discipline, and determination that students possess. With the help of able teachers, parents/guardians, as well as the PTA members, the students are able to bring out their talents and speak out the issues that may affect their performance hence getting help from the resourceful persons.

On 4th of April, 2016, the school held a farewell party for their Outgoing PTA chairman (Mr. Bashir) who has been a mentor and instrumental to everyone in Tawakal.

He inspired lots of teachers and students to be industrious and work on getting better results.

Mr. Bashir, was leaving the country to USA by the end of April and many commended him for his dedication to work, and love for the students.

Some of the invited guests included the Dagahaley Secondary School P.T.A. chairman, Illeys Primary school and other P.T.A. members.



*Inset: Mr. Bashir addressing teachers and students before embarking on his resettlement trip to USA.*

## Malala Project

As part of Vodafone Foundation's leadership lessons programme for young people living in refugee camps, the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai urged girls living in refugee camps to embrace education for a better future.

18-year-old Yousafzai the youngest Nobel Prize winner and a children's rights activist said refugee children have a right to education like any other child.

The Project is aimed at Nurturing the Girl child with skills and Knowledge in Leadership, it's given the Priority to the Community schools thus; Waberi, Tawakal and Nasib sec.

Speaking by video call from the UK to students in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Yousafzai shared her experiences and discussed the importance of education with the class. The girl's asked questions focusing on education, girl child, Women empowerment and gender issues basically on Malala's area of interest.

*"You must spread the message of education and courage for girls. You have no limit. You can do it," she said.*

*"Have big dreams, there's no job in the world that's limited to men only," she told girls at the camp.*

In a rejoinder, "The Instant Network Schools programme is providing young people living in the some of the toughest environments, often with no access or exposure to life outside of the camps, with educational resources and access to inspiring people, such as Malala Yousafzai, who encourage them to continue their education and have career aspirations," Vodafone Foundation Director Andrew Dunnett said

Leadership Lessons programme is part of the Vodafone Foundation to WTK Instant Network Schools run on behalf of UNHCR. It provides young people living in refugee camps, aged between 13 and 27, with access to inspirational speakers and experts from different backgrounds, who discuss their personal stories, share their knowledge and answer questions on their areas of expertise. A total of 25 girl's participated and benefitted a lot from the session.



*Inset: A section of girls in a discussion during Malala's Video Conference Session.*