

TANGAZA

IN THIS ISSUE: DOT KENYA REACHUP! INTERNS GRADUATE

This month we feature DOT Kenya's Intern Graduation held at the All Africa Conference of Churches. We said goodbye to the first lot of interns in a ceremony attended by several DOT Kenya partners, and visiting DOT directors from Canada, Martin Shapiro and Marga Fripp (*see main feature*). DOT Kenya has retained 3 interns and will continue to offer the ReachUp! programme.

We also feature Susan Mwende and her warming basket that makes (*see story on pg. 1*)

In our regular 'Meet a DOT Kenya Intern' we take a closer look at Nicholas Musyoka. Nicholas is one of three interns retained to carry on the ReachUp! programme in Kenya. (*see story pg. 3*)

We also feature Altaawon, one of our community partners (*see story on pg. 3*).

After nine successful months and over 1000 community beneficiaries trained, DOT Kenya's ReachUp! Interns were feted at a ceremony held at the All Africa Conference of Churches on 29th June, 2007. The 13 interns who had accepted extensions to their contracts namely, Victor Omondi, Rose Juma, Erick Olang, Robina Guchu, Nicholas Mulei, Judith Mwangi, Amisi Lumasia, Christabel Masheti, Denis Ombuna, Faith Muricho, Vincent Wakaba, Carol Wamwea, and Samson Muigai, were joined by Moses Opondo, Christine Nkingo and Adrian Gitau at the function. Christine Nkingo's new born son was also on hand to help celebrate. Representatives from government ministries, the private sector, other

NGOs, universities, DOT Kenya community partners and some of the beneficiaries were also on hand to help the entire DOT team to recognise the achievements of the interns.

Victor Omondi was the master of ceremonies, ably assisted by Rose Juma and kept the proceedings moving with anecdotes about the internship. Stella Njoroge, DOT Kenya's acting representative, spoke about the achievements of the Kenya country team, which she largely attributed to the commitment of the interns. "1150 community beneficiaries drawn from our community partners have benefited from the ReachUp! programme. I could not have done it alone. These young men and women were instru-



Erick Olang receives an award for 'Best Intern' from Blair Walker of CIDA.

mental in ensuring that we did not just meet the target of 1000 beneficiaries, but surpassed it."

She remarked about the changes that had occurred in the interns in the 9 months she had known them. "I remember when we were recruiting them, they were not confident, they did not know where they wanted to be in 5 years. They knew they were graduates and that

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Story by Samson Muigai, DOT Kenya Intern.

Opportunities are everywhere. Some are borne out of desperation or challenges that one undergoes. The Warming Basket is one such idea. In Uplands, on the outskirts of Nairobi, fuel is quite expensive and most households cannot afford the high cost

MWENDE'S RECIPE FOR A WARM MEAL EVERYTIME

of charcoal, fire wood or even paraffin and electricity is not an option for this rural community. The situation was further worsened by the recent government ban on logging in government gazetted forests, in an effort to stem the adverse effects that

unregulated logging has on the environment.

Enter Susan Mwende and her warming basket. This young woman with plenty of drive has embraced a technology that modifies an ordinary sisal or raffia weaved basket in

such a way that it keeps food or beverages warm. It consists of an ordinary sisal or raffia basket that is then lined on the inside with insulating material like old blankets or sponge. Once the food is cooked and

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DOT Kenya ReachUp! Interns graduate contd. from pg. 1



DOT Kenya ReachUp! Interns celebrate at their graduation at All Africa Conference of Churches.

they wanted to go into the job market. They were not sure the kind of jobs they wanted to do. They did not know their skills and strengths and that's where we started." She added that the ReachUp! programme is not just for the

community beneficiaries, but the interns are beneficiaries as well. "They did everything the community participants are expected to do including developing a project, and they are visibly different because of it," she said.

Each of the interns present had an opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about their experience as interns. All of them expressed their gratitude for what they had gained which they felt will hold them in good stead in their future plans. Moses Opondo, who

is now working with Faulu Kenya, made a presentation, tracing the life of a DOT Kenya Intern from recruitment to placement.

Three community beneficiaries were also given the opportunity to showcase their projects. Susan Mwende showed off one of her warming baskets. She had boiled water the night before and put it in an ordinary plastic bottle and placed it in the basket. The bottle was then passed around to the guests who were pleasantly surprised to find that the water was still quite warm. Charles Ndirangu presented his idea

for retailing pepper spray and Nelson Ngari presented his batik works.

John Odie, a representative from the Ministry of Information and Communication, was the chief guest. Blair Walker of CIDA presented the interns with their certificates. Martin Shapiro, DOT Vice president of Operations and Marga Fripp, Director of Partnerships were also present at the ceremony. DOT Kenya hosted the interns and the invited guest to lunch thereafter.

DOT Kenya thanks all the interns for their service. We wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives. ■

Mwende's recipe... contd. from pg. 1



Susan Mwende talks about her experience with the ReachUp! programme and her project, the warming basket, at the Intern Graduation.

placed in a container, it is then placed inside the warming basket. The insulation provided by the old blankets retains the heat and keeps the food warmer for longer. It can keep food hot for up to 24 hours without reheating. And for the residents of Uplands, this is good news, allowing them to

bathing water warm especially in these 'winter' months.

Susan says that the warming basket has proved to be a hit. In fact she has received overwhelming demand from clients in the area. In April even before she had completed the Reach Up! Class, she already had 5 orders. She

save on the costs of fuel. The area is also very cool and temperatures can drop below 10°C in the months of June through to August and the basket comes in very handy for keeping

plans to market the product within her locality before expanding to neighboring Lari and Limuru.

She used her ICT skills learnt in the Reach up! programme to conduct research on possible improvements from cheap imitations, and also sourcing for clients. (It is important to note that this invention is not original with her. She got the idea from a television documentary).

Households in Uplands and its environs can now save money on fuel costs by applying this simple technology and it is all thanks to Susan Mwende and her enterprising skills. A warm bath and a warm meal need not be forgone anymore. Retailing at Kshs. 1,200, the warming basket is an investment that benefits not just society but the environment as well. ■

DOT Kenya Interns 2006-2007: Where are they now

DOT Kenya ReachUp! Interns have secured employment in various sectors of Kenya's economy.

6 interns are now in the financial sector. Amisi Lumasia, Adrian Gitau and Faith Muricho are now working with Barclays Bank of Kenya. Vincent Wakaba is with Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Moses Opondo is with Faulu Kenya, a microfinance institution. Jacqueline Mwai is an administrator with Cornerstone Capital Management, an investment and financial advisor.

2 interns are in the education sector. Rose Juma will soon be teaching in South Sudan and Eric Olang' is an instructor with Institute of Advanced Technology (IAT). ■ (More updates in next month's issue.)

My name is Nicholas Musyoka, and I joined the DOT Programme as an intern after graduating from university in October 2006. As a science graduate (Bachelor of Science in Chemistry), interested in business, it proved to be the perfect fit for me as it allowed me to discover my personal strengths, interests and gain skills that will enable me to succeed in the corporate world. So far the internship has provided hands-on experience and a safe, trusting environment in which to learn, share, practice, and hone leadership and job specific competencies.

The three stages of an intern were all indispensable opportunities that I

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truly appreciate. Starting with the Online Launch, which introduced us to one another, and later followed by Face to Face training, we were trained to deliver the ReachUp! programme in the communities we would be

placed in. The training prepared me to perform my duties efficiently, with enjoyment and understanding, rather than frustration. In the communities that I have been placed, I facilitated learning, coached participants through projects, advocated and conducted research and by the end of every training cycle the participants were able to identify attractive and viable projects which they can turn into sustainable livelihoods.

Over the internship period, I have come to appreciate that young people are more responsive and receptive to new opportunities and trends. Seeing my participants come up with ideas and turning them in to a product/service gives me great satisfaction and enjoyment. I feel I am making a

difference in my community especially in the fight against poverty.

I hope to use the skills gained in the internship, coupled with more education to propel me to a management position in one of our local industries. Also, as a result of my first-hand experience and observations I believe am in a better position to apply these techniques to identify more potential business opportunities for myself and even better the existing ones like the curios exports (www.craftsandcurios.com).

I would recommend the internship to someone else in a heartbeat. ■

(Contact Nicholas at nmusyoka@globalnetcorps.org)

PARTNER PROFILE: ALTAAWON ISLAMIC YOUTH ORGANISATION

Altaawon was formed in 1992 and is a community based organization, located in Korogocho. *Altaawon* is an Arabic word meaning 'united'. Its core enterprise is to unite youth through self-help and development activities.

Altaawon was originally formed as a study group where members could support each other in their academic pursuits. After they completed their secondary education, the members realized the need to transform the organization to look beyond education and include other areas

of development to improve the livelihoods of the residents of Korogocho.

The vision of the organization is to empower the community with knowledge, healthcare and information while creating opportunities for exploitation of their capacity to fight poverty.

The group has several programmes that it is currently running;

1. Education Programme: This programme has several projects running—the preschool project, the library, a planned computer lab, education financing for

needy and bright students, and an adult education project in partnership with the Department of Adult Education.

2. Health Programme: This programme has 3 components—training of the community on various health issues such as HIV/AIDS, peer education, breast health and cancer awareness, hygiene and nutrition. They also organize medical camps for the less privileged members of the community to access health care from volunteer doctors. A

dispensary has also been established in the locality.

3. Livelihood Programme: This programme is aimed at helping the youth to initiate income generating activities through offering the youth training in related business management.

Altaawon has mobilized their youth and they are taking the ReachUp! training at their centre. To date, 39 community participants have taken the training with another 10 enrolled in the new class currently ongoing. ■