

# TANGAZA

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## PROGRAMME UPDATE

DOT Kenya interns trained 176 community members in 14 centres in the June.

Patricia Oyoyo, a DOT intern will represent DOT Kenya at the DOT Board of Directors meeting in Canada.

DOT Kenya received a mention on pg. 28 of the *Sunday Nation* of 20th July, 2008.

## TALENTED DESIGNER ENVISIONS A BUSINESS THANKS TO REACHUP!

*Enock Chiteri, a ReachUp! beneficiary, enthuses about the changes in his life following the ReachUp! programme. Story submitted by Mark Omollo, DOT intern.*

**M**aking and designing things has always been my hobby. I developed a great passion for it and in school, I was recognized for it. I could always see myself doing this to earn a living. After school I enrolled in a computer class and later on joined a computer graphics designing class to perfect the skills I already had. I excelled here, and I had a lot to show for this but I still could not break through.

I lacked a lot, especially as far as business skills were concerned and

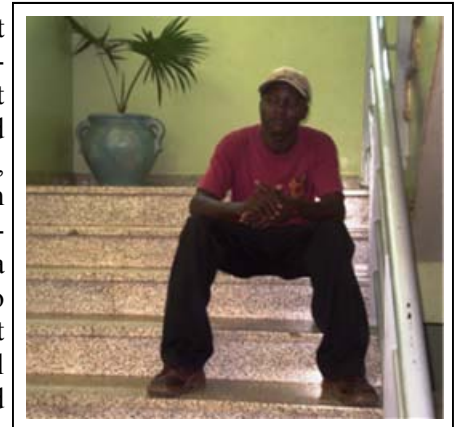
I was honestly not ready to join a business class. I knew it would be costly and time-consuming. So, I had the skills in both ICT and graphics design; and a heart willing to achieve the best, but something was still missing. I hoped and prayed for the best, waiting for some breakthrough.

I didn't have to wait too long because, out of nowhere, came Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), and with them was the *ReachUp!* Program. I was not ready for this course, but through a friend's encouragement, I attended the first session, just to know what the program was all about. The first session (the introduction) did it for me; it opened up in me the vision I had long

seen in my dreams and desired to achieve. Sacrificing three hours each day for the next one month now looked like a promising activity and I was more than ready to enjoy it.

The *ReachUp!* training was everything that other trainings are not: strategic, straight forward, up to date, well meaning and very interesting. The modules addressed issues we could

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Enock Chiteri is excited about his new printing business venture.

Story by Vincent Wakaba, DOT Kenya Intern Alumni.

**T**he DOT internship was my first real work experience. I had just left university with the hope of proceeding on to do my masters and job hunting was the last thing on my mind. Unfortunately, due to

## INTERN ALUMNI: DOT'S LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING BARES FRUIT FOR VINCENT AT KCB

various reasons, I was unable to proceed on to do my masters. I was now in a situation in which I had not envisioned myself. I had no plan B. As far as I

was concerned it was masters or die. I now had to think fast since sitting pretty at home is not exactly the definition of success. It is at this stage that the DOT intern-

ship came about. I applied and went through all the stages successfully to be part of a 20 strong intern team. In hindsight, my not enrolling for a masters

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## Talented designer envisions a business... contd. from pg. 1

identify ourselves with. They revealed us to ourselves. They brought a renewal to life and freshness of mind and, above all, they made us view life positively. The business plans I had become more real and achievable. I realized that a lot more could be got from the simple things that we have; that we as human beings are resourceful in our own way. We don't have to strain so much to attain our goals. Plus, the tutor was the best placed for the program, he inspired me a great deal. His mastery of the concepts around the

program was untold.

**After the course**

Barely a month after finishing the course, I now have my business plans well laid down. Soon after the course, I embarked on a serious research on the line of business I wanted to pursue. While doing the one-on-one interviewing, I accidentally bumped onto a person with similar vision and interest as mine. He is a widely traveled person and is well versed in product marketing and distribution. His valuable input in the joint business venture we are coming up with, however, is the connections he has with the

printing firms in the urban centre where he grew up. These contacts will help to cut down some of the costs of production. Right now we are trying to put our resources together secure business premises, acquire the programs and software for the production and of course, starting the production right away. If all goes well, we expect to produce the first bunch of calendars for the year 2009 by early September 2008. This will necessitate further development, including being able to acquire the necessary

equipment and machines.

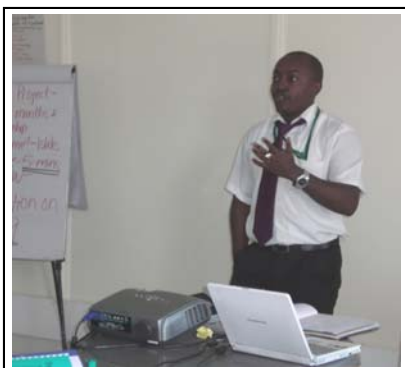
Looking back at what I have gone through in pursuit of my dreams, all I can do is smile. The arrival of the Reach Up! Program was the best thing to happen to me lately. I hope many people will benefit from it and help them recreate their lives. Everything has its goodness but not everyone sees it. I've seen the goodness in the program and I hope others will see it too.

Kudos to DOT. Keep up the good work and may you never tire in your quest to empower the community. ■

Contact Enock at

[morlaix.nocky@yahoo.com](mailto:morlaix.nocky@yahoo.com)

## Intern Alumni—Vincent Wakaba contd. from pg. 1



Vincent makes a presentation during the DOT Kenya and Ethiopia Intern Training 2008.

course immediately may have been a blessing in disguise. I can honestly attest to picking up quite a few life skills that I might have missed out on had I gone back to school at that time. Don't get me wrong, I will still do my masters but the timing I had planned for may have been off.

Back to DOT, being

my first 'Job', I was not sure what to expect. All I knew was that I was in for 6 months of computer related tutoring to the less fortunate. It was a challenge I was happy to take as I would be working with computers (one of my favourite pastimes) plus also building up my confidence by lecturing others. One month turned to two, two to six and six to nine. I had stayed longer than I had anticipated. My journey was fruitful and full of learning experiences. Among the many things I picked up during my time with DOT that I can highlight were:-

1. A greater sense of confidence
2. Patience as a virtue

3. Long lasting friendships and relationships

4. Career networks

5. Budgeting skills and living within one's means

I joined Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) which is one of the biggest banks in Kenya as a graduate clerk immediately after leaving DOT. Less than six months down the line, I am a team leader in the card relations department working with a team of 10 people. True to the DOT way, I run a business on the side called Level Fourteen Services. We specialise in computer services from repair to maintenance. By virtue of having an eight to five

type of job, I'm learning to be more hands off and delegate more but it is difficult for a company you are still building from the ground up.

The company also has another arm of selling movies which is what I started with and has grown to be my main forte.

All in all, my time at DOT was well spent and turned out to be very crucial in my development as a person. My words of advice to any prospective intern, 1) it is not always just about the money, experience is key, and 2) go in with an open mind as there is a lot to gain. ■

**Vincent Wakaba**  
**Team Leader, Card Relations**  
**KCB Card Centre**

Less than six months down the line, I am a team leader in the card relations department working with a team of 10 people

## PARTNER PROFILE: UCRC

**U**gunja Community Resource Center (UCRC) – A DOT partner based in Western Kenya - is a Community Based Organization located in Ugunja town along Kisumu – Busia road. The center, which serves Siaya District and its environs, provides the local community with access to information and has developed a range of programs to help alleviate poverty in the region.

Established in 1988, UCRC acts as an umbrella body to various local

groups like women and youth groups.

The center works to attain the following **objectives**:

- Promote networking and strengthen both groups and individuals on appropriate technologies for environmental development
- Provide information which is readily available and accessible to groups and individuals regarding appropriate technologies for environmental development



- Provide a forum for sharing and exchanging information

- Facilitate resource mobilization in promoting group activities

UCRC provides facilities (computers and other materials) and participants for DOT's Reach Up! Program. The participants are mainly those who graduate from UCRC's basic computer program, otherwise known as UP1.

Since May 2008, 39 community participants have benefited from DOT's ReachUp! training and scores are waiting to 'jump on board'.

We welcome UCRC on board and are confident of a successful partnership that will benefit both the Ugunja community and DOT. ■

*Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC)*

*P.O. Box 330-40606*

*Ugunja, Kenya*

*Telephone: +254 (0)57-34131*

*E-mail: [ucrckenya@gmail.com](mailto:ucrckenya@gmail.com)*

*[www.ugunja.org](http://www.ugunja.org)*

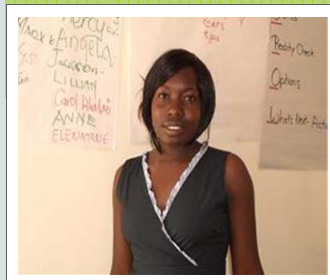
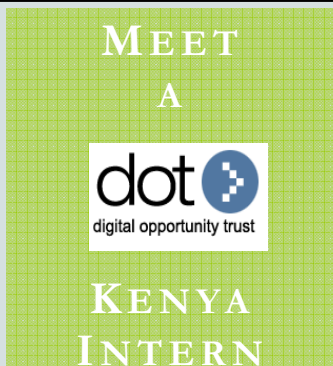
*Contact Person*

*Pius Aggrey Omondi*

**I** am Patricia Oyoyo a **DOT Kenya** intern based in Nyanza Province of Kenya. I pride myself in good communication, facilitation and interactive skills. Some of the qualities I possess include hardworking, social, determined, firm and understanding.

I graduated from the University of Nairobi in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Economics.

My experience during the DOT-K REACH UP! Training was fun, marvelous and very educative. My interaction with DOT began when I got a phone call from a friend who told me about the organization and the internship position. She gave me the website which I read avidly. I made my applications and passed



the comprehensive interviewing. After the training, ably led by Anne Williams and Laurie Abu-Saoud, I became a DOT Kenya Intern in Nyanza Province. I value the knowledge and skills I learnt during my training as

they are helping me give back to my community by training them on sustainable livelihoods through the use of ICT. I am making a difference in people's lives! I am also developing my career as I get work experience.

I give advice and encouragement to students in primary and secondary school back in my up-country home. I visit the village once a month and I make it my responsibility to encourage girls, especially, to concentrate in school and work hard as this is the way they can make it in life. I started this after realizing the drop out rate, early pregnancies and lack of seriousness was impeding the development of the youth. With the free primary and secondary school education there is

no reason to make the students stay home.

I would like to see a literate community, that is aware and well informed and this will lead to its social and economic development.

In addition, I talk to rehabilitated sex workers and drug addicts and those still undergoing rehabilitation. As an intern, I am based at Tuungane Youth Centre, and when I learnt that they have a centre for rehabilitation I was interested in visiting the centre and talking to the youths there. Youths are the leaders of tomorrow and they should be role models to the young ones.

After the internship, I plan to get employment and pursue a second degree.

**Big Up DOT! ■**

*Contact Patricia at [poyoyo@dotrust.org](mailto:poyoyo@dotrust.org)*