

# Outreach

## Responding to Literacy Needs

The East York-Scarborough Reading Association Outreach Committee is honoured and privileged once again to respond to the literacy needs of local, national and international learning communities. Our goal, as an organization, is to support children and adults in attaining, promoting and strengthening literacy skills and in so doing, fostering reading for the love of it. In 2007-2008, we supported over 20 organizations by donating items such as: games, globes, bookcases, desks, computers, books, (including dual language selections), consumables and cash funds.

Many of us visited community homework clubs, family shelters and/or attended graduation ceremonies for young moms. Two of our members ventured further afield to Ecuador and Africa, volunteering in school building projects during March break and summer months. To further professional development, we have also been able to sponsor teachers of First Nations students to our yearly conference. *East York Learning Experience* opens many doors for adults and this year we assisted with much needed classroom purchases. *Teacher Mentors Abroad*, a group of Canadian volunteer-teachers who work with a group of selected Dominican Republic teachers to share best practice teaching methodologies, also received support from Outreach. Our goals to help improve students' literacy skills and thus provide much needed life opportunities are shared with all the organizations we support.

We are extremely grateful to the many delegates who attend our conference and enable EYSRA Outreach to provide educational advantages to learners of all ages. We hope to see you at *Reading for the Love of It 2009* on February 12th and 13th. Please come and visit us at the Outreach table to chat and consider purchasing one of many offerings, including our reliable and sturdy book bags (with the heart logo). All revenue is dedicated to our Outreach fund.

*Kathy Lazarovits, Chair, Outreach Committee*

*The innovative St. Gaspar School has opened its doors to both boys and girls, children of all religions and all abilities in Tanzania.*

## Organizations Supported by Outreach in 2007-08

Attawapiskat Teachers, P.D. for First Nations Educators  
Elephant Thoughts, National & Intr'l  
East York Learning Experience  
Family Residence, Toronto  
Free the Children, Kenya  
Frontier College  
Jessie's Centre for Teenagers  
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services  
Literature for Life  
Matthew House, Toronto  
Northwoods Community Centre Homework Club, Toronto  
ORT, Downsview Mediation Centre  
ORT, Kadoorie School, Israel  
Riverton Family Centre, Jamaica  
Rosalie Hall, Toronto  
Roycroft Motel, Toronto  
San Pancho School and Community, Mexico  
St. Felix Reading Club, Toronto  
St. Gaspar Elementary School, Tanzania  
Teacher Mentors Abroad  
Temak & Watoto, Kenya  
The Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development



## Sincere Gratitude

Once again, students and teachers in Miyuji, Tanzania would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the East York-Scarborough Reading Association for their continued support of St. Gaspar School. Now in its second year of operation, this young and innovative school has opened its doors to both boys and girls, children of all religions and all abilities. It also provides a community space for holistic learning. The school's Global Education curriculum is transforming the way that the children see themselves, others and the world. This is especially important in a region where girls are often under-educated and HIV/AIDS orphans are stigmatized.

One of the cornerstones of St. Gaspar's curriculum is the daily story time which takes place in every classroom. The international collection of children's literature is thoughtfully selected to reflect our interconnectedness and the struggles and joys that we all face around the world. With that in mind, we at St. Gaspar School, thank you for your commitment to international solidarity and the old African proverb that *"It takes a village to raise a child"*.

*Jemille Chu-Morrison,  
York Catholic District School Board, Secondary Teacher*

