



## Alumni partnership with Peace Corps Kenya

### DID YOU KNOW

That the U. S. Embassy Nairobi's American Reference Center has both print and electronic materials that you can use for your research and general information?

All alumni of U.S Government funded programs are welcome to join the center at NO COST. The center stocks the latest journals in all fields.

It has has approximately 4,500 books, 35 periodicals, newspaper subscriptions, video cassettes, CDS, DVDS, full Internet access, and a variety of online resources, including:

- Electronic journals
- Policy Databases
- Government and Think Tank Reports
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- JSTOR, Lexis-Nexis and ProQuest.

To join the center, call the Director Mr. Kamau on 363 6207 or email: [KamauGK@state.gov](mailto:KamauGK@state.gov)



**Volunteerism** is a virtue that all alumni say they learnt in America. It is a defining characteristic of American culture. Every year, thousands of American youth travel abroad denying themselves the luxuries of MacDonal'd's burgers to go into remote villages with extreme hardship situations for the sake of humanity.

Kenya is the only program in the world hosting Peace Corps teachers at schools for the Deaf.

Peace Corps offices in every country collaborates with local organizations and governments to help in capacity building. Having lived in America, alumni are well placed to partner with Peace Corps offices. This partnership could include hosting volunteers or offering one's expertise during their orientation period.

### Peace Corps Globally

Since its creation by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, Peace Corps has sent over 195,000 American men and women around the globe to assist people in the developing nations. Of these volunteers, nearly 5,000 have served in Kenya.

As an independent agency of the United States Government, Peace corps has three goals.

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
- To help promote a better understanding of American people on the part of the peoples served
- To help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of the American people.

Peace Corps is not a donor agency. It is an organization devoted to capacity building and cultural exchange. Its volunteers do not receive a salary and garner only a modest allowance to cover their living expenses during the period of their service.

### Peace Corps Kenya

The program in Kenya is one of the longest running operations in the Peace Corps world. Since 1964, Peace Corps has been assisting the government and people of Kenya in meeting their development goals by providing skilled volunteers in a variety of disciplines.

Currently Peace Corps Kenya volunteers support development in three areas: small enterprise development & information and communication technologies (SED/ICT); public health; and education. Within education, Kenya is the only program in the world hosting Peace Corps teachers at schools for the Deaf.

Within their areas of assignment, Peace Corps volunteers are also involved in responding to the challenge of HIV/AIDS through awareness building and prevention efforts. Many gravitate to youth-related activities in helping young Kenyans to expand their horizons.

If you are interested in hosting a volunteer in any of the areas listed, please feel free to contact the appropriate offices on the following numbers:

**Public Health** 0722 524 689, **Education** 0722 200 764, **ICT** 0721 252 025. or contact the alumni coordinator at the embassy on: 363 6626

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## KENYAN ALUMNUS CHANGING LIVES

Dr Njagi Njuki remembers his program like it happened yesterday. “It gave me a new perspective of life. I had been working for many years so I was very experienced in my area,”



he says, “however, going on the program opened my scope to levels I had never imagined.”

“to date Americans are my very good friends” - Dr. Njagi

After working for the government in various psychiatric institutions for many years, Dr. Njuki says he thought he did not need any further training until he received a Hubert Humphrey scholarship to go to America. While in America, he visited many psychiatric institutions. “The equipment and way of dealing with the cases was just phenomenal. I felt totally challenged and I came back home a different person,” Dr. Njuki says.

After the grant, Dr. Njuki established an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Facility in Nairobi. Brightside DART center as it is called is a duo diagnoses health facility for detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation of alcohol and other drugs of abuse, including associated behavioral or psychological disorders in a residential setting. The center employs the philosophy of a therapeutic community (TC) - a structured family environment where positive peer interaction and discipline is practiced.



### Stages

The process is so intensive and family oriented that after four months, his clients are ready to integrate back into the community. “There are three stages/phases each lasting between 30—60 days which one has to successfully go through and if they do not pass the test at every stage, then they have to re-take the stage” says Dr. Njuki.

The aim of the treatment is for the client to quit substance abuse, change the associated maladaptive behaviors, acquire the skills necessary for maintenance of sobriety and to function satisfactorily in the community after completion of the treatment program. On completion of the program, the center has an elaborate graduation ceremony.

Dr. Njuki attributes the success of his work to his Hubert Humphrey scholarship and says “to date Americans are my very good friends.”



Dr. Njagi poses with clients

The center can be reached on:  
Tel. 020 204 8775, 0722 847 130. e-mail:  
brightsidedart@yahoo.com

## AMERICAN ALUMNUS TELLS KENYAN STORIES

Nathan Collett came to Kenya as a Fulbright scholar in 2006. This was, however, not his first time in Kenya. He had been to Kenya as a student at USIU and fell in love with the country and its film industry potential.

His interest in film is however not the cliché Hollywood and Bollywood productions. Nathan’s interest is to tell the stories of the less privileged in the society.

### Kibera Kid

Brought up in California, one would wonder why Nathan chose to come to Kenya particularly to work with the slum population. Remember *Kibera Kid*, a production that moved audiences across the globe. A quick glance at the website [www.kiberakid.com](http://www.kiberakid.com) reveals just how many awards this film won.



Ignatius Juma, 14, star of Kibera Kid

Nathan also won the prestigious Institute of International Education’s “New Leaders Group Award”.

Dear Sir,

## RE: APPRECIATION & RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOLDLEADER STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

I hereby wish to thank you for selecting me into the 2007 pioneer high school students exchange program. This was indeed a once in a life time experience that had a remarkable positive impact in my life. It was a journey that marked a beautiful turning point that made me explore the inner me & realize the tremendous potential I had in store that could of course make a difference in so many lives.

Not only did the program build my self esteem to boldly face everyday life challenges but also changed entirely my view about life itself. I can now appreciate the diversity and respect people's different opinion.

Currently I am working hand in hand with a community rehab, where I am learning more about drug addiction in preparation for going into the field. My polite request is that you continue supporting & funding such a worthy course for it is like throwing a stone in a pond, the ripples produced are beyond ones knowledge.

I strongly recommend this exchange program for the better of our nation as our current political leadership is far wanting.

Many thanks.

Mariam Ali Dawood  
Mombasa  
Kenya.

This \$5,000 award recognizes outstanding work of current Fulbrighters who actively promote mutual understanding between the U. S and another country. It also encourages them to contribute and further promote their innovative ideas.

### Togetherness Supreme

The success of Kibera Kid provoked Nathan to work on a new production *Togetherness Supreme* - a fictional feature film which was inspired by the suffering of the slum dwellers during the post election violence that rocked the country in early 2008.

This is a story of hope against overwhelming odds. It is the story of Kamau, an artist and dreamer, Otieno, a musician and hustler, and Alice, a preacher's daughter, with whom both Kamau and Otieno fall in love. All three live in Kibera, east Africa's largest shantytown, home to a million people in Nairobi, Kenya. All three are from different tribes but are searching for tribal unity.



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from different tribes but are searching for tribal unity.

After the 2007 Kenya presidential elections, their community is torn apart by violence and tribal loyalties. Their story, set against a backdrop of tyranny, is a beacon of hope.

The script of this new film that promises to surpass the successes of Kibera Kid is the culmination of three years of research and development in collaboration with the youth of Kibera.

The process started in late 2006—when Nathan was a Fulbright scholar with intensive on-the-ground research in Kibera and was further developed during three months of workshops in 2007.

### Homeless

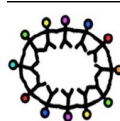
During the violence, life in Kibera and throughout Kenya changed dramatically. “Many of the young people we worked with suffered. Some had to flee for their lives and became homeless, displaced people living in tents in their own country. We realized it would be impossible to tell the story of Kibera unless the script was based on these devastating life-changing events,” says Nathan.

He says that although tension was still very high,



Hot Sun Films/Foundation—a foundation he established, “held a weeklong screenwriting workshop at the Kenya Film Commission offices in March 2008.

Fifty young people from Kibera participated enthusiastically in the hands-on screenwriting process, facilitated by Mary Beth Fielder, professor at University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles California, USA”.



**HOT SUN FOUNDATION**

Social transformation through media and art.

[www.kiberakid.com](http://www.kiberakid.com)

### Join State Alumni: Your Global Community for alumni of State Department exchange programs

#### Who are Alumni – Your Global Community!

Alumni are past participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. With more than 1,000,000 alumni worldwide, State Alumni include world leaders, achievers, and influencers. Among this global community are 47 Nobel Laureates and over 300 chiefs of state or heads of government. They are politicians, CEOs, teachers, authors, artists, and most importantly, you! As an alumnus/a of a State Department-funded exchange program, you are part of a global community of the best and brightest. Build upon your exchange experience to advance your goals, your community, and our world.

#### State Alumni: Opportunities and resources for you to connect with other alumni

- Hundreds of grant, job, and event postings
- Over 20,000 free titles in the online research center
- Access to apply for over \$33 billion in funding opportunities
- News about alumni projects; alumni success stories
- Participate in Q&A Live discussions with experts
- Share your reflections or research publications and join discussion forums
- Find fellow alumni to network with others in your field or your region
- Search for resumes or add your own to the global community

#### Continue the exchange as alumni!

- Be active in your local alumni community
- Join State Alumni (<https://alumni.state.gov>)
- Discover, meet, share, learn, grow, and achieve!

