EAST AFRICA
PHILANTHROPY AWARDS
2013
AWARD WINNERS
Eight East Africa Philanthropists were honored at the 2013 East Africa Philanthropy Awards ceremony held on 25th July at the Sarova White Sands Beach Resort in Mombasa, Kenya. The awards were held on the final day of the East Africa Philanthropy Conference themed ‘Philanthropy and Business’. The eight included individuals and organizations that had through exceptional zeal and efforts positively transformed their immediate communities.

The Awards organized by the East Africa Philanthropy Network (EAPN) formerly the East Africa Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) which identifies, recognizes and celebrates outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to strategic social development and to the growth of the philanthropic movement in East Africa. The 2013 East Africa Philanthropy awardees were.
1. East Africa Corporate Philanthropy Award

Gertrude’s Hospital Foundation, Kenya

Having been established in 2010 as a channel through which the Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital would carry out its CSR projects, the Gertrude’s Hospital Foundation has grown in its services offerings to the public. Through free medical camps, year-long free Medical treatment (at the Morogoro Health Clinic), corrective facial surgeries (in partnership with Smile Train) and other relevant partnerships and campaigns, the Foundation filled a gap in the health sector at a time when the need for adequate healthcare especially for children was not readily available.

The Foundation through partnerships with other institutions in the Health Sector continues to promote and improve access to quality healthcare in the region. Such partnerships embody the fact that corporate institutions through shared strategies and partnerships can indeed achieve more social returns in the communities around them.

This award recognizes a corporate organization or its affiliate Foundation or Trust that demonstrates commitment to philanthropy through financial support or through encouragement and motivation of others to take leadership roles toward philanthropy and community involvement.
2. East Africa Social Entrepreneurship Award

From a very humble beginning Josephine Kizza Alidekki is now impacting and transforming many lives of people in Uganda, through the St. Jude Family Project in Masaka. Set up to improve household incomes, crop yields, household food security and diet, St. Jude teaches the most vulnerable groups in the society ways of improving family subsistence farming and diet. Working mainly with rural families, many of who are supporting orphans, and youth groups, St. Jude targets groups in areas where farming techniques are poor and soils are depleted, especially in its immediate vicinity. St. Jude trains many groups of local farmers who then become part of the St. Jude Farmers Association. Support from overseas donors has enabled St. Jude to provide training and support to very poor local farmers who cannot afford training fees.

At the farm, rural farmers experience modern scientific integrated organic agriculture and low-cost, environmentally sustainable innovations that increase productivity. A wide range of subsistence and income generating farming projects are located at the farm, and many useful sustainable organic farming techniques can be demonstrated and seen in action. The integrated farming ensures that all farm products are used including run-off water for irrigation and home use, manure for biogas and compost, animal urine for pest control and manure, and weeds and kitchen waste for compost making. Integrated organic farming is based on an integrated cycle, which requires few additional inputs.

Using her skills to ensure sustainability of the environment, Josephine Kizza Aliddeki is also providing knowledge and a source of income to her community members through organic agriculture.
JBFC, Tanzania

The Janada L. Batchelor Foundation for Children in Mwanza Tanzania is a community centre founded and run by Chris Gates. As a young boy with a desire to see the wild of Tanzania, Chris Gates was taken aback when he finally got a chance as a missionary to visit the country. The numbers of young orphaned girls on the streets inspired him to set up a rescue centre that would later become a Foundation catering for their immediate needs i.e. Food, Shelter, clothing and education.

‘The best legacy we could leave behind is in the success of my girls. We’ve taken in 40 girls over the last five years. Some were starving when they arrived. Others physically abused so badly they wouldn’t look a man in the face. Now they’re growing into happy, well-cared for young women. I want to see them grow up, get educated, and be able to go out into the world and take care of themselves. That is the legacy JBFC is fostering – one of self-sustainability. We want to provide our girls and our students with the tools to be successful adults, who can help others achieve the same’
4. East Africa Community Philanthropy Award

This award recognizes community foundations or other community based organizations which either provides financial support to other non-profits that engage in community development or organize to mobilise community resources (money, in-kind, time and voice) to support unique and innovative community projects.

Robinah K. Nanyunja, Pilot International, Uganda

Robinah K. Nanyunja is an Environmentalist, Entrepreneur, Philanthropist, and an advocate of Green Politics. She is the Founder, President & CEO of Pilot International whose vision is to promote global sustainable development for the benefit of humanity and the planet. Through Pilot International Robinah has provided a global platform to promote the production of green economies by engaging world leaders in clean and renewable energy and other sustainable innovations. Furthermore, she has rewarded world leaders for their efforts in promoting green economies with Pilot International Awards. She is a Co-Chair Pilot International Foundation, a charity arm of Pilot International whose purpose is to improve the quality of life of people by empowering people to engage in environmental responsible developments, global health, women empowerment, reduction of poverty and Education. Robinah has greatly contributed to community development at different levels, such as, grass root, corporate, local and international.
Sitawa Wafula, Kenya

She had to quit her Actuarial Science degree course at the University of Nairobi, survived rape, a suicide attempt and was diagnosed with mental disorder, and now she is stronger than ever. She is the Mental Health Ambassador Kenya and through online spaces, Sitawa Wafula regularly hosts discussions around the challenges facing those with mental health issues. She is also a renowned poetess performing regularly to different audiences and sharing messages on different social issues through her articulate spoken words. Blessed with the skill of language she also provides words of caution to young girls (especially those in High Schools) about how to stay safe and protect themselves from misnomers such as rape.

She regularly posts on her blog (www.sitawa.blogspot.com) articles on the different social causes and campaigns that she supports and this has had a tremendous positive impact on those who have faced such similar circumstances and got comfort in her story and how she arose from it all.

Sitawa Wafula embodying the title slacktivist is indeed more than the title would render.
This award was given to an individual with a record of exceptional generosity who through direct financial support, volunteering of their time and other possible resources has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility, and who inspires others to take philanthropic leadership roles in communities.

6. East Africa Individual Philanthropy Award

Chris Mburu – Founder and Chairman of Hildeback Education Fund

The story of Chris Mburu focuses on giving back in small quantities and watching the impact that ‘small’ giving has on the recipient. Chris Mburu grew up in a rural village in Central Kenya and when he could not afford to go to school, donations from a Swedish teacher, Hilde Back kept him in school. She was not able to give a lot, but the little she gave enabled Chris attend school, go to college, and eventually become a Human Rights Lawyer. Having benefitted from the goodwill of ‘Hilde’ as Chris would refer to her, Chris felt a need to give back too. To provide the community in which he grew up the opportunity that Hilde had availed to him, he set up the Hilde Back Education Fund which sponsors smart but poor children to pursue High School education in Kenya. The Fund started by offering scholarships to 3 students and now has grown to support up to 100 students in the present academic year.

The commitment Chris Mburu has in offering education to smart but needy children and the power of the ‘small act’ of Hilde Back that now keeps growing through his zeal, time and resources continues to assist 100’s of future leaders in Kenya.

This story has been captured well in the ‘A Small Act’ documentary. For more information on the Hilde Back Education Fund, kindly visit www.hildebackeducationfund.com
8. Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy Award

Dr. Manu Chandaria, Kenya

Having convinced his father to give back to the society in 1950, the Chandaria name has grown in leaps and bounds promoting access to better healthcare, better education, better corporate responsiveness to disasters and environmentally conscious commercial activities. Steered by Dr. Manu Chandaria, the Foundation has been keen to respond to changing dynamics in social needs and at a time when the country needs better equipped graduates and hospitals, through partnerships with Kenyatta University, USIU, Nairobi University and The Gertrude’s Children’s Hospital the foundation is ensuring that these needs are adequately met and satisfied.

Dr. Chandaria as a Philanthropist is very inspiring especially on the impact the corporate bodies can have on the lives of ordinary poor citizens. His Philosophy is simple, yet for a billionaire speaks volumes of his commitment to Social Good. He says ‘If you can’t give what you have-experience, knowledge, philosophy; I don’t know what else you can give. I can make a swimming pool full of whisky but I don’t drink. I have compassion for others. I have no hobbies because my game is to serve. I walk in slums and children come to play in my compound’.

Dr. Reginald Mengi, Tanzania

Twice nominated for the Most Respected CEO in East Africa, Reginald Mengi is one of Africa’s leading and most influential businessmen. As owner and Executive Chairman of Tanzania’s IPP Media Group, he pioneered Corporate Social Responsibility in Tanzania by contributing his time and resources to worthy causes. Best known for sponsoring children to undergo lifesaving heart surgeries in India, Reginald Mengi has also consistently taken part in setting up development projects which focus on people with disabilities and has been equally vocal against discrimination of such disabled persons.

Through press conference, public rallies and events, he has taken every opportunity to denounce corruption and those who perpetrate it and in 2005 set up two investigative newspapers called ‘ThisDay’ and ‘Kulikoni’ that focuses on social injustice and corruption. In 1987, he initiated and funded a campaign to reforest Mount Kilimanjaro and to date over twenty four million trees have been planted on the slopes of the mountain, effectively reducing the effects global warming had on the snow peaked mountain.

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