



# Jifundishe Habari

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## From Charlottesville to Ngongongare!

The morning commute looked a little more interesting for ten University of Virginia students who traded in their usual summer jobs for an international service learning project last month with Jifundishe! The ten students, accompanied by two leaders, spent all of June in beautiful Tanzania visiting cultural tourism sites, climbing Kilimanjaro and volunteering with Jifundishe. Their efforts were effective, energetic and inspiring!

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WE NEED YARN!

EDITOR, DEBRA KELLY

Each morning the students walked to the Jifundishe Free Library. During their "commute" they learned local Kiswahili greetings, drew the stares and eventual smiles of the neighbors and coordinated daily plans with two local Jifundishe community liaisons, Flora Abayo and Stephen Kangala. The UVA students worked primarily with the QT students at the library. The QT program (Qualified Test) is a comprehensive program for those students who wish to take the national exams but are unable to attend school due mainly to financial obstacles. The Tanzanian students range in age and ability but they are united in their drive, intention, and excitement for learning.



UVA Students with Jacob Msunga, QT Teacher

The UVA students prepared lessons intended not only to present relevant information, but to initiate creative discussions and to further the QT students' confidence in their English language skills. Matt taught a crowd of thirty students about the Archeology and Natural History of Tanzania. Emily and Joey taught a packed classroom of fifty students about the ecology and environmental issues of Tanzania. The presentations were followed by discussions, questions and a sincere exchange of ideas, information and opinions. The UVA students heard many poignant stories about "real life" experiences from a Tanzanian perspective, regarding issues such as poaching, deforestation, and globalization in general.

The Jefferson Scholars also facilitated two very special "clinic days" at the Jifundishe Free Library. On June 12, led by Kirsti and Laura, the UVA group taught a basic field first aid class to local teachers and the village soccer coaches! The classes included information about issues relevant to the village area ranging from snake bites, to burns; water quality to malaria. The Tanzanian teachers were given the chance to divide into groups and practice. The simulations were so believable, we may have to introduce the concept of "And the Oscar goes to..." in future years! The teachers all returned to their schools armed with new knowledge, practiced skills, a first aid kit and a copy of "Where There Is No Doctor: A Village Handbook".



William Lukuta is checked for cataracts

The villagers, teachers, children and Jifundishe staff were amazed by and grateful for the tremendous efforts of these special visitors from the United States. Bonds are created through such sincere exchanges and Jifundishe is proud to facilitate such challenging and rewarding experiences. From soccer games with the local team, to some never-ending games of "Duck Duck Goose" with a local orphanage...this was a winning June.

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# Jifundishe

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Jifundishe is a registered non-governmental organization that funds and manages projects for community development that provide educational opportunities to people living in rural villages. work with Jifundishe? E-mail [info@jifundishe.org](mailto:info@jifundishe.org).

**COME TO OUR FUNDRAISER IN Washington, DC**

**July 16th  
Stoney's  
P & 14th Street  
7:00—9:00 pm**

## Editor's Note

*On behalf of all of us at Jifundishe I would like to thank Christina Burnham for her work with the University of Virginia group in June. Chrissy embraced a very ambitious project that included keeping 12 people busy and productive, safe and happy for two weeks while they worked in our community. She did a remarkable job and we now have 12 new friends who recognize the need that exists in our little corner of the world. Chrissy will be in Washington to help host our fundraisers there this summer and would welcome your questions about volunteering with Jifundishe. Contact her at [chrissy@jifundihe.org](mailto:chrissy@jifundihe.org)*

**Deb**

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Our thanks to everyone involved with this amazing and worthwhile project.



Doctors and volunteers explained the process

## "Oh Say Can You See?"

In the same week as the first USA World Cup Game, the University of Virginia students' experience culminated in one of the busiest days in the history of the Library! On June 15th, over 250 villagers lined up at the Jifundishe Free Library for a free eye clinic! In cooperation with a team of mobile doctors from KCCO in Moshi, Tanzania the UVA students registered each patient, tested their visual acuity and assisted them in paying for any needed services or treatment.

- **145 people received medication eye problems**
- **45 people received eye glasses**
- **8 people received surgery for cataracts**
- **1 infant was treated for a severe infection that would have resulted in blindness**
- **1 young woman was identified as having glaucoma and will now begin the proper therapy and treatment to improve her future quality of life**



Counselors talk to a woman about her surgery

Jifundishe and hundreds of villagers are grateful for the patience, generosity and energy that made this clinic possible. Thank you Jefferson Scholars, Jifundishe Library Staff and everyone at KCCO!

## "Let There Be Light!"

Thanks to the generosity of The Sudler Foundation, Jifundishe will be facilitating renovations and improvements to the Ngongongare Dispensary- most notably- the addition of electricity! Once the clinic is "wired" Dr. Anna and her team will be able to increase services to include maternity and child services, laboratory services, and immunizations. It is expected that the improvements will include the construction of an incinerator for disposal of hazardous waste, fumigation of buildings and adjacent land area and improvements to the interior laboratory.

## "A Call to Yarns!"

The Jifundishe Knitters are running low on their supplies. If you have any yarn (especially cotton) or poly stuffing that you are interested in donating, please send it to Steven Spellman, 7915 Veramonte Court, Sugar Land, Texas, 77479. The supplies will get to the knitters when Deb Kelly returns to Tanzania in September.

The crafts made by Flora and her eager knitting students are sold both locally and abroad, and are an important source of income for these young woman.

If you know a knitting group or club that would like to help support this women's group, contact Chrissy Burnham at [chrissy@jifundishe.org](mailto:chrissy@jifundishe.org).

