

EDPOWERMENT

SPRINGING FORWARD - A MARCH UPDATE



Autism Connects Tanzania (ACT) Speaks

ACT'S advocacy for the intellectually disabled reached new heights and import this Spring. First, we initiated village visits to assist rural populations in setting up local support groups and seeking help from government or other organizations. Second, we hosted over 140 caretakers and educators of the disabled in packed sessions at the March Autism Workshop. Okolo Omoli of the Kenyan Autism Society and Tanzanian lawyer, Anna



Gabriel, offered participants therapeutic guidance and strategic advice never heard before. The meeting emboldened all attendees to continue to campaign for respect and services for the disabled in their schools and villages. Finally, on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, ACT enlisted the Kilimahewa students and joined forces with the Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre for the first march and rally for autism awareness in Moshi. Tanzania now has a word for autism -*usonji*- a sign of the country's progress toward addressing this condition. ACT is on the forefront of effecting this sea-change in the way one developing country treats the autistic and intellectually disabled.



KILIMAHWEWA'S STUDENTS WERE AMONG THE 5K RUNNERS AT THIS YEAR'S KILIMANJARO MARATHON

IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR STUDENTS TO GAIN EXPOSURE TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE THEIR VILLAGES. One student wrote, "For me i enjoyed to see many people. I saw many strangers from different countries who came in my country just to run so I liked that. The most interesting thing is that the winner of 21km run was a girl from Tanzania. And boys did not perform well. They came from Kenya. As a girl I was really proud of that girl. I wished it was me."

ALLY HASSAN, one of our recent Secondary School graduates, scored high on the National Form 4 Exam and gained admission to a top "A Level" High School. Ally hopes to to pursue medical studies.