

“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.” - Ryunosuke Satoro



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED PLANET ANNOUNCES OPENING OF COMPUTER LABORATORY IN TANZANIA

Boston, MA, January 30, 2009 -- United Planet (UP) is proud to announce the opening of the first computer laboratory in Ezra, Tanzania. The lab, a part of the Ezra Ministries of Tanzania school, was funded through the work of Robert Flook, a United Planet Quest volunteer.

Flook, who completed his United Planet internship in Tanzania in 2007 while a student at University of Alberta, was focused on HIV/AIDS education when he discovered Ezra's dramatic lack of educational resources. "I originally went to Tanzania thinking I would only be teaching about AIDS, but after a week I ended up teaching about human rights, advanced English, and computers," says Flook.

"I saw these children had almost no access to books or computers," Flook said. "Right there, I decided to raise funds for them when I returned home. They needed the most basic tools and I felt I could help them with that."

Back in Alberta, Flook organized a basketball tournament fundraiser called "Hoops for Hope" which raised over \$3000 in donations. The funds were deposited in United Planet's Tanzania Country Fund, where the school applied for – and received – enough money to purchase ten computers to start a computer lab, plus bookshelves for a much-needed library.

"I cannot thank Mr. Flook enough for what he has done for the Gongolamboto community," said Tori Taugner, Country Manager for United Planet. "These children now have access to computers - a big step towards joining the world community." "The opening of the computer laboratory is an exciting and life changing opportunity for these children," said David Santulli, founder and executive director of United Planet.

While internet service is not yet available in Ezra, the computer lab offers training classes to help children and adults alike learn how to use Microsoft Excel, Word, and Powerpoint.

Those interested in donating to the computer lab may do so through United Planet's Tanzania Country Fund. Checks may be sent to United Planet, Quest, 11, Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116. Additional information about United Planet may be found at www.unitedplanet.org.

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United Planet is a leading international, educational, humanitarian and peace-building nonprofit organization with members and volunteers in some 45 countries devoted to fostering cross-cultural understanding and friendship and supporting communities in need in order to unite the world in a community beyond borders.

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