



MKOMBOZI'S DIRECTOR RECOGNISED AS A TRUE LEADER:

Kate McAlpine is "Highly Commended" by the Beacon Fellowship 2007

Kate McAlpine, the innovative co-founder and director of Mkombozi, has proven to be a real inspiration to others. This year she has been "Highly Commended" by the Beacon Fellowship in the category of "new initiatives". The Beacon Fellowship is a UK charitable organisation that rewards exceptional, individual philanthropic acts and strives to inspire the future generation of givers. Kate's nomination is based on her years of effort in supporting children's rights, education and child protection in Tanzania. To receive a Highly Commended Certificate means a direct invitation to join the Beacon Community - a unique network of people with experience of contributing to charitable / social causes (<http://www.beaconfellowship.org.uk>). Moreover, Beacon annually awards individuals in a number of categories for contributing their money, ideas, skills or time to a charitable / social cause. Each year, an overall winner is selected to be given a cash award of £30,000 to be invested in a charity of the winner's choice. The Beacon winner of 2007 will be announced at a ceremony in London on November 22nd.

A decade of dedication and achievement...

Kate's nomination for the Beacon Prize 2007 is evidence of the fruitful and illuminating ten-year road on which Kate has led Mkombozi since 1997. As the director and founder of Mkombozi, Kate has innovated solutions for the wellbeing and rights of vulnerable children in Tanzania. For example, Kate has established Mkombozi as the first non-government organisation (NGO) registered as a MEMKWA provider, and also as a provider of coaching and training of other government-funded MEMKWA centres. The MEMKWA programme was developed by Tanzania's Ministry of Education to fast-track "out of school" children in order to mainstream them into primary school. In fact, to improve the quality of MEMKWA education, Mkombozi developed the Primary Years Programme (PYP). PYP provides MEMKWA centres with a curriculum for street and vulnerable children in the spirit of participatory and integrated learning. Another important example of Kate's creative leadership is the initiated collaboration with the Moshi Municipal Council to develop Tanzania's first formal foster care program for street children.

Kate's personal leadership qualities...

Bob Henley, PhD, Senior Research Psychologist at the university of Zurich, is responsible for Kate's Beacon nomination and describes her this way: "She is passionate about social justice. She is naturally intuitive to her own and others' feelings. She is a doer as well as a dreamer. Her character draws her both to management and leadership depending upon the context. Her gifts are enthusiasm, incisiveness, passion, intuition, brains, writing and caring. She expresses these gifts by practising caring and supportive leadership, encouraging people to tap into and express their potential, building an organisation that innovates, that practices reflection and action. She has emotional intelligence characterised by self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills. She is exceptionally culturally intelligent."

Kate's personal leadership philosophy...

"Making a difference... Doing something with all my heart, which means doing something I believe in and can bring my whole self to."