

JUNE 09  
ISSUE

# ACACIA FEMALE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE



JUNE 18, 2009  
ACACIA VOICE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**AFLI - A Year In Review** By Julia Coburn, Co Founder (Pg 1, continued on page 10)

### Roots & Shoots - CANADA



**Bishop Strachan School - Toronto, Canada**

The Grade Six classes share the results of their Roots & Shoots programs (pg 2-3)

### Roots & Shoots - TANZANIA



**Nganza High School - Mwanza, Tanzania** (pg 4-5)

### Feedback from AFLI Participants On...

**Being A Leader**  
**Being a Woman in Today's Society**  
**Having an International Pen Pal**  
**How R&S Has Changed Me** (pg 6-9)

### Upcoming News

- **Summer 09 Leadership Workshops in Tanzania** (pg 11)
- **Summer Visit to Nganza R&S** (pg 12)
- **Next Year's Goals** (pg 12)

## THE ACACIA VOICE

RETHINKING AND REDEFINING LEADERSHIP

The ACACIA Female Leadership Initiative's (AFLI) mission is to create opportunities for youth to connect via an international network and Roots & Shoots projects to develop, expand and grow their leadership skills and, in the process, come to a better understanding of what it means to be an effective leader in 2009 and beyond.

[WWW.FEMALELEADERSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.FEMALELEADERSHIP.ORG)

### AFLI - A YEAR IN REVIEW BY JULIA COBURN

What a year it has been since Shadrach and I began the ACACIA Female



Leadership Initiative (AFLI) after our introduction at the Jane Goodall Global Youth Summit in Florida last



April 2008. It all started with a simple idea to empower women stemming from the passion of one person, Shadrach Meshach. Little did we know the future that awaited us moving forward, we have come a long way... (article continued on page 10)

# BSS Roots & Shoots Projects

On Monday January 12, 2009 the Grade 6H class of The Bishop Strachan School split into three groups, the environmental group, the people group and the animal group. The goal of these three groups was to make a better world starting with our own community. At first we thought what is there to do in Toronto, it's a very developed city? However, when we started to research we found more issues than we thought possible. Below are brief descriptions by the students of each project, their experiences and what they learned.

---



## Environment Group- Tree Planting

On Saturday April 25th, 2009 the girls in 6H went to Earl Bales Park in Toronto to plant trees. In total the girls and everyone else that was there planted 800 trees. Five parks in total did this so the grand total of trees planted on this day in Toronto was 4000! The reason we planted the trees is because of Roots & Shoots, an organization that makes people aware of global issues and was founded by Jane Goodall. Here are some quotes from some of the BSS Grade 6 participants:

“It only took us 2 hours to plant 800 trees!” - Lauren A

“It gave me a chance to learn how planting a tree can make a big difference and how if we come together we can plant a lot of trees in a small amount of time.” - JoJo

“ I found it very interesting that different people had different perspectives on why we would tree plant.” - Evangeline

“After we were done my dad said imagine how long it would take to plant all those trees by yourself? Then I appreciated that when everyone comes together the work gets done much quicker.” - Somerset

## People Group - Community Dinners



We had the opportunity to provide the food for two monthly dinners at the Flemingdon Park Community Centre in Toronto where we all came together to share a home cooked meal, stories and socialize. We were really happy with the turnout in particular to the second one in May. There were 2 teachers, 13 Grade 6 students, 2 BSS staff members and also lots of siblings and 8 parents there to help. We were amazed by the number of people, the variety of food that was brought and the wonderful smiles on the faces of the people that came. It really felt good serving and cooking the food and to put a smile on somebody else's face. This experience really changed my volunteer life. I used to not volunteer much and wouldn't think that I would ever want to volunteer.

But now I know that it can mean a lot to somebody else if I just put a small effort in to volunteer more.

## Animal Group



We decided to work on the issue of homeless animals as we came to the conclusion that the reason there were so many strays was because of the recession. Many pet owners may not be able to keep their pets because they could no longer afford them. Our idea was to raise money to buy pet food. We had a grub day at our school on May 20, 2009 (everyone that brought in \$2 could wear regular play clothes instead of their uniform for the day). We advertised the event to the school, created a poster for each classroom, and collected the money. When we finally collected all the money and counted it up we had raised a total of \$544.00!! One of the girls offered to buy the pet food and dropped it off at Flemingdon Park Community Centre. Rev. Helena

was very happy! We learned that just by doing something small, it can really make a difference!

---

# BSS Roots and Shoots Project

## Lieutenant Governor's Book Drive For Aboriginal Youth

**F**or our Roots and Shoot project we decided to support the Lieutenant Governor's Book Drive for Aboriginal Youth. The Aboriginal Youth of Ontario's Northern fly in communities are isolated and do not have the benefit of access to new reading material. Not long ago there were not even any libraries and reading material was very scarce.

The Grand Chief of this area says that developing literacy and having access to new books and other reading material gives the First Nations Children in his community hope that their creative spirit will grow and their imagination will flourish.

- **Judy Garay (Grade 6 teacher)**



There are many things that happened over the course of the year that brought our class to support His Honour's Aboriginal Summer Reading Book Drive. In the past, some Grade 6 classes were part of the Lieutenant Governor's Nunavut Twinning Initiative, in Grade 6 we have done a lot of research as to the history of



Lieutenant Governor His Honour David Onley visited BSS on June 16, 2009 to accept 500 books donated to his Book Drive for Aboriginal Youth.

aboriginal people but also about their present day lives. We became interested in other communities through our involvement with Roots and Shoots and the ACACIA Leadership Project that focuses on Women as Leaders. As a class, we decided that we would focus on "Kids

helping Kids" for our Roots and Shoots initiative. When Ms. Garay told us about His Honour's book drive, we felt this was a perfect opportunity to support a worthy cause and fulfill our goals to support other children in another community.

- **Rachel H (Grade 6 student)**

### A Personal Connection - Alessia B, Grade 6 student

As part of the book drive we wanted to make a more personal connection with the children of the Northern Ontario Communities. We knew that we could not go up there but we wanted them to know that we have read and enjoyed many of the books we are sending to them.

So inside most of the books there is a message written on a BSS book plate.

The messages come from the students that contributed the book, a little note saying they liked it too. Sometimes they have put a name and a Grade. You never know, one day we might meet one of the children that read a book we donated. What an amazing thing that would be.

The teachers, students and parents have really supported this book drive.

But a special note of thanks needs to go to Madeline and Holly in Grade One who recently had a joint birthday party and instead of gifts they asked their friends to buy a book to donate to the book drive.



# NGANZA Roots & Shoots

The NGANZA High School in Mwanza Tanzania have worked very hard on their projects this year. Below they describe their projects and their experiences in their own words.

---

## Environment Group



We have marked a distinguished achievement in our campaign of collecting 28,000 Tanzanian shillings to facilitate the purchasing of tree seedlings that will be planted around our community. Every member is requested to donate 1,000 Tanzanian shillings every year. We also collected materials to learn how to raise trees.

At our school, we are setting up a tree nursery. The school administration has permitted us to use one of its available plots to raise over 300 trees. Some of these trees will be distributed to the local community surrounding our school.

-Mema Ahmad

## People Group



Every month our group sits for a committee meeting. In our committee, we discovered that some societies in the Lake Zone areas practice sorcery and witchcraft activities. In that case, members made the connection between sorcery and witchcraft activities and the albino killings. The committee presented this idea to the whole group at large. We have launched a public notice board for people to post educational articles so as to raise awareness about respecting human rights.

Additionally, we are learning about how to give communities different options of growing their wealth without resorting to killing albinos.

“Sorcery and the occult maintain a strong foothold in this part of the world, especially in the remote rural areas around the fishing and mining regions of Mwanza, on the shores of Lake Victoria.”

“Albinism affects one in 20,000 people worldwide, but in Tanzania the prevalence appears to be much higher. The Albino Association of Tanzania says that although just 4,000 albinos are officially registered in the country, they believe the actual number could be as high as 173,000. A census is now under way to try to verify the figures.”

## Animal Group



We are looking forward to when the (animal) committee presents their project description for their future initiative to restore the quality of life of domestic animals. This project is not yet implemented. We look forward to sharing this project with you soon!

---

# It's Time Now to Change

Article written by Bertha Lyimo, Nganza High School student and Roots & Shoots AFLI participant

**I**t was a hot, sunny day when I was on my way back home, far away in front of me I saw a woman coming carrying a burden on her head. As she came closer I realized that she was Mesha, my form II classmate who had not attended school for about three months now.

She was carrying a big burden of firewood on her head, on her right hand she hanged a small bag and in her left hand she was holding a hoe. She was very tired and I decided to help her (carry) the hoe and that bag in which I guessed there were yams she dug in the farm, where she was working. We took away to her home.

When we reached home she was too tired, having no power to remove even the firewood on her head. As a result, she let them fall from her head to the ground with a loud bang. She stretched her back and neck several times and took the bag to the kitchen.

James, Mesha's brother was sitting under a small shade of a pawpaw tree listening to the radio. He was nodding his head slowly to indicate that he was enjoying the music heard from the radio. He seemed to be happy and peaceful, as opposed to Mesha, whose mind was filled with thoughts of domestic work.

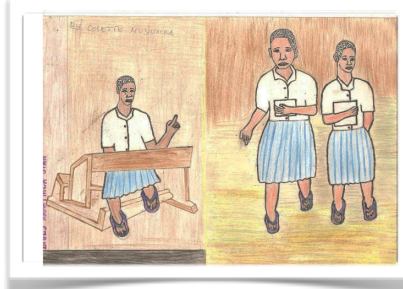
A few minutes later, Mesha came out carrying a big bundle of clothes. I had no doubt that she was going to wash them. She looked down to the clothes and then she looked at James. Her eyes

now were stained with tears. "Why are you looking at me? Don't you know that is women's work?" James asked Mesha unkindly.

Mesha is one among many women who live in difficult conditions. Most societies in Tanzania do beat women under harsh conditions. Women are treated like tools for doing work, especially domestic work like Mesha. They lack necessary tools, have no care, no love or any other kind of right. For this reason, they don't have time to develop themselves in other aspects of life, like education, health, business, leadership and others.

I think it's a right time now for society to change its vision on women. Women are not inferior, they can do wonders just like men, provided that they are given their rights. They have to be given the opportunity and support so that they can participate in other fields apart from their home responsibilities.

- **Bertha Lyimo: Roots & Shoots Nganza High School**



Artwork by artists unknown from the Lugufu Refugee Camp, Tanzania



## Feedback from AFLI participants on...

### What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership means so much, it is so important! It is important because we are the next generation, the next leaders, we have to save our universe.

- Courtney H

I think leadership means that you don't just boss people around, it means being a role model and letting other people be in the spot light it means helping others when you can.

- Genovieve H

I think it means caring for others and being a good role model.

- Ciara G

Leadership: Setting a good example, helping people/issues. Leadership is a quality that I think everyone should have.

- Evangeline G

A leader could be anyone who has the courage to make a difference.

- Jennifer B

And most importantly, a leader is able to follow. It doesn't always have to be them in the spotlight. They are able to watch others shine.

- Yaela K

To always pay attention to my peers when they have ideas or want to speak. Be open to anything. To be respectful of everybody.

- Addie P

To me leadership means setting an example for others. Always trying your best. Helping others. Taking responsibility for things. Believing in yourself and others. Taking pride in what you do and taking small steps to make the world a better place.

- Stephanie R

Leadership means to me to stick up for other people but at the same time not make it seem like you're leading!

- Jacqueline C

Leadership is choosing the best thing for the group, not yourself. Leadership and Citizenship are alike to me. A good leader has to be a good citizen.

- Elizabeth H

To me leadership means taking chances and risks to make a difference or at least try. They should follow their dreams no matter what it takes and inspire others to do the same.

They should be a good citizen and be kind to others. - Caitlin A

Leadership means that you don't put your needs in front of your communities' and you do what is for the greater good. - Alessia B

It means respect yourself and others respect you. - Lauren G

According to me, leadership means taking a position to lead a group and influencing people. Leadership does not consider age, anybody can be a leader. - Diana Rwegasira

Leadership means a ruling system whereby one leads others in various sectors like at school, in society and a country. A good leader is that who was elected by a group...

- Nyamizi George

First of all being a leader is taking control and handling roles that were put under your control. Being a leader of people gives you the chance to affect change and to provide inspiration in many people's lives. - Mema Ahmad

Leadership means organizing people and directing them in a certain activity. A leader promotes equality, good policies, and (possesses) advanced techniques in ruling. - Dina Clemence

Leadership means controlling/ruling someone or a group of people in a certain community or state. You lead (in order) to bring forward fruitful development. - Upendo Daudi

Leadership means leading a certain society (in order) to keep peace and harmony in that society. Without good leadership a society can fall into instability and disorder.

It means to head certain roles and responsibilities with confidence, regardless of our age and life variations we live in. - Diana Rwegasira

It is the process of being a leader in a certain organization, institution, and country. To be a leader means guiding and solving social problems.

- Jacqueline Khalidy

Leadership means promoting equality and being good at leading people, groups or organizations.

-Khadiji Mohamed

Leadership is administrating, being courageous to take heading roles, controlling in the right way, ruling and not exploiting. - Alice Mgaya

Because of the corruptions and abuse of authority and power, leadership means nothing to my life

- Winfrida Mallya



## Feedback from AFLI participants on...

### What does it mean to be a woman in today's society?

In today's society, there are many different meanings to being a woman. In North America and other places around the world, women are finally being treated as equals. However, in many places like Africa, women are considered the property of men.

- Christabel C

Many people believe that men are the better gender. There are many examples of this happening all over the world today. - Emily C

Today, in Toronto, women have pretty equal rights, unlike a long time ago and even in some countries today tons of women were treated like the men's property. - Jojo R

Not only should the women in these parts of the world that don't have equality fight for their rights, but all women across the world should promote women's equality. All women should have the right to do anything and everything. - Lauren A

You have to work hard in order to support yourself and NOT depend on a man to complete you.

- Chantelle L

In Canada women can work although most people still treat women as if they're second class to men.

- Christina D

Women now have many more opportunities now days. Women are still under estimated, but now we can do a lot more things than they used to do. I bet at BSS about 70 years back a

lot of girls would not get to where they are now. - Georgia H

A woman can be anything she wants.

- Randall M

I think it means that to be a woman in society is the same as a man. In Canada women are almost fully equal to men. Women have come a long way from where they used to be.

- Morgen L

Living in this society and time and also being a woman I think means I am really fortunate for two main reasons. First because in Canada at this time women have the freedom to go to school and do as we please. Secondly because I get to witness some of the historic events that women went through just recently. - Mady D

I think it means that we are very lucky because the women before us had to be mistreated because men were thought as higher class. - Willa S

Being a woman in today's society is definitely harder for some women than others. - Jamie W

In my society, women are less valued. Many families are not satisfied if they have no boy children. - Diana R

In my cultural background, before women and children were treated equally and not allowed in decision making and contributing ideas. Women are the people who produce (so) much in the family, but women can't consume what they produce.

- Nyamizi G

In my tribe women were not considered equal to men. (Their value) was very much related to getting a dowry to earn money when a girl is married. - Mema A

In my tribe all people are treated equally, there are not much differences that I can tell. Although we have our own values and norms. - Dina C

In today's society the meaning of woman is seen as a mirror, where people look at it and interpret whatever meaning they think fit to them.

- Upendo D

In our cultural traditions we are all taught to respect elders. And it's only women who take all responsibility for routine domestic work - cooking, caring for children - they are limited to think beyond home duties.

- Casilda Mathias

In today's society being a woman means taking courage and being stronger (amidst) your struggles. Also learning from other women who are making differences in the world.

- Mema Ahmad

If you are a woman you sense inferiority many times, because even if you are an adult woman you should greet the little/young boy kneeling down to show the respect to him as a man. - Ndeshidesiah Leonard

"There is no a need for girl to get education" that slogan is changing now. In our area men do fishing while women perform local farming and domestic works. - Havilla Masora

It means changing the attitude of many tribes in Tanzania that are violating women's rights, like not allowing pregnant women to eat eggs or allowing the full participation of women in decision making. - Alice Mgaya

Women are not valued as people. - Byela Bashange



## Feedback from AFLI participants on...

### What have you learned from having an international pen pal?

I learned that everybody is the same but they have different personalities and they get treated differently. We are all girls, but we live in different places and that is why we get treated differently. We all have different experiences and places we have gone but why does it mean that we can't be equal? - Jackie B.

It is interesting because I'm writing to someone who is so much older but we can still be friends and help each other with ideas for Roots & Shoots.

- Somerset J

I learned many similarities with my pen pal in their community and the differences between our two countries.

- Monica C

Well, I've learned what it's really like to be in a situation where women's rights aren't always fully developed. Where women's rights aren't always appreciated. This generation of young women is the generation that wants to be active, that wants to do something that will affect their rank in society.

- Emily C

I have really enjoyed this experience! I have learned that we are all very different and alike. - Amy G

I have learned that my pen pal and I have much in common and yet we are oceans apart. - Hannah W

I've learned how different another place in the world is. Women in Tanzania don't have as many opportunities as men, they don't get the same education and chances to do

what they want. I also learned that even though they live in such a different community, they are so passionate about the same things as we are such as animals and the environment. - Elizabeth H

My international pen pal has taught me about her country's culture, traditions and woman leaders. She said that all women must work together to achieve the rights that men have. One day, she wrote, women and men will be equal.

- Chloe L

This experience made me learn about what she likes and about her religion. I think she really commits herself to her culture. She has really taught me a lot about my culture. - Chloe R

The girls that were our pen pals have goals in life that are just like ours. My pen pal wanted to be a doctor. Lots of people think that just because they live in Africa they don't know what a cell phone is and stuff like that. Actually, of course, they do. - Rachel H

It was an amazing experience. I learned what it is like to live in Africa from someone who actually does. I learned that there are people just like us living half way across the world but they are also very different in a way. The people themselves are the same but the rights and resources are not.

- Lexi K

I love meeting people from all over the world and making friends with people from every where. I loved to see my pen pal's culture and what she likes.

- Valentine E

I have learned a lot, including how to communicate positive ideas without meeting face to face. From what we shared, I discovered that we differ in many of our life styles. - Diana R

With my pen pal I have learned that women can do something, provided that they are supported by both the government and their parents. I have become more courageous due to the ideas we communicated because her ideas have strengthened my thinking abilities. - Nyamizi George

I have learned to be meaningful and serious and to commit myself when doing projects. It has also increased in me an awareness of loving animals.

- Mema Ahmad

I have learned how people live in Canada so I now have a bit of knowledge about that country, and she has opened my mind to think locally and (then) start thinking globally.

- Dina Clemence

It was my first time having an international pen pal. Through the stories we exchanged, I have developed as a person and have grown my understanding that I have responsibilities in life. - Upendo Daudi

I gained new ideas by learning about culture and gender perspectives in Canada. - Casilda Mathias

I have learned from my pen pal that people in another country live differently compared to in my country. I have also gained a sense of my self-position and how I am responsible and connected to the environment.

- Minza Paul

"After finishing my studies I would like to be a leader, heading a higher position in my country" This made me realize that a woman like I can take a position as men. - Byela Bashange

To me having a pen pal has made me realize that you can exchange ideas. You get an opportunity also to know about levels of development between the two countries. - Winfrida M

# Feedback from AFLI participants on...

## How has your involvement in Roots & Shoots changed you as a person?

Roots & Shoots changed me in many ways. It really showed me that I can do things to save our environment, our people and our animals. It showed me that it does not take very much to go and help and it is not that hard.

- Courtney H

Roots & Shoots changed me and made me think about the issues in the world and how lucky I was to be healthy have a house and food and makes me want to volunteer to help pets in the future.

It has changed me a lot. Before I never thought about going to a monthly dinner. Now I want to do it again! - Amy G

Roots & Shoots has got me more aware of what situations/problems are going on in the world by getting me more aware it has made me a more caring person. - environment group member

When I actually went to the dinner it was an even bigger turn out. It was really nice to put smiles on other people's faces. - people group member

It made me more aware about what was really going on outside the walls of our BSS community. - Christina D

R&S has changed me by showing me that I am very fortunate to have everything I have ever wanted and needed. - people group member

After I went to the monthly dinner I felt like I was a role model for other

people too so that they can help others. - Monica C

R & S has changed me as a person because I have learned to see a new perspective. - people group member

I felt good helping the animals and also knowing that because of what we did, some pets and people would be able to stay together as a family. - Michelle C

I have found that we really are connected all around the world. It just takes more than a glance to figure it out. - animal group member

For R&S we had to look at lots of issues and just pick one but there was a lot of ideas that we could have used. This made me notice that there are a lot of things going on in the world and that I should pay more attention to and be more aware. This whole experience has changed me as a person. I'm excited to do more environmental stuff next year! - Hannah W

Before R&S I thought that we, as a school, could not really help improve the world. I thought that there were too little of us to actually make a difference. But the animal fund raiser, tree planting and monthly dinners have proved my old theory WRONG! Chantelle L

R&S changed me in every way possible. R&S is a way to embrace what you have and use it for the greater good. - people group member

I now realise that to change the world you can start locally. If we keep acting locally then it could help the world globally. - animal group member

R&S was a good program to make positive change within our community. I feel now that I should continue to make positive changes in my community. - Jennifer B

My name is Christine Mkumbo from Tanzania; I serve as a historian to the Roots & Shoots club. What I have discovered is that being a member of Roots & Shoots you are not limited to deal with plants and animals only but also being concerned about others.

I have learned how to strategize my future life. Being in Roots & Shoots has made me aware of the effects of abusing power and authority to the entire society in the developing countries specifically in the African continent.

I have understood the connection between myself and nature. Now it hurts me seeing animals hunted and domestic animals like dogs suffering, roaming everywhere in the streets..

Through this journey I have declared to become an environmental health care agent for making our future life in Africa better. - **Christine M**

My name is Katoke Kisigiro from Tanzania. Here I want to share with you that Roots & Shoots has raised my self-awareness to know my position as a woman. I am dreaming to be a woman of constructive ideas who can affect the best change for the benefit of the whole society.

Joining the Roots & Shoots club, I have learned how I am connected to animals, my fellow human beings and the environment. This is something important I was lacking. Through different discussions and watching various movies it made me want to act. My life dream is approaching to be a reality. This has also added the self-confidence to talk without fear. I can now stand in front to convey certain messages to many confidently.

Because of Roots & Shoots I'll always have the confidence to access positions and opportunities. - **Katoke K**

# ACACIA Female Leadership Initiative - A Year in Review (continued from front page)

**A** FLI in fact started as a project focused on empowering women in Tanzania. However, after some serious thought and consideration we decided to expand this focus to include forming partnerships in Canada for two very important reasons:

1. Though it may not appear to be the case on the surface, women are still not entirely equal to men even in North America.
2. When I heard Shadrach speak about the individuals he worked with and their successes in improving their communities through Roots & Shoots I was very impressed. And I thought, what a shame it would be if we once again only heard half of the story – these voices must be heard.

**It all comes down to values.** Sure we can raise lots of money which can fund very important social programs in Tanzania, a very important effort. However, this approach alone would not allow the opportunity to have a more important exchange – an equal exchange. I'm talking about sharing our ideas, passions, knowledge and perspectives on the world. Developing collaborations and partnerships, encouraging one another and reinforcing that yes, we are all important and each of us can make a difference.

The world is facing many challenges today, from global warming and deforestation to civil war and violence against women. These challenges are increasingly global, interconnected and growing in complexity and scope. Thus we must train our youth to become



*BSS and Nganza students both watching TED videos during one of our many AFLI classroom discussions on key leadership topics.*

active leaders in society, working together to tackle these issues.

It has been a pleasure to work with both the Bishop Strachan School and the Nganza Girls Secondary School this year. Shadrach and I would like to thank all of the students, school administrators and parents for their support, helping to make this pilot year a HUGE success!



## Tanzania

People are different  
Where the letter comes from  
things are different  
Where the letter comes from  
days are different  
Where the letter comes from  
time is different  
Where the letter comes from  
Poem by Katherine S, BSS student

# Upcoming News...Summer Workshops in Tanzania

**This summer local Tanzanian AFLI leaders will be facilitating leadership workshops in two villages, Uvinza and Ujiji, both located in the Kigoma region of Tanzania.** Through these workshops our goal is to empower young women by helping them realize their own ability to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond. A portion of our workshops will also be targeted at engaging the community at large in order to change perceptions of the role of women and to help reinforce the importance of women as leaders in shaping the future.

We intend to engage over 200 young women through mentoring, discussions, training sessions in public speaking and group facilitation, soccer competitions, drama and movie showings. These educational sessions are extremely important, especially in the Kigoma

region of Tanzania. This region is particularly lacking in infrastructure and social services, it has also been strongly hit by waves of refugee populations from neighbouring countries all sharing the vanishing available natural resources.

It is our hope that through these leadership workshops this summer we can help the participants grow self-confidence, abandon self-doubt and realise that, although there are many obstacles and challenges ahead, they each have the power to create positive change.

**Computer literacy is a very important skill for youth to develop.** This ability can open the doors to future employment opportunities, greater access to educational information and the potential to be connected to the global community through the internet. This

is why computer literacy training will be one of our primary focuses this summer.

For seven days Canadian and local Tanzanian AFLI leaders will be working together, to conduct intensive computer training sessions for select teachers and students from Uvinza and surrounding communities on basic keyboarding and Microsoft Office skills, using nine used lap tops generously donated to us by the BSS community and friends. The lap tops will subsequently be donated to the schools to keep and will be used to continue to train their students on these very valuable skills.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated their used lap tops for this extremely important initiative.

## AFLI Garage Sales and Fundraising

It was a rather grueling process, but after three garage sales, we have managed to raise \$2200.00 all of which will go to support the leadership workshops and computer training sessions in Tanzania this summer. Neither rain nor hail (literally, see picture at right) nor snow stopped us in the pursuit of reaching our goal.

We would like to thank everyone who graciously braved their basements and donated so many outstanding garage sale items to our sales.

As a result, we are now two thirds of the way to reaching our goal. We are still working to raise another \$1000.00 to purchase a much needed projector and screen to support our AFLI Tanzania team's ongoing presentations, lectures, and movie showings.

### *Why we need a projector - recent Roots & Shoots presentation in Tanzania*



*Julia with a fistful of hail which fell during our first garage sale in May*



**AFLI Garage Sale**

# Upcoming News.... Next Year's Goals

**N**ext year we are planning on geographically expanding the AFLI project into new areas in Western Tanzania - Mwanza and Kigoma. In Canada we are also looking at opportunities to expand although our focus will remain on the highly diverse city of Toronto. We are looking forward to forming new and dynamic partnerships both between new Roots & Shoots groups as well as with other organizations and members of the community holding similar objectives.

We are also planning to expand our skill development and leadership training workshops in Tanzania next year with a special emphasis on growing entrepreneurial skill training opportunities for young women. We will also continue to hold leadership



training workshops and education sessions throughout the year on the importance of women in development as this will still be a primary focus for AFLI in Tanzania.

Lastly, we will be widening the scope of AFLI to include boys and young men in the process. They will also be the leaders of our future and thus it is

extremely important to share these lessons of thinking from other perspectives with boys and young men as well.

Again, we cannot thank the Bishop Strachan School and the Nganza Girls Secondary School enough for their tremendous support this year in piloting the AFLI project; it has been a pleasure working with both schools. We truly hope we have facilitated an experience that has helped open minds to new perspectives, ideas, partnerships and activities. This experience has certainly been an incredible learning experience for the AFLI team and we look forward to further developing these partnerships in the years to come.

## Summer '09 Visit to Nganza High School in Mwanza Tanzania

It is truly exciting to have the opportunity to meet the AFLI participants from the Nganza Girls Secondary School in Tanzania this July.

We are looking forward to exchanging ideas and insights on the AFLI project, Roots & Shoots, the role of women in society and thoughts on how to create positive change.

When we return to Canada in September we cannot wait to share what we've learned with the BSS community and discover new and innovative

ways to keep the connection, and dialogue alive.

### How to keep in touch this summer – through our website blog

We invite you to join us online throughout our journey in Tanzania this summer via our blog. We will be writing regular updates on our experiences and welcome your comments and feedback. Our blog can be found on our website at: [www.femaleleadership.org](http://www.femaleleadership.org)

**KEEP IN TOUCH OVER THE SUMMER VIA OUR AFLI BLOG AT [WWW.FEMALELEADERSHIP.ORG](http://WWW.FEMALELEADERSHIP.ORG)**

