

NEWS FROM:



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For Immediate Release

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONSIDER THE WELLBEING OF PERSONS DISADVANTAGED BY CHALLENGES TO ABILITY AND/OR POVERTY

International: High school students (grades 9-12) are encouraged to participate in the First Annual Under The Same Sun International Essay Contest. **Entries must be postmarked by June 30, 2010.**

High School Students

Albinism is a rare genetic condition occurring regardless of ethnicity and gender. In North America and Europe it is estimated that 1 in 20,000 people have some form of albinism. In Tanzania, however, it is 5 times as common with 1 in 4,000 people being affected.

Persons with albinism in Tanzania face several major challenges:

1. The horror of a rapidly growing industry in the sale of albino body parts: There is an unimaginable and erroneous belief (in some areas of Tanzania) that the body parts of people with albinism possess magical powers capable of bringing riches.

2. Lack of low vision aids: Lack of glasses, magnifiers and specialized computer equipment results in extreme difficulty in completing education and in chronic unemployment.

3. Epidemic rates of fatal skin cancer: Lack of protective sunscreens, wide brimmed hats and proper clothing result in epidemic rates of death due to preventable skin cancer.

4. Widespread social discrimination fueled by powerful myths: There is long standing and widespread lack of public awareness of albinism. Powerful myths surround albinism in Africa:

- People with albinism will bring bad luck on the household.
- People with albinism never die - they simply vanish.
- Albinism is a contagious disease - as a result, many employers avoid hiring persons with albinism.

Question: How can you and other young people today raise awareness about the mistreatment and stereotypes of Albinos? Write an essay explaining your answer, thoughts, and ideas. Give specific examples and be creative and insightful.

Essays must not exceed 1,750 words, must be typed or neatly written, clearly organized, and address all parts of the question. Essays should be sent to the attention of: Under The Same Sun, P.O. Box 8141, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. All essays must be submitted in English or Swahili.

For contact purposes only, students must include their name, home address, contact phone number, school name, school phone number and grade. An email address is optional. Essays will not be returned and become the unlimited property of Under The Same Sun. By entering the contest, entrants give permission for essays to be posted on our website.

Winners will be notified in September, 2010 or earlier.

First place: \$300 U.S. Savings Bond

Second place: \$200 U.S. Savings Bond

Third place: \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

Prizes of comparable value will be awarded for those who reside outside of the United States.

About Under The Same Sun

Our Vision

The **Under The Same Sun Fund** exists to promote the wellbeing of persons often disadvantaged by disability and/or poverty. The organization wishes to provide a variety of supports and resources to those most often marginalized and misunderstood. We are driven by the belief that all people have been created in the image of God and thus have intrinsic value and are accordingly worthy of love and support. The Fund will support causes globally that meet these objectives and are approved by the Board of Directors.

Our History

The **Under The Same Sun Fund** is a Canadian federally registered non-profit organization founded in 2008 by Peter Ash (who is himself an albino), who also acts as Chairman of the Board for the fund. Peter is a passionate philanthropist and entrepreneur, holding an undergraduate degree in Theology and a Graduate degree in psychology. Peter's background includes a decade of work in church ministry and subsequently a decade in business. Peter also has albinism, a genetic condition which results in significantly reduced vision. As a result of Peter's faith background and his own disability his heart drives him to do whatever he can to provide resources to assist those most disadvantaged by disability, discrimination and poverty. The goal of the fund is to provide resources which allow these people groups to increase their quality of life and gain increased independence. Assisting Peter in this endeavor is his brother Paul Ash who resides in Winnipeg.

For more information about albinism and/or Under The Same Sun, please visit us online at www.underthesamesun.com or call 604-587-6500.