

THE CATALYST

CUSO INTERNATIONAL'S MAGAZINE
ON GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING

SPRING 2017





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Cuso International staff member Fabiola Quesada and volunteer Christophe Massamba participate in the #NiUnaMenos march in Peru against gender violence



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Cuso International is a non-profit international development organization, working to improve the lives of people living with poverty and inequality around the globe. Each year we mobilize hundreds of volunteer professionals who work with local partners to create positive, lasting change. Established in 1961, Cuso International is a registered charity in Canada and the United States.

Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

We wish to thank the many volunteers, alumni, partners and staff who have contributed to this edition of *The Catalyst*.

Please send your comments, ideas and submissions to:
editor@cusointernational.org

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of Canada

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du Canada

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Le Catalyseur est également disponible en français | *The Catalyst*
is also available in French

LETTER from the CHAIR

As a past volunteer of Cuso International, you no doubt share my desire to be involved in creating a more humane world. This was one of the reasons I decided to become the Chair of Cuso International's Board of Directors. What a pleasure it has been to meet with so many of you across the country who are driven by the spirit of generosity and human connection. It's been a delight to hear first-hand about the impact that Cuso International volunteers have made. Together, you have all left a unique footprint on this world that will endure.

Your past involvement in Cuso International's work has played a role in propelling our global community forward. After being exposed to the realities of poverty and injustice through volunteering, many of our alumni have emerged with a passion for service and volunteerism that has continued throughout their lives. This is a great example of the remarkable impact that this organization has. The integrity of Cuso International hasn't changed since its inception in 1961. Today, we continue to transform the lives of people around the world by helping families grow to meet their full potential.

In the pages of this edition of *The Catalyst*, you'll read more about other alumni and how they've assisted communities in places like Cuba, Tanzania, Laos, and Cambodia, as well as current volunteers who continue the work. You'll also get updates on alumni who have continued to take action to foster a more just society.

Thank you for your personal efforts in partnership with Cuso International. You should have tremendous pride in the fact that you've given your time as a volunteer.

In order for us to make change happen for the world's most vulnerable people, our alumni must continue to take active roles in our work. By attending alumni events



and sending financial contributions, you are keeping our family of supporters strong and allowing for new projects to create success in the poorest of nations.

As Canadians, we all have a special role to play in assisting people at home and around the world. For example, as Chair, I've supported the organization as it's undertaken new projects with the Indigenous partners in Canada that will allow us to extend the scope of our work. You are part of the reason that this innovation is able to happen.

Thanks again for choosing to be involved with Cuso International.

Lloyd Axworthy
Board Chair

Cuso International congratulates the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., C.C., O.M., on his promotion to Companion of the Order of Canada. This is a promotion within the Order and recognizes "his principled contributions to international human rights and for his leadership in post-secondary education, particularly in support of Aboriginal students."

Lasting LEGACIES

FAMILY IMPACT OF CUSO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

At the age of 22, Celia Denov, of Toronto, had just finished a university degree in English, got married and travelled with her husband to Tanzania. The couple were Cuso International volunteers; her placement was teaching English at a secondary school.

Celia's placement in 1965 occurred during a pivotal time in Tanzania: Freedom fighters were rallying across the continent of Africa, and socialism was on the rise. Private schools had been made public for the first time, but there were not enough local people who were trained to teach. Cuso International volunteers like Celia helped fill that void. "For me it was a completely new experience. It was a turning point. I got to understand what real poverty meant, and what the basics of life were," she recalls. "I think that stayed with me for the rest of my life."

For many Cuso International volunteers, the impact of their placement is evident, not only in the communities served, but also on a personal level. The experience of living and working overseas in developing countries prompts volunteers to see the world through a new lens, shaping their values—values which they pass on through generations. Many volunteers, including Celia, recognize their Cuso International placements helped them create a legacy of compassion, volunteerism, and a deep pride in Canadian values.

Crediting her volunteer experience for encouraging her to be outward-looking, and



Class Photo



Visiting Karamoja, Uganda



Three Generations

to truly appreciate Canadian ideas of tolerance and acceptance, Celia says she hopes to have had some influence in sharing these values with her family.

APPRECIATING CANADIAN VALUES

For the Porteous family, son Murray recognizes his father's volunteer placement with Cuso International in Cuba helped him realize the advantages he has in Canada. Murray was just 12 years old when his family travelled to Cuba for 3.5 months while his father, Ken, volunteered on a farm.

Ken was a cattle farmer in Ontario and had sold cattle to Cuba; Cuso International reached out to him to volunteer there to share his expertise. Once there, one of the first things Ken shared with local farmers was how to increase the amount of milk being produced. Within the first month, they went from producing six pounds of milk in a day to 25 pounds. But while Ken knew the cattle could produce even more, there were limitations: Providing one herd of cattle with more feed for increased production would mean taking feed rations from another farm where cattle might starve.

Murray remembers the pride he felt in Cuba because community members were so thankful for his family to be there. He got to know teachers and students, spending time at the local school. He was made to feel like a dignitary on graduation day when he stood with officials handing out neck ties to students. In Cuba, students at the time were told what their career would be, and from this, Murray started to realize the value of the choices afforded to him in Canada.

Fast forward 40 years, Murray now works on the family farm in Norfolk County. His dad, now 80 years old, is easing into his retirement. They no longer raise cattle, but instead grow fruit and asparagus. Looking back on that time in Cuba, Murray says: "It taught me independence, and it taught me the value of working hard, and appreciating Canada's democratic government."

GENERATIONS OF VOLUNTEERS

For another family, the Powells, the legacy of helping others in their community and abroad is being passed up and down the generations. Travelling in Laos in 2003, Kelley Powell met her soon-to-be husband, Imran, who was volunteering with Cuso International as an economic advisor. Kelley stayed in Laos with Imran for a year, also becoming a Cuso International volunteer with the Gender Development Group. She helped set up one of the first-ever domestic violence research projects in the country.

Having visited her in Laos, Kelley's parents, Bert and Paula, were inspired to also take on volunteer roles with Cuso International. In 2013, they travelled to Cambodia for two years. Bert worked as a government advisor, while Paula taught disadvantaged youth. "My parents have eight grandkids who all now know where Cambodia is and understand the issues there. They understand what my parents got from that experience," Kelley says.

Kelley's 11-year-old daughter, Sage, who visited her grandparents in Cambodia, is picking up the torch of volunteer work,



Ken and Murray Porteous



Three Generations of Powells

helping to raise money for a school in Sierra Leone and attending We Day in Ottawa.

This year Kelley and Imran hope to introduce their youngest children to development work as well, and are planning to bring Sage and their two sons—ages nine and six—to visit friends who are doing volunteer work in rural Nicaragua. “It’s really important to me that my kids understand that the world we have in Ottawa isn’t the way the majority of people in the world live,” Kelley says. “I want them to understand the issues of poorer countries, but to also see that many poorer communities have such great richness, and that we can learn so much from them when it comes to preserving cultures and traditions, and valuing community and family.”

With three young children at home, Kelley and Imran haven’t been able to take on another Cuso International placement, but say it’s definitely a possibility for the future. In the meantime, she says, her parents are currently perusing the volunteer postings and considering their next adventure.



Sage, Bibiana Nalwindi Seaborn, and Kelley



A Chef's Tour

Home dinners in support of Cuso International



Invite your friends, family and fellow alumni to a dinner to reminisce about your Cuso International experience. Share photos of your placement and how your experience changed your life.

Whether it is a theme dinner in your home, potluck style or at a restaurant, guests are asked to make a donation in support of Cuso International.

Two exclusive dates this Spring and Fall for alumni only. For more information, visit: cusointernational.org/ChefsTour

You will receive an exclusive toolkit of resources to help you host your dinner, in addition to individual support from our staff.





Full *Circle*

Celebrating Bonds that have Lasted a Lifetime

Last April, at the age of 77, Peter Reeve-Newson flew to Lagos for a wedding. In traditional Nigerian fashion, it was an understated affair, with a sit-down dinner for 1,000 people and a band that played for 12 hours straight.

Everything about it reminded the former Cuso International volunteer how much he loved the country, its people, their warmth and zest for life. Then, to his surprise, in mid-celebration, dozens of guests raised a toast to everything they cherished about him—the oymbo, “the white man”—who had come into their young lives as a teacher half a century before.

Among them was Yinka Odukoya, the father of the groom, who had gone on to become the chief engineering officer for Guinness. There was Dr. Olumide Phillips, a leading oil and gas engineer, philanthropist and founder of an independent co-ed high school in the city. And from the U.S., his lifelong friend Dr. Oye Olukuton, a noted cardiologist, a co-founder of Harvard’s Malaria Project and scholarships in the U.S. and in Nigeria for students in need—as he had once been. It was Oye who convinced Peter to make his first trip back to Lagos in more than 40 years, the city where the two men had first forged their extraordinary bond.

“A lot of us owe our careers to the grounding that Peter gave us,” Oye says, “People felt he had honoured them by making the trip and they wanted to honour him....and my classmates, when we get together, they like to make speeches.”

What Peter’s former students may not have guessed, was how much they had taught him: “It was,” he says, “my awakening.”

Peter’s five years in Nigeria in the 1960s completely reshaped the way he viewed the world and his role in it, the way he raised his children, and how he lives, even now, retired in Toronto, still helping others. With the worrisome rise of nationalism and the inclination to build walls, the remarkable opportunity that Cuso International provides for “people to act on their better nature” has never been more important, he says.

“It’s a chance to realize the universality of the human race. When we think of foreigners, we think of faceless beings in some distant land, but they are real people you can support, and make a difference by helping them to have an easier, fuller, better life. In turn, that will certainly change you.

“I’d grown up with so many assumptions about the world,” he adds. “But that is not the man I became.”

Raised in the rural village of Beaver Valley, Ontario, Peter was hungry to see the world. After graduating with a geophysics degree from the University of Toronto in 1961, he thought he might teach math in Brazil. But during his first teaching job at the University of Waterloo, where he also completed master's degree in mathematics, he met three Nigerian students who urged him to visit their country.

Most students came from very modest means: "The mother would pay for the uniform, a sister would pay for the books and the brother with a bank job would pay the tuition."

With so many family members counting on their success, the boys worked hard to do well—and they did.

One of them was Oye Olukotun, who had dreamed of becoming a doctor from the age of six. His mother and

older brother had scraped together the funds for his first year of high school, and he won a scholarship that covered the years that followed. He was 16 when he first met Mr. Reeves-Newson, and from the get-go he could see that this new teacher was "unusual." For starters, he was young, Oye says, "only seven years older...so he really related to our youth...and he had a way of teaching that made mathematics and physics come alive, it was very inspirational."

For Peter, who was captivated by the local welcoming culture of the Yoruba people, it felt natural—"They just wanted you to come and meet their

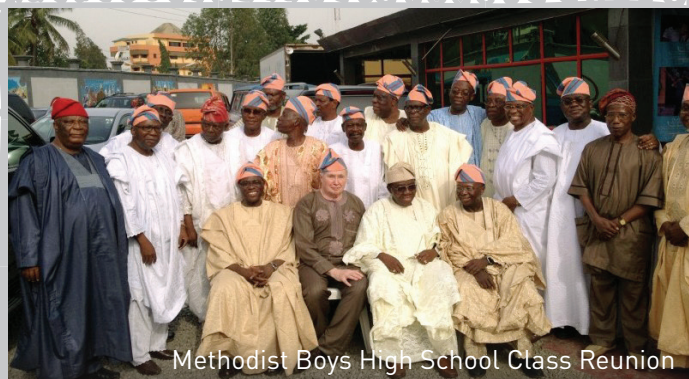
Canadian University Services Overseas, what would become CUSO and later Cuso International, was barely a year old then, and after spotting its posters in the halls, Peter signed up. By September 1962, at the age of 23, he landed in the sprawling port city of Lagos, stepping off the plane and into the wet heat of the Nigerian climate, where, he admits, "I was stunned for the first few days."

But he found his footing quickly as the new math and physics teacher at the Methodist Boys High School, and, his passion. "I was excited by the teaching. I loved it.

families." So he did, sometimes attending the naming ceremonies of newborns. Given the very high infant mortality rates at the time, the ceremonies, held on a baby's fifth day of life, marked a major community celebration, he says, with parades of visitors, food, and musicians playing in front of the house. Anyone who comes with a gift can name the child, and the child will always answer to that name from that person.



Class Photo



Methodist Boys High School Class Reunion

In 1964, Peter left the Methodist Boys High School to become the principal at Ibibio State College, a tribal school in the south, where he remained until Nigeria's civil war broke out in 1967. But the two years he taught in Lagos, says Oye, "created a bond that lasted a lifetime... it meant such a lot...he wasn't just our teacher."

In part, because of all Peter did for students outside the classroom. For one senior student, whose family could no longer afford the tuition fees, Peter picked up the costs himself—"It wasn't much," he says. Once, he even turned to a wealthy spinster back in his Ontario hometown to cover the university tuition for a needy student and to his delight, "she was happy to do it," and Peter discovered, "it doesn't hurt to ask."

The generosity of others has had a wonderful ripple effect, Peter says. The students who benefited went on to learn and earn and their success enabled them to educate dozens of others, their own children, their grandchildren, and on it goes. "It's individuals who make the difference," Peter says and Cuso International is like "the seed," from which that legacy grows.

Peter, meanwhile, returned to Toronto, and switched from teaching children math to teaching adults the latest in computer systems. But he continued to work with Cuso International, staffing booths at job fairs, giving talks, sometimes in his Nigerian robes, and appearing on the CBC to provide insight into Nigeria's civil war.

All the while, Oye stayed in touch and for his first Christmas in North America, he drove to Canada. Peter took him home to Beaver Valley to see the snow.

The two men kept in close touch through the years. They went to each other's weddings, vacationed together with their families. Peter and his wife, Marlene Sigel, who had also been a CUSO teacher in Bolivia, had four children and "Uncle Oye" gave each of them Nigerian names, their

eldest, Mark is Ime for "long awaited," Tim is Eno for "God's gift;" and Marianne was named Remilokun for "the sister is remembered."

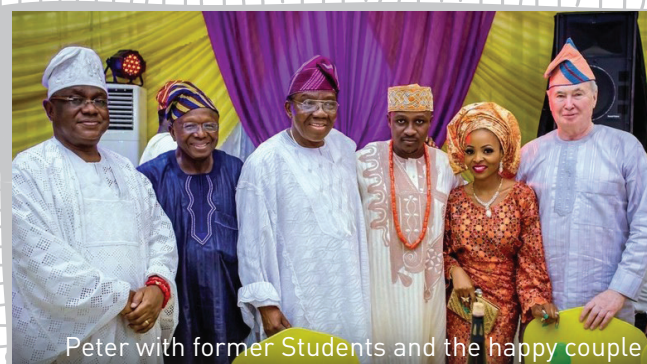
The remembered sister was Joanna, Mfon, meaning "God's grace," who was born with microcephaly, a rare neurological condition. By the late 1980s, when her prognosis was poor, Oye was there to help the man who had so long ago helped him.

"Oye arranged for us to get a second opinion at Harvard," says Peter. "He did that for us, and we went down to Boston." Unfortunately, nothing could be done, and in 1990, seven-year-old Joanna passed away.

Despite his grief, what survived is Peter's belief that life's greatest gift is what you can give to others. "Part of why we're here on earth is to share our talents" he says, a value he still lives by. Since retiring and moving into a condo, he's given up carpentry for quilting and makes hats for cancer patients and with the Linus Project, blankets and comforters for long-term care residents, families who have lost their homes to fires, and for women's shelters where mothers and children sometimes arrive with nothing of their own.

It's a value his children inherited. His eldest son taught English in Japan, his second son built homes in Bangladesh, and his daughter, a social worker, works with Indigenous women and youth. And, as Peter saw for himself on his recent trip back to Lagos, it's a legacy alive and well among the alumni of the Methodist Boys' High School. They too have made a vocation of giving back, to their families, and communities and those in need.

"Seeing all these students of mine who welcomed me, and how well they have done, and what they do for others," says Peter, "it closed a happy circle."



Peter with former Students and the happy couple



CUSO teacher in Nigeria

The Thi



Amanda on the job in Bolivia

Following a similar path to the one her mother Valerie took as a young volunteer some 35 years ago, Amanda Cox is currently volunteering with Cuso International. While mother and daughter have different areas of professional expertise, and have volunteered in different countries, the impact of their placement has been the same.

“My mom worked most of her life as a teacher at a school for marginalized youth. Her travelling and working to help people has served as a role-model for me,” Amanda said. “We both feel that travel and volunteering are great opportunities for broadening your horizons, learning about the world, and deepening your gratitude for the things in life that matter.”

The 28-year-old industrial design professional is currently volunteering in Bolivia, while her mother was a Cuso International volunteer in Nigeria from 1978–1980.

In Bolivia, Amanda lends her professional expertise to a technical college that teaches carpentry, metal working and construction. Her placement is specific to helping the students open a store where students can sell their handmade goods to raise funds for the school. The store’s profit will be used to provide grants to students who might not otherwise be able to attend.

The store, once opened, will sell items for kitchens and offices, as well as garden planters, mirrors, and even souvenirs. The high-quality pieces aim to showcase Bolivia’s history. “I hope that once the store opens, the students will be given projects to design products for the store. This will teach them more about design, entrepreneurship, branding, and also give them confidence by seeing their products sold,” she said.

Family Travels



ings that Matter



Valerie and Amanda

Speaking of her daughter's volunteer work, Valerie says: "I am proud and thrilled that Amanda has had the chance to experience the adventures and responsibility of living and working in a different country and culture. It has made her examine her values and priorities in life, and to find her own strengths and deal with challenges."

At the age of 21, Valerie experienced her own adventures, travelling to Nigeria with Cuso International, volunteering at a school as head of the English department. She also ran the library and debate club, and was house mistress to more than 100 boys.

"Those were different times, with no Internet, and no way to keep in touch with friends and family in Canada except by snail mail. We had no electricity or running water for the first year," Valerie said. "Some of my students had never seen a white person before. I had to learn a new language (Hausa) to communicate with the locals. I did a lot of learning, adjusting and growing in that time."

When they were younger, Valerie

encouraged her two daughters to travel, explore other countries and learn about how other people live, and to contribute to the world in their own way—lessons Amanda remembers from her youth. "Growing up, it was always stressed to my sister and myself that experiences were more important than things, and that we should always give back," Amanda recounts.

In sharing experiences, Amanda notes it has been interesting to see how Cuso International has changed over the years, and how different their placements have been. However, each placement has enabled these women to explore the world, learn about new cultures, and give back to the communities they serve.



Eager Nigerian Students

Have Skills WILL TRAVEL

For as long as Yves Bureau can remember, he followed the adventures of his uncles who worked as Catholic missionaries in countries in Africa, in Japan and in Canada's North. Yves remembers sitting with his grandmother as she showed him where these kind and adventurous men lived and worked. His uncles planted the seed of service in Yves' mind, one that stayed with him throughout adulthood.

"I've had a good life," says Yves, reflecting upon his career in healthcare administration and the three children he raised with his wife of 38 years. "When I retired, I decided to offer my expertise with others in the world."

In January 2017, Yves embarked upon his fourth volunteer placement with Cuso International. He began volunteering in 2010 and his placements have taken him to small town Vietnam, remote villages of Cambodia, urban Myanmar and most recently, the Philippines.

Yves uses his experience in organizational and capacity development to mentor managers to develop and sustain organizations that serve their communities. "These organizations are full of young people who want to improve the lives of their families and communities," says Yves. "They bring so much energy, it fulfills me."



Yves in Cambodia, 2013

As a volunteer, Yves seeks first to understand the context that he is working in, then adapts his experience and expertise to meet the specific needs of the people he is working with. After that, he steps back so they can implement what they've learned.

"In international development, we can't expect immediate results," says Yves. "It takes time and support to develop and express new skills." Over the course of his four placements, Yves has developed a deep appreciation for the organization's approach to volunteerism. "Cuso International volunteers listen and share knowledge that helps organizations get to where they want to go," he says. "They are very respectful toward other cultures, traditions and people."

Yves is one of a growing number of Cuso International volunteers who re-volunteer after their initial placements have ended. "The work is incredibly rewarding," says Yves. "It's opened my mind and made me more curious about our world and the people within it." Yves remains in contact with the people he worked with in Vietnam and Cambodia; they regularly email Yves with questions and updates.

The Bureau family legacy of philanthropy lives on in Yves and his siblings—two of whom also volunteer internationally—and shows no sign of slowing down. "As long as I have the health to continue and knowledge to share, I would like to keep volunteering with Cuso International."

Alumnotes

A place to share and connect

Colleen Ashworth

Ghana 1964–1966

Fifty-two years ago, Colleen Ashworth witnessed the assassination of Malcolm X at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City. Ashworth was profiled in an article by the East Coast Post marking the anniversary of the assassination.

bit.ly/2lCcdgG



Donald Lowe

Uganda 1966–1968

Armand Rodrigues recently shared his memories.

In the 1960s, I served as the CEO of the Ministry of Works, Communications and Housing in Uganda. It was then when I first came to know Cuso International volunteers. Their contributions were immense.

At the time, the retiring age in Uganda was 55 years old and we were pleasantly surprised to discover one of the new volunteers was a grandfatherly 78! This volunteer happened to be a Canadian civil engineer named Donald Lowe.

Donald arrived in September, 1966 and although he was lean and spry, I have to admit that our initial reaction was outright rejection. However, I found that he had worked on major engineering projects from Vancouver to Halifax.

After a couple of weeks behind a desk, Donald was getting restless. We decided to give him the onerous job of Regional Engineer of the Western Province of Uganda—an area about a quarter the size of Ontario. Donald would have to manage 200 office staff, as well as 2,500 manual labourers.

Donald was in his element. His new job involved everything from tarmac and dirt roads to bridges, ferries and ports. The territory was populated by trucks, bulldozers, scrapers, cranes and steamrollers. Donald knew every facet of every operation he tackled. Best of all, Donald was a people person and his staff respected him.

Under Donald's management, the Western province soon became the envy of the other provinces.

When I moved to Canada in January 1969, I tried to find where Donald had landed upon his return to Canada. Sadly, I was never able to find him. I will always remember him though. Donald Lowe was truly one of a kind.

Ian Parker

Tanzania 1968–1971

A Catalyst reader, staff member and former Cuso International volun-

teer, Michael Cameron, wrote in to report that fellow alumnus Ian Parker is a co-author of *Microeconomics and Behaviour*, a textbook that takes a Canadian perspective on the subject. Parker mentions his volunteer experience supporting the National Development Corporation in Tanzania in the book's introduction. The text is infused with worldly life experiences, innovative perspectives and stretches the usual boundaries of microeconomics. For more information on *Microeconomic and Behaviour*, please see: amzn.to/2m4aG4b



David Van Berckel

Malaysia 1969–1971

Owner of Opus Art Supplies—and former Cuso International volunteer—David Van Berckel was recently featured in The Vancouver Sun. The so-called “left-leaning entrepreneur” had always been interested in art. Van Berckel opened Opus as a framing shop in 1974 upon returning from his vol-



unteer placement in Sarawak, Malaysia.

To read the story of David Van Berckel and Opus, visit:

bit.ly/213EZDN

Bruce A. McKean

Canada 2015–current

Papua New Guinea 1971–1973

At one time, Bruce thought he wanted to work for one of Canada's Big Five banks. He applied for a job but the fine organization suggested he would not be happy as a banker. In retrospect, Bruce is grateful for their insightful judgement.

Instead, Bruce joined Cuso International and spent two years teaching in the New Guinea Highlands. It was the hardest work of his life.

After his placement, Bruce joined the Department of External Affairs (now known as Global Affairs Canada) and had postings in India, Thailand and Egypt.



In 1983, Bruce moved to Energy Mines and Resources (now known as Natural Resources Canada) and, in 1995, he left government work altogether. For 13 years, Bruce worked in product stewardship and social responsibility with the nickel industry before starting his own consultancy in the same area.

Now retired, one of Bruce's primary activities is—coming full circle—Cuso International, where he is a member of the Board of Directors.

Donna M. Hudson

Nigeria 1976–1978

I just opened my Catalyst magazine and saw the photo sent by Richard Fanning. I was at that orientation as volunteer support. Richard and Ron were up in Potiskum while Karen Craven and I were posted south of them in Misau.

Karen has passed but I am living in Long Point, Ontario with my husband, Jeff. We live on a sandspit, which reminds me of the landscape in Misau.

The two years I spent in Nigeria had a great impact on me. I learned so much, living and working in such a vibrant community. I teach ESL on a volunteer basis to refugees and Mennonites from Mexico.

Life has been challenging. I had a serious car accident many years ago, which affected many choices I have had to make. I am grateful to be alive.

Reading *the Catalyst* and seeing the picture of so many friends from years ago is heartening. Thanks for sharing.

Nora Murdock

Canada 2015–current

Nigeria 1980–1982

Nora Murdock is Director of System Development for the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. The Centre is responsible for the new Manitoba First Nations School System, a First Nations-designed and led school system that will create a culturally relevant, high-quality education system for First Nations' schools.



Nora, a member of the Cuso International Board of Directors, recently shared a message with fellow alumni from the 1980s.

"My volunteer experience with Cuso International was completely transformative. As a Cree First Nations from Northern Manitoba, my volunteer experience opened up the world—not only to me, but to my entire family. It helped to make me who I am today. I am proud of what I achieved and the experience continues to impact my work in First Nations education in significant ways."

To learn more about Nora's contribution to First Nations education visit: bit.ly/2hrwxfQ

Rick Kwitkoski

Nigeria 1981–1983

In the past four years, we have had two large reunions of cooperants from Nigeria mostly from the 1980s. The first one was held in Toronto in 2013.

The Facebook lead-up to the 2015 reunion in Montreal was very active with posts of photos, memories and stories. There's lots of kibitzing between cooperants and long lost friendships found again.



We are now planning a third reunion, which will take place in Kingston on July 28–30, 2017. Like the reunion two years ago, it has a closed Facebook group. To join, visit bit.ly/2m4mpzG and click the “Join group” button on the upper right corner of the page.

Lillie Johnson

*Jamaica 1989–1992
1992–1995*

At 92 years young, Lillie Johnson is a shining example of service to others and the community at large. She was awarded the Order of Ontario in 2011 for her work with the Sickle Cell Association of Ontario, which she founded in 1981. Growing up in Jamaica, Lillie learned early on the importance of education and of helping other people.

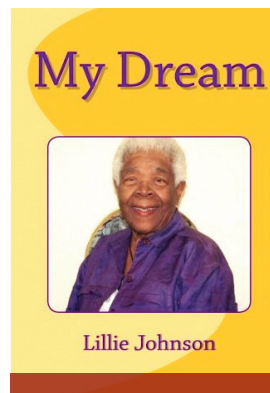
After qualifying as a nurse in the U.K., Lillie came to Canada in 1960. She pursued her dream, furthering her nursing education while working full-time in the healthcare sector, a career that culminated in

her being the first black Director of Public Health in the Leeds-Grenville and Lanark District.

Lillie promised to return to Jamaica one day to provide more affordable and accessible health-care. In 1989, Lillie fulfilled that promise when she returned as a Cuso International volunteer.

After she retired, Lillie returned to Jamaica as a Cuso International diaspora volunteer, working on two different assignments over a 10-year period. In her last four years as a volunteer, Lillie helped open and run a medical clinic.

Read more about Lillie’s dedication to others in her memoir, “My Dream”. amzn.to/2INqwx9



Verdiane Bukumi

Benin 2015

Verdiane was Cuso International’s featured volunteer by Global Affairs Canada in a video to mark International Volunteer Day 2016.

International Volunteer Day (IVD), mandated by the UN General Assembly, is held each year on December 5. youtu.be/7Rd0cnpqk-w



Read more from other alumni at cusointernational.org/alumni

Alumni Flashback



Do you recognize anyone from this photo? Help us dust off this memory by sharing your stories or identifying those in the picture.

Please email us at editor@cusointernational.org or send us a tweet at [@CusoIntl](https://twitter.com/CusoIntl) using the hashtag [#flashback](https://twitter.com/hashtag/flashback). Submissions will be shared via the next edition of *The Catalyst*.

Did you recognize anyone in the photo?

We asked our readers to send in their best guesses about this photo. Check out the stories at cusointernational.org/alumni



In Memoriam

Geraldine (Gerri) Dickson
Mozambique 1981–1983
Papua New Guinea 1977–1979
Nigeria 1973–1975

Gerri died on August 10, 2016 with her loving husband, Murray by her side.

Gerri and Murray were committed to cross-cultural and international development work. Their first assignment was a two-year Cuso International posting in Nigeria, which was followed by two years in Papua New Guinea and two years in Mozambique.

Gerri contributed to planning the Training for Health Renewal Program (THRP) that partnered the University of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Health in Mozambique. She would go on to direct the THRP at the rural health training center in Massinga. Gerri was passionate about the project and her love for Mozambique.

Gerri's other passion was working with First Nations people. Gerri and Murray have established a study award for First Nations and Métis students entering the field of Health Sciences in post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan.

Geoffrey Dunkley
Tanzania 1972–1974

Dr. Geoff Dunkley died of cancer on October 18, 2016. An accomplished public health physician, Geoff spent most of his career working in Ottawa, later focussing on international work, First Nations health planning, and academia.

Geoff will be remembered as an outdoorsman, a Sudoku master, a crossword king, an avid reader, a cruncher of nuts (but not a thrower-away of shells), a gravy aficionado and a music lover. Above all, he was a marathoner—nothing made him happier than a long run.

He couldn't always find the words to tell us how he felt, but he showed us, every day, all his life, in a million little ways.

Rosa Candia
Chile 1991–1995, 1995–1999,
1999–2001
Costa Rica 2001

On November 24, 2016, Rosa Candia, former Cuso International volunteer and employee passed away from ALS.

Born in Chile, Rosa was a bright, warm and dedicated woman. She was forced to leave her country when speaking your mind about human rights and equality was equal to a death sentence. Dictatorship made her a refugee, but Canada opened its doors for her, and she never left.

It is very sad to hear of her passing, she was a role model, a fighter and an exceptional human being.

Learn more about Rosa's work at bit.ly/2mlTEL5

John Baigent
Ghana 1963–1965

Many involved with CUSO in its earliest days, and particularly those who volunteered in West Africa,

will fondly remember John; gifted but down to earth, gentle but passionate, curious and well-read, caring and kind. John was a great conversationalist and story teller, with an unforgettable sense of humour and a laugh that brightened all occasions. After a long battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), John passed away on December 3, 2016 at his home, surrounded by family. John was 75.

To read more of alumnus Jon Church's tribute to John Baigent please visit cusointernational.org/alumni

Christian S. Brun
Mozambique 1998–2001,
2001–2002

On December 5, 2016, Christian Brun of Shediack was tragically killed in a car accident. He was 46.

Christian was the Executive Director of the Maritime Fisherman's Union (MFU), president of the Independent Fisherman's Federation of Canada, writer, visual artist, painter, soccer coach, hockey player, and musician.

Christian travelled to Mozambique as a volunteer with Cuso International to work on a project that converted weapons from the civil war into art.

The devoted husband and father will be deeply missed.

Visit: cusointernational.org/alumni to celebrate the lives of other members of the Cuso International family.



WHAT KIND OF MARK WILL YOU LEAVE ON OUR WORLD?

"I WANT TO MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES."



I have always felt that way. That's why I became a Cuso International volunteer some 50 years ago, and why I have decided to leave a gift to Cuso International in my Will. This organization has impacted my life, and so many others, in such an enormous way, I

want to ensure their work continues in the years to come. By helping to make change happen for the world's most vulnerable people, I feel like a part of me will live on after I'm gone.

Celia, Tanzania '67

To learn more about how you too can continue to play an integral role in Cuso International's mission by leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Leah Miller, Major Gifts and Legacy Giving Manager. We would be happy to send you a copy of Cuso International's legacy brochure.

CUSO
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