



# Daycroft

The Daycroft School Foundation, Inc.

SPRING 2017

## What is Daycroft?

The Daycroft School Foundation supports education in a Christian Science environment. In addition to making grants to organizations serving Christian Science youth, Daycroft spearheads initiatives that support and advance spiritually-based education.

## Daycroft's Activities

- Campership funds for all 6 CS camps.
- Support for *DiscoveryBound's* National Leadership Conference
- Backing for new youth initiatives
- Scholarships and other support for CS-based schools
- Collaboration with other organizations
- Alumni activities

## Dear Friends,

Many of you know that The Daycroft School Foundation developed directly from the work of The Daycroft School, a school for children growing up in Christian Science families. The school served children in nursery school through grade 12 for over sixty years, graduating its last class in 1991.

You may not be aware of the qualities and values that characterized Daycroft School – a family-like atmosphere, a respect for individuality and each individual's contribution to the community, a "can-do" spirit, and most of all, *love*.

Today, Daycroft Foundation supports many wonderful organizations that are giving children and young people their own Daycroft-like experiences. These experiences can be life-changing. Meet Michael and Fortune. These two young men live almost half a world apart and in very different circumstances, but both have experienced the transforming power of love. We think you will be inspired by their stories.

### READ MICHAELS' STORY (p.2)

Formerly bullied and friendless, this teen found acceptance and love in Adventure Unlimited's programs.



### READ FORTUNE'S STORY (p.3)

Once considered mentally disabled, this student (and his family) found freedom and happiness at Dream Education Centre, a Christian Science-based school in Kenya.



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## Discovering a sense of belonging and worth.

Michael moved with his family to the United States from Great Britain when he was 13 years old. The family relocated because Michael had been the subject of what his mother described as “very bad bullying” at three different schools. In a letter of gratitude she went on to say, “due to his school life, [Michael] was walking away from Christian Science disheartened; this was a very low point in his young life. He had lost an enormous amount of confidence and in desperation we decided to try something totally new and applied for visas to come to the States.”

Seeking friendship and peace for Michael, his mother says they found it immediately in *DiscoveryBound* Outreach activities. “I can’t even begin to tell you what this meant to both my son and to us as a family to have him and my daughter welcomed, enfolded and accepted immediately,” she says. “To be able to instantly connect with children and young adults who think the same, have the same code of behavior and outlook in life, was, to say the least, incredible.”

Michael’s experience with *DiscoveryBound* events led him to apply to and be accepted into the National Leadership Council and eventually attend the A/U Ranches both as a camper, a counselor-in-training, and now as a counselor.

What follows is Michael’s account of how his involvement in *DiscoveryBound*’s National Leadership Council changed his life (adapted from a letter he wrote to his NLC classmates):

*I’m told I’ve had a very interesting life. I have lived many places, been to many schools, visited a large portion of the world and missed few opportunities presented to me. I have done a lot in life, but when it comes to influencing me to be a better leader, a better person, nothing has been even slightly as influential in my life as this incredible program.*



Michael with a group of friends from *DiscoveryBound*.

*Growing up in England was never easy. I went a lot of places, and I met a lot of people, but I never fit in. There was always something wrong with me. At the age of 12, I had never had a friend.*

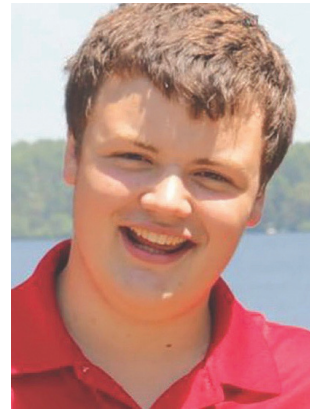
*I was in America for about a month when my mother strongly encouraged me to fill out the longest application I would ever have to write for some weird leadership program that meets every year in the middle of nowhere. I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I was so wrong. (Thank you so much, Mum—you were right.)*

*But how could I know what was waiting for me? Never in my life had I felt something remotely close to the love that I was about to walk into. To this day, Baggage Claim 19 at Denver International Airport, where I arrived for my first All Class Retreat, must still radiate with that unconditional affection that everyone there expressed to everyone else around them—even the small, plump and very attention-seeking stranger with a British accent. **I felt so loved I could almost cry.** I knew that I had met the most incredible group of*

*friends I could ask for. What I didn’t realize is that today, four years later and older, they are no longer my friends. They are my family.*

*I said earlier that nothing has changed me as much as this program has, and I didn’t lie; but before the leadership seminars and the monthly assignments and the experiences all over the world, it is my NLC family that has made me who I am today, and I honestly don’t know where I would be without them. They will forever be in my heart... because the love they showed me is the love I had been searching for my entire life.*

Michael’s mother is deeply grateful. “*DiscoveryBound* gave to him what we could not—belief in himself and the knowledge that he was a good person who deserved to have friends. *DiscoveryBound* gives the kids a chance to be the person they wish to be, to live the life they wish to live, with the knowledge that this is right and true and that they are not the only ones who wish to live and express themselves this way.”



Read more inspiring stories like this one on the Harvest Songs page of the Adventure Unlimited website.



[www.adventureunlimited.org/support](http://www.adventureunlimited.org/support)



## “Teachers are meant to heal, aren’t they?”

**Grace Ongombe** teaches at Dream Education Centre on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. She carries her Mother Church membership letter with her everywhere because it is so precious to her, and she doesn’t want to lose it. **Jamie Yu Stock** is a student at Principia College who spent her fall semester volunteering at Dream. You can read her blog about her experiences at [www.letloveteach.com](http://www.letloveteach.com). Together, they tell the story of Fortune, now a third grader at the school.



### FROM TEACHER GRACE:

*When Fortune’s dad sent him to school, he had already lost hope in him. He believed that he was mentally disabled. In Kenya, when a child is recognized as having any disability, his parents will lock him inside and nobody is supposed to see. It’s like a curse to the family. Fortune’s dad is at least open-minded. He wanted Fortune to be able to interact with others. My mother is also a teacher. She is dealing with students with disabilities. Their main learning objective is to be independent, not to know how to read and write. But I told my mom that we must treat those children like human beings and see who they really are. Fortune really improved dramatically. **His dad always tells me, ‘Teacher, whatever you have done to my child is amazing. He was not able to talk with anyone before. Now he can talk, play, and laugh in the house.’***

### FROM JAMIE YU’S BLOG:

Fortune is a little boy from Class 2. He is a good and happy child. I was told that he wasn’t always like this. Before he came to this school, his dad believed that he was mentally disabled. He never talked or laughed at home. He wasn’t able to read or write. But when he writes and speaks Chinese in my class, I can’t tell any difference between him and the other children. That is how much progress he has been made since he came to this school.



*Teacher Grace with her students.*

Teacher Grace never accepted the material picture of this boy. She treated Fortune with care and love and encouraged his classmates to do the same. She also asked his dad to join her in praying for him.

But he hasn’t come back recently after he was sent back home to collect his school fees. I heard that his dad had an accident lately, so we decided to pay a visit to his home.

Joseph, Grace and I walked for almost one hour until we arrived at Fortune’s home. On the way there, we shared some inspiration and

reaffirmed the truth about this perfect child. Joseph recited: “Love never loses sight of loveliness. Its halo rests upon its object” (S&H 248:3).

Fortune had been waiting for us for a whole day and was so excited to see us. He gave Joseph a big hug and couldn’t stop smiling. We all sat down and started to talk about all the challenges the family was facing. His dad showed us an X-ray picture and told us that the doctors have admitted that there is nothing wrong with Fortune. He was completely healed by the love he is experiencing at the school! At the end of our visit, Fortune’s dad promised us that he would do his best to send Fortune back to school next Monday.

When I saw Fortune the next day in school, he had the biggest smile on his face, I was overflowed with joy and grabbed him in my arms. Everyone welcomed him back with open arms. It was the sweetest thing.

I am learning so much from our teachers and children here because they love so freely; they are true healers.

**Teachers are meant to heal, aren’t they?**



*Jamie with Fortune and his family*

[www.thedreameducationcenter.weebly.com](http://www.thedreameducationcenter.weebly.com)

or

[www.e3schools.org](http://www.e3schools.org)





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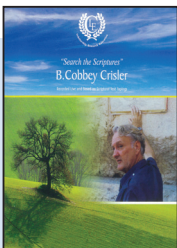
## Inside: Two beautiful, inspiring stories!



*Michael with his NLC classmates*



*Fortune with 3rd grade classmates  
and an American visitor*



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