

Date: 10 December 2011
To: Manitoba Educators
From: Dr. Jessica Senehi, Associate Professor, University of Manitoba
Associate Director, Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at St. Paul's College
Artistic Director, Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival
Re: **Opportunity to make a difference with Winnipeg organization,
Humankind International**

I met Muuxi Adam in 2006 when he first spoke to young people at the *Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival: Storytelling on the Path to Peace*. In the five years since then, he has inspired hundreds of young people through the Festival.

Muuxi embodies many of the qualities Manitobans take pride in—resilience, working for the community, gratitude, and giving back.

Now he and his colleagues have co-founded Humankind International to build a sustainable school to support early childhood education in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Dadaab Refugee Camp is the largest refugee camp in the world. More than 400,000 people reside there, and more than 100,000 of the residents are under age eight. Because of the demand on schools there, provided by the humanitarian organization CARE, children are unable to access education until they are eight or nine years old. Muuxi visited Dadaab earlier this year, and the people he talked with expressed the need for early childhood education for those children under eight who are not yet able to attend schools.

You are invited to join with a new non-profit organization, Humankind International, in action projects for education, raising awareness, and fundraising in order to build a **sustainable early childhood school** in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Students participating would be invited to a special public sharing and celebration event as part of the Winnipeg International Storytelling Festival, on Friday, May 11, 2012.

To connect with Humankind International to learn about the various ways to participate, please contact Jessica Senehi at Jessica_Senehi@umanitoba.ca, 951-7978, 474-7978. Board members of Humankind International, with a range of international experience are available to speak at your school.

The charitable status and financial management of Humankind International is under the aegis of Accountable Development Works, a non-profit organization that assists small non-profit, non-governmental organizations doing international work.



Muuxi Adam arrived in Winnipeg in 2004 at age 16, after escaping war-torn Mogadishu, Somalia. He produced and directed a film called *A Ray of Hope* that describes the tough, often life-or-death choices young refugees and immigrants face. He now works as the After School Program Coordinator at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc. He also serves on the Winnipeg Recreation Task Force of the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council and on the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council, and is a co-founder of Humankind International.