

Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

KEEF Newsletter #7 November 2011

KEEF Annual General Meeting

We held a successful AGM on September 25th in North Vancouver, with a slide show and updates from President Alinda Ware and Kenya Liaison Marie MacKay. For over a decade Alinda and Marie have spent half of each year living and carrying out development work in the Kakamega area of Kenya. Details of their reports are included in this newsletter.

A key indicator of the effectiveness of a non-profit society such as ours is the strength of the volunteer board. We are pleased to report that four new members have been added to the board, and all the previous directors have remained. We are confident that the skills and commitment of the board will enable KEEF to continue to expand its work in Kenya.

Some important business items were passed at the AGM. In particular, members passed an updated constitution and a set of bylaws. The new documents clarify the purposes of our society, update the society's operation and more closely match the type of work that the volunteers have been doing in Kenya over the past few years. The full text of these document will be posted soon on our web site.

A new membership policy was also approved that we hope will encourage a growth in members and supporters of KEEF. With an annual donation of \$100 or more, donors will be regarded as **MEMBERS** of the Kenya Education Endowment Fund, with the usual voting rights set out in the BC Society Act. We also created a new category of **SUPPORTERS**, based on a minimum \$25 annual donation, to encourage small donations, including gifts to KEEF on behalf of others.

[More AGM reports on pages 3 & 4]

Studying by Solar Lamps

Alinda Ware



Brothers Ronny and Ross

Photos: Alinda Ware

Alinda's blog entry, Oct. 3/11: Went out in a matatu to visit a couple of KEEF students who attend



a day school. I wanted to see how their solar lamp was working. The brothers live in a one room rental unit that costs about \$5 a month.

This allows them to be closer to their school. The solar battery is on the roof as they can't leave it unattended in the yard when they are at school. They get tea at 10 am and lunch at school. Supper they cook on their jiko. The young man on the right is an A student. [More on solar lamps in Marie's Liaison Report on page 3]. Alinda's blog is at wareskakamega.blogspot.com

An Enthusiastic Young Sponsor from Down Under

One of the perks of the sometimes tedious job of keeping our membership lists and finances up to date is the chance of personal contact with KEEF sponsors and supporters. Our treasurer Maureen Howard has exchanged emails with

KEEF sponsor James Mann, a student at O'Connor Catholic College in New South Wales, Australia. James writes:

Hello Maureen,

Thank you for your email. The photo and letter are an absolutely wonderful introduction to young Carlos Mulango! Personally I am over the moon that my dream is coming true and I am sure that the St Vincent De Paul group at school and the school itself are as thrilled as I am.

I am humbled that you would even consider using my story in your newsletter. The thought that my actions, along with many others, could motivate individuals and collective groups to seek to educate someone from the Kakamega region is deeply moving. I am more than happy for you to use my story in your newsletter... .

In a previous email to Maureen, James wrote:

It is very exciting to hear that Carlos Mulango is the recipient of the scholarship! I am not sure how much Roslyn has told you about the reason I wanted to sponsor a student from Kakamega primary, so I will start from the beginning but I'll try to keep it brief.

In 2005, when I was in Year 6, I went with my aunties for a holiday. My aunties and Roslyn Moran are good friends and at this time Roslyn was living in Kakamega. We spent a portion of our trip in the Kakamega region and I was fortunate enough to visit Kakamega Primary itself.

This experience moved me deeply as I was astonished to see how highly the students valued their education.

When I returned home I ran a fundraiser to buy shoes for some of the students because I remember being told that a number of them walked barefoot for kilometres everyday just to go to school. Ever since then I have wanted to give a child from Kakamega Primary



Carlos Mulango

a secondary education. Last year, as I was in year 11 and became a senior of the school, I felt that the time was right to try and get my school, O'Connor Catholic College, involved to help me raise enough money.

I found help from the St. Vincent De Paul group (SVPG), that is run by students and staff at the school. I managed to be elected as Vice President on the committee and all members are keen on the scholarship. The Deputy Principal, Mrs. Kerry Stellar, oversees the SVPG They are willing to fundraise the money needed for the duration of his secondary schooling.

James Mann: jamesmann21@hotmail.com

GC4C Continues Support of KEEF



Global Change for Children (GC4C) is a registered non-profit foundation based in Vancouver. They have generously provided funding for several KEEF projects, including the Bondeni Primary School library, and the KEEF workshops. This year they provided funds for furniture at Rosterman Primary School.



Rosterman Primary School Photo: Marie MacKay

KEEF Board member Marie MacKay is our liaison with GC4C, and we are pleased to report they will continue to support projects in the coming year, including the workshops planned for next April. We thank GC4C for their commitment and confidence in our work and encourage you to check out their web site at www.gc4c.org

President's Report

Alinda Ware

[Alinda returned to Kakamega in mid October for 6 months. This was her report at the AGM]

I would like to thank all our sponsors for their generosity. Your gift of an education has the potential of changing lives. It is appreciated by the Kenya students and their families. I believe this letter from Brian Madasio, Form 1 at Musingu High School, sums up their feelings very well. Please keep in mind that English is their third language (tribal language, Kiswahili and English).

*Musingu High School
Box 151, Kakamega
8th April 2011*

Dear Mr. Rotary Sponsors,

I hereby appreciating you for your kindness and for what you have done for me. You have made me to know what education is. I am also happy to tell you that it is a miracle in the whole village and also surprising many people to see me well groomed going to Musingu.

I would like to tell you that I am going on well with my Form 1 studies at Musingu. You have done my parents to be proud and also to be seen like people in the whole society.

*I say thank you very much.
Continue with these good deeds.*

From Madasio Brian.

I would like to thank the KEEF Board. They have been working hard on the students' behalf since the last AGM.

Because of the board and the sponsors we have over 100 students in secondary and post-secondary schools. Well done, you have given those students an opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Three KEEF students have graduated in Clinical Medicine and Surgery. They now have a year of unpaid internship. They are:

*Carolyn Makomer, Japeth Ekessa, and
Johnstone Muhanji*

Kenya Liaison Report

Marie MacKay

KEEF had a busy January this year with approximately 127 qualified students applying for secondary school scholarships. Many more did not make it through the initial screening.

We were able to give 27 full secondary school scholarships to begin the year and were able to assist an additional eight students with partial help through student support money.

One family stands out in my mind. A very small lady and her son appeared one day with a folder full of school records. She had three children of high school age and absolutely no resources to pay school fees. Her husband had left the family and they were living in a one room hut divided by a curtain where the four of them slept. The note from the Kenya evaluator said "the state of this home is appalling – there is no glass in the windows." Mom earns a living digging and washing clothes for others. The children are all good students. The oldest girl had started in high school but had to drop out in Form 2 because of lack of fees, the eldest boy was forced to drop out in Form 2 and the youngest

had not even started in secondary school. They lived within walking distance of a good day school and all were prepared to go.

We gave them one bike from a KEEF donor and a second bike was provided by a second

donor with the understanding the boys would ride their sister and she would have a bike on the weekends when she alone attended school. We also provided a solar lamp so they could study at night. Altogether the total fees were less than one scholarship for a boarding school student. Two things about this family impressed me – the mother's perseverance in the face of near impossible odds of getting an education for her

Personal Delivery of Sponsor Letters

Marie MacKay will return to Kakamega in December. If you would like her to deliver letters to your students, please send them to her by Dec. 15. Students treasure their letters from Canada.

Contact Marie at: mariemackay@telus.net or mail to:

*254 West 24th Street, North Vancouver, BC
V7M 2C4*

Thank you, Marie!

children and the children's faith in and respect for their mother. We will need to find funds to continue supporting this family.

In total we have 67 boys and 3 girls in high school with full scholarships. We have two students in special needs schools and 19 helped by student support money – some with full fees and others with fees for exams and other one-time needs. We had twenty-eight post secondary students in various universities and colleges, 21 girls and 7 boys.

We gave three day school students a bicycle to cut down on commute time to school. As well 12 day school students were given solar lamps to enable them to study in the evenings. We will evaluate the effect of both of these programs when the students bring in their marks in January 2012

Two schools where we have high school students – Kakamega High and Kamusinga – have been designated National Schools with the resulting increase in fees. It may not be possible to continue supporting students in these schools with the funds we have available.

Although the government has indicated students should not remain in school during the holidays most schools continue with this practice. The cost for this extra tuition has risen with some schools charging 3,000 shillings for each term.

I expect that school fees, particularly for boarding schools, will increase in the next school year. This is mainly due to a dramatic increase in the cost of food. The price of basic items such as maize (corn) has increased three fold. Some of this will be offset by the improvement of the exchange rate – Canadian dollar versus the shilling.

A note from Marie: We are in need of sponsors to start the 2012 school year – I expect even more applications as word spreads about KEEF.

Members and Supporters For Members, we encourage email to reduce our expenses and time, but we also maintain a membership list with mailing addresses. If members cannot receive electronic versions, we will send them by mail. Supporters will be included in our email contact lists and will receive newsletters or other announcements only by email.

Our gift cards enable donors to make donations on behalf of someone, which fits well with the Supporter category.

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Constitution and Bylaws We updated the bylaws at the AGM but they are still based on the standard Society Act Schedule B. The constitution is stated in more general terms to permit more flexibility in our work on the ground in Kenya. The main section of a constitution is the Purposes, and ours reads:

The purposes of the society are to assist students in Kenya by:

- i. Providing educational scholarships to students who require financial assistance.
- ii. Providing educational support materials and services.
- iii. Providing funds to enhance or build school facilities.



The Board of Directors for 2011-12 Photo: Wendy Reimer

Front, L to R: Alinda Ware, Nila Gopaul, Peg Klesner.

Back, L to R: Susan Peake, Janice Trenholme, Dick Glassford, Shelagh Armour-Godbolt, Marie MacKay, Maureen Howard, Don Reimer. Missing from photo: Susan Thompson from the Yukon.

Report of Workshops Alinda Ware

The workshops were held at Mukumu Boys High School on April 8, 9 & 10. Over 80 students attended from Form 1 (Grade 9) to Form 4

(Grade 12). Kenyans facilitated most of the sessions with Marie and I assisting and organizing. Students arrived Friday afternoon and left Sunday after lunch.



Practical Math activity

Photo: Don Reimer

Students who had graduated from high school in Dec. 2010 had asked if they could attend as they had enjoyed the workshops so much when they were students. Consequently, they became co-facilitators with the teachers who had offered to assist. My hope is to train KEEF graduates to become the facilitators, stay connected with KEEF and form an alumni group.

Topics included:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Financial Literacy | Cooperative Challenges |
| Practical Math | Writing a CV |
| Successful Interviews | Study Skills |
| Careers | Stewardship Reports |
| Improving Comprehension | |



Alinda takes a photo for sponsors and KEEF files at Mukumu Boys High School Photo: Don Reimer

The workshops went well. As always there were things that could be improved and, as always, there were glitches such as the head priest coming to the school and deciding every student in the school MUST attend mass Sunday morning. When Marie and I arrived it took us awhile to figure out how we could lose over 80 students and supervisors. Then it was just a matter of waiting patiently for their return. The workshops were funded by Global Change for Children. Thank you. Global Change for Children are also funding the 2012 workshops.

All Kenyan facilitators received an honorarium and transportation to and from the workshop. The students were well fed – it was feasting compared to what many get at home. Three large meals and some meat too! And all for about \$20.00 a student.

Fund Raising in 2011

Benefit Concert in Vancouver In addition to the generous support of GC4C, two fund raisers were held this year. Janice Trenholme along with others, including some members of the KEEF Board, organized a benefit concert in April in partnership with the Canadian Music Centre. The musicians of the Vancouver Chamber Players generously donated their time and musical talents. The concert was enjoyed by everyone, expert or novice. The partnership will continue and we are looking forward to an even bigger event in future.

World Craft Bazaars At this annual craft event in Parksville, Wendy and Don Reimer sold items that volunteers have brought back from Africa. A friend of Alinda’s will attend a similar event in Courtenay in early December.



Vancouver Chamber Players at benefit concert for KEEF

About KEEF

Our mission is to provide scholarships for students from the Western Province of Kenya to attend secondary and post-secondary schools.

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (KEEF) has been established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people in Western Province to assist them in furthering their education and in developing skills that will empower them and their communities.

KEEF was established in 2004 under the Societies Act of B.C. and granted charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency in 2006. # 845413145 RR 0001.

KEEF is a non-profit organization, not affiliated with any government or religious organizations. **All of the monies donated to KEEF are designated for educational purposes in Kenya.** Our very low administrative costs are covered through sales of Kenyan crafts and other special fund raising events.

KEEF is also registered in Kakamega, Kenya as a Community-Based Organization.

Current Board Members of KEEF: Shelagh Armour-Godbolt, Dick Glassford, Nila Gopaul, Maureen Howard, Peg Klesner, Marie MacKay, Susan Peake, Don Reimer, Susan Thompson, Janice Trenholme, Alinda Ware.

How You Can Help

KEEF seeks donations of all amounts to assist in our work. The board members of KEEF are volunteers and all scholarship funds are guaranteed to go directly to students.

We encourage sponsors to support a student for a full year, for \$500 (CDN funds). Ideally, donors sponsor their student through four years of high school. However, partial donations are welcome, and can be combined with other sponsors. Smaller donations also enable us to provide some students with essential items such as school supplies or medical care. Our gift cards enable donors to make a donation of any amount to KEEF in someone's name.

We have eligible students who are waiting for scholarships right now – would you like to be a sponsor?

Cheques should be made payable to **KEEF** and sent to Margaret (Peg) Klesner, who coordinates donations and revenue from fund raising.

If you are making the contribution as a gift in the name of a friend or loved one, please let **Peg** know **how many gift certificates** you would like to receive.

For more information, please go to our website at www.kenyaeducation.org or contact:

Margaret (Peg) Klesner at lachaiam@telus.net

Tel: 604-926-3018. Postal address:

Suite 904, 2135 Argyle Ave.,
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5

Please include your email address with all correspondence, whether you contact us in writing or by email.

**Tax receipts will be issued
for all donations in Canada.**

Kenya Education



Endowment Fund

Empowering Young Kenyans Opening Doors to the Future



A Reminder to Sponsors

KEEF pays student fees for the 2012 school year in January. If you haven't already sent in your sponsorship for the coming year, please do so as soon as possible

Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer

KEEF Workshops 2011

