



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #18 April 2018

Kakamega Update

The KEEF workshops held in late November were a great success. This year we included Forms 1-3 (Grades 9-11). There were over 80 students who attended and by all the reports and smiles, they had a wonderful time. The Form 4's (Grade 12) were writing their final national exams so we held a one-day workshop for them later in December.

This year's theme was **"21st Century Key Skills to Become a Resourceful Person."** We had 16 facilitators, including 4 from B.C. Except for Sarah Nabongo, KEEF's talented and resourceful administrator, the facilitators were all volunteers, most of whom have been assisted through KEEF or other organizations here in Kakamega. They are all Kenyans, and include several University graduates who have come back to help out and show their appreciation to the Board. They are great mentors to our students.

Students had a learning experience at the workshops that they would never receive anywhere else. Health and wellness, study skills, communication and assertiveness training, sex education, entrepreneurship, and team building are some of the lessons they attended. After 3 days of learning, fun and laughter, they went back to their homes and to finish their break before January when they started their 2018 school year.



This photo of the interview setup shows the parents and guardians on the right, waiting as their students draw maps showing how to get to their homes from Sheywe, the office where we do the interviews. These maps are all important so we can send out Kenyan verifiers to ensure the students are truly needy and have told the truth about why they can't afford to go to secondary school.

Interviews and Selection

Following the workshops there was a short period of calm as we prepared for students lining up to be interviewed for a KEEF scholarship. A scholarship means a 4 year opportunity to complete Secondary School — assuming, of course, they fulfill their performance commitment to earn a C+ average or better each year. As in past years, we interviewed 140+ students and awarded 31 scholarships to new Form 1 students.

Between November and January, several Canadians were on hand at different times to assist with workshops, interviews, selection and various other tasks during this busy time. *[Photos on page 10]*

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Meeting Michael on his Internship

Alinda Ware

You met Michael Luttag in an earlier newsletter (#17, March 2017), when he was proudly holding his clinical officer diploma. Clinical Officers must do a year internship to fully qualify before they are eligible to join a clinic or hospital. They receive a small stipend while on their internship so they can survive.

Michael is doing his internship at the Kakamega County General Teaching and Referral Hospital. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Kakamega and the 2017-18 president. We have a large Global Grant with clubs from District 5630 (USA) to equip and upgrade the maternity and paediatric wards in the hospital. The District Governor of our district (9212), consisting of Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and South Sudan) was visiting Kakamega so we took him through those wards to see how the global grant would benefit the community.



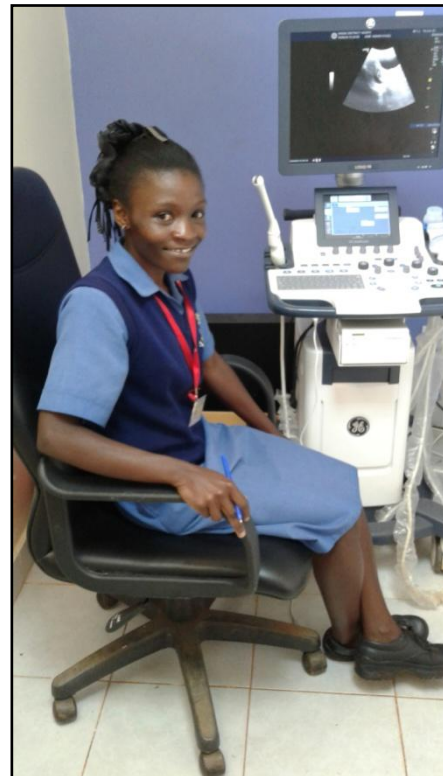
On our “rounds” we came upon Michael Luttag! As an intern, Michael works in all areas of the hospital. This was his time in the paediatric ward. *Education does make a difference.* Thanks to his high school and post-secondary sponsors Michael will soon be part of Kenya's medical team. Well done, Michael and sponsors!

Ruth, Nurse Norm & Cheryl Filipenko

Ruth attended high school in Kakamega as a sponsored student. She is a tiny girl with a very quiet voice and unassuming presence. Her life has not been easy. She is the fourth born in her family, and her father lost his job when he became ill with

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cerebral malaria and now has serious health issues. Ruth's mother works hard as a subsistence farmer to grow food for the family, selling the extra produce at the local market. Ruth's siblings are “just there” as she describes it, uneducated but trying to help out. When we met Ruth she had completed high school and had graduated with a disappointing C+ average, not high enough to qualify for a Government subsidy to help pay her tuition to a University. She had, however, managed to get a part time job at a local cyber cafe and earned enough money to help her family and take a short computer course.



Ruth Aleyo is soon to graduate as a nurse from the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) in Vihiga County, Kenya.

Our first email from Ruth was a “Harambee email.” (Harambee is a Swahili word meaning “work together” and is often used to collect money, or items or just help in building a community). In Ruth's case she was asking for ANY help as she tried to raise enough money for her first year in Nursing School. Her plight seemed almost hopeless. She saved and collected through donations a mere 15,000 KSh (about \$190) of the approximately 110,000 KSh (about \$1400) necessary to complete her first year. She had two

and one half years after that, to finish her training and graduate. This is where KEEF stepped in and aided in looking after the financing for her schooling. Before Ruth had attended a single class she signed her emails with "Ruth, Nurse." Her marks have always been Grade B and better, often with "distinction." She will graduate this summer from KMTC and take an important place in Kenyan society.

KEEF is playing an invaluable role in administering private funds to help some of the Kenyan youth into post secondary education, not just into University but also Technical and Trade Schools, especially at a time when a high school education is simply not enough... even in Kenya.

KEEF Alumni Sponsors Students

Alinda Ware

Congratulations to all KEEF Alumni. Through their efforts two boys are continuing and succeeding in their studies. The alumni used money from membership fees to sponsor Benjamin and a number of alumni also pooled their money to 'keep a boy in school' and are sponsoring Emmanuel.



Benjamin Masinde is in form 2 (grade 10) at Sidikho Secondary, a day school in a rural area. He lives with his mother, father and siblings on a small piece of land. His parents dig on other people's shambas

(farms) to earn money. Day students receive a bicycle, solar lamps and revision books to help them with their studies. We arrived at Benjamin's school with his bicycle and solar lamps. We

received permission to take him to his home, meet his parents and help set up the solar lamps. Benjamin needed the bike as he walked almost 2 hours each way to school. On the way to his house, Benjamin spotted his dad and some other men digging in a field preparing it for seeding, so we stopped and picked him up. His mother was digging in another neighbour's field. On our way back to school with Benjamin, a woman flagged us down. It was his mother, she had heard that some white people were at her house and came to the road to greet and thank us for the scholarship. Benjamin and his parents were very excited about the bike, solar lamp and revision books. His April report shows his achievement. His mean score is A and he is position 1 out of the 124 form 2 students in his school. Thank you, **KEEF alumni** for sponsoring him.



Emmanuel Shitsama lives with his mother and siblings in a rural area. He is the first born in the family and is a day student in form 2 (grade 10) at Matioli Secondary. Things were going quite well for the family until his father

contracted cancer. They sold most of their land to pay for treatment so when his Father died, life became a struggle for his mother and the children. Emmanuel was walking 2 hours each way to school and also helping his mother maintain the house and the small plot of land remaining. When we arrived at his home, Emmanuel found that his mother was helping a neighbour so she was called to return. They were thrilled with the bicycle and solar lamps. On his April report, Emmanuel received a mean grade of B minus and was position 10 out of 124 form 2 students. Thank you alumni members for 'keeping this boy in school'.

It is wonderful to see KEEF graduates helping the next generation of KEEF beneficiaries!

Brenda Rides Again! *The Silk Route 2018: Beijing to Istanbul*

May 12 – October 3



KEEF sponsors and supporters will recall the extraordinary **Ride for KEEF** that Dr. Brenda Trenholme completed in 2016, cycling from Cairo, Egypt to Capetown, South Africa. Brenda cycled nearly 12,000 kilometres, raised more than her goal of \$20,000 and inspired many new supporters of KEEF. Details are in our Newsletter #16 on our web site.

This year, from May to October, Brenda will ride a 13,000 km route from Beijing, China to Istanbul, Turkey. The trip follows the ancient Silk Road that linked trade from east Asia to western Europe.

Dr. Brenda's incredible dedication to cycling, to KEEF and to the students KEEF supports in Kenya is an inspiration to us all. We hope you are inspired too, and will lend your support to this endeavour. Go to our web site to find links to donate, or mail a cheque to:

KEEF, c/o
Margaret Klesner
#904, 2135 Argyle Avenue
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5

[Be sure to add "Brenda's Ride" in your donation]

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Link to video trailer above:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB1jaii5ps4

Link to TDA Cycling for more info:

<https://tdaglobalcycling.com/silk-route>



Brenda starting on the Tour d'Afrique, 2016

Celebrating Jamhuri Day with KENBC

Shelagh Armour Godbolt

KEEF Board Members Shelagh Armour Godbolt and Susan Peake have attended several functions of KENBC, the Association of Kenyans in BC.

December 12 is Jamhuri Day, a National Holiday celebrating the anniversary of Kenya's independence. Jamhuri is the Swahili word for "republic" and the holiday is meant to officially mark the date of Kenya's independence which happened on 12 December 1963.



Susan Peake, Jane Muema and Shelagh Armour-Godbolt. Jane is the past president of KENBC



Local Kenyan-Canadian entertainment at Jamhuri Day in Burnaby in 2017



KEEF Board Member Susan Peake in her 2017 T-shirt

Susan participated in the Sun Run (or walk!) again this year and received \$820 in donations for KEEF. The run may be over, but pledges and donations on behalf of KEEF will still be gratefully accepted.

We hope that newsletter readers will support our efforts by:

- Making a pledge at shelaghag@shaw.ca or [604-415-9397](tel:604-415-9397) (day or evening)
- or
- Mailing a donation marked "Sun Run" to KEEF c/o 904 - 2135 Argyle Ave. West Vancouver, BC V7V 1A5
- or
- Visiting our web site to donate online. (Be sure to say it is for the Sun Run).

Tax-deductible receipts are available.

A walk to the office Monday morning

A photo essay from Alinda Ware



A cow says hello as I exit my compound.



Because of the election, the university is closed and students have gone home. It reopens Monday.



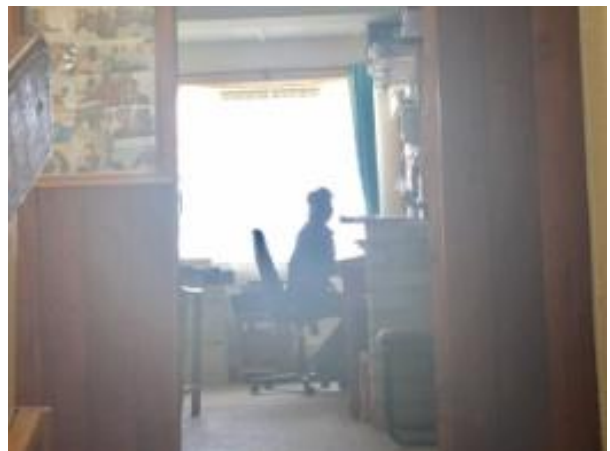
Sheywe is quiet as I enter the gates.



A look towards the downtown.



Now through the doors and up the stairs.



Sarah's there and our day begins.

A boy who did not achieve C+ in the first two terms has come with his father. Fortunately he felt the fear of losing his scholarship and has improved to a B minus.



Some Post Secondary Students



Sophie & Phillice, two of KEEF's post secondary students and Seth, who received a scholarship from a local source. All students and the young girl make their home at the Victorious Children's Home. Phillice will graduate this year.



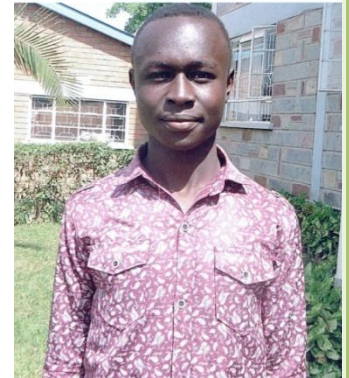
Beverlyne is one of our 2017 graduates. She earned a BSc in Bioresource Conservation and Management from Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology



Noel is in 3rd year at St. Mary's School of Clinical Medicine



Brian, 2nd year Bachelor of Education, Nairobi



Lewis, 3rd year Bachelor of Business Administration, Kisumu



Ezekiel, KEEF's top student in 2015, received a 4 year scholarship to Strathmore University in Nairobi, in a BSc Actuarial Science program



Emily is studying for a BSc in Information Technology at Muranga University



Yassin received the KEEF Marie MacKay Scholarship in 2016 and is entering 2nd year of university. He is in a Bachelor of Civil Engineering program.



Veronica graduated in 2017 with a BSc in Agribusiness Management, Nairobi

Secondary Graduates December 2017



Patrick



Simon

Continued over...



Protus



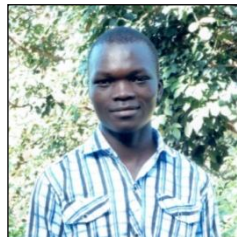
Dianah



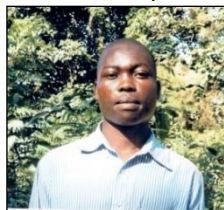
Branham



Elijah



Godfrey



David



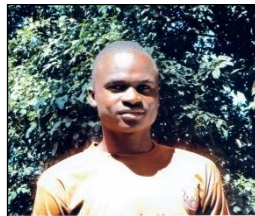
Kevin



Dennis & volunteer Colleen



Dickson



Dismas



Geoffrey



Hillary



Kevin & volunteer Mary Ann

We regret that photos were not available for David Ochanda, Dennis Abulitsa, Peter Malesi and Elvin Mmasi

Remember this story from our *KEEF Newsletter #16 June 2016*? The full story is in our [Newsletters](#) link on our web site.

Geoffrey's Story: KEEF Insight Gives Eyesight

By Dick Glassford



Geoffrey (right) and his brother, December 2015

Excerpts from Dick's 2016 article:

Every trip Janice and I have made to Kakamega over the past 6 years has been extraordinary. This year one experience in particular left us both quite emotionally charged!

A young student came in, with his brother in tow, to apply for a scholarship... We observed that when he was drawing a map to his home, his head was literally 4 inches from the paper. When asked about his sight, he said that he was born with this problem and that his parents could not even afford an eye exam. We realized during the interview that despite this huge challenge he has had all his life, Geoffrey had done exceptionally well in school. We were excited to discover that, although Geoffrey's problem could not be reversed, it could be corrected simply with special glasses. We immediately arranged for the glasses to be made...

Geoffrey [was] absolutely delighted to be able -- for the first time since childhood -- to read and do his assignments himself, without anyone's assistance.



Geoffrey January 2018

Geoffrey has indeed done well in secondary school. He graduated last December with a B minus mean grade on his national exams, and expects to be called to university.

GC4C and KEEF - Our 2018 Partnership

GLOBAL CHANGE
FOR CHILDREN



As you travel throughout Kenya, scenes such as the two below are common: traditional round homes with thatched roofs, and mothers and children carrying water from a spring or river.

Most KEEF sponsored students live on small shambas (farms) and their families do not have cash to build brick homes with metal roofs. They may live in a traditional home, and they may be drinking and cooking with water drawn from a natural spring. However, natural springs can easily become contaminated or subject to erosion and failure.



Traditional home of one of our KEEF students



Children of all ages help to carry water

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For 2018, GC4C will fund and KEEF will manage a project at Ibwali Primary School near Kakamega. There are three components:

- To protect the community spring by installing a concrete framework with a filtering bed and a clean outlet pipe.
- To install a rainwater collection system at the school with eaves troughs and sanitary water tanks. This will provide water during the dry season when springs are usually dry.
- To build a new badly needed two room replacement kitchen for Ibwali School.

We are very thankful that GC4C has stepped forward again with a commitment of nearly \$10,000. We know that KEEF's thanks will be mirrored by the students and families in the Ibwali community who will benefit from this school-community project.



Sample photo of an unprotected spring



Sample photo of a protected spring with outlet pipe

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KEEF Life Skills Workshops Nov. 2017



Some of the facilitators and students



Small group activity



First Aid training



Challenges and team building



Sarah Nabongo and Alinda Ware



Long term KEEF supporters
Grace Lidede and Anthony Napali



Dr. Brenda
Trenholme



Ebru Pinar



Colleen
Gatenby



Mary Ann
Sheehan



Janice Trenholme



Dick Glassford

Volunteer Opportunities with KEEF

Shelagh Armour Godbolt

- ❖ **FUNDRAISING** The fundraising committee is looking for additional members to help develop ideas and activities in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and across the province. Much of our planning and development work can be done via e-mail and phone.
- ❖ **SOCIAL MEDIA** KEEF is eager to develop a fruitful social media presence and is looking for a savvy volunteer who would commit to at least 12 months of involvement. This position could be filled primarily from home.
- ❖ **BOARD MEMBERS** We are looking for one or more new directors who would enjoy a hands on approach to help with the various tasks of the KEEF Board as well as serving in a decision and policy making role
- ❖ **VOLUNTEERING IN KENYA** This opportunity provides a rich cultural experience in an extraordinarily diverse country, combined with the rewards of making a meaningful contribution.

KEEF has about 100 students in secondary schools and about 40 students in post-secondary institutions in Kenya. Secondary students bring in their marks, fee structures and letters to sponsors at the close of each term. Canadian volunteers meet students and school staff and help monitor the program in cooperation with our full time office administrator, Sarah Nabongo.

Volunteers pay their own travel, housing and living expenses, but there are provisions for tax benefits under Canada Revenue regulations. If you would like to find out more, experienced volunteers can assist you in the planning and preparation for this rewarding opportunity to make a real difference.

If you would like to ask more about any of these opportunities to support KEEF's work, please contact Shelagh at [604-415-9397](tel:604-415-9397) (day/evening) or by email at shelaghg@shaw.ca

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About KEEF

KEEF was established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people to further their education and to develop skills that will empower them and their communities.

KEEF was registered 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 charitable organization, not affiliated with any government or religious organizations.

As a donor, you have several options for allocating donations and can direct 100% of your donation for educational purposes in Kenya. Our low operational costs are covered through sales of Kenyan crafts and other special fund-raising events, and through donations to our KEEF Operations and Student Support Fund.

For more information, please contact us at keefcan2010@gmail.com or visit our web site at www.kenyaeducation.org

Marie MacKay Scholarship for 2018

The recipient of the Marie MacKay scholarship this year is Godfrey Echesa from St Martha's Mwitoti



Secondary School. Godfrey achieved a mean grade of B+ on the national exam, so he, like most of our KEEF graduates, is eligible for direct entry to a public university.

The Marie Mackay Scholarship of \$500 is awarded to a top KEEF Canada graduate who qualifies for direct entry to university and has been sponsored by KEEF Canada for at least Forms 3 and 4.

The funds come from earnings in KEEF's **Marie MacKay Endowment Fund**. This fund now generates several thousand dollars annually, and directly sponsors five KEEF secondary students as of 2018. The fund is managed by the Vancouver Foundation which preserves capital and only distributes earnings. The fund is one of two KEEF Endowment Funds, the second being the **Alinda Ware Post Secondary Bursary Fund**.

Please check our web site for more details. Donations to either fund are always welcome.

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Miscellaneous News & Information

Thinking of Louise



Many of our KEEF supporters will know Louise Paulsen as a key personality in the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) for decades. In recent years Louise has also sponsored a post secondary student through KEEF.

Painting by Louise

Louise was found to have a malignant brain tumour and went in for surgery last week. Fortunately she is recovering well, improving each day. She is in Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster, in 4 North, room 418, and visitors are encouraged. There are no visiting restrictions. You just can't bring flowers or pets to this ward.

Here is the link to connect to her Caring Bridge web site. You can send her comments and she can read them in the hospital:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/louispaulsen

Our thoughts are with Louise and her family.

Canadian Nurses for Africa: CNFA

Our late KEEF co-founder Marie MacKay drew our attention to CNFA, who have sent teams of nurses to western Kenya since 2009. Their base in Kenya is at Sheywe Guest House in Kakamega, which is also KEEF headquarters. As a retired nurse, we understand that Marie worked with the CFNA teams on more than one occasion.



The 2018 team of CNFA nurses - based in Burlington, Ontario - began their work in community health care on Monday April 23. They buy supplies locally and work alongside Kenyan nurses and medical officers, treating several hundred patients each day. We encourage you to join them via their blog:

www.canadiannursesforafrica.ca .

www.kenyaeducation.org

KEEF Videos online



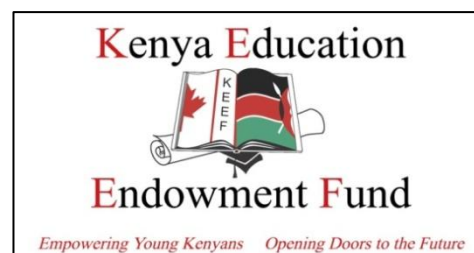
Check our [web site](#) for three videos of KEEF activities.

Supporting a Post Secondary Student

Globally, post secondary education is increasingly vital, even in the rural communities we work with in Kenya. Secondary graduates with strong marks will be "called" to an institution and their expenses will be significantly reduced. We estimate that \$600 to \$1000 will cover expenses in first year, rising slightly in year 2 and beyond. Students are also eligible for student loans.

If you, or someone you know – perhaps a group of friends – would like to support a post secondary student, please contact us for more details.

In 2016 KEEF created the **Alinda Ware Post Secondary Bursary Fund** and as it grows, it will provide another source of support for students. Please check our web site for more information.



Newsletter Editor: Don Reimer
Please feel welcome to share this newsletter!