Kenya Education Endowment Fund



- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #17 March 2017

Record Number of New KEEF Students

Dick Glassford

This year we had the largest number of student applicants ever, with 147 receiving full interviews. We had to turn another 40 away because they either did not have all the required documents, or they did not meet the minimum requirements to become a KEEF student.



Sarah Nabongo, KEEF Office Manager, (upper right) explains the selection process to applicants



With a record number of applicants, and the fact that the Kenyan Government moved the start date for Grade 9 students up to January 4th from the usual early February start, made

the selection process intense and very busy. We commenced the interviews on December 14th and closed them on the 23rd.

That gave Alinda Ware, KEEF President, and Dick Glassford, Board Member, seven days to coordinate the verifications, make the difficult selection decisions, notify the successful students, and organize and facilitate a Form 1 Workshop with the students and their parents/guardians.



A life-changing interview for this boy?

The majority of this year's candidates had very good marks and seemed so needy. As a result, we decided to verify 76 of them! The verification process is done by Kenyans who make the trip to the student's home to observe, and then talk to nearby people who might have knowledge of the student and their family. The observers then write a full report and present to us for inclusion in the final decision making process. [Continued on page 2]

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[Continued from page 1] We identified 40 students who met all requirements for a scholarship. Next was the hard part, making the decisions about who gets a scholarship. When we started the process on the 14th, we had 26 confirmed donors who wanted to sponsor a student for the next 4 years. By the end on December 23, that number had grown to 33, making 2017 the biggest intake year on record. KEEF was so fortunate to have all these donors which allowed us to provide scholarships to 33 students, giving them a huge opportunity to make a future for themselves and help their families in the process.

Thanks to all of you who committed to a new student for 2017. You really are making a difference!

Thirty Three New Students off to School

Alinda Ware

After selecting the students for Form 1 (Grade 9), we matched the students to their sponsor, selected a school for the boys to attend and made name tags with their name, the sponsor name and their school.



A boy translating his contract from English to Luhya for his grandmother

The principals gave us an admission letter, and we called all the parents/guardians to invite them to an introductory workshop. There we explained the role of the student, the home, and KEEF and answered any questions the parents or guardians or students had. The boys wrote their autobiographies and then the students, their parents or guardians and KEEF representatives all signed the contracts. The boys then had a chance to meet the others attending the same school and everyone enjoyed a soda and cookies before heading home. It was a happy occasion.

Form 4 Leavers' Certificate Presentation

Alinda Ware

The national examination marks for the Form 4's (Grade 12) came out the first week in January. We were very happy to learn that 15 of our 16 graduates received direct entry to university. That means that they will have subsidized fees, are eligible for a government student loan and can live on the campus for at least one year with minimal costs for accommodation,.

We called the boys in and members of the KEEF Kenya Board and Victor - a KEEF university student - worked with them on how to meet the challenges of moving from the stringent rules of high school to the 'free' world of post secondary. Victor chose the motto: "Every finish line is the beginning of a new race."

The interactive sessions included discussion of the challenges they will face and how to seek and earn shillings when there is no KEEF scholarship.

The young men learned about the KEEF alumni, socialized over cookies and soda and departed, feeling ready for the new post secondary race!



Victor Alutseshe, a KEEF university student, assisted at the Form 4 Leavers certificate celebration



Tatuli Mbasu (right) presented graduation certificates

KEEF Alumni Update

Alinda Ware

The KEEF Alumni held their second annual meeting December 27, 2016 with 70 alumni and members of KEEF Kenya Board and KEEF Canada Board attending. The main topics of the day were:

- the formation of the constitution,
- the registration of the alumni as a CBO (Community Based Organization), and
- deciding the registration fee and the annual subscription to continue being a member.



Some members of the Alumni Constitution Committee

A committee was formed to finalize the constitution by the end of January. They did. When the executive went to register, everything was fine except the government officials wanted the name changed from Kenya to Kakamega as KEEF is Kakamega county based not country based. So they are the Kakamega Education Endowment Fund Alumni Community Based Organization or KEEFA CBO for short

Members are now submitting their one time registration fee of 200 KSH (\$2.67) and their annual membership fee of 600 KSH (\$8.00). Their next step is to open a bank account. Most of the members are university students or recently graduated students. With KEEF's help they will keep reaching out to locate alumni that graduated from secondary or post secondary between 2000 and 2010. Soon they will be *opening doors to the future* for younger Kenyan students. Well done, KEEFA CBO! And thank you, sponsors, for opening the *doors to the future* for these young men and women who

have formed the KEEFA CBO!



NELSON JUMA WERE – making a real difference in the world!

Janice Trenholme, proud KEEF sponsor & Board member

I had no idea, when I started sponsoring Nelson Juma Were (first through Save the Children and then through KEEF) that he would be so amazingly successful.

As a boy, Nelson hawked onions on the street in his village of Nambale to raise money for school fees and food for his family. Fortunately, his primary school principal, Mr. Morris Onyango, found Nelson -who had quit going to school altogether in desperation -and arranged to have his high school fees paid. Nelson worked hard and went on to win a scholarship through Save the Children. and then to become my sponsored student

Nelson, his wife and children

through KEEF. With the help of my brother Blair and sister Brenda, we were able to sponsor Nelson through high school and university.

Supporting Nelson has been the most inspiring thing I have ever done, and after university Nelson continued to excel, becoming a Senior Associate CPA at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Nairobi. Nelson supports his entire extended family in his village, where he installed a well for safe drinking water; Nelson has also supported a number of girls in Kenya's biggest slum, Kibera, so that they can attend high school.

To my amazement, Nelson (who now has a lovely family of his own) recently informed me that he had given up his prestigious job at Price Waterhouse Coopers to join CARE International, albeit for much less pay. CARE is a global confederation of 14 member organizations working together to end poverty. In 2016 alone, CARE touched more than 80 million people directly, and 256 million people indirectly, focusing on such issues as education, water and sanitation, sustainable farming, women and girls, HIV/AIDS, climate change, maternal

health, small enterprise development, adult literacy and vocational training.

When Nelson was 20, he wrote me that as a result of being sponsored to get an education, he had decided to devote his life to eliminating poverty in Kenya. We could not be more proud of this wonderful family man who is not only making a difference in Kenya, but now around the world! Working from Nairobi, Kenya, Nelson is now an Internal Auditor for CARE's work in Somalia. where CARE has been

providing emergency relief and life-saving assistance to Somali refugees since 1981.

Nelson writes: "I am moved to tears because I am no longer destitute and am instead a pillar of strength for so many others. Were it not for the support I got from you and KEEF, I would not be what I am today! Your sponsorship has had a lifealtering impact, not only on me, but on many young people who have so generously been supported by KEEF."

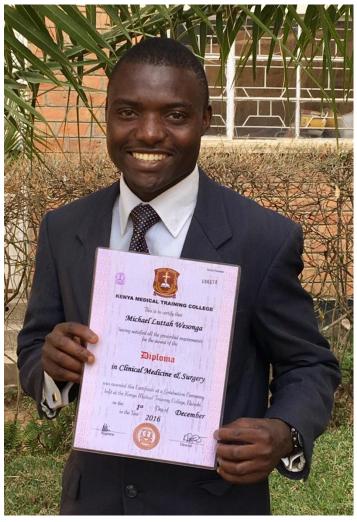
The bottom line: you never know what will happen when you empower a poor, bright young person through KEEF, and help them get an education!

Meet Michael Luttah Wesonga

Alinda Ware

Michael, a recently graduated clinical officer, is about to begin his unpaid, year long internship at Kakamega General Hospital. Sponsored by KEEF Kenya, Michael attended Bumini Secondary Day School. After high school graduation he enrolled in the Kenya Medical Training College for a 3 year diploma course. In the middle of the first year, he got stuck for lack of fees. Meanwhile, some former students and I had met and we had collected 10,000 KSH (about \$125) to help someone. Michael came to me to explain his situation and the students decided to give the money to Michael. The search began to find him a sponsor and, his smile tells you that we and he succeeded!

Michael was working at a chemist's while he waited for his internship. The doctors went on strike in January 2017 and are still on strike so the internship is delayed. Michael used his little savings from the chemists to start making mandazis (similar to a doughnut) with an older brother. With the first profits he paid for his diploma. He is now saving for his licence. When he begins his internship, his brother will continue with the mandazi business and Michael will be close enough to go home on his days off and assist with the business. He will be able to maintain himself with the profits. Until then he is putting much of the profit into expanding the mandazi business as currently they only have enough ingredients to sell until 8:30 am. They hope to expand until 10:30 and, in time, hopefully all day.



Michael with his diploma in Clinical Medicine and Surgery Michael contributes to the annual KEEF workshops and receives much encouragement from his sponsor for his success in completing his medical training and for his entrepreneurial skills. However, it also took his determination, focus and hard work to become the man he is today!

Marie MacKay Scholarship

The recipient of the Marie MacKay scholarship this year is Yassin Amukoya, from Butere Secondary School. Yassin achieved an Aminus mean grade on the national exam, and like most of our KEEF graduates he will have direct entry to university. (See "Form 4 Leavers" on page 2). He has applied for a Bachelor degree in medicine and surgery.

The Marie Mackay Scholarship of \$600 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. Yassin was sponsored in secondary school by Geraldine Bergeron of Kamloops, BC.



Yassin Amukoya

Eight reasons to support a secondary graduate into post secondary

Norm and Cheryl Filipenko

In most countries having a high school diploma may get you a job but unless a student has some post secondary training the opportunity to have a meaningful career is very slim. In December of 2014 while we were in Kenya we were lucky to be able to attend a KEEF Alumni meeting and as it turned out we knew several of the students who had been helped by private sponsors through KEEF. So we thought we would present eight good reasons to consider helping the secondary student you sponsor to enter a post secondary program.

In the photo below, L to R:

Reason #1: Susan Odour has a Teaching diploma, currently teaching primary school.

- #2: Beverlyne Shivoko currently finishing a BSc in Biology.
- #3: Edith Olwande, B.Ed. currently teaching high school.
- #4: Ruth Aleyo currently finishing a Diploma in nursing.
- #5: Monica Ngutu currently finishing a Teaching degree.
- #6: Ventor Mwelema has a Teaching Diploma currently teaching high school.
- #7: Irene Efumbi has a Nursing Diploma currently nursing in Bungoma, Kenya.
- #8: Metrin Asiko, B. Com. currently working as an accountant in Nairobi.



Supporting a Post Secondary Student

Alinda has noted on page 2 that 15 of 16 KEEF secondary graduates qualify for "direct entry" to post secondary programs. These students will be "called" to an institution and their expenses will be significantly reduced. We estimate that \$600 per year will cover expenses in first year, rising slightly

in year 2 and beyond. If you – or someone you know – would like to support a post secondary student, please contact us for more details.

Last year 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.



Six Feet for Secondary School Students

Shelagh Armour-Godbolt

Three volunteers are running and walking in the April 23rd Vancouver Sun Run to raise funds for KEEF scholarships for secondary school. We hope that newsletter readers will support our efforts by:

- Making a pledge at <u>shelaghag@shaw.ca</u> or <u>604-415-9397</u> (day or evening) or
- Mailing a donation marked "for Sun Run volunteers," or naming one of the three participants specifically, to KEEF c/o 904 -2135 Argyle Ave. W. Vancouver, BC V7V 1A5 or
- Visiting our web site to donate online, and be sure to say it is for the Sun Run.

Tax-deductible receipts are available.

KEEF Board member Susan Peake is two of the six feet for KEEF. Susan, who retired last year, lives in downtown Vancouver.

The second pair of the six feet is Vanessa Krug of Burnaby. Vanessa responded to a request for volunteers at the Fitness 2000 pool and gym where she works, as well as being a BCIT student. In 2012, Vanessa volunteered on a water project in Tanzania, so when she learned of KEEF's work it was of great interest to her.

Leighla Claydon, our third pair of feet for KEEF, is a first time participant in the Sun Run who lives in the Dunbar area of Vancouver. She has chosen to run because she believes the education KEEF helps to provide increases the leadership qualities of grads, which can lead to positive changes in their communities. Leighla is a Barre Fitness instructor at Dailey Method, Vancouver, and also works as a personal trainer.

Asante Sana! And good luck to each of our Sun Run volunteers on April 23rd.

Brenda's Ride for KEEF Continues!

Dick Glassford

Dr. Brenda Trenholme completed her epic 121 day fundraising ride for KEEF on May 14, 2016. She cycled 11,400 km from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa, withstanding desert storms, horrific road conditions, torrential rains, scorching temperatures and even rocks being hurled at her. Despite the challenges, she completed the journey and lives to tell about it! For full details of her bicycle ride, see the June, 2016 Issue #16 of the KEEF newsletter on our web site.



Dunes near Kulala, Namibia at sunrise

Officially Brenda's ride is over, but her commitment to KEEF continues. Before leaving Canada for the ride, she set an aggressive goal of raising \$20,000, 100% of which would go to the education of children through KEEF. Since returning, she has been presenting slide shows of her journey with admission by donation to KEEF. She has met with hundreds of interested public, no less than 12 times, in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Parksville, Whistler, Rossland, Trail and Kelowna, with invitations to do numerous more talks.



White rhinos, Zambia

Donations have amounted to greater than \$20,000, with \$13,000 collected and \$7,200 pledged to

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sponsor fees for four students to complete secondary school. No one ever dreamed that Brenda's ride for KEEF would generate this much interest and funding for KEEF (except maybe Brenda!) Who knows where it will go as she continues her presentations to a myriad of interest groups, including school children here in Canada.

Brenda believes in education as the best way to alleviate long term suffering in poverty stricken areas and she remains committed to KEEF. She plans to go back to Kenya next year to help KEEF in Kakamega and hopes to volunteer in a nearby hospice. Some people slow down upon retirement, but Brenda is just getting started! We are grateful for her efforts and dedication to our common cause.

If your community is interested in hosting a presentation by Brenda, she would be very happy to discuss this possibility with you. Please email her at brenda.trenholme@gmail.com.

Donations to KEEF in support of Brenda's Ride are still welcome – see our web site for donation options.

Craft Fairs Bring Record Sales for KEEF

Dick Glassford

Each year when our volunteer Agents return to Canada, they bring crafts they have acquired while in Kenya. These crafts are purchased from locals who either buy them in bulk, or actually make them themselves. The crafts are then sold at craft fairs back in Canada to help offset operational costs and student support needs.

In November of last year we participated in the Parksville/Qualicum World Craft Bazaar, and made an astounding \$680.00 for 5 hours of work!

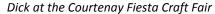
At times it was so crowded that you could hardly move. Folks would stop by, take a look, go and check the other displays but invariably they would return and purchase the lovely crafts.



KEEF display at Fiesta in Courtenay with Beverly Eriksson, KEEF donor and volunteer, sitting behind our crafts ready to serve.

Later in the month we went to Fiesta in Courtenay and rented a table for the two day event. Another worthwhile venture as we made over \$400.00, and actually ran out of crafts before the event ended. We promised to bring back even more crafts this year for the North Island folks.

Not only are these fairs money makers for KEEF, but we also make contacts and have many conversations with people interested in what we do. It is a lot of fun observing people looking, handling and eventually purchasing our Kenyan Crafts. It will be hard to top the over \$1,000 we made last year, but we will sure attempt to do it this fall.





Volunteer Opportunities with KEEF

Shelagh Armour-Godbolt

Several volunteer opportunities to assist KEEF are opening. We invite readers to consider if one of these may be a good "fit" for you....

- ❖ FUNDRAISING The fundraising committee is looking for a couple of additional members to help develop ideas for small and large awareness and fundraising activities in the Lower Mainland and across the province. At present this committee of 3 meets in person about 4 times a year for approximately 3 hours. 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. The fundraising committee is committed to "feeding" such a volunteer "early and often" with details of upcoming events and with general news of interest from Kenya, to get them off to a good start. An important goal is to enable (for the first time) our full participation in the annual Giving Tuesday event, especially in reaching younger adults whose primary method of gaining information is social media.
- ❖ 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. Our fiscal year begins July 1st so there is time to sit in on a meeting to get a sense of what you could contribute. The Board relies on email to address the day-to-day issues that arise for KEEF, since our members live on Vancouver Island and the Mainland (and sometimes in Kenya). Half-day, face to face meetings are held at least quarterly.
- ❖ 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 (day/evening) or by email at shelaghag@shaw.ca

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

Student Life Skills Workshops – 2016

Dick Glassford

In December of last year, the 8th annual KEEF Student Life Skills Workshops were held. They were attended by 88 KEEF students and supported by facilitators and supporters with strong ties to KEEF. To get the workshops developed, coordinated and ready to present, takes a lot of planning, organizing and practising for the delivery.

The first meetings started in early November when the facilitators met to discuss curriculum and start putting together their vision of what would be the end result. Each year the presentations are modified or enhanced to make them even more relevant and professional. On Sunday before the workshops, everyone meets at Alinda Ware's home for the final tweaking and agreement for the delivery of the program. Fourteen hours of classroom time taught over three days, plus organizing all the meals, accommodations and entertainment, takes a lot of commitment and dedication by our team.



2016 Workshop Facilitators

On Dec 8th, students started arriving early to Fesbeth School where they registered, handed in their marks and wrote letters to their sponsors. Lunch was served and the workshops began. Last year's theme was Survival, and the students have done exactly that, they survived another year and are back for more!

This year we decided to "take it up a notch" and move from Surviving - to Thriving and on to Excelling! The workshops all were structured around doing things a little differently in order to get more out of their efforts. The topics for the

lessons included study skills, critical thinking, assertiveness, healthy living, first aid and life skills, strategies for math and business planning, and listening skills. There was a session on trust and cooperation where students went to a playing field and worked cooperatively on tasks and sports.



Students had to trust they would be supported by fellow students

After lunch on Thursday, the first plenary session was presented and was centered on what a little more effort can produce. The analogy that was used concerned water. At 211 degrees Fahrenheit, water is hot. With just one degree more, at 212 degrees, water turns to steam, and can power a locomotive. The lesson stressed that to enjoy more, we must give more, and care more. The students were asked to make a list of where they could turn things up that "one extra degree". The exercise proved they "got it", as they all had wonderful ideas to change their lives.

There was a lot of fun when students tried to translate the following: <u>IYAD WYAD YWAG WYAG</u>. There were no lack of guesses as to what this meant. Finally they were told that the message was simple, and although not a language unto itself, in English, it stood for:

"If You Always Do, What You Always Did, You Will Always Get, What You Always Got"

The message means that with a little bit more effort, there can be gains and successes that were never reached before. Everyone embraced this theme and right up to the end of the Workshops, the students were considering what benefits could be gained by working a bit harder than before.

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It was a lesson that benefited not only the students, but the facilitators were talking about it as well. Actually, there is a lesson here for all of us!



Students working on an exercise

During the day on Friday students attended concurrent workshops that were specific to their grade level.

It was a very full day and after dinner, we all got together to be entertained by the students. The entertainment evening was particularly interesting as a number of our students performed solo on the dance floor. Some of their moves made us older folks wince as their agility and rhythm was extraordinary. They can dance! Everyone really had a great evening and what a wonderful way to unwind and enjoy each other's company.

The second plenary session was presented to everyone on Saturday morning. Andy Gilman, a KEEF sponsor and a new Agent in Kakamega,

presented a workshop on Moving Beyond Conflict to Solutions. Now retired from the Federal Government, Andy is no foreigner to presenting workshops as he has facilitated workshops all over the world with the Federal Government and the United Nations. He embraced the subject and spent two hours preparing students on how to handle life situations involving conflicts at school and at home.



A group acts out a conflict scenario, and then replays it with a solution

Student evaluations were very positive and the individual comments indicate that these sessions are very helpful. One student said that the conflict resolution segment from last year helped him with solving his family issues that had been going on for years. The lessons provide our students with experience in areas that they have not experienced before. They left with real life ideas, concepts, and solutions they can use at home and at school.

emotion I got when I met Ian is one that I would like

If my brief description has in any way interested you, I

encourage you to go to KEEF Canada's website. I know

the people involved; I know their administrative

structure; and now I have seen the service they

provide. Check out their website and you'll discover

how far \$50 a month goes. www.kenyaeducation.org

Meeting lan

Lisa Duprey

I have recently returned from a trip to east Africa, which presents amazing experiences almost every day. The most memorable moment, for me, was meeting a child that I, and my grand children have been sponsoring through KEEF. I was able to go to lan's school and meet him and his principal and teacher. What a wow moment!

lan is in grade 10, his mother died of AIDS and then his father "ran away".

During our visit Ian told me that he wants to go to Kenyatta University to become a neurosurgeon. While the goal is indeed lofty, I felt very comfortable in promising to assist him financially through university. So why am I telling you all this? The overwhelming

all my friends to experience.

KEEF Newsletter #17 March 2017

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Daughters and Sons Helping to empower girls by educating boys

Marc Kielburger & Craig Kielburger Published: February 28, 2017, Postmedia News

[Excerpted] This January, the Kisaruni group of girls' schools in Kenya's Maasai Mara unveiled its first all-boys high school. After the opening ceremony, village elders christened it with a name. They chose **Ngulot**, Swahili for "strength." They want their sons to be as strong as their daughters. Ngulot High School's first lesson: When empowering women, we must include men.

"Our girls were rising up, but our boys were being left behind," say local community leaders like Willy Cheres.

"We must also empower men ... to challenge prevailing norms and change their behaviours," writes Maria Correia, sector manager, social development for the World Bank.

If we're going to win the long-term battle for women's empowerment, we must ensure that girls and boys learn a new paradigm together, so that future teachers, leaders, presidents, farmers, and parents all support women's rights.

Craig and Marc Kielburger are the co-founders of the <u>WE movement</u>, which includes WE Charity, ME to WE Social Enterprise and WE Day.

See the full article at: http://o.canada.com/life/daughters-and-sons

A Gallery of some of KEEF's Post Secondary Students



Brian Madasio



Judith Shirika



Christabel Chanzu



Mercyline Chitechi



Moses Odhiambo



Beverlyne Shivoko



www.kenyaeducation.org



Fanuna Abd



Amos Mmasi



Noel Atieno



Phillice Alungwa



Mwanaidi Abdi



Mary Wanjala



Priscilah Akuku Obwora



Veronica Kavaruni

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