



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #9 November 2012

In this issue ...

- ◆ 1. AGM Report and Benefit Concert update
- ◆ 2. Global Change for Children Building Projects
- ◆ 3. Reminder to Sponsors for 2013 Fees
- ◆ 3. KEEF Gift Cards
- ◆ 3. Craig & Marc Kielburger: Changing Roles in Kenya
- ◆ 2. Become a KEEF Sponsor – How Can You Help?
- ◆ 3. Save your Pennies for KEEF
- ◆ 3. Call for Volunteer KEEF Agents
- ◆ 4. CNIS African Market Update
- ◆ 5. Photo Gallery

Annual General Meeting Report

Our AGM was held on October 14 in North Vancouver, on a very rainy and windy day, and the weather did not contribute to a large attendance. The business attended to was much less complicated than last year when we made changes to both our Constitution and Bylaws.

We welcomed Pamela Frydenlund who has experience both in Africa and in business, and we look forward to her skills on the board. Following the AGM, the board confirmed these positions for 2012-13:

President – Don Reimer, Vice President – Dick Glassford, Secretary – Shelagh Armour-Godbolt, Acting Treasurer – Marie MacKay, Communications Coordinator – Peg Klesner, Past President – Alinda Ware. Members at Large are Pamela Frydenlund, Susan Peake, and Janice Trenholme.

Since Marie is going back to Kenya for six months at the end of December, we are looking for a Treasurer. Please contact us if you have a recommendation.

We thanked Maureen Howard and Nila Gopaul who resigned for personal reasons, and recognized their many contributions to KEEF. We also thanked long time board member Susan Thompson who resigned in the summer for health reasons. Susan was a biologist and had an enormous commitment to Kenya and to the improvement of people's lives, particularly through development of fish farming in rural Kenya. Sadly, shortly after the AGM we learned that Susan had died in her hometown in the Yukon.

Currently, there are two volunteer agents for KEEF in Kenya – Alinda Ware, and Annemarie Robertsen. There are 100 KEEF secondary students and about 30 in post secondary programs. Seventeen students graduate this year and we encourage sponsors to continue their generous support by sponsoring a new young student for four more years.

Don Reimer

Second Annual Benefit Concert

Janice Trenholme



On September 10th KEEF and the Canadian Music Centre (CMC) held the second annual benefit concert and silent auction at Holy Trinity church in Vancouver. Over 100 people enjoyed the beautiful Schubert Octet, played by the Vancouver Chamber Players. The total we raised at the concert was \$8,200, and \$6,150 of that will go to KEEF. **Special thanks go out to this wonderful group of musicians!**



The money raised for KEEF will help educate deserving young students, as well as provide such items as bicycles for transit to school and solar lamps for children to study by (most homes have no electricity, and on the equator it is dark by 6 pm). CMC funds will be used for their award-winning "Composer in the Classroom" project to promote children's appreciation of music in classrooms all across B.C. (Continued)



Update on GC4C Building Projects www.gc4c.org

KEEF board member Alinda Ware has been in Kenya since mid October, and has sent an update on the progress of two building projects sponsored by the Global Change for Children Foundation. These buildings were built by local contractors and labour, overseen by KEEF board member Marie MacKay. In both cases the basic construction is complete, and the walls will be painted when the cement is dry. A feeding program will operate from the Bondeni building and great effort has gone into window coverings and mesh panels over the vents to keep out rodents. And yes, there was water in the taps when Alinda visited!



Principal of Bondeni Primary School at right in new facility



Deputy Head Jessica Musee in front of the new classroom at Mwiya Secondary (Day) School. Jessica is a part time university student who is finishing her doctorate of education.

A KEEF student who was sponsored by Susan Thomson has recently graduated from Mwiya and will attend Moi University.



Your gifts make a huge difference to these children. Nelson Juma Were, with assistance from KEEF, recently graduated from university, and is now an Accountant at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Nairobi. Nelson in turn is providing education to two girls from Kibera, and he recently funded a well for his village. Read more about our students in Kenya by checking out the link to 'Newsletters' on our website.

Become a KEEF Sponsor: How Can You Help?

KEEF seeks donations of all amounts to assist in our work. The board members and overseas agents of KEEF are volunteers and 100% of your donations will 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 always welcome. 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.

With an annual donation of \$100 or more, donors will be recorded as **Members** of the Kenya Education Endowment Fund, with the usual voting rights set out in the BC Society Act. We also have the category of **Supporter**, based on a minimum \$25 annual donation, to encourage small donations, including gifts to KEEF on behalf of others. Both Members and Supporters will be included in our email contact lists.

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Donation by cheque: payable to **KEEF** and mail to:

Margaret (Peg) Klesner,
Suite 904, 2135 Argyle Ave.,
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5

Donation online: go to www.kenyaeducation.org and donate through **PayPal** or **Canada Helps**.

Gift Cards: View samples on our web site. We can send you blank cards, or mail them on your behalf.

For more information: Please go to the **KEEF web site** or contact Peg Klesner at lachiam@telus.net or Tel: 604-926-3018, or at the postal address above.

A Reminder to Sponsors

KEEF pays student fees for the 2013 school year in January. If you haven't already sent in your sponsorship for the coming year, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank You!

KEEF Gift Cards

At this time of year, most non profit organizations, including KEEF, are anxious to be included in your choices of seasonal gift options. We have a very simple way that you can send gift donations that directly benefit Kenyan students. Three gift cards are available:

A gift to the KEEF Student Support Fund – you can choose any amount to donate.

A gift of a solar lamp - Solar light is a priceless gift for those who live without electricity. \$25 per lamp.

A gift of a bicycle - A bicycle turns a long walk to school into a short ride. \$100 per bicycle.

You can request blank cards to send yourself or we will complete and mail cards for you. Please check the [KEEF web site](#) for details or contact Peg Klesner at lachaiam@telus.net or Tel: 604-926-3018.

Canada to Kenya Blog Update



We extend thanks to Tanya Harmon from Courtenay, BC for her ongoing efforts to support students and provide training opportunities in Kenya.

Tanya and her husband Terry worked for several months in the Kakamega area last year. This winter, she is raising funds again for three organizations, including KEEF. Read more on Tanya's blog:

canadatokenya.blogspot.ca

In rural Kenya, idle men are seeking a new role

From an article by Craig & Marc Kielburger
Supporters of KEEF are often asked why we provide scholarships mainly to boys at the secondary school level. (At post secondary level, KEEF supports both male and female students). We explain that in Kakamega County where we work, several other organizations provide scholarships exclusively to



Save your pennies for KEEF

Almost \$400 in pennies have already been donated and we hope to reach \$600 by the end of February.

Please email Shelagh at our KEEF email address keefcan2010@gmail.com and she will help to arrange to pick up your pennies.

Call for Volunteer KEEF Agents

Do you have an interest in visiting and working 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 30 students in post-secondary institutions in Kenya. Students bring in their marks, fee structures and letters to sponsors at the close of each term. Canadian volunteers help monitor the program.

Volunteers pay their own fare, housing and living expenses, but there are provisions for tax benefits under Canada Revenue regulations. To learn more about KEEF's activities visit our website www.kenyaeducation.org. If you are interested in an adventure and a chance to make a difference in someone's life, please contact us at keefcan2010@gmail.com

Student Workshops for 2012

Each year KEEF assembles all our secondary students for three days of workshops and life skills training. These workshops provide a range of practical, interactive lessons and activities different from the regular school curriculum. KEEF students attend over two dozen different schools in the Kakamega area, so they rarely experience the opportunity to be together. As we look to the future, we are confident that many KEEF alumni will be successful in their trades or professions, and in recognition of their KEEF background they will in turn assist other Kenyans. We extend sincere thanks to the GC4C Foundation for providing funds for the 2012 workshops.

(Kielburger article continued)

girls. One of those is CHES, the BC-based Canadian Harambee Education Society, which many of you will know. CHES has worked in Kakamega since the early 1980s and in recent years, as sponsors have heard about our organization, several CHES girls have continued into post secondary programs through KEEF.

The bigger picture of a growing awareness of the fundamental changes that affect both men and women in Kenyan society is addressed by Craig and Marc Kielburger in an article that ran in several Canadian news outlets in August of this year. We have picked some quotes from their article.

oo

In Emori Joi, a generation of men is idle. Without livestock to protect and raiders to repel, they are unneeded as protectors and unable to be providers. Still each morning they leave their homes and return in the evening as though they were out working. "They are trying to hide their insecurities and make it look as though they're at least trying to provide," says "Mama" Jane Marindany. "Surely they are walking around with a heavy heart."

Meanwhile girls are being educated and women like Marindany are building their own businesses, providing for their families. Women's empowerment has taken the development world by storm. Billions are poured every year into education for girls, women's health, and livelihood programs for women. And this is an incredibly good thing.

But the men of Emori Joi are a stark example of a question that is arising in communities - developed and developing alike - around the world: in an age of growing women's empowerment, what about the men?

And women like Marindany want their daughters to find educated husbands willing to share in household chores.

"We want both boys and girls to go to school," Marindany says. "If a girl studies more than a boy, or vice versa, isn't equal and how can they be good spouses? Live good lives? Provide good role models?"

© Copyright (c) The Vancouver Sun

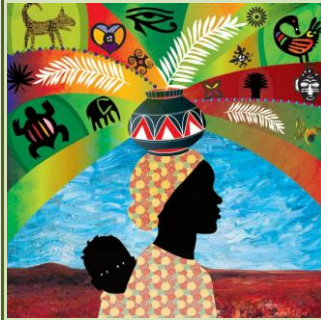
oo

The complete article can be found online – just Google the title of this article.

Craig and Marc Kielburger co-founded Free The Children, and are authors of the new book Living Me to We: The Guide for Socially Conscious Canadians www.metowe.com/living.

AFRICAN MARKET

KEEF participated in the African Market in Vancouver on August 25. Some funds were raised for KEEF, but



more important was the opportunity to connect with other organizations and the public. The three KEEF board members who worked a long day at the market recommend that we attend again next year.

This market is an annual event organized by the Canadian Network for International Surgery, www.cnis.ca.

About KEEF

Our primary mission is to provide scholarships for students in Kakamega County in Kenya to attend secondary and post-secondary programs.

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (KEEF) has been established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people and 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:

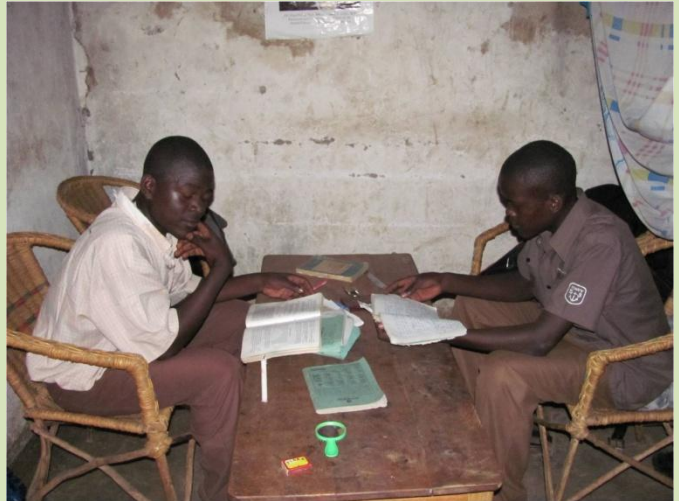
Shelagh Armour-Godbolt, Pamela Frydenlund, Dick Glassford, Peg Klesner, Marie MacKay, Susan Peake, Don Reimer, Janice Trenholme, Alinda Ware.

Contact us at keefcan2010@gmail.com or visit our web site www.kenyaeducation.org

Photo Gallery



Student interviews – Alinda Ware and Dick Glassford



Studying by solar lamp



A new bicycle



Letters to sponsors – Marie MacKay



Solar lamp

Kenya Education



Endowment Fund

Empowering Young Kenyans Opening Doors to the Future

Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer