



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #19 May 2019

School Patron's Meeting

The first meeting of KEEF Patrons was held in February this year. School Patrons are volunteer teachers at each school that assist our students to adjust and to succeed in secondary school. Most KEEF students attended small village schools for eight years of primary school so attending a large boarding school is a major change.

On Fri, Mar 1, 2019 Alinda Ware wrote:

"We had a very successful meeting with the patrons today. We discussed the welfare of our students, problems and successes we have had, how we can all work together to make things even better for our students.

They loved the presents KEEF Canada board had sent down, thank you Shelagh for delivering them to me at the airport. They left with a full stomach, presents, transport and looking forward to meeting together again next year. **This was the first patrons' meeting for KEEF and it was a 100% turnout.**



Alinda, Thompson, Sarah, Grace

Thomson Mate, Sarah Nabongo, and Grace Lidede are part of our Kenyan team. We found the T-shirts we wear to the workshops, etc. too hot for dry season. So Sarah and I designed these cotton shirts for this time of the year when we visit schools, have the Form Four leavers workshops and the patrons' meeting. These 3 are very important part of our team. They do a great deal to make KEEF the success it is here in Kenya. Thank you to those of you in Canada who make this possible through your efforts for fundraising."



Choosing the presents

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Trio Walking and Running for Textbooks

Updated from The Afro News, March 30, 2019, by Shelagh Armour-Godbolt
www.theafronews.com/ [Search sun run]



Running & Walking for KEEF Three lower mainland women participated in the **2019 Vancouver Sun Run on April 14** to raise funds for textbooks and classroom equipment for poor, bright high school students in Kakamega, Kenya.

High school is not free in Kenya and our goal is to raise \$1,200 to provide loan scientific calculators – needed in the last two years of secondary school – and loan copies of Math and English Literature texts to help students sponsored by KEEF. These resources will help our 100+ students prepare for the critical national exams at the end of secondary school. Results of the exams determine if a student receives state-subsidized tuition for post secondary education.

KEEF is a small, volunteer-run educational charity, based in B.C., working with bright, very poor secondary and post-secondary students in western Kenya. Currently over 100 high school students and some 35 post-secondary students receive support through KEEF.

Anisa Kassam lives in Vancouver. She was born in Kenya and served as a volunteer director of KEEF in the past. This was Anisa's first time walking in the Vancouver Sun Run. **Susan Peake**, a recently retired Capilano University instructor, and KEEF director, has walked the 10 km to fund raise for KEEF's students for

the last two years. **Sarah Breakey** is a third year student in Business and Sustainability at UBC.

Sarah volunteers for KEEF by sharing her computer and social media skills. She will run the 10 km route. This is her first year to enter the Sun Run

Will you support us with a donation? 100% of donations go to the students in Kenya and tax-deductible receipts are available.

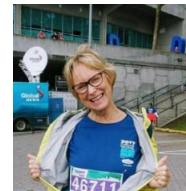
Donations can be made by cheque, payable to KEEF, and posted to #904-2135 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver BC V7V 1A5 (Please put Sun Run on the memo line of the cheque.)

To donate online by Interac, PayPal or CanadaHelps, please go to the KEEF donation page at www.kenyaeducation.org. Be sure to add a note or send us an email (keefcan2010@gmail.com) that you are donating to the Sun Run.

For more information about the educational work of KEEF in Kenya, visit our web site www.kenyaeducation.org



Anisa



Susan



Sarah

UPDATE: They raised over \$1700

More Sun Run photos



Anisa at start and at 9 km mark



Susan and Anisa in their official T-shirts



Over 40,000 runners on Georgia Street



KenBC announced a name change at their recent AGM - they are now **The Kenyan Community in B.C. Society** and continue to use KenBC as a short form.

KEEF thanks retiring KenBC President David Njuguna and Past-President Jane Muema-Ngui for their hard work and accomplishments over the last few years. We look forward to continuing to work with incoming President Kimani Karangu (Philip) and other new Board members of the Kenyan Community in B.C. Society. You may recall that Kimani, a PhD candidate at UBC, was a speaker at the KEEF AGM in September, 2018.

Upcoming Events

- **KEEF will have a craft table** at the Collingwood Days International Market, Saturday May 25th 11am - 4pm in Gaston Park, Crowley Drive at Tyne, Vancouver (Joyce Skytrain). Come visit us and support KEEF!"
- **Brenda's Ride – speaking tour**
Brenda has written a major article on pages 6 and 7 describing her 13,000 km cycle adventure across Asia. She is following up her ride with a slideshow and talk in over 20 communities in B.C.

Watch for posters in your community announcing her presentation.

Some recent KEEF post secondary graduates



Christabel Chanzu, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science & Technology



Phylis Alungwa Khagali, Bachelor of Arts in Hospitality Management



Moses Odhiambo, Bachelor of Agricultural Education & Extension



Priscilah Akuku, Bachelor Information Technology



Ruth Aleyo, Diploma Community health Nursing



Above: Cooperative activity - The golf ball shuffle
 Below: Managing conflict planning session



Above – Rock, scissors, paper

Thank you Susan Edwards (Ontario) and Chris & Shandra Bowen (Kelowna) for sharing your expertise as KEEF agents.

Left – **workshop Facilitation Team** after just completing the final training session



Back row clockwise from Chris Bowen at left in grey T-shirt:
 Chris, Sarah (in red), Grace, Consalata Agidza, Anthony Napali, Fanuel Omunypkho, Shandra Bowen, Japeth Ungadi, Abraham Shitote, Susan Edwards
Front row seated from left:
 Harun Mbelo, Ruth Aleyo, Sylvanus Omutimba, Caroline Makomere, Brian Bateta, Alinda Ware, Thomson Mate

**KEEF Annual Workshops
 November, 2018**

Brenda Rides Again! *The Silk Route 2018: Beijing to Istanbul* May 12 – October 3



Cycling the Silk Road for KEEF, 2018

By Brenda Trenholme

I am a retired physician from Rossland, a small mountain town in the interior of British Columbia. Passionate about exploring lands and cultures on my bicycle, I recently spent from May to October, 2018 cycling 13,000 km along the “Silk Road” from Beijing, China to Istanbul, Turkey. It was an amazingly rich and diverse experience!

On this recent adventure, I traveled with the Canadian-based bicycle tour company called TDA Global Cycle Tours. TDA provided meals, transportation of our camping gear, medical and mechanical support and excellent route guidance.

We started in China with 14 International cyclists and 11 of us completed the full distance, including 4 women. Various additional riders joined us along the way for sections of the route. Our ages ranged from 30 to late 60’s. Cycling an

average of 135 km per day, 40% of which was off road, we were traveling for 150 days. The highest pass we crossed was at 15,380 ft and we climbed as many as 9,000 ft in a day.

Our ride took us through China, Mongolia, Siberia (Russia), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey. Traveling by bicycle can be torturous and bone-jarring, but offers the cyclist a very personal experience of the geography and an intimate interface with the people and their cultures, as well as ample time to contemplate these.

In a nutshell, my strongest impressions are:

- the size and momentum of the Chinese economy,
- the beauty and hardships of Nomadic life in remote Mongolia,
- just how hard the relentless wind blows across the vast steppes of Asia,

- the majesty and solitude of the Pamir mountains in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the dignity of the people who survive there,
- how advanced the ancient centres of learning were in Asia and the breathtaking beauty and magnitude of their contributions to art, science and architecture. I gained a greater appreciation of the profound influence of the successive Asian empires on the rest of our world.

In general, as travelers, we felt very safe, perhaps safer than in North America and people were extremely kind, welcoming and generous. Their mosques are as empty as our churches: for the general public, religion seems to have assumed more social/cultural importance than spiritual. The images painted by the media of places like Iran and Turkey as scary and full of religious fanatics are quite inaccurate and frankly incorrect. There is real political and religious repression in many of these countries, but the impact on travelers is wildly overstated.

I have prepared a slideshow of the highlights of this fascinating journey which I plan to show in several communities in the upcoming months. Admission to these slideshows will be by donation, with all proceeds going to KEEF (the **Kenya Education Endowment Fund**). This is a B.C. based charity which supports bright but impoverished children in Kenya to achieve a high school education. I have volunteered for KEEF in Kenya and have seen the profound and lasting benefits that giving people tools to help themselves has on them and their communities.

I am privileged to have personally had the financial, mental and physical capacity to meet the challenges of cycling the Silk Road. Through these slideshows, I'd like to share my good fortune by raising funds to help the students in Kenya to meet the overwhelming challenges that they face to get an education and help themselves out of poverty. I hope you'll join me.

To make a life changing donation or get more information about KEEF, please go to: www.kenyaeducation.org or mail a cheque to:

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

Be sure to add "Brenda's Ride" on your cheque or online

www.kenyaeducation.org

To read about my adventure, you can visit my blog at:

<https://brendasride2018.wordpress.com>

Thanks to all who support my efforts in any way to raise funds for these students. Your contributions help make our world a better place.

A special **Thank You** to Tyler and **Revolution Cycles** in Rosland for generously sponsoring, once again, some of my cycling gear.

Happy Trails!

Brenda Trenholme

For those interested, I plan to give this slideshow in Nelson, Castlegar, Rosland, Trail, Grand Forks, Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops, Armstrong, Vancouver, North Vancouver, Squamish, Comox, Qualicum Beach, Parksville, Nanaimo, Duncan, Victoria, Salt Spring Island, Canmore and Calgary, and will advertise in advance in these communities. If you'd like me to show my slides in your community, please let me know at brenda.trenholme@gmail.com.



Link to video trailer above:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XB1jaii5ps4

Link to TDA Cycling for more info:

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



KEEF Canada Secondary School Graduates Dec. 2018

Our secondary graduates scored well in their national KCSE exams, with 18 out of 21 students qualifying to be “called” to university. Well done, KEEF Scholars!

[Missing photos: Nathan, Brayan, Victor]



Giving remarks at Lingnan University, HK

Update from Ezekiel Otsieno

Ezekiel graduated as a KEEF student from Koyonzo Secondary School in 2015. His high academic achievements earned him scholarships to attend Strathmore University in Nairobi. He is currently in the first semester of fourth year. We are very grateful to his sponsor who has continued his support over many years.

Ezekiel recently reported on an Academic trip to Hong Kong and Macau:

We had a successful academic trip organized by the University to Hong Kong and Macau, which are both islands attached to the mainland China. We toured the place from 24th March 2019 - 2nd April, 2019.

The trip was for educational purposes as well as for getting the global exposure and having fun.

During the trip, we made several industry visits where we learned how to match theory taught in class into practice as we listened to various speakers. We also visited various Universities where we learnt about the graduate and post-graduate programs that they offer.



Above: Hong Kong Monetary Authority
Below Hong Kong University of Science & Technology



GC4C and KEEF - Our 2019 Partnership



Emasera Community School

We are very pleased to note that [GC4C](#) will again partner with KEEF to construct kitchen facilities at a very needy school.

In 2003 a mud school was built by ACCES (African Canadian Continuing Education Society) for children in the community who were unable to pay school fees. Gradually a permanent school was built. In 2013 Emasera Community School (grade 1 to 8) was officially handed over to the Ministry of Education as school fees had been eliminated. It is very rural and the only way to get up to the school is on foot, or by motorcycle or tractor. All materials will have to be taken in by tractor.

Today Emasera houses 567 primary students, 291 girls and 276 boys as well as 103 ECD* students (53 boys and 49 girls). There are 10 government teachers, 2 Board of Management Teachers and 2 County ECD teachers. [*ECD* is Early Childhood Development*].

Water is collected from a protected spring that flows most of the year. If it stops during the dry season, the children carry a container of water from home to supply the school. The ECD students receive uji (a runny maize flour porridge) about 10 am, the upper students receive lunch and the staff receives tea and lunch. Classes 1 to 3 go home at 1 o'clock, some students in class 5 and 6 go home for lunch. Class 7 and 8 must be served lunch.

We are planning to construct a two-room kitchen. In the future a small water harvesting tank could be installed to catch water runoff from the kitchen roof.

The estimated cost of this project will be \$7,310.

Thank you, GC4C!

www.kenyaeducation.org



Present day kitchen at Emasera school



Visiting Emasera school

From left: **Jessica Shivutse**, a board member from Emasera Community School, **Sarah Nabongo**, KEEF Office Administrator, **Anthony Napali**, school principal (not at Emasera) and long term KEEF supporter.

Other News & Information

Canadian Nurses for Africa: CNFA

On Friday April 25th, 2019, thirteen nurses from across Canada, 26 large suitcases and over 1,200 lbs of supplies travelled to Kenya to begin the 11th Medical Mission in the Chavakali/Vihiga region near Kakamega. There, Kenyan nurses and Clinical Officers will assist them in implementing the many clinics in a variety of areas. Advance posters and signage were put up to inform the community that CNFA would be on the ground ready to start the first clinic on April 29th, 2019, wrapping up on May 10th.

We encourage you to join them via their blog: www.canadiannursesforafrica.ca.



graduates, is eligible for direct entry to a public university.

The Marie Mackay Scholarship (\$600 as of 2018) is awarded to a top KEEF graduate who qualifies for direct entry to university and has been sponsored by KEEF for at least Forms 3 & 4.



Robinson Gulema

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**.

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

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.

Generally there are two semesters per year and we estimate that \$600 to \$1000 per semester 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.

Marie MacKay Scholarship for the top Form 4 graduate of 2018

The recipient of the Marie MacKay scholarship this year is Robinson Gulema from Sheywe Secondary School. Robinson achieved a mean grade of B+ on the national exams, so he, like most of our KEEF

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 has about 100 students in secondary schools and about 40 students in post-secondary institutions in Kenya.

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.

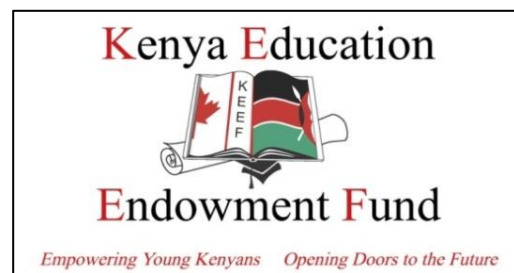
As a donor, you have several options for allocating donations and can direct 100% of your donation for educational purposes in Kenya. Our low operational costs are covered through sales of Kenyan crafts and other special fund-raising events, and through donations to our KEEF Operations and Student Support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

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

Photo Gallery – Workshops 2018
The theme of the November Life Skills Workshops was “Keys to Survival”



Photo Gallery – Brenda’s Ride 2018



Financial food for thought:

If you donate \$100	The fee charged	KEEF receives
Through CanadaHelps	3.5%	\$96.50
Through PayPal	2.2%	\$97.80
Through Interac e-transfer	No fee	\$100.00
By cheque	No fee	\$100.00

Be sure to check out Brenda’s Blog at:
<https://brendasride2018.wordpress.com>

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