



# Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

[www.kenyaeducation.org](http://www.kenyaeducation.org)

Email: [keefcan2010@gmail.com](mailto:keefcan2010@gmail.com)

KEEF Newsletter #16 June 2016

## “WE” Made It!

Dr. Brenda Trenholme and the Tour d’Afrique team arrived on schedule in Cape Town on May 14, after 121 days of cycling covering 11,397 km, which began Jan. 15 in Cairo. Brenda dedicated her ride to KEEF and hopes to raise \$20,000 to directly support KEEF students in Kenya. Over \$4,000 is already in the bank, and we hope future events will generate more support.

Please have a look at **Brenda’s Blog** through the KEEF web site [www.kenyaeducation.org](http://www.kenyaeducation.org)

Thank you, Brenda!

## Brenda’s (awesome) Ride for KEEF



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## **Geoffrey's Story: KEEF Insight Gives Eyesight**

By Dick Glassford

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, and 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. This, coupled with a very positive attitude and coming from a very poor family, made him a perfect candidate for a KEEF scholarship.



At the recommendation of Board member Alinda Ware, we decided to send Geoffrey to an ophthalmologist for an assessment, and were told that if left unchecked, what sight Geoffrey had left would be completely gone in about two years. 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, and called Geoffrey in so we could present him with "his new eyes". I cannot describe the look on his face when Geoffrey put the glasses on for the first time!

The office went silent as everyone waited for his reaction. Words cannot describe what we all felt,

when Geoffrey saw properly for the first time. He proudly read a sign (at some distance on the office door) listing KEEF's hours of operation. While it was very disturbing to realize that Geoffrey's parents could not afford to take him to a doctor, we were delighted to learn that the whole cost to correct his eyesight was only 7,600 Kenyan shillings (approx.. \$100 Cdn)!

Geoffrey is now doing well in school and absolutely delighted to be able -- for the first time since childhood -- to read and do his assignments himself, without anyone's assistance.



We are pleased to confirm that GC4C has agreed to fund projects for 2016 to a total of approximately \$4300. Details are being worked out between KEEF representatives and our contacts in Kenya.

We can also confirm an item in our last newsletter, #15, that the GC4C Koyonzo water project was completed in January, after much diplomacy and work by Dick Glassford.

The GC4C web site published the following breakdown of all the KEEF projects they have supported from 2010 through 2015 – a very generous and impressive list! See more at [www.gc4c.org](http://www.gc4c.org)

### **From the GC4C web site:**

- Construction of a new kitchen and a new library at the Bondeni School
- Construction of a new classroom at the Mwiya School
- Sponsorship of twelve boys from remote villages for their four years of secondary education
- Sponsorship of an annual three day life skills workshop for 90 boys, including the purchase of their books, calculators and dictionaries (three years: 2010 -- 2012)
- Purchase of photocopiers, computers and videos for the Mwikhomo Special School for the deaf
- Purchase of 250 desks and benches for classrooms at the Rosternan School
- Purchase of stoves for Bondeni kitchen
- Upgrading the water system at Mwikhomo School for the Deaf [Continued over]

- Provision of new beds and curtains for the boys' dormitory at the Mwikhomo School for the Deaf
- Construction of a new water tower to serve 300 girls at the Kimangeti Girls Secondary School
- Installation of pipes to move water from a well to the school's dormitory, kitchen and science laboratories at the Koyonzo Boys Secondary School

**Total expended 2010 - 2015: \$76,038 Many Thanks, GC4C!**

**Merville Community Group proudly displays Harriet's graduation certificate from University of Nairobi – B. Pharmacy degree**



2016 marks the 9th time the Merville Community Group has come together to hold the "Harriet Fund-raising Potluck Dinner." We have been part of Harriet's journey since 2006, through her secondary and university years, and now she is in her year of internship (12 months).

This additional year came as a surprise to us. We had assumed graduation meant the end of sponsorship, only to find out that students in Kenya in the intern year get no (zero) support from the government. This includes not only pharmacists, but also nurses, doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, lawyers, etc. Harriet has been working extra hours to cover her basic needs. This

has meant working evenings and Sundays (her only day off).

Needless to say, we felt happy to fund-raise one more time as Harriet's dedication to the pharmacy field and her willingness to work hard are awe-inspiring. Harriet told us that the intern students are lobbying the Kenyan government this coming June by presenting a proposal that would provide a stipend to interns. We hope KEEF can follow this action and let us know the outcome since this will impact many KEEF post-secondary students and sponsors in coming years.



Harriet

Thanks to KEEF for providing us with the opportunity to be involved and get to know

this amazing young woman, now Dr. Chirima, while at the same time, strengthening our community.

**Sally Gellard, Merville Community Group**

**KEEF Annual General Meeting 2016**

Sunday, September 25, 2:00 p.m.  
Location not yet confirmed.

NOTE: The KEEF AGM will be one week later than usual this year.

## Your Support is Making a Difference!

The KEEF board, Kenya staff and our supporters and volunteers do our best to select very bright students who would not be able to attend school without your generous financial support. The national exams that all Form 4 students write result in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE). Students' scores on the exams determine the type of post secondary programs that students may enter. High achieving students are "called" to university as "direct entry" students, and are eligible for government support that will significantly reduce their costs.

**We are very pleased to report that 25 of our 27** Form 4 graduating students scored high enough to qualify for direct entry. In spite of the government support and loans available, many of these very bright students will struggle to find the funds to attend. KEEF has about 40 post secondary sponsors who have some great stories to tell. If you would like more information about assisting a post secondary student, please contact us.

## More Post Secondary Stories

By Norm & Cheryl Filipenko

Several years ago, when we decided to sponsor a Kenyan student through high school, we had in mind to continue our support for that student through a post secondary education. A foreseeable

problem in our minds was the handling of money for tuition, accommodation and books. Large amounts of money handled by a young student or a very needy family might find their way to some other purpose than the intended school fees.

Our problem was solved when KEEF agreed to take over the financial affairs of our students. An unexpected bonus is that KEEF, as a registered charity, would issue us a tax receipt for the expenses involved in paying school fees and living expenses. In addition to the financial management, the Kenyan staff have counselled and supported our students during difficult times.

Pictured with us are three of our post secondary students: Edith, Metrin and Ruth. Edith graduated from Maseno University as a teacher and is currently teaching History and Religion at a girls' high school. Metrin is about to graduate from Strathmore University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. Ruth is currently in her second year of nursing at the Kenya Medical Training College. These students are living their dreams!

**Thank you, KEEF, for  
looking after the administration.**

Edith, Metrin, Ruth, Norm and Cheryl in 2016



## Thank you Rotary

KEEF has been fortunate for several years to have support from several Rotary clubs. One of our long time supporters is the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary in the Comox Valley. This club has not only sponsored several secondary students right through to graduation, but has also supported various other causes over the years.

Below is a photo of Marty Douglas handing over a cheque for \$2800 to KEEF Board member Alinda Ware. Marty is a well known realtor in the Comox Valley and Campbell River areas, and is currently the Program Chair for Strathcona Sunrise Rotary.

### Thank you Marty and the Strathcona Sunrise Rotary team!



Marty Douglas and Alinda Ware, April 2016

## 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. **All of the monies donated to KEEF are**

[www.kenyaeducation.org](http://www.kenyaeducation.org)

**designated for educational purposes in Kenya.** Our very low operational costs are covered through sales of Kenyan crafts and other special fund-raising events.

Contact us at [keefcan2010@gmail.com](mailto:keefcan2010@gmail.com) or visit our web site [www.kenyaeducation.org](http://www.kenyaeducation.org) or

Phone Peg Klesner at 604-926-3018

## Do you have an interest in visiting and 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 help monitor the program, and our office is managed by 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.

To learn more about KEEF's activities, visit our website [www.kenyaeducation.org](http://www.kenyaeducation.org) or contact us at [keefcan2010@gmail.com](mailto:keefcan2010@gmail.com)

*Alinda Ware and Sally Gellard have recently returned from six months and two months respectively, volunteering for KEEF in Kakamega. They would be happy to discuss the role and opportunities for KEEF volunteers.*

**Please contact KEEF at our email address above to follow up.**

## More about Ezekiel



*Ezekiel Otieno*

In our March 2015 Newsletter we first published excerpts from Ezekiel's letter to KEEF and asked for a donor to sponsor him through Form 4, his final year of secondary school. A donor replied immediately and Ezekiel successfully completed Form 4 last November and wrote his national KCSE exams (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education). The results of those exams are now out and Ezekiel achieved a straight A average, scoring 82 out of a possible 84 points and was the top KEEF graduate!

Ezekiel will be called to a university and with some continuing support from his secondary school sponsor, he will no doubt continue his high achieving pace towards a degree.

In his letter of March 2016, Ezekiel wrote:

Following your sponsorship, I enrolled in Koyonzo Mixed Secondary school, now Koyonzo Boys Secondary school as a Form One in 2012. With a determined spirit and total zeal, I began the secondary school journey. True to say, I encountered a series of hills and valleys as a day scholar for the first three years but I once more appreciate the fact that reforms are meant to strengthen us. The more you are hit by such storms, the stronger you become.

KEEF students would not be able to continue their education without some financial support. What we may not be aware of is the leadership that KEEF students provide in their secondary schools and in their universities. These two post secondary students are examples of the many outstanding students supported through KEEF.



## Mwanaidi Abdi – another post secondary success story

Mwanaidi and her sister Fanuna attend different universities in Eldoret. Mwanaidi is studying economics at Moi University and Fanuna attends Chepkoilel University College, studying business management

Mwanaidi's letter of November 2015 provides a glimpse of her role, not only as an undergraduate student, but as an engaged member of the Kenyan community. She writes:

*"... we were visited by the President of the United States and I am glad to be among the few chosen to*

*attend his forum."*

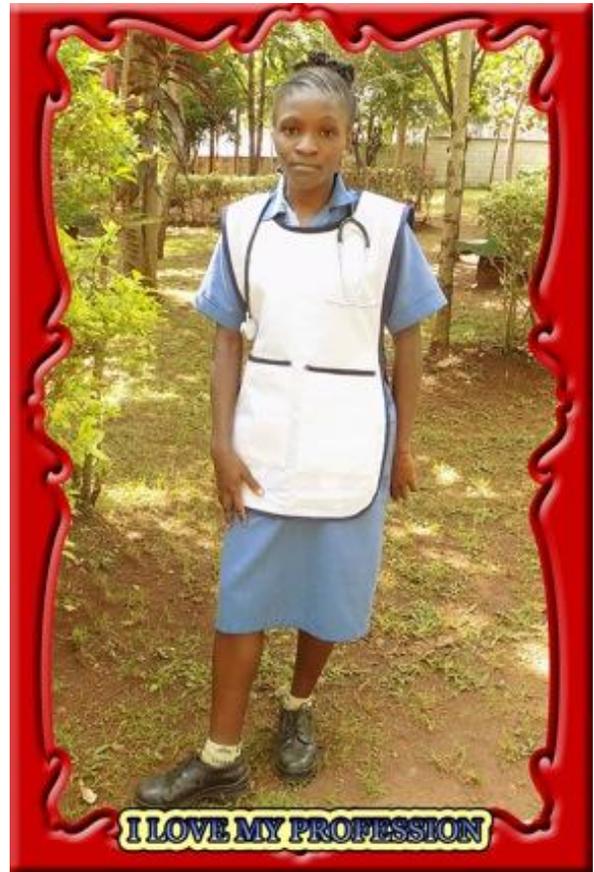
*"... the last semester is the semester I was graduating from being a student leader to a university elder. I was also awarded as the best female mentor. I also got an award for being the best*

*Swahili public speaker and got a ticket to visit the President at the State House."*

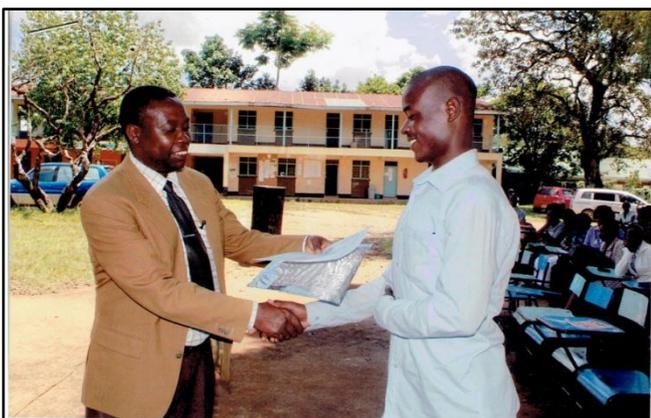
## Photo Gallery



Metrin Asiko and Edith Olwande, 2011 [See page 4]



Ruth Aleyo, proud to be a nurse in training [See page 4]



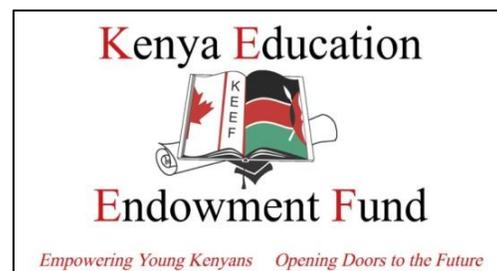
Victor Alutseshe receives the Marie MacKay Award  
[See story in last newsletter, on our web site]

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

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Scarlet - Bachelor of Dental Surgery, 2015



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