

Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

KEEF Newsletter #5 November 2010 Vol. 3 No. 2

Update from Alinda in Kakamega

Greetings from Kakamega. I arrived October 19, just before year end exams started. The Kenyan school year goes from January to March (April off), May to July (August off) and September to November. It is examination focussed and lecture based. At the end of standard 8 (grade 8) and form 4 (grade 12) the students write national examinations. These exams are delivered to the armoury and kept locked up. Invigilators, a driver and two policemen pick up exams as required and take them to the schools. The invigilators are in the room as students write and armed policemen are on the grounds so there is no interference from outside. When exams are completed they go back to the armoury and are locked up until all are finished . They are returned to Nairobi for marking. Students are ranked within schools, schools within districts, provinces, etc. It's extremely competitive.

KEEF has 4 students writing their final exams Their marks should be out by February and, if they get a B or better, they will be called to a public university where they can attend with a government loan and some assistance from a sponsor. I am hoping all qualified graduates will be able to receive post-secondary training.

Marie Mackay and Susan Thompson arrive in December and we will prepare for the January interviews for Form 1 KEEF students. We had sponsors for 16 form 1's in January 2010 so hopefully we can match or better that number in 2011. If you are considering sponsoring or know of someone who is interested in sponsoring a student please let us know. It will open doors to the future for another Kenyan.

Alinda Ware, KEEF President

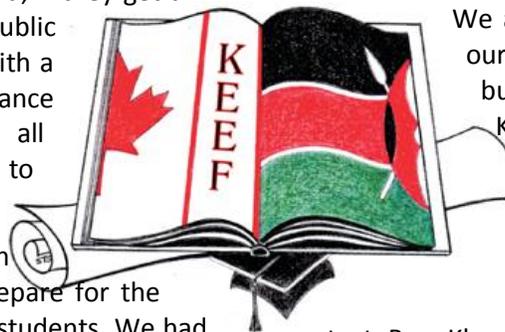
KEEF Logo

Peg Klesner

Our new KEEF logo was designed and prepared for us by Signe Salzberg of Saltsea Studio on Gabriola Island, British Columbia.

The Board selected this design to represent the education and scholarship commitment that KEEF provides in the Kakamega area of Kenya. We think it provides a clear visual representation of the work we do on behalf of the students receiving scholarships from individual sponsors.

Saltsea Studios, saltsea@shaw.ca, established by Heather Reid and Signe Salzberg, has been creating designs for a variety of clothing, home accessories, greeting cards and decorative items since 1985 from their home studio on the island. They continue to market their creations from their space at the Gabriola Farm Market each Saturday during the sunny months as well as distribution to a number of loyal customers throughout Canada. During the rest of the year, Signe continues her fine art projects inspired by west coast nature.



We are already using the new logo on our stationery letterhead and our business cards, and it will soon be on KEEF's website and brochures. We also have sets of note cards displaying our logo, for use by board members and available for interested sponsors. If you are interested in having a set, please

contact Peg Klesner, email: lachaiaam@telus.net or write to #904 2135 Argyle Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C., V7V 1A5.

AGM Report

Don Reimer

The KEEF AGM was held on July 11 at Capilano Mall in North Vancouver. Reports were presented by President Alinda Ware, Kenya Liaison Marie MacKay and former Treasurer Peg Klesner. (continued)

A short video was shown featuring KEEF students and the library opening at Bondeni Primary School in March. You will recall from our last Newsletter that Global Change for Children (GC4C) made a very generous donation of over \$18,000 to KEEF. In addition to the Bondeni library, these funds will provide scholarships, text books and support for student workshops through to 2013. The positive impact of sustained support such as this from GC4C cannot be overstated.

Established in 2008, BC-based GC4C is a volunteer organization with 100% of its net proceeds donated to worthwhile children's causes. To learn more, visit www.gc4c.org



Boys in a skit at the Bondeni Library opening

Board members for KEEF for 2010-11 are: Alinda Ware, Marie MacKay, Peg Klesner, Maureen Howard, Margaret Fanning, Janice Trenholme, Susan Thompson and Don Reimer. Nila Gopaul and Susan Peake will act as members at large and are available to help out if needed. Patricia Crossley is our technical liaison.

We thank ACCES (African Canadian Continuing Education Society) for the loan of their projector for the AGM.

Supporting KEEF

Marie Mackay

Ideally, we try to attract sponsors who will cover the annual cost for a Kenyan student to attend secondary school for four years. We calculate the current cost to be \$500 per year on average. For those of you who find it difficult to sponsor an individual student for a year (or more) we suggest two options:

1. Join with friends to contribute the full amount. In many cases community groups, school classes, retired teachers associations, service clubs, churches and other organizations cooperate to sponsor students.

2. Contribute to the KEEF Student Support Fund.

We welcome donations of any amount to this fund, which is used to help students who are deemed very needy and there is not a sponsor available. Most of the students helped by this fund are already in school

and for some reason or another cannot find fees to continue.

The usual story is that the person helping has died or become ill and is unable to continue with funding. These students must meet the KEEF criteria of having a C+ average in two out of three terms and most of

them far exceed that. We currently are helping 7 boys from this fund – all of whom are in Form 2 or 3.

The fund also helps students whose fees are over \$500 (this is usually in Form 4 – the final year of secondary school - where there are extra fees for exams, etc). The Student Support Fund can also assist those students who

need money for one time only expenses.

What do we mean by 'Shopping'? Marie MacKay

When students begin their first year in high school they are given a list of what is required before they can be admitted to boarding school.

The list is long and can cost up to \$100. For example:

- Foam mattress, sheets, blankets & bedspread
- Tin box and padlock – to keep their belongings safe
- Bucket, hand soap and laundry soap
- Bowl and spoon
- Toilet paper
- Tooth paste and tooth brush
- Shoe polish
- Hymn book & bible

At the beginning of each term many of these things must be replaced – soap, toilet paper, tooth paste etc.

When KEEF selects a student for sponsorship, we ask that all items on the shopping list be purchased before we give out fees since schools will send students home if they come poorly equipped.

Kenya Liaison Report for 2010 KEEF AGM

Marie MacKay, July 11, 2010

I arrived in Kenya on December 28th 2009 to be met as I got out of the taxi by a mother looking for assistance for her son. In the next few weeks more

than 50 applicants made it through the initial screening at the gate. We asked the askaris (guards) not to admit anyone who had marks below 360 in their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam.

From this group of 50 we selected 20 for interviews. Of these we accepted 18. (One of the 20 was taken to a national school with the help of an area MP and a second went with the assistance of well wishers in his community) This boy came back at term break looking for assistance because of the problem with extra fees not evident at the beginning of the year.

At present we have sixteen boys in Form 1, thirteen boys in Form 2, twenty one boys in Form 3 and seven boys in Form 4. We sponsor two handicapped children in primary school. There are twenty students in post secondary at various institutions for a total of seventy nine young people being helped with funds from Canada.

We gave away four bikes to students in day schools (thanks for Maureen Howard and Ron Cutler who spearheaded raising funds for this project). We have enough money for one more bike for next year.

We had to withdraw scholarships from four boys who were not maintaining their grades or were a discipline problem. It is difficult to decide to withdraw scholarships but without some standards the program could no longer be called “scholarship”. This is explained to the boys when they are accepted. They all sign a contract which spells out their responsibilities (see page 4). Three of the boys had been put on probation for poor marks in 2009 and they had adequate opportunity to improve. One boy was excused from school to attend the KEEF workshop but instead went to see his Aunt. He did not return to school for two weeks following the workshop weekend and did not report his absence to the school. When questioned as to his behaviour he refused to talk or give an explanation except to say he had been prayed over.

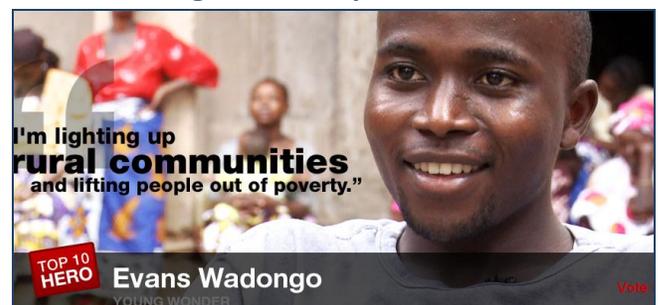
If a student scholarship is terminated by KEEF, the student is allowed to finish the term or year. If the school expels a student and does not allow the student to finish the year, it may be possible for KEEF to send another student in their place.

School fees are set by the government. However, a continuing problem is that schools frequently add fees as the year progresses. Students arrive at the beginning of term seeking money for “teacher

encouragement,” tuition, and various PTA charges such as a new bus. These additional fees can add up to hundreds of extra dollars for KEEF. With beginning fees high we sometimes need to dip into the Student Support money to meet these demands.

The highlight of the year was receiving over \$18,000 from Global Change for Children (GC4C). This provided four scholarships, money for text books, calculators, stop watches etc. for all our students and funds to equip and furnish a library at Bondeni Primary School in Kakamega. The school had a building designated for a library but no funds to finish it. Global Change for Children money built a wall of shelves, provided desks and tables, painted the walls and blackboard and stocked the shelves with text books, reference and story books. The opening of the library was well attended by local dignitaries and parents and we made a video of the event [which was shown at our AGM]. We also planted over 800 trees on the school compound. Hopefully the representatives from Global Change for Children will visit the school next year to see what their money has accomplished. [Note: We featured the GC4C library project in our last newsletter, which is posted on the KEEF web site].

Evans Wadongo – CNN Top Ten Hero



Marie MacKay regularly reads Kenyan newspapers on the Internet and a few months ago she read in the Daily Nation about a young Luhya man from Malava who went to Kakamega High School. Evans Wadongo, 23, has invented a solar lamp that powers LED bulbs that have been distributed to over 10,000 families — for free — in rural Kenya.

Marie sent Evans an email to which he responded with his phone number and said to call when she gets back to Kenya. For his outstanding efforts to help rural communities, Evans is now a finalist in the CNN 2010 Heroes contest.

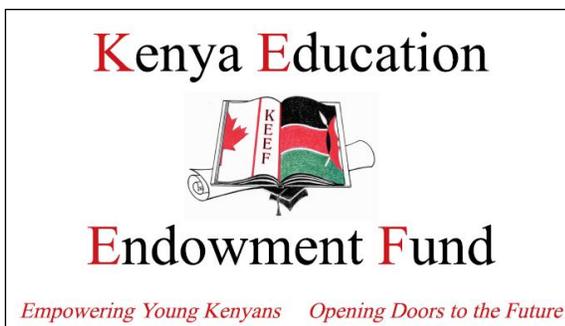
For more information, or to vote for Evans, go to www.cnn.com and search for “heroes,” or see the link and more photos on page 6.



Fund raising for KEEF Wendy Reimer with some of the African jewellery, Kisii soapstone carvings and other items that Wendy and Don sold for KEEF at the World Craft Bazaar on November 6 at Knox United Church in Parksville. Over \$500 was raised.

Any items left unsold were passed on to Alinda's niece Rosa to sell at the Courtenay Fiesta on November 20, billed as the largest Fair Trade craft fair in Canada.

Take note of our new weatherproof KEEF banner in the photo, featuring Signe's logo design.



The KEEF Canada Student Contract

This is the agreement that students sign as they begin a KEEF sponsorship.

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (CANADA)

Date: ___ Name: _____ (Please use the name you intend to keep and continue to use this name for our records. DO NOT CHANGE IT.)

CONGRATULATIONS — You have been offered a KEEF scholarship to attend Form __. As a KEEF student you have responsibilities in order to have your scholarship continued from year to year.

NO FEES for the next term/year will be paid on your behalf until you have reported all term's marks and have brought in your fee schedule.

1. END OF TERM REPORTING

Secondary School Students: At the end of Term 1 you will report to the KEEF representative in Kakamega with your original report card which shows your marks and your class position. You must also bring a letter to your sponsor.

Post secondary students: You must report your year's marks and bring your fee structure at the end of each year of study. You must write a letter to your sponsor.

2. ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

If you have been sick for more than five days or have been sent home from school for any reason, you must inform the KEEF representative either in person or by telephone.

3. CONDITIONS FOR A CONTINUING SCHOLARSHIP

- You must have a C+ mean grade for at least 2 terms out of 3 in the year.
- Your conduct at school and in the community must be acceptable.
- You must report your three, end of term marks to the KEEF representative each year.
- You must be truthful in all your dealings with KEEF and with your school or your scholarship will be withdrawn.

4. PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS

If you have any serious problem which you feel might affect your performance, you must discuss this with the KEEF representative either in person or by telephone.

DO NOT complain to your sponsor about lack of money or ask your sponsor for anything, as it is against KEEF policy.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE CONDITIONS

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kenya representative signature _____

About KEEF

Our mission is to provide scholarships for students from the Western Province of Kenya to attend secondary and post-secondary schools.

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (KEEF) has been established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people in Western Province 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 are Alinda Ware, Marie MacKay, Margaret (Peg) Klesner, Maureen Howard, Susan Thompson, Margaret Fanning, Janice Trenholme and Don Reimer. Members at large are Nila Gopaul and Susan Peake. Technical support is provided by Patricia Crossley.

How You Can Help

KEEF seeks donations of all amounts to assist in our work. The board members of KEEF are volunteers and all scholarship funds are guaranteed to go directly to students.

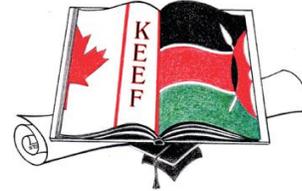
The cost of supporting a child for a year is at least \$500 CDN dollars, but partial donations can be combined with other sponsors. Smaller donations also provide essential school supplies, or medical care or basic computer training for students who have not had computer access.

We have eligible students who are waiting for scholarships right now – would you like to be a sponsor?

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations in Canada.

Cheques should be made payable to **KEEF** and sent to Margaret (Peg) Klesner, who coordinates donations and revenue from fund raising:

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



For more information, please go to our web site at www.kenyaeducation.org or contact:

Margaret Klesner at lachaiaam@telus.net
Tel: 604-926-3018

Please include your email address with all correspondence, whether you contact us in writing or by email.



KEEF - Opening Doors to the Future

Current Sponsors

KEEF must pay student fees for the 2011 school year in January. If you haven't already sent in your sponsorship for the coming year, please do so by mid-December to give us time to send funds to Kakamega.

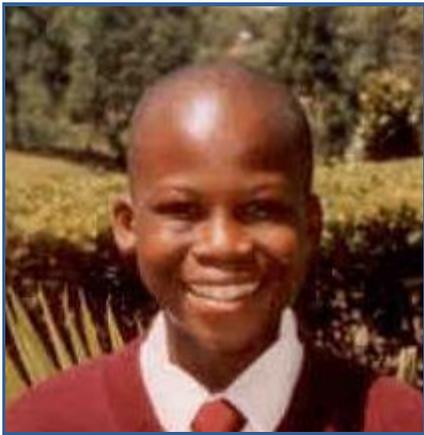
Thank you all for your support of KEEF – we encourage you to pass this newsletter along to friends who may be interested

Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer, Qualicum Beach, BC. dwdenman@yahoo.ca
Thank you to all the contributors!

Photo Gallery



Vote for Evans – click here:
<http://heroes.cnn.com/vote.aspx>



Three KEEF students



Alinda's view from the back of a boda boda

