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Kenya Education Endowment Fund
Opening doors to the future

Update – December, 2011

www.kenyaeducation.org

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Greetings to all KEEF sponsors and supporters. This update is a follow up to our recent newsletter, which is available on our web site.

Fees due now. December and January are very busy months in Kenya as students finish exams and prepare for the next school year. Here in North America, it is the time we send out a final reminder to sponsors that we need your donations as **soon as possible** to ensure we can wire funds to Kenya in time for the start of the new school year.

100% of ALL donations go to students in Kenya.

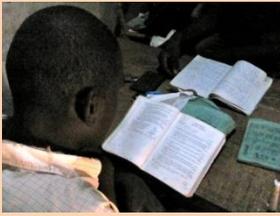
Our administration costs - which are very low because we are all volunteers - are raised separately through craft sales or other special fund raising events.

Inflation concerns. Many of you are aware that inflation in Kenya has caused severe increases in prices in all sectors of the economy. Estimates are that overall inflation has been about 17% in 2011, but some basic food items are double or triple in price depending on the season.

Rising school fees. KEEF President Alinda Ware has been in Kakamega since mid October and has found that in some cases school fees for 2012 have risen sharply. One reason is inflation; another is that a shortage of government teachers has caused some schools to hire teachers through their boards of governors at an extra cost to the school. A third reason is that some “provincial schools” have been reclassified as “national schools” requiring much higher school fees.

The \$500 threshold. The directors of KEEF want to retain the \$500 estimate for one year of secondary boarding school, but in some cases, it is clear this will not be enough in 2012. We are taking the following actions to help manage costs and to encourage you as sponsors to continue your generous support of very poor, but bright students:

- New secondary students will not be placed in national schools, and some students already in the new national schools will be transferred to other schools. We will minimize disruptions to a student’s program by avoiding a transfer in the final year of secondary (Form 4) and if possible for students in Form 3. Alinda has been working on this for the past few weeks.



- We are asking parents to provide some support for their children because a KEEF scholarship may not cover all the costs.
- We are reaching out to current and new supporters, including business, industry and foundations to donate to our **Student Support Fund**, which we draw upon to cover costs above \$500. Donations as small as even **\$10, \$15 or \$25** are all greatly appreciated and can quickly add up! Together, they can change a child's – and a country's – future.
- **Monthly donations.** A regular monthly donation is often a convenient way to contribute, either through post-dated cheques, automatic transfers or using the Canada Helps button on the KEEF web site. In the near future, we also plan to have a PayPal option on the web site. As sponsors plan ahead for 2013, the **monthly option could ensure that full fees are available next December.** However, sponsors should note that we must pay **full fees** in the next few weeks for the upcoming 2012 school year.
- **Gift cards.** Our Treasurer, Maureen Howard, has some very nice gift cards available to recognize donations that you can make in someone's name. Please contact Maureen directly at maureenhoward75@yahoo.ca
- **Do you have ideas for fund raising?** If you have suggestions, please pass them on. Email us at keefcan2010@gmail.com or telephone Peg Klesner at 604-926-3018 or mail to Peg Klesner, Suite 904, 2135 Argyle Ave. West Vancouver, BC V7V 1A5

The KEEF model of personal connections to students through letters and photos remains a very powerful approach to linking not only a sponsor and a student, but also very often two families. The students whom you are helping to attend school are future leaders of their communities, willing to “give back” because of your support. Thank you for helping to “open doors to the future.”

Distributed by Don Reimer for KEEF
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