



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans



www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #8 June 2012

In this issue ...

- ◆ Special Fund Raising Concert — KEEF and the CMC p. 1
- ◆ How You Can Help p. 4
- ◆ Global Change for Children p. 5
- ◆ Nelson Juma Were p. 3
- ◆ Canada to Kenya Blog p. 5
- ◆ Photo Gallery & Letters from Kenya p. 6

Feeling Adventurousome? Want to make a difference?

Do you have a minimum of 3 months to volunteer to assist with and monitor a secondary and post-secondary scholarship program and meet the students sponsored by our Kenya Education Endowment Fund, a registered Canadian charity?

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 programme.

Volunteers pay their own fare, housing and living expenses. 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

Special Fund Raiser — KEEF & CMC

Following a very successful concert last year, KEEF and the **Canadian Music Centre (CMC)** invite you to the fabulous **Schubert Octet**, on **Monday, September 10**, 7-9 p.m.

To reserve tickets, call **Janice Trenholme** or **Dick Glassford** at (604) 986-3446 or email glas4d@telus.net

Holy Trinity Church (1440 W. 12th Ave. at Hemlock, Vancouver).

\$35 (includes refreshments and a \$20 tax receipt).

The **Vancouver Chamber Players** will graciously

KEEF – the Real Thing!

Dick Glassford

I had never even heard of KEEF nineteen months ago. Since then I have been involved in a fund raiser, committed to sponsor two Kenyan students, volunteered in Kenya, accepted a Board position and I am returning to Kenya as a KEEF agent in December. Why?

The answer is very simple – I believe in and have witnessed KEEF from both the Canadian and African side of the operations. I have been involved in charitable organizations for over 35 years and none of them came close to the efficient way in which KEEF operates.



Dick with about 65 new friends
at Bondeni Primary School

KEEF provides sponsors with a guarantee that 100% of donations to the students goes towards student's education, and that none of the money goes towards administration costs. Of course there are administration costs in operating any organization, but KEEF keeps these costs to a minimum and funds any

donate their illustrated performance of the famous Schubert Octet in F major to KEEF and the CMC. It is the greatest and most beloved Octet ever written.



The Canadian Music Centre, www.musiccentre.ca is an independent, non-profit, non-government agency that promotes the music of Canada's professional composers. In Vancouver the CMC provides free library services (about 20,000 music scores by 800 Associate Composers), and distributes recordings, books, music and composers' supplies.



Franz Schubert

If you cannot attend, and want to **contribute to KEEF**, please visit our web site, or kindly mail a cheque, payable to 'KEEF', with your name, address and phone number to:

Peg Klesner, KEEF, #904 – 2135 Argyle Ave. West
Vancouver, BC V7V 1A5

To **donate to the Canadian Music Centre**, go to the CMC website www.musiccentre.ca and click on "Donate Now".

KEEF is a registered Canadian charity founded by B.C. individuals. Our local Board members go to Kenya annually at their own expense. **100% of your donations will go to the education of deserving young students.**

costs through special donations, not money contributed towards scholarships.

The success of KEEF is a result of two very important factors: the dedicated Board of Directors who roll up their sleeves and devote countless hours of their own time towards the charity, and the many wonderful sponsors and donors who believe in the cause and help students reach their dreams. This is truly a winning combination.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge two amazing Board members who actually devote half of their time to KEEF. Marie Mackay and Alinda Ware spend 6 months every year in Kakamega where the Kenyan office is located. I couldn't believe the amount of work it takes to operate the charity in Africa. These ladies are the face of KEEF to Kenyans and they have left their mark all over the countryside. They have touched so many Kenyan families with their devotion and generosity, and some of the families have named their children after Marie and Alinda!



Children in Kibera

The trip to Kenya earlier this year with my partner Janice Trenholme, (who introduced me to KEEF and is a fellow Board member) was the most humbling experience we have ever had. At the same time the experience allowed us to grow and to appreciate how others can survive in some of the most adverse conditions we had ever witnessed. It gets uncomfortably hot and at times the dust and filth are overpowering, but the Kenyan people accept what they have and make the most of life. They are truly lovely, so welcoming and friendly (especially the children). They have so little and yet don't seem to complain or let the small things get to them.

We visited Kibera, a huge slum in Nairobi which is home

Nelson Juma Were

Janice Trenholme



Nelson, Janice & Dick in Kenya, January 2012

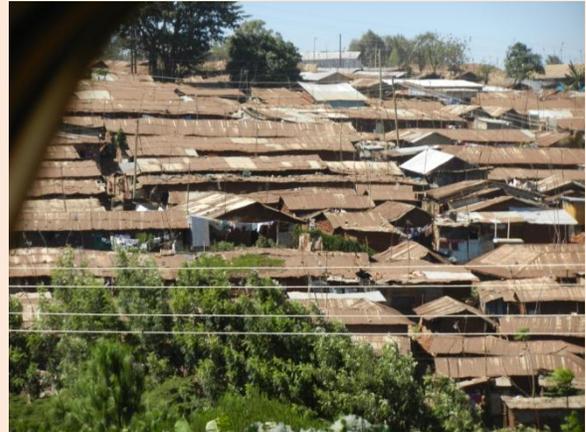
I started supporting Nelson Juma Were when he was in high school. Nelson was only fourteen years old at the time, but he immediately wrote to thank me. He told me that he was so inspired by the generosity of someone from across the world who did not even know him that he was going to devote his life to help eliminate poverty in Kenya! Not having had the good fortune of having children of my own, I was very moved by this amazing young man.

When Nelson graduated from Starehe High School in Nairobi which accepts poor, bright boys, he asked if I could support him to attend university – a much more expensive venture. So I asked my brother, sister, and friends to donate, which they graciously did. My dear friends Winnie Nowell and Colin Miles even offered to stage a lovely concert in their home to raise funds, and since then my Christmas and birthday gifts to my nephews have been donations to Nelson and KEEF – in my nephews' names. (It is very rewarding to sponsor students as a group, and I would encourage others to do the same).

Nelson recently graduated from Kenyatta University and landed a job as an Accountant at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Nairobi. At Easter he officially opened a well he had built in his village. Nelson also supports two 13 year-old girls from Kibera (one of several large slums in Nairobi) so that they can attend school. I visited Kenya this past January for the first time and met Nelson. This was a most memorable and rewarding experience for me.

Janice Trenholme

to 1.7 million Kenyans. No running water, few people have electricity, sewage and garbage everywhere, but the people do the best they can and look after one another. We learned very quickly that getting an education is the only way Kenyans have to raise themselves above a simple existence and make a better life for themselves and their families. Free education ceases at Grade 8 in Kenya and without the means to pay for high school, Kenyans will most likely live a life of poverty and survival.



Kibera, where Nelson supports two girls

Thank goodness there are organizations like KEEF who are committed to making a difference in Africa by supporting bright and worthy young students. We are providing students an opportunity to receive an education and very likely ready them for meaningful employment or possibly even go on to university.

The involvement with KEEF and especially the opportunity to work in Africa has provided both Janice and me with experiences and feelings that money can't buy. We volunteer for "the real thing," KEEF that does so much for students in Kenya. On Christmas day, we leave for our next trip to the KEEF office in Kakamega, and this will be the best present we could possibly give to each other.

Dick Glassford



Save your pennies for KEEF

Bring them to the **September concert** or **October AGM** or contact us at keefcan2010@gmail.com

[We have 300 empty rolls waiting for your pennies!]



Brayon (right) and his big brother

Last January, Brayon came for help with his brother. Brayon had been staying with a sister in Kakamega since he is a total orphan (both parents have died of AIDS). The sister is HIV positive and could no longer care for herself so she went to live in Nyanza province to be cared for. The brother lives in Kisumu and didn't have the funds to help Brayon. Brayon impressed us as a very honest boy when he tried to give back ten shillings he didn't use for a soda. When I called his brother to say we would help Brayon he started to cry and then so did I. You can see by the smile how happy he was.

Marie MacKay

About KEEF

Our 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, Dick Glassford,
Nila Gopaul, Maureen Howard, Peg Klesner,
Marie MacKay, Susan Peake, Don Reimer,
Susan Thompson, Janice Trenholme, Alinda Ware.

How You Can Help

KEEF seeks donations of all amounts to assist in our work. The board members 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 welcome, and can be combined with other sponsors. 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 regarded 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.

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

If you are making the contribution as a gift in the name of a friend or loved one, please let **Peg** know **how many gift certificates** you would like to receive.

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

Margaret (Peg) Klesner at lachaiam@telus.net

Tel: 604-926-3018. Or write to Peg at:

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

Please include your email address with all correspondence.

KEEF Trivia – Sponsoring from A to Z

Our student lists now begin with **Abbas** and run through to **Zadick**.

Interesting, but not likely significant!

Canada to Kenya



KEEF sponsors Terry Nielsen and Tanya Harmon were in Kakamega Kenya from January - March 2012. Visiting friends, overseeing Rotary projects (water, fish farming, education, and business training), and enjoying the warmth and beauty of Africa. Check out their very extensive and interesting blog at: <http://canadatokenya.blogspot.ca/>

Mom, Dad and Orphans

Marie MacKay

There is frequently confusion amongst sponsors to these terms used by their Kenya students.

While the term “parent” is clear in Canada it can mean several things to a Kenyan, in particular to a Luhya which is the predominant tribe in the Kakamega area.

For example, a parent can actually be an uncle or aunt one lives with. Children move around in the extended family for a variety of reasons – to help an elderly relative or to live closer to a school and whoever they live with is called Mom and Dad. When a student speaks of a sister or brother they may actually be referring to a cousin. It can get very confusing when interviewing!

Children are referred to as orphans even though they have one parent alive. Frequently a mother will introduce her child as an orphan.

Marie MacKay



GC4C Projects for 2012

Global Change for Children (GC4C) is a registered non-profit foundation based in Vancouver. They have generously provided funding for several KEEF projects, including the Bondeni Primary School library, furniture at Rosterman Primary School and KEEF workshops. This year they provided funds to upgrade kitchen facilities at Bondeni Primary and a classroom at Mwiya Primary. GC4C also sponsors several students. They have committed to support the annual workshops originally planned for April, but which have been postponed to November because of a change in the school calendar. *[Read some student comments about the workshops on pages 8 and 9].*

We thank GC4C for their ongoing support of our work and encourage you to check out their web site at www.gc4c.org

Kenya Education



Endowment Fund

Empowering Young Kenyans Opening Doors to the Future

Constitutionally Speaking ...

The purposes of the society are to assist students in Kenya by:

- Providing educational scholarships to students who require financial assistance.
- Providing educational support materials and services.
- Providing funds to enhance or build school facilities.

Photo Gallery and Letters from Kenya

In past issues we have featured many photos of secondary students, typically the boys or young men sponsored by KEEF who attend boarding schools or day schools near Kakamega.

At the post secondary level there are many young women also sponsored through KEEF. In this newsletter we feature photos and letters from post secondary students who have been supported to some degree through KEEF.

In Kenya, very high achieving students may receive Kenyan scholarships, or they may qualify for student loans or bursaries, some of which may be forgivable if they are successful academically. A growing number of secondary level sponsors are continuing their support as students move into post secondary programs.

Harriet Chirima, below in Form 3, 2009 and at right ready for university in October 2011. She was assisted through CHES* and continues to receive support from a group of KEEF sponsors in the community of Merville, north of Courtenay.

Harriet was admitted to the University of Nairobi in September, 2011 to study for a pharmacy degree.



Harriet in Form 3, 2009

Harriet writes:

Hard work, persistence and commitment is what has kept me going. Right from my childhood I knew I was a bright child. Even after having lost my parents at a tender age I couldn't let go education. I had to fight for it in the junior classes until the time I met CHES at secondary level. I am proud of the excellent results I have always produced. I have big dreams and ambition that soon are to be a reality.

**CHES is the Canadian Harambee Education Society.*



Harriet ready for University of Nairobi in 2011



Diana Echessa is studying at Kibabii diploma teachers training college.

Diana writes:

I personally learnt in secondary school as a day scholar, despite having been called to secondary school twice. I had to re-sit the KCPE exams due to lack of fees although I had passed. We stay on 3 acre land with one and half planted canes but this cannot sustain the family's' needs. Without the current scholarship I believe I could still be at home or working as a housegirl somewhere. (Thank you for that).

In future, I would like to promote girl-Boy - child Education of needy cases by paying fees for them and Guiding and Counselling them with my whole heart.

I would also like to work hard and be a good role model to any sponsor to continue assisting other needy students or children.



Dorica Eshiwani

Dorica writes:

...The feeling from me has been like a soldier who left and is safely back from the war. With this journey I return with a diploma in professional counselling, and a separate certificate in HIV testing and Counselling. I did my practicals in a hospital setting at the Centre for Disease Control. While serving at the CDC I was chosen for a distance learning program that saw me earn another certificate in community based work with children and youth. I got the right weapons to job hunt... I see opportunities and it is just a matter of time.

Fanuel writes:

... Having qualifications and being in need I secured a scholarship with KEEF self help group and joined Kisumu Polytechnic Campus in May 2011, promising to push hard to my goals of studying in a university one day in my lifetime.



Fanuel Omanyokho Amuko

[Continued]



Abraham Wabwoba

Abraham writes:

... In 2009 on my birthday, I received the admission letter from the faculty of Education and Social sciences to train as a teacher in English/literature option. I was certain that the door to my dream is beginning to open. However, as fate could have it, my father passed on on 10th May, 2009. It was the most devastating and destabilizing moment. Having lost a loved one, I knew I had also lost my education. My future. My dream. We also lost our 2 acre land as a family.

With my mother, we did seek legal intervention from the local administration but it was all in vain. The opposing forces were too strong for us. I now understood why land is a major issue in Kenya. We were just a representation of many who had had the same experiences. We surrendered because more time and money was being spent on a complicated process that had no end. "Education will be your land. No one will take it from you," my mother said.

I raise my fees through HELB loan (Higher Education Loans Board), work-study program in the University and during holidays, I organize for tuition to teach high school students at a small fee and burning charcoal though not environment friendly.

However, the fee arrears have been accumulating as a result of my failure to clear the 1st Semester fees and the remaining 2nd semester balance as what I had saved is long finished. I was seeing my education come to an end because the university is now very tough on fee payment but I am so happy to learn that a KEEF sponsor is giving me hope once again. It is just unbelievable that I am given that rare chance in life to fulfill my dreams! I am not going to defer my studies!

To borrow Wangari Mathai's words, I also think that, "a positive attitude toward life and fellow human beings is healthy-not only for one's peace of mind but also to bring about change." It is this spirit that has propelled me to this far.

Thanks to KEEF, my dreams turned to a reality when I emerged the champion in our business department by leading in all assessment tests in that particular term. Thanks to God with that I secured a direct government scholarship to one of the public universities [in Kakamega] to study in the faculty that will lead me to a bachelor degree in Business Administration. I represent much more than a measly hope for my parents and siblings and my success in education might just mean the hallowed path out of poverty for the struggling family.

Recommendations – to KEEF to keep going and restore the future of hopeless teenagers, and to the youth to know that success is not the preserve of the big names, that academic excellence is not and never will be a monopoly of a few select people. **Fanuel**



Faith Musanga

Faith writes:

I just completed my last exam paper, that is, the presentation of my final year project at the University of Nairobi. This means that I have completed my four year study in Actuarial Science. Now, we are just waiting for the results which should be out by around August. Meanwhile, I am hoping to get a job as soon as possible.



Metrine (left) and Edith

Metrine (left) and **Edith** became good friends as “CHES girls” in secondary school.

Metrine is taking a CPA certificate (Certified Public Accountant) at Strathmore University and then will continue at Strathmore to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree. It will take Metrine two years for the CPA and another two years to complete the B. Com.

Edith is working toward an education degree at Maseno University with a focus on special needs children.

Godfrey Wambani writes (no photo available):

... This letter would not be complete without mentioning something about the workshop held at Mukumu Boys School last year. I think I will live to remember it since it was my first seminar to attend. I really learned a lot and I also got a chance to interact with guys from big schools and made new friends.

Mr Napali’s session on Assertiveness has gone a long way in helping me develop my personality. I can now stand up and fight for my rights without being aggressive or passive.

Secondly, Mrs. Grace Lideke’s session on Money Management has enabled me to be aware of the concepts involved. It taught me the art of making use of the little resources available by investing in them so they multiply.

Finally, Madam Alinda’s session on Resume Writing fully equipped me with the knowledge of coming up with an impressive and outstanding CV... All in all, the workshop in all its dimensions was very beneficial to us.

Thank you for that.

Isaac Kerina writes (no photo available):

2/4/2011

When I reflect back and remember my life four years ago, sometimes I feel like crying but then I find myself smiling at life. The circumstances that I was in after my K.C.P.E examination actually could not allow me to imagine myself to be who I am now.

I had done well but then I could not see the value of my good marks until I arrived at the KEEF offices where I could see some hope in life.

The way I was handled by the interviewers actually was very encouraging and I felt like atleast KEEF was sharing in my problems.

After getting the scholarship, I worked hard in school knowing that I had to impress my sponsor. I must confess that I was not that bright but I tried my best. This is because I was shocked to find myself position 136 in the first examination but I believed all was possible until I emerged position 9 in my KCSE.

It is my appeal to all KEEF students to utilize the opportunity they have and study hard to salvage themselves from poverty. All is possible with hard work and commitment encapsulated with discipline. I urge all students being sponsored that they should strive to excel in life and come and help other students who cannot access education.

Finally all my regards go to KEEF for maturing me into who I am both academically and in terms of discipline. KEEF has taught me to be committed and focused in all that I do. Thanks once again for your kindness and generosity.

Isaac Kerina.

By scoring at position 9 on his final secondary school exams (KSCE) Isaac achieved an "A" average grade, with 7 A's and one B+.

He has been offered a scholarship to study accounting at Strathmore University in Nairobi, and hopes to also complete an engineering degree.



Brian Bateta writes (no photo available):

26TH MARCH 2012.

Dear Alinda and Marie,
I wish to pass my sincere greetings hoping you are all fine and in good health. How are you all doing? Otherwise, I am doing well at home with my family members. Actually, I would like to thank you all for your kind-hearted nature. All of you have changed my life completely. The skills we learnt during the workshop have made me to raise a lot of money. I commenced rearing chickens but for now I have a cow of my own. I assure you that I will never forget those teachings during the workshop.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all that I will not let you down. In future, I will also organize for an organization to assist the needy students in Kenya. I pray to the Almighty God to bless you abundantly. Thank you and be blessed Alinda and Marie.

Yours faithfully,
Brian M. Bateta.

Mark on your calendar:

Concert – Canadian Music Centre

Mon. Sept 10, 7-9 p.m.

KEEF AGM – Sunday, October 14

(to be confirmed)

Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer