



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #12 April 2014

Post Secondary Success (Story page 5)



InThis Issue

- ◆ 1. Post secondary success
- ◆ 1. Celebrating Form 4 Leavers
- ◆ 2. An Invitation
- ◆ 3. Mwikhomo water storage update
- ◆ 3. Workshops 2013
- ◆ 4. Choosing a KEEF student
- ◆ 6. Letters from Harriet & Wilson
- ◆ 6. KEEF Endowment Fund Update
- ◆ 8. Photo Gallery

KEEF Fundraiser - an Invitation

You are invited to an East African brunch, on May 31st, at Jambo Grill in Vancouver.

Details on page 2

Form 4 Leavers Certificate Ceremony

On March 8 we invited the form 4 leavers to Sheywe Guest House for the awarding of the KEEF certificates. The results of the national exams were out. There were 23 KEEF Canada and 2 KEEF Kenya graduates. Of these, 22 received B- and above. One student received a clean A of 80 points. The government has not released the points required for direct entry to university so everyone has to wait to see if they will be called to university. In Kenya you are a direct entry student with lower course and housing fees, or a self-sponsored student with much higher fees and no guaranteed housing on campus.

Finding fees for post secondary education is a challenge for KEEF students. Consequently, at the workshops, we emphasize financial literacy and small business training. At the gathering, Thomson Mate, a member of the Board of KEEF Kenya, spoke to all the graduates about life after form 4. He and the graduates discussed various small business opportunities because paid jobs are few. For the majority of graduates any business is agriculture based as their homes are in the rural areas.

The graduates all received membership cards to the KEEF Kenya Association and two were chosen to be their representatives on the KEEF Kenya Board. Certificates were presented, phone numbers and e-mail addresses were collected (some have them) so they and the KEEF office can keep in touch. **Photos on page 8**

By Alinda Ware

YOU ARE INVITED!

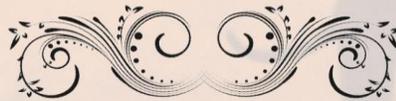
Enjoy a traditional East African brunch,
a unique blend of Indian, Arabic and Portuguese cuisines
- a result of centuries-old trade routes off the coast of Zanzibar and Kenya.

Saturday May 31 - 3 to 5 pm
Jambo Grill 3219 Kingsway, Vancouver
Tickets - \$40 each (\$280 for a table of 8)

Easy Ways To Reserve:

- 1) **email** Anisa Kassam**: Anisa@Shaw.ca or
- 2) **call** Janice Trenholme (604) 986-3446 or 1-888-742-1201 or
- 3) send a **cheque**, payable to KEEF
#1 - 232 East 6th St,
North Vancouver, BC V7L 1P5
- 4) use **Visa** or **MasterCard**
Go to www.kenyaeducation.org,
click on 'Donate Now' box on the right,
and specify # of tickets & "Kenya Buffet" under "Purpose".

**Anisa Kassam (who is originally from Kenya) is partnering with
Janice Trenholme and Dick Glassford to host this special fundraising event
for students of Kakamega County, Kenya.



Cannot attend but want to contribute?

Use one of the four methods above to: help pay for students'
exam fees, food, books, solar lamps, shoes, purchase gift cards,
sponsor a student, or contribute to our recently established Endowment Fund.



The children of Kenya thank you!

We are grateful for the support of **SIR Printing and Copying**
in North Vancouver. 604-980-3860

www.sirprinting.ca



GC4C Water Storage Project at Mwikhomo

GLOBAL CHANGE
FOR CHILDREN



In our newsletter last fall we wrote that GC4C was prepared to fund a water storage project at Mwikhomo School for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. We are pleased to report that project was completed, during Marie's work in Kakamega earlier this year.

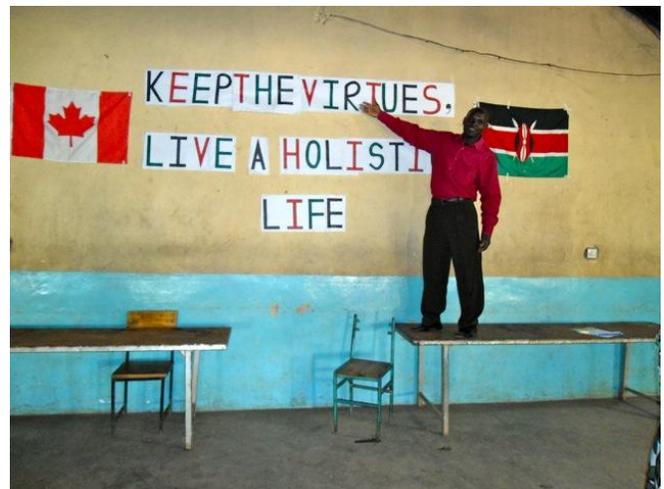
The Mwikhomo project involved purchasing 3 water tanks - two 5000 litres and one 2500 litres. The small tank was situated on a tower above their bore hole and water was pumped up to it and distributed by gravity. The tank had not been resting on a flat surface so that it moved with the different levels of water and it soon had leaks. When I saw it there was almost more leaking out that there was being pumped up. The contractor made a secure wooden base for the tank to rest on which will hopefully keep the tank leakless for a long while. The other two 5000 litre tanks were placed on cement bases and connected to gutters to collect rain water. One of these tanks was on the new boys dorm and the community brought pipe from the bore hole for periods when there was no rain water to collect.

Mwikhomo should be now water sufficient both in the girls and boys dorms. This work was funded by Global Change for Children. *By Marie MacKay*



Workshops 2013- Forms 1 to 4

November 28 – 30



Anthony Napali, teacher, leader, facilitator, supporter

Just over one hundred boys and ten facilitators arrived at Mukumu Boys High School on the morning of November 28. After mark collection, picture taking, textbook return, letter to sponsors, greetings of friends and other registration procedures, we gathered for lunch and the official opening of the 2013 workshops.



Our Kenyan facilitators and myself were assisted by Beverly Eriksson (visiting me from Vancouver Island) and Marie Skinner (staying in Kakamega at the time). Four of the facilitators were KEEF graduates now in university and one post-secondary grad, Caroline Makomere, a clinical officer. She was our medical attendant and first aid instructor. She and Thomson Mate, a KEEF Kenya board member, also taught reproductive health.

The workshops focussed on living the virtues, financial literacy, practical ways to financially improve one's life, study skills, resume writing, successful interviews and having fun. Marie taught the boys how to play ultimate Frisbee.

More photos on page 8



Most of the boys had never seen a frisbee before so practising catching and throwing was a challenge they enthusiastically met.

The students headed home on the 30th with a full stomach, good memories, and more knowledge. We did too. The cost: \$2,387.00. Thanks to everyone who assisted in making these workshops possible.

By Alinda Ware



Beverley Eriksson (left) and Marie Skinner at the workshops

Choosing a KEEF Student

Marie Mackay wrote this article for the North Shore Retired Teachers newsletter, Fall 2013.

Students show up at the KEEF office in Kakamega as soon as their marks are posted. In Kenya students write a comprehensive exam at the end of Grade 8 and the marks determine which high schools they will be eligible to attend. Elementary school is free in Kenya but high school is not. Annual fees can range from \$150 for a local day school to \$1,800 for a national boarding school.

KEEF is not a sponsorship program but a scholarship given to students, who are excellent academically but financially unable to afford the school fees.

We set minimal marks in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam and proof that they stood 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their class in the final years of elementary school which is a good determinant of how well they will do in high school.

Those meeting our standards are first asked to draw a map of how to get to their home from our office. This is used to verify that the students are

truly needy. Verifiers visit the home of each student who is short listed for a scholarship.

Then, each student is interviewed by a KEEF agent and an interview form is completed. Questions are asked about their family, what subjects they like best and what they want to do after high school as well as confirming that they meet the standard.

Most years we interview over 100 students for a limited number of scholarships so the competition is fierce. The agents, who are charged with choosing the students, agonize over choosing one great student over another.

Students are notified by SMS (text messages - everyone knows someone with a mobile phone) and they come with their parents or guardians to information sessions so that they know what is expected of them – being truthful, working hard and reporting to the KEEF office at the end of each term with their marks. Students who do not maintain a C+ average are cautioned and eventually their scholarships are withdrawn if there is no improvement.

KEEF graduates have done well in their final KCSE exams and many have gone on to college or university.

Post Secondary Success: Harriet Chirima

(From page 1)

The Merville Community celebrates our student Harriet Chirima, presently finishing her 4th year in the School of Pharmacy at University of Nairobi.

We have supported Harriet since her first year of secondary school at Lugulu Girls School, through a CHES scholarship. When she gained a scholarship to University of Nairobi, we, as a community, felt that we wanted to stick with her and see her through the next 4 years in university. And so we have, and with our sponsorship with KEEF, we have managed to send Harriet the funds and support to keep her going through the tough academic challenges of studying Pharmacy.

Harriet has continued to flourish at U of N. As well as getting top marks, she was elected the

Student Rep on the faculty council in 2013 and continues to be a student leader in her field of Pharmacy. In 2013, Harriet received a laptop computer from her Merville Community, brought to her by one of her sponsors. She tells us that *"i am able to get my notes and course information on line and i share this with my fellow students"*.

The Merville Community group gets together once a year for a "Harriet dinner", and we have found that it doesn't take much time or energy from us to make a huge difference in a young Kenyan's life.

We are so very thrilled and thankful to have been a part of Harriet's academic and personal success through KEEF.

By Sally Gellard



Harriet writes from Nairobi (December 2013)

I can say am enjoying my leadership term which is due to end in April next year. [2014]. It's really a good thing. It involves trips, lecturer-student

interaction at a much closer contact. Am learning a lot out of it, how to handle managerial position, how to interact with people of various diversity and how such like big institutions are run. I was quite disappointed when a few of my colleagues who were still in session went on to riot over two students who were shot dead and six injured by police officers who were on security duty. As student leaders we had tried our level best to calm our fellow students but to no avail.

Otherwise we are experiencing a kind of a hot season. We are harvesting maize ... since it's our staple food. Maize can be milled and used to prepare ugali, porridge, unmilled maize can be cooked along with beans to a meal called 'Githeri' locally. My family is doing well, busy accommodating the harvest season.

I spend a few days with my family after such a long time of being in school. At least I will get time to make my siblings understand the importance of being determined and ambitious in life. Encouraging them to work hard and remain focussed in their endeavours. They look at me as a role model and I like it that way because it gives me an opportunity to comfortably teach them what I so believe they have to know as teenagers.

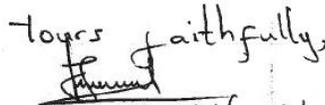
Bye!
Happy new year.
Yours sincere
Harriet Chisima.

Another Success Story

Wilson Omondi attended Busombi Muslim Secondary School, with a Student Support scholarship from KEEF. Wilson wrote in April of last year:

In school boarding facilities have been introduced and it's compulsory for all form fours this year from the second term. Boarding fee is as scheduled on the fee structure.

Despite ending the term successfully I am majorly limited with some of boarding facilities that are required for second term.

Yours faithfully,

Omondi W. Wilson.

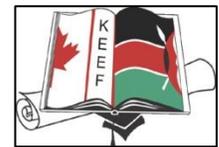
The school has very limited facilities but with financial assistance from KEEF, Wilson excelled in second and third terms and graduated with high marks. He is likely to be called on a direct entry to university. Marie has watched his progress and is extremely proud of him.



Wilson Omondi

KEEF Endowment Fund Update

The words "Endowment Fund" have been in our name from the beginning of our registration with the Societies Act of BC.



We finally took action to make it a reality in the summer of 2013. We made contact with the Vancouver Foundation and learned we could become part of that organization with a capital of \$10,000. Peg Klesner and I—both members of Blue Shore Financial a North Vancouver based credit union—opened an account to start accumulating that \$10,000.

Neither of us expected this would be easy but we didn't count on the fund raising abilities of Dick Glasford and Janice Trenholme. Within 6 months we had our \$10,000 and more. We are now an endowment fund under the Vancouver Foundation. For those of you interested in donating to the account at Blue Shore Financial it is called Kenya Education Endowment Fund.

By Marie MacKay

Become a KEEF Sponsor: How Can You Help?

KEEF seeks donations of all amounts to assist in our work. The board members and overseas agents of KEEF are volunteers and **100% of your donations** will go directly to support students.

We encourage sponsors to support a student for a full year, and ideally, donors sponsor their student through four years of high school. With rising inflation in Kenya, school fees have escalated and we encourage sponsors – if at all possible - to raise your donations from the \$500 we have had for many years to \$600 per year.

However, partial donations to Student Support are always welcome, which enable us to “top up” fees as needed. Smaller donations also enable us to provide some students with essential items such as school supplies or medical care.

With an annual donation of \$100 or more, donors will be recorded 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.**

Donation by cheque: payable to **KEEF** and mail to:
Margaret (Peg) Klesner,
Suite 904, 2135 Argyle Ave.,
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5

Donation online: go to www.kenyaeducation.org
and donate through **PayPal** or **Canada Helps**.

For more information: Please go to the **KEEF web site** or contact Peg Klesner at lachaiaam@telus.net or
Tel: 604-926-3018, or at the postal address above.

About KEEF

KEEF was established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people to assist them in furthering their education and in developing 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 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.

Contact us at keefcan2010@gmail.com or
visit our web site www.kenyaeducation.org

Call for Volunteer KEEF Agents

Do you have an interest in visiting and working 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 over 40 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 program.

Volunteers pay their own fare, housing and living expenses, but there are provisions for tax benefits under Canada Revenue regulations. 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

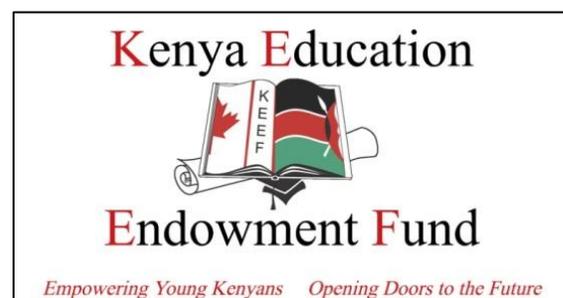


Photo Gallery

Celebrating Graduation from Form 4



Tatuli and Marie presenting certificates



Form 4 graduates ready for the future



Thompson Mate addresses the graduates



Workshops



Alinda and workshop facilitators in a planning session



Frisbee practice



KEEF Secretary Sarah Nabongo at the workshops

Parents and new Form 1 students study the KEEF Contract



Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer.
Photo credits: Sarah Nabongo, Sally Gellard,
Marie MacKay, Alinda Ware

Please feel welcome to share this newsletter!