

KENYA EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Newsletter #3

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KEEF is now supporting a total of 70 students. Forty eight of those are in high school and two in elementary – a boy at Daisy, a school for the disabled and a girl at Mwikhomo, a school for the deaf. The rest are in post secondary institutions ranging from university to tailoring.

KEEF recently held a successful fund raiser at the home of Colin Miles and Winnie Nowell. The program put on by Elizabeth MacIsaac and Pat Unruh was exceptional.

Between ticket sales, silent auction and African artifact sales, we gained over \$2,000 which will be put to good use in Kenya.

NEWS FROM KENYA

Those of you who are interested in Kenyan news can access the Daily Nation newspaper on line. Just enter **Daily Nation + Nairobi** into your browser.

Recent reports seem to centre on who will be a presidential candidate in the 2012 elections. Politics as usual while the country faces enormous challenges in feeding its population. A recent UNESCO report says malnutrition is a major barrier to universal primary education in the country. The report calls this an epidemic with long term consequences on physical and mental capacity and ability to learn. About 1.5 million Kenyan children live in poverty and are malnourished.

Why the emphasis on educating boys? By actual count this year in January there were over 350 scholarships available to girls in the Kakamega area. **KEEF** had 11 for boys. We certainly understand the need to educate girls but if the culture is to change we also need to educate the boys. In Luhya culture a girl should marry a man

with at least her level of education – as one Head Mistress of a girl’s high school asked – “Who is going to marry these girls?”

STUDENTS FEES ARE DUE IN JANUARY SO IT IS NOT TOO SOON TO SEND YOUR DONATIONS. WE LIKE TO MAKE A LARGE WIRE TRANSFER AT THE END OF DECEMBER.

THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN FEES

KENYA LIAISON REPORT

KEEF has been very fortunate this year in having Alinda Ware volunteer for the months of October – March in Kakamega. I (Marie) will be “on the ground” from the end of December until the end of April

This will cover the busy time for **KEEF** scholarships in January as well as helping the post-secondary students receive their fees.

News from Alinda is that Allan Khatsio, sponsored by the RR Smith Foundation, graduated 2nd in his high school class of 220 with an A- in his KCSE exams – he hopes to continue his studies at university



Allan Khatsio

We are still in need of sponsors for boys in high school. With the current economic situation in Kenya we will receive many applications for help in the New Year.

Last year we accepted several boys in day schools where the fees are much lower than those in boarding schools. These boys are frequently in need of transportation to school and we were able to fund a couple of bikes. Day schools may be an option for this year as the cost of boarding schools is escalating with the cost of food etc.

For information on helping day school students please call Marie @ 604-984-8202

GIFT CARDS

We now have a gift card that folks can use if they want to make a donation as a gift for someone. If you wish a card, please make a note with your donation and we will send you one
STUDENT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Michael Wesonga came to the office after the 2009 school year had started and fortunately we had some discretionary funds available to help him. He writes: "My education has been rough in terms of fee payment, walking long distances to school and lack of support from the family. This has heavily affected my academic performance. I received sponsorship from well wishers who paid little amounts of money to lend a hand so that I could continue with my education and realize my dreams in the future (journalist).

I can only do better in academics when my journey to school is reduced by maybe having a bicycle, enough paraffin at home and some parental care" (he is an orphan who lives with his brothers who are farmers).

In spite of all this Michael is number four in a class of 135 with a B+ average. We were able to pay the \$100 he needed to stay in school but there was no money for a bike or parental care!



Michael Wesonga

BOOK REVIEW

A must read book is called "OUR TURN TO EAT" by Michaela Wrong. One of the best books on how Kenya works and why. It is the story of John Githongo who spent a year in Canada at the International Development Research Centre after fleeing Kenya to Britain when he exposed corruption in high places.

Questions on this newsletter – please contact [mariemackay \(at\) telus.net](mailto:mariemackay@telus.net)

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