



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #20 November 2020

KEEF Annual General Meeting 2020

Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.

Due to COVID-19, KEEF has had to schedule the 2020 AGM as a virtual meeting via ZOOM. All members of KEEF are invited to attend the AGM either via video or via telephone. Instructions for connecting will be sent out to Members who would like to join in the meeting.

Any member who wants to attend, please e-mail your intention to: Dick Glassford, Treasurer, glas4d@telus.net.

You will then be sent by email the meeting package and instructions on how to join the ZOOM meeting. You will also receive a separate e-mail with a calendar invitation to attend the ZOOM event through Google Meet. Please make sure you respond to the invitation so we know to let you enter the meeting.

If you have any questions, please email us at glas4d@telus.net.

Through their calls we learned the challenges students were facing, which enabled us to assist with donations from our emergency fund. Thank you Sarah, and all the volunteers who have helped so far:

Anthony Napali - Organizer of the Kenyan team of our high school workshop facilitators. He and Alinda have planned them together since they started in 2008.

Brian Bateta - KEEF scholarship beneficiary in secondary and post-secondary

Consolata Agidza - CHES high school scholarship beneficiary and KEEF post-secondary beneficiary

Edwin Osundwa - KEEF high School scholarship beneficiary

Grace Lidede - retired principal and member of KEEF Kenya Board of Directors

Harun Mbehelo - High school teacher

Japeth Ungadi - KEEF scholarship beneficiary in secondary and post-secondary

Ruth Aleyo - CHES high school scholarship beneficiary and KEEF post-secondary beneficiary

Thomson Mate - member, KEEF Kenya Board of Directors. He has been an important part of KEEF workshops since they started

Pandemic Relief Fund

We also thank the generous donors to our Pandemic Relief Fund – you have contributed over \$2500 to date which has enabled KEEF to directly assist many students and their families. The Form 4's (grade 12) have received their books and we are now distributing books to Forms 2 and 3. With over 2 months to go before schools reopen, the Relief Fund will continue to be an invaluable source of support. Most Form 4 and post secondary students are back in class or working online. All classes are projected to open in January, but we need to remain flexible.

Thank you, donors and the Kenyan team, for making this possible. To donate, see our web page: www.kenyaeducation.org/donate

Thank you, Donors and Kenyan Volunteers!

By Alinda Ware and Janice Trenholme

KEEF is very fortunate to have capable alumni and board members teaming with us in Kenya and helping our students during this pandemic. Without their assistance we would not have been able to keep in touch with and support our secondary students.

Sarah Nabongo (our competent Office Manager in Kakamega) organized Kenyan board members and workshop facilitators who have phoned the students at least 3 times, and encouraged and mentored our secondary students since the schools closed in March.

GIVING TUESDAY | DEC 1

Nickson & Giving Tuesday by Sarah Breakey

One of our bright KEEF scholarship students, Nickson, will again be at the heart of this year's



Giving Tuesday Campaign. Established in 2012, Giving Tuesday is a generosity movement that emphasizes the power of individual and group collaboration to meet the needs of the global community. This year, Giving Tuesday will take place on December 1st. KEEF looks forward to its 7th annual participation in this fantastic movement!

Nickson is a true inspiration. After hearing about KEEF's work at the age of 26, Nickson applied for and was awarded a KEEF scholarship. Having done well in elementary school, Nickson did not have the opportunity to attend high school, as his day-labour parent was unable to cover the secondary school fees. Fortunately, with the help of KEEF supporters through previous years' Giving Tuesday campaigns, Nickson has been able to receive the high school education that he always dreamed of.

Last school year, Nickson was in good academic standing and was on track to continued success before Covid-19 hit. Around this time, Nickson was in an accident and broke a leg and arm. Rehabilitation has been slow, but Nickson is on the road to recovery.

For this year's Giving Tuesday Campaign, we have made it a goal to raise sufficient funds to support Nickson through another year of high school. Should you wish to donate to this year's Giving Tuesday Campaign in support of Nickson's journey, be sure to include "Giving Tuesday" in the memo line. www.kenyaeducation.org/donate

Options for donations are:

- **Mail cheques payable to KEEF to:**
Margaret Klesner
#904, 2135 Argyle Avenue
West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5
Canada
- **Email an Interac e-transfer to:**
keefcan2010@gmail.com
- **Donate through PayPal**
www.kenyaeducation.org/donate
- **Donate through CanadaHelps**
www.kenyaeducation.org/donate

Tax receipts will be issued by yearend for all donations.



GC4C funded two projects in 2020 at Shitirira Primary School and Ebulechia Primary School:

- Two water storage tanks
- water harvesting gutters
- secure cupboards for equipment storage
- library book shelves

We were very pleased to see that planning and construction proceeded smoothly in spite of the pandemic. We reported in our August KEEF Update that both projects were near completion and we can say now that both are complete. The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the handover

ceremonies and photo opportunities, but some earlier photos are included in this report.
Thank you Sarah for supervising this project and thank you GC4C for your generous funding.

A comment from Sarah's report:

Thanks to all who made sure that the two schools benefit. In fact the projects came in at the right time when the schools really need water for hand washing as water is now termed as one the essential items for any learning institution.



Hand washing station



Base for water tank

www.kenyaeducation.org



Water harvesting tank and gutters



Secure cupboard for storage of computers, etc.

KEEF Fundraising Committee Report November 2020

By Shelagh Armour Godbolt for the Fund Raising Committee

When we look at and plan activities, the committee considers both the **potential for fundraising and for increasing community awareness of KEEF's work.** Fiscal year 2019/2020 began successfully, with our 2019 Virtual Concert raising \$1,835, Dr. Brenda Trenholme's talks about her Silk Road Ride for KEEF \$3,370, and Giving Tuesday 2019 the \$600 scholarship fees for Nickson Warema's Form Two. However, plans for late winter/early spring activities suffered the same COVID 19 pandemic lockdown that affected all charities and not-for-profit societies.

Extensive publicity efforts for a planned "Songs For Students" concert by Island Voices Choir, to be held in Black Creek on Vancouver Island, had to be cancelled at the last minute. Feedback from print and broadcast media and some of the sites where VI Committee members had put up posters was

positive – they appreciated our confirming the cancellation and they helped make mid-Island communities aware. The Island Voices Choir has expressed the hope they may sing for us at some future date. KEEF has gained two portable fabric information posters planned for initial use at the concert. One will be based in the Lower Mainland and one on the Island for future awareness and fundraising events.



Plans for Susan Peake's repeat participation in the April 2020 Vancouver Sun Run, raising pledges per kilometer for KEEF, were not realized. The Run was cancelled far enough in advance that our publicity had not yet been circulated.

In April a Student Challenge - based on Brenda Trenholme's cancelled South American ride and aimed at awareness raising, not fundraising - was issued to secondary students across BC. Each of BC's sixty public school districts, the Independent Schools and First Nations Schools Associations, homeschooling parents groups, the BC Retired Teachers Association, BCTF, the Association of Kenyans in BC (KENBC) and other relevant organizations were informed. Newspaper articles and short broadcast announcements on BC French and English stations were requested. While student response was limited – partly because of the sudden announcement of a partial re-opening of schools – we received some interesting and well done responses. The randomly selected winning entry - a joint presentation by Matias Aviles Vezina and Philippe Linfoot of Ecole Victor Brodeur in Victoria - is available on our website, in French and English, and is posted on KEEF's Facebook site.

The contest prize – apart from some local publicity for the winners - was a donation by an anonymous KEEF supporter, in their honour, toward a new 2021 secondary scholarship. Special thanks to Committee members Janice Trenholme and Sarah Breakey for

their French language skills that allowed us to send out material for this contest in both languages.

While the Student Challenge had a limited response, we are happy with the many people in school districts and other educational organizations and the readers/listeners of community papers/broadcasters who learned about KEEF through the major Challenge publicity blitz.

As the pandemic continued, the KEEF Board became aware of specific needs in the homes of our students. Sarah Breakey used our social media links to help make the Board's newly established COVID 19 Pandemic Relief Fund better known. Generous contributions allowed the Kakamega office to purchase and distribute revision texts to those of our Form 4 (Grade 12) students whose schools did not have enough copies to send books home. Other COVID 19 Relief Fund contributions assisted families who had experienced a parental loss during this extra stressful time; provided a basic, emergency food supply to a number of families in extreme need; and provided revision texts to additional lower Form level students. **Reusable masks** were a part of each distribution of books and food. The 2020 multi-week social media campaign Sarah Breakey created for KEEF, leading up to Mandela Day (July 18), helped increase awareness of the Pandemic Relief Fund.



At this time, and for the foreseeable future, we can only look at potential virtual or very small group fundraising/awareness efforts. The first will be a campaign leading up to **December 1st 2020 Giving Tuesday**, primarily on social media. Again this year, it will focus on raising 2021 scholarship fees for Nickson Warema.

We know, from recent research by Canada Helps, that donations to organizations working overseas have dropped by 29% across Canada as people focus on local needs during the pandemic.

We invite input from all KEEF supporters with ideas and/or opportunities to hold appropriately small or virtual fundraising and/or awareness activities.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4 We would be pleased to share with you *our* ideas for such events. Please contact us at shelaghag@shaw.ca or #414 -3388 Morrey Court, Burnaby B.C. V3J 7Y5.

As most of our committee work is done by email, we would welcome additional members, who could join the fund- and awareness-raising work we do from any part of Canada.

With special appreciation to fellow Committee members Susan Peake, Sally Gellard, Sarah Breakey, and Janice Trenholme in this challenging year!

Recognition of Sarah Nabongo



Every successful organization needs competent management and a huge part of KEEF's success in Kenya is due to the skill of our office administrator, Sarah Nabongo. Sarah is the face of KEEF in Kakamega. She meets the students, parents, teachers, school administrators, alumni, Kenyan board of directors, visiting Canadians, everyone

who has a connection to KEEF. She does this with compassion, expertise and professionalism.

Sarah joined KEEF in 2011. Until that time there was no one permanently in the office. Canadian agents were in Kenya for 9 months of the year. Sarah was working at Sheywe Guest House next to the KEEF office as the personal secretary for Tatuli Mbasu, the director of Sheywe and chair of the KEEF Kenya Board. Sarah dealt with the students and teachers who came in when no Canadians were there. She kept Tatuli and Canada informed. KEEF was growing and needed someone full time. Sarah went on maternity leave and, on return, with Tatuli's blessing, joined KEEF

as our office administrator. KEEF is fortunate to have her. She successfully fulfills the many roles required: counsellor, active listener, secretary, organizer, public relations, etc.

Besides working full time, Sarah is a mother of two, and an active member in her church. If it were not for the COVID 19 Pandemic outbreak she would be completing her Bachelor of Commerce - Human Resource Management - in April 2021. Through Sarah and the Kenyan volunteers who assist her, KEEF is respected by the community in Kakamega.

Summary of the Kenyan Primary and Secondary School Calendar:

March 2020 - All schools closed due to Covid-19 (end of term 1)

October - Grade 4, Class 8 and Form 4's returned to school for Term 2. Term 3 will begin in January 2021.

November 2 - classes that resumed learning to continue under heightened safety measures on COVID-19. Preparations for national examinations to continue.

All basic education to resume learning in January 2021.

National exams for Class 8 and Form 4 will begin late March 2021.

A note to KEEF sponsors:

KEEF secondary students' fees were paid for the full school year back in January 2020. To our knowledge there will be no additional charges, however, we will keep donors informed.

Interested in Supporting a Post Secondary Student?

Globally, post secondary education is increasingly vital, even in the rural communities we work with in Kenya. Secondary graduates with strong marks will be “called” to an institution and their expenses will be significantly reduced.

Generally there are two semesters per year and we estimate that \$600 to \$1000 per semester will cover expenses in first year, rising slightly in year 2 and beyond. Students are also eligible for student loans.

If you, or someone you know – perhaps a group of friends – would like to support a post secondary student, please contact us for more details.

In 2016 KEEF created the **Alinda Ware Post Secondary Bursary Fund** and as it grows, it will provide another source of support for students. Please check our web site for more information.

About KEEF

KEEF is a charitable organization, not affiliated with any government or religious organizations.

KEEF was established to provide financial assistance to Kenyan young people to further their education and to develop skills that will empower them and their communities. KEEF has about 120 students in secondary schools and about 30 students in post-secondary institutions in Kenya.

A few of our hard working post secondary students



Bramwel, medical student,
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology,
(MMUST) in Kakamega



Jalia, medical student, Uzima university college of
Kisumu. Pursuing degrees in medicine and surgery



Dickson with new laptop. Bachelor of Education
Sciences, Maasai Mara University



Kevin, studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree,
Chuka University



Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer
Please feel welcome to share