



Kenya Education Endowment Fund

- Empowering Young Kenyans

www.kenyaeducation.org

Email: keefcan2010@gmail.com

KEEF Newsletter #22 Nov 2021

SAVE THE DATE
November 30th, 2021



GIVING TUESDAY

What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving. After the sales of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday is a time to celebrate and encourage activities that support charities and non profits. Whether it's making a donation, volunteering time, helping a neighbour or spreading the word, GivingTuesday is a movement for everyone who wants to give something back.

for Giving Tuesday is to raise at least \$600 to cover Nickson's Form 4 fees.

This Giving Tuesday, KEEF has received a special donation that allows us to match the first \$100 in gifts to Giving Tuesday 2021, doubling their value! You can offer a donation to help support the scholarship's final year online, by e-transfer, or by cheque at www.kenyaeducation.org. Please make sure to include a message that your gift is for Giving Tuesday, so we can take full advantage of these matching funds and can direct your gift to the right student. Tax-deductible receipts will be issued.

You can also help Nickson by passing on our Tuesday Facebook posts on your social media, through November and early December. Thank you/Asante Sana from Nickson and KEEF volunteers.



GIVING TUESDAY

Good news about Giving Tuesday

Again this Fall we are using print and social media to tell the story of one KEEF scholarship student, Nickson Werenga, who came to know of KEEF only in his mid-twenties. His secondary



Nickson and his father

education got a very late start, complicated by an accident last year that damaged his leg and arm and required a lot of outpatient rehab-

ilitation. Next year will be Nickson's final year in secondary school, and our goal [Continued above]

Update on the Vancouver Sun Run 2022



Sun Running Again

After our very successful participation last April, KEEF is going all in for the 2022 Vancouver Sun Run!

KEEF plans to again enter a mix of individual walkers, runners and adult Teams (min. 8 participants) in the April 15-24, 2022 Virtual

Vancouver Sun Run and anticipates a few registrants will participate in downtown Vancouver on April 24th. This virtual event was a new fund- and awareness-raising option for us in 2021 and – including the participation of 12 walkers and runners in Kenya – a great success.

Your help is requested!

Do you know an individual we might approach to participate or to join an adult team, or explore with us forming a youth team (minimum of seven 18 and under and 7 adults) Participants can be from any Canadian Territory or Province or the USA. Do you know an active wheelchair user who might participate for KEEF? Please contact Shelagh at shelaghag@shaw.ca or 604-415-9397 if you wish to discuss any of these possibilities.

Participants may be willing to ask family and friends for donations or pledges per km they cover, but – if not - KEEF will publicize their participation to raise funds and awareness of our work through their efforts.

Early bird registration fees for participants in the virtual race (in their community, on the day and time of their choice from April 15 to 24), are \$30 until 18 February, then \$40. A special donation will allow KEEF to help with registration for someone who wishes to participate but cannot cover part or the full cost of the fee. To apply, in confidence, for such a subsidy, shelaghag@shaw.ca

Last year, we had participation in BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Kenya. We hope *you* can help us find additional 10 km Vancouver Sun Run participants across the country in April 2022. Registration is open now - help increase awareness of KEEF's work, from sea to sea to sea!

Sun Run April 2021 - Our Kenyan Team



www.kenyaeducation.org

Kakamega Update

Alinda Ware

The new school year for high school students began on July 26 and closes **March 5, 2022**. Schools reopen for **Term 1 on April 25, 2022**, so student fees should be sent to KEEF in February or March. In January 2023 Kenya will be back on its pre COVID-19 schedule of the school year beginning in January and ending in November.

Post secondary institutions are back in session with classes on their normal schedules as well as online classes. All KEEF secondary students are in school, their fees have been paid for the year and none will be 'chased' home for fees. Thank you, sponsors.

A KEEF sponsor generously donated \$1000 towards a protected spring in her sponsored student, Juliet's, home village called Shikulu. The villagers are providing materials like gravel that can be acquired locally and will feed the workers during the construction which will soon begin. This protected spring will provide 20 households or families with clean water. Households usually have 5 to 8 family members. [See photos of typical **unprotected** and **protected** springs on page 3.]

The KEEF Alumni had a Zoom meeting in October and they will be holding an in person meeting December 26. They sponsored a student who has now graduated from high school and is off to university, so they are now sponsoring a new Form 1 student. Two more students are being sponsored by individual alumni. These students are in day schools.

Our Kenyan and Canadian teams have started planning for the 2023 Form 1 interviews, the life skills workshops and the Sun Run. These events will occur in April 2022. I plan to be in Kakamega at that time!

So our KEEF teams are busy in both countries and happy that students are continuing with their education. Thanks again, sponsors!

Typical unprotected spring



Typical protected spring



The Ware Fund – offering a hand up, not a handout

Markson Echesa hopes to become a teacher. Markson, and others whose secondary studies are supported through KEEF, have turned to the Alinda Ware Post-Secondary Bursary Fund to help cover tuition until a Kenyan government loan for post-secondary studies is received. Others apply to the fund if medical/dental/vision expenses arise or when, in further years, their local fundraising does not fully cover tuition and accommodation. (Short term/temporary jobs are uncommon in Kenya so summer jobs or part-time work during the academic year are not the resource they are to Canadian students.)

Up to C\$250 is granted, based on verified need. The bursary is often the difference between a

student able to continue her/his education or being forced to drop out. The Ware Fund - based on small, tax-deductible gifts - keeps its capital invested, spending only accumulated interest to provide bursaries. A donation of \$20, \$50 or more, combined with others' gifts, "goes on giving" - generating funds for bursaries each year.

Markson's family sold a cow, raising \$150 toward his tuition. A \$175 Ware Bursary will cover the balance for first semester. Markson raised two pigs to sell to cover his accommodation and upkeep at university. He has applied for a Kenyan government student loan to support his second semester. Meantime, he will receive a "hand up" from KEEF's Ware Bursary Fund.

The Fund is managed for KEEF by the Vancouver Foundation, earning a higher interest rate by combining the fund with other charitable funds for investment. It began as an anonymous gift of \$10,000 from someone who admired and respected Alinda Ware's volunteer work for KEEF. Additional small donations have combined to almost triple the fund, allowing more interest to be received and more bursaries to be offered.

To give a student "a hand up" and help support young women and men in post-secondary education in Kenya, you can donate to the bursary endowment fund by e-transfer to keefcan2010@gmail.com, on-line at www.kenyaeducation.org, or by cheque, payable to KEEF, and mailed c/o M. Klesner, #904 - 2135 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1A5. Whichever way you choose, please add a message that it is for the Ware Bursary Fund. No gift is too small to be of help and all gifts are eligible for a tax-deductible receipt. Thank you for considering giving "a hand up" to a KEEF post-secondary student through the Ware Bursary

Fund!



Markson Echesa

Letters from our students

MOSES MASAAI
P.O BOX 79
KARAMEGA
10th June, 2021



Moses Masai

Dear [sponsor]

I hope this finds you and your family well. I am happy and glad to mention God's blessings towards you and I in granting us life and good health upto this moment despite the challenges undergone by our countries in fighting the deadly disease covid 19. By his love and grace we ^{are} alive and kicking.

I take this golden opportunity to express my gratitude towards your family for their great support and contribution in ensuring my academic journey ends successfully. Actually it has taken your love, kindness, and sacrifice towards our country Kenya towards achieving your goals in helping the under privileged people like me. With our trust in you as good sponsors it has taken us miles away by bringing success and light in our society. Thank you very much.

I have really benefited from your generosity not only in academic journey but also in social, economic life in regard to modelling me into a responsible citizen. This has been achieved through the yearly workshops you organized for us. I can't fail to express how they have greatly inspired us by offering us the advices, trainings that is still helpful in our daily life unto

Please give my warm greetings and wishes to all of your family

Yours faithfully,

Moses Masai



Scarlet & her mother on graduation day

This letter from Scarlet in 2019 has re-surfaced and we are pleased to share it with our readers.

SCARLET MUHADIA
15/05/2019

Dear Sponsor,

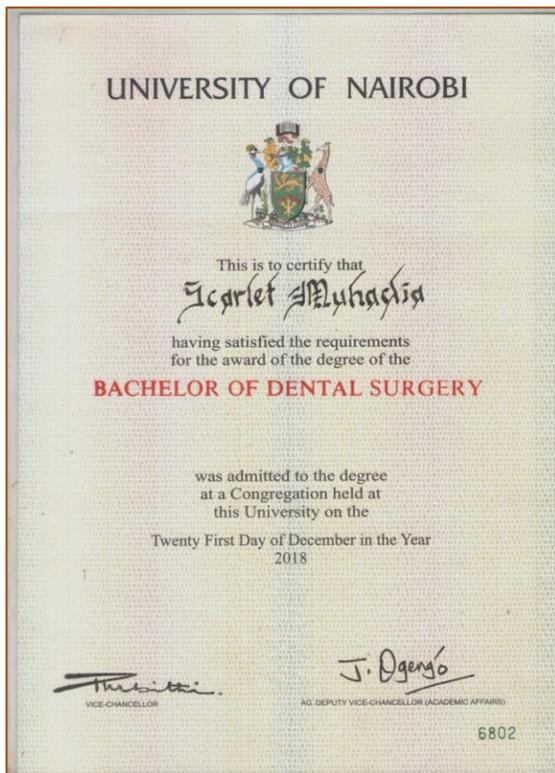
Receive much greetings from me and my family.

I graduated from the University of Nairobi with a Bachelor's degree in Dental Surgery and with the Medical Doctor title on 21st December 2018. This was one of the greatest days of my life. [Continued]

I will forever be grateful to you and your late husband, Ian (May he continue to rest in eternity). My mum and siblings still reside in Kakamega and visit me in the city often. They are all doing well and of good health. We have grown immensely and become so much better as a family courtesy of my exposure to better education.

Words will never be enough to express my gratitude but I want you to know that you and your family will forever hold a special place in my heart for the great role you have played in bettering my life and that of my family. Thank you so much to you and your family!

**Yours friendly,
Dr. Scarlet Muhadia**



Have You Considered Writing to Your Student?

Students like to hear from their sponsors and if you decide to write your students we have some suggestions for you.

The letters can be long or short. A photo is good, however please don't show a picture of your house or car as this shows the vast difference in our

standard of living and implies that we are rich. Pictures of you and your family are good.

Ask questions. This helps them know what to write back to you. What have you learned about in history or science that you have found interesting? Kenyans are very interested in soccer which they call football so ask about their favourite team. Many of them have a favourite international team. They may be involved with sports, music or drama in their schools. There are school, county and national competitions.

Tell them something about Canada. Let them know the time difference between your location and Kenya. I am often asked how we manage to survive the cold.

Find pictures of birds or animals and tell them something about the bird or animal. Let them know how close the animal lives to your home. Cows, goats, chickens, pigs and perhaps monkeys and baboons will be the animals most of your students will have seen. Birds are more plentiful than wild animals in Kakamega County. Many of the birds are very colourful although the students may not know their English name.

Look up information on Kakamega County, Kakamega City and the Kakamega Rain Forest This helps you know more about the area students live in. Students often refer to their sponsor as mom or dad. You are enabling them to go to school so you are like a parent to them. Thank you for 'opening the door' to their future.

If you decide to write you can email keefcan2010@gmail.com. Your letter will be forwarded to the KEEF office in Kakamega. Sarah N will print the letters and give them to students as they bring in their report cards at the end of the term.

Submitted by Alinda Ware

GC4C projects in 2021

GLOBAL CHANGE
FOR CHILDREN



In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, KEEF and GC4C completed two projects in 2020 and we have nearly completed

two more projects this year. The two projects for 2021 have been water harvesting at Emulembo Primary School and desk construction for Shisele Primary School. We are extremely thankful for the work of our Kenyan partners, in particular Sarah Nabongo, KEEF Office Manager, Grace Lidede and Thompson Mate, Board Members of KEEF Kenya.

The photos below reflect the many steps that must be undertaken to complete a water harvesting project. KEEF and GC4C have completed several similar water projects over the past decade.



Emulembo Primary - water tank delivery

[Photos & reports from Sarah Nabongo.]

Emulembo Primary School – water harvesting

The head teacher reported that water shortage is really a big problem in the school. With the Covid-19 pandemic it's become a problem because they rely on students to get water from the nearby river which is about 2 km from the school. This river with the rains sometimes overflows and it's risky for students to draw water from the river.

Shisele Primary – this fast growing school

needed student desks. The school has a high population due to urban-rural migration. This is mostly caused by people losing jobs in the urban centres and moving back to the community, which has caused admission of new pupils almost on a daily business. Also, due to measures given by the government on Covid-19 protocol of 1.5 metre sitting arrangement, there is need for more desks to accommodate the increased population.



Sand and ballast for the water tank base



Water tank erection at Emulembo primary



Construction work going on to protect the tank



Fundi doing roughcasting on the tank



Tank is now protected



Erection of tap stands where pupils will be washing hands



Tap stands completed



Construction site



Classroom where the water will be harvested



Left: Metal frames for making desks for Shisele Primary School

GLOBAL CHANGE
FOR CHILDREN

www.gc4c.org

www.kenyaeducation.org

Kenya Education



Endowment Fund

Empowering Young Kenyans Opening Doors to the Future

KEEF Newsletter #22 Nov. 2021

**Canada's Volunteer Awards:
KEEF volunteer selected as regional
volunteer of 2020**

Each Fall, the Government of Canada calls for nominations of volunteers in five regions across the country to be given the title of that year's Community Leader. As well, there are nominations for a single Lifelong Achievement award, regional recognition of businesses and non-profits that encourage/support volunteering or are social innovators, and of regional young "Emerging Leaders." In 2020, KEEF successfully nominated Board member Shelagh Armour-Godbolt in the B.C. and the North Region.

Shelagh's nomination was based on her work with KEEF, 3 other current organization (ESL Circles - New Westminster Library, Dying with Dignity Canada, Vancouver Chapter; CJMAS (Canadian Jamaican Medical Assistance Society) and Shiloh Place Orphanage Society (working in the Congo) and her past volunteer work with a wide range of groups serving BC and international needs. Among them - the Huntington Society of Canada, BC Chapter; as one of the original group of four volunteers who started the forerunner to the BC Branch of the Alzheimer Society; the Chemainus Harvest House Food Bank; the Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society. Among her other past volunteer commitments, Shelagh was a volunteer with the group who saved the historic, 1912 hand-carved carousel now at Burnaby Village Museum; raised funds for scholarships at UBC and SFU; helped an orphanage in Mazatlan, Mexico fund raise for a safer vehicle; promoted the Intergenerational Week concept across Canada; and served the boards and conference committees of two professional associations.

Shelagh became a KEEF supporter in 2009 and has served on KEEF's Board since 2011. She has had the pleasure of supporting two KEEF students who have completed post-secondary education and currently has two more "on the way". She had also supported two post-secondary students

through another educational charity before becoming active with KEEF. Shelagh is fortunate to have had short vacations in Kenya in 2006 and 2013.



A volunteer since age 12 and now 81, Shelagh grew up in a family of volunteers, often volunteering jointly with her late husband Iain. A delayed 2020 Canada's Volunteer Awards announcement was made in mid-August. A virtual ceremony is planned by Ottawa to recognize all those selected for 2020. "It is an honour and humbling to be chosen to represent the many caring and committed volunteers in our region", Shelagh said. "I am also grateful for the \$5,000 grant to KEEF that will accompany the award. It gives the Board an opportunity to plan for some needed purchases for KEEF as we continue to grow, thanks to the work of all KEEF volunteers and supporters." Look for more news of the grant in future newsletters.

Submitted by KEEF Board

Would you like to support KEEF?

Here are some options

- **Sponsor a secondary student**
Fees are \$600 per year, and ideally sponsors commit for four years
- **Sponsor a post secondary student**
We work with sponsors to determine their level of support. Post secondary (usually university) expenses typically run from \$800 to \$1500 per semester. Sponsors can choose full or partial support of these expenses.
- **Support our Trust Funds held by the Vancouver Foundation:**
The **Marie MacKay Endowment Fund** supports secondary students.
The **Alinda Ware Post Secondary Bursary Fund** supports post secondary students
- **Contribute to our fund raising projects such as:**
The Vancouver Sun Run
Giving Tuesday
Donate to our Operations and Student Support Fund.
- **Please check our web site for more possibilities. Every donation, no matter how small, is welcome**

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.

Interested in Supporting a Post Secondary Student?

Globally, post secondary education is increasingly vital, including 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 \$800 to \$1500 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.

Options for donating:

[Check our [web site](#) for more information].

- **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 year end for all donations.

Newsletter prepared by Don Reimer –
feel welcome to share