

# Spotlight

I became involved with CHES while attending university and was presented with the opportunity to work with a not-for-profit organization for four months in Kenya. Having the experience of living in Kakamega and contributing to CHES work has been extremely rewarding.

I have continued volunteering with CHES in Canada and have been a member of their board for two years. Myself and two other members of the board are responsible for administering the CIDA project CHES was recently granted in Kenya. I am looking forward to returning to Kakamega this November for the annual workshops and to see first hand the progress the CIDA project has made in these last seven months.

I would like to extend a thank you to all CHES supporters for their assistance in bringing hope to the lives of the young women we serve.

*Susan Allan, Director*

I first heard of CHES three years ago in university. I was involved in the co-op program which is a internship program for students wanting work experience opportunities while still in school. Little could I have predicted that working in Africa as an intern with CHES would turn out to be so much more than just work experience, it became a life experience.

I am thankful for my experience in Kenya. Seeing first hand the life conditions which prevent so many young girls from attending school, reestablishes in my mind the importance of organizations such as CHES who continue to work hard to make a positive difference in this world.

The work that CHES does could in no way be successful without the support of everyone involved, especially the sponsors. I myself, am privileged to be involved with CHES and since earlier this year have joined the CHES Executive.

*Rupy Kambo, Director*

I have been on the CHES Board for 14 years. I visited Kenya with Lorrie in 1992 and I would love to return.

I am a teacher in Surrey and have worked there for over 26 years. I am presently teaching Special Education at a small school called Colebrook. I think that I have one of the best jobs in the world, and I really enjoy my work. Education is always worthwhile. My school runs a recycling program that pays the fees for a student in Kenya.

I am very active in the teachers' association and I am a feminist and environmental activist. I have a photography company and I do private guided tours of Vancouver.

*Karen Kilbride, Director*

## Spotlight...plus a little bit of history...

My involvement with CHES dates back to the very beginning. I was at the right place at the right time and had the opportunity to be involved with a dynamic woman named Lorrie Williams, CHES founder.

Way back in 1981/1982, I was a substitute teacher in New Westminster and ended up working in Lorrie's classroom. (Lorrie was backfilling for the vice / principal at the time, so I got lots of time in her classroom). During that time Lorrie (the adventurous soul she is) volunteered as a headmistress in a Kenyan school. I have to brag that I drove her to the airport (some of us have to live vicariously through our friends).

When Lorrie returned to Canada, she was determined to continue to support students she had met. Therefore, basically, everyone who knew Lorrie ended up sponsoring students. Lorrie, with her enthusiasm and passion for education, did presentations to individuals, groups of students, groups of anyone – drumming up sponsorships (some things never change). We had many discussions about how to increase the number of sponsors and decided that establishing a charity would get more than immediate circle of friends interested. Lorrie and four friends did a little research about establishing a charity and the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) was established.

I happened to be at the right place, at the right time, and was privileged to be involved with a group of women who were passionate about the education and welfare of children on the other side of the world. Twenty years later, I still feel privileged to be involved with a group of people who are passionate about crucial issues like education and the well being of children.

Through my involvement over the years, I have witnessed: the power of a group of individuals who believe, the effects of caring executive members and sponsors on the lives of hundreds of people (students, families, communities), the passion of sponsors who struggle to afford the fees for one student, the generosity of total strangers who trust and believe we are doing some good in the world.

I have met and been involved with passionate, caring and gracious human beings who have mentored me directly and indirectly and continue to help me evolve into a better human being.

*Mandy Klepic, Director*

## WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

Tell us how you became involved with CHES. E-mail stories to [canadianharambee@shaw.ca](mailto:canadianharambee@shaw.ca), or mail in your letters (address is on the front of this newsletter) (please keep to 100 words, roughly)



# CANADIAN HARAMBEE EDUCATION SOCIETY

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## Newsletter 36

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### Message from the President

Since my election to City Council last year, I have taken a small step aside, and taken on the role of President Emeritus. Because the CHES office is in my home, however, I am still very much involved, and still see the day-to-day workings of this marvelous organization. I am impressed by the dedication of the Executive. In fact, I'm going to double their pay!

Seriously, the volunteers and sponsors have made a difference in the lives of so many individual girls. With the scourge of AIDS ravaging Africa, we can hope that the education and workshops will have the desired effect and cause these girls to survive. I will be going to Kenya and Tanzania next July to keep my hand in and to visit the new projects in both countries.

To our sponsors, with all sincerity, you deserve a very happy new year for all the happy new years you are causing in Africa. Thank you for sticking with us.

*Lorrie Williams*

### AGENT UPDATE

#### Kenya:

Dale Leopkey served as our lone agent from April until his return in September. He kept things running smoothly with the help of Prisca and the Kenya committee. His wife Mary joined him in July.

Alinda Ware, CHES agent, and John Bowbrick, CHES CIDA project field officer, are currently in Kakamega working hard on CHES business and preparing for the workshops in December. They will stay until the end of February 2004.

Susan Thompson a microbiologist has taken time off her regular job to serve as a volunteer CHES agent from October 2003 to April 2004.

Susan Allan, a director on the CHES Executive, will spend 3 weeks in Kakamega to help with the CHES/CIDA project.

Other volunteers are lined up to travel to Kenya in 2004.

#### Tanzania:

Chris and Catriona Harker spent June, July and August in Katesh where they served as Field Officers

for the CHES/CIDA Tanzanian project.

Mandy Klepic and her son Nicholas were also in Katesh in July and August to help with the project.

The CHES Hanang committee and CYWAHA staff keep things running when no Canadians are present.

CHES would like to extend a special thank you to all who have served as volunteer CHES agents. Anyone who feels they would like to have such an experience, please contact us for more details.

CHES would like to thank two sponsors, *Sharyn Eagles* and *Shirley Hargreaves* and their friends, who sewed enough colorful cloth bags so that all of the current students in Kenya can receive a goody bag at the CHES/CIDA sponsored workshops in December.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the student support fund (formerly student gift fund) as the bags will be filled with personal essentials and school supplies.

Also, a special thank you to the sponsors who continue to write to their students. The girls love to get letters and photos from their sponsors.

CHES is indebted to all sponsors, now more than 350, who continue to support CHES and enable many young women to complete secondary schooling in Kenya and Tanzania.

## About a girl

**Mandy Klepic recently returned from Tanzanian workshops in July. At these workshops, she asked CHES graduates to write an autobiography, including historical details, significant emotional events, and future desires. Here's Anna's story.**

*The Story of My Life - Anna*

My name is Anna N., I am a Tanzanian girl from Hanang District. By tribe I am Iraqw. I was born on 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1976 in Waretu village (where I still live). In our family we are 22 children; my father married four wives. The first wife has 8 children. My mother was the second wife and she has 7 children. Our father's third wife has 8 children, and the fourth wife does not have any children. My father now lives in the Singida region with his last wife.

In our family (my mother's children), four sisters are married. One of my younger sisters died in 1983. My mother died in 1993. We depended on our mother for all of our needs. In my mother's family, I am the only one who attended secondary school. As well, I attended teachers' college and have a diploma in education. I attended Monduli College in

the Arusha region and obtained a diploma in education, specifically in chemistry and biology. I am waiting for the results of the examinations and hope to be employed in a government school as a chemistry and biology teacher.

There are about four significant emotional events in my life. The first was the death of my mother. The second event, which has always touched my heart, is the CHES sponsorship which brought encouragement to me to live in this world after the death of my mother, otherwise I don't know where I would be. The third and fourth events are my successes in passing the form four and form 6 National Examinations after my hard work studying.

All of these events affected my life in different ways; some events were beneficial to me while others were disastrous. The death of my mother brought sadness because of lack of care and education, but through CHES sponsorship, I received another mommy called Kay Watson. I am now very happy and hoping to "eat sweet fruits" because of her sponsorship which has been very beneficial to me.

***The most important thing I have learned is that education is the key to life.*** This means that having education we have the ability to fight three things; poverty, disease, and ignorance. We have opportunities to improve our standard of life.

Through education we can raise the economic standard of our country. We can get knowledge about causes, symptoms, prevention, treatment, and cures of different diseases. We can get knowledge about environmental conservation and protection.

My future dream is to help street-children and the disabled, because I always feel pain when I see how these children are discriminated against because they lack basic rights like education. What I need to work toward this goal is capital in order to educate society of this problem. I need to introduce youth clubs to educate street children by helping them to see options for a better life. I am now a volunteer teacher in Nangwa Secondary school while waiting to be employed. Being a teacher is one strategy toward achieving these goals. I can contribute to my society by educating children.

**Note:**

**By mid August Anna was hired as a Chemistry and Biology teacher at Nangwa Secondary School.**



## Did you know...

- \* Africa is the second-largest of the earth's seven continents
- \* Egypt's capital city, Cairo, is the largest city in Africa with an estimated 9.2 million population
- \* Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and is the world's second-largest freshwater lake
- \* Four of the five fastest land animals live in Africa - the cheetah (70 mph), wildebeest, lion, and Thomson's gazelle (all about 50 mph)
- \* The African elephant is the largest living land mammal
- \* More than 1,000 different languages are spoken in Africa

## CHES PLUS in TANZANIA

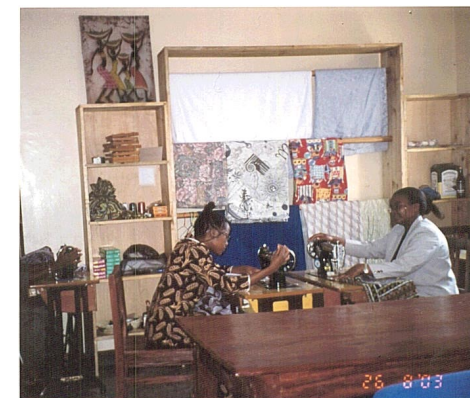
In 2001, CHES received a three-year funding grant from CIDA. Although the primary focus of CHES has always been to enable girls to acquire a secondary school education, the CIDA grant has enabled us to provide additional support to these young women and to further assist them after they leave school.

Members of the Canadian CHES community help to administer this supplementary program. Over the summer of 2001, Chris and Catriona Harker went to Katesh for this purpose. In 2002, Louise Paulsen and Bev Ford undertook this task. From early June to late August this year, Chris and Catriona were there together with CHES director Mandy Klepic who brought along her son Nick for this memorable experience.

As the grant lapses in December, this was the year not only to initiate new projects that will hopefully be on-going, but also to tidy up any loose ends with others started in previously years. It was a busy three months.

Over 100 girls are funded by CHES in Hanang District. All are being taught in their third language; all find it a struggle. To help the girls become more successful, a program is now in place in the six schools attended by the vast majority of our girls. Each now has a "Liaison Teacher" to whom any girl with a personal problem or an academic issue can go to seek advice and help. Funds are available for tutoring, emergency transportation or even glasses.

Students and "grads" alike benefit from the semi-annual workshops that disseminate information. Such topics as: study skills, career planning, women and the law, personal hygiene, safe food preparation, birth control, Aids awareness and, this year for the first time, Roots and Shoots, a Jane Goodall environmental programme, that's designed to be run by the young but with a community-wide impact.



**Sewing House**



**Left: CHES House in Katesh**

The third use of the grant money is focused on the grads who leave school at the end of Form four and who seldom have the resources to acquire further training, thus entering the job market. By the time our agents left Katesh at the end of August, they had interviewed more than forty young women, purchased a dozen sewing machines and started a sewing school in CHES house (now referred to as the CHES Training Centre). They had signed 15 girls up for various levels of computer training, issued seed money to several others to start their own business, paid for others to attend Teacher's College or other training centres and expanded the secretarial services offered by the CHES office thus increasing business and decreasing overhead.

Living in Katesh for an extended period was not all work. Our agents became involved in the lives of the grads and students. Weddings, funerals, meals, parties and church services were all experienced; the good times and the bad. It was both memorable and fulfilling.

CHES has applied to CIDA for a further three-year grant. If they accede, then work there will continue to expand. One future objective will be to provide more girls with a technical education and thus facilitate their move into the job market. CHES also hopes to start a Primary School initiative that will encourage the pastoral tribal people to send their girls to school and have more Barbaig girls qualifying for secondary education. Let's hope they say yes.



**Tanzania Workshops**

# Notices

## Scholarships are Now Due

\$400/student—If you have alternate payment arrangements, please contact us with your renewal intent.

## Have CHES come to you!

The CHES Executive is interested in doing presentations to interested groups. For more information, please contact the CHES office at 604-521-3416

## Student Support Fund (Formerly Student Gift Fund)

To make a donation, please contact the CHES office.

## Newsletter Via E-mail

To receive a copy of the CHES newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail us at: [canadianharambee@shaw.ca](mailto:canadianharambee@shaw.ca)

**\*\*\*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!\*\*\***

## CHES Executive 2003-2004

Lorrie Williams, President  
Nadia Anderson, Vice President  
Louise Paulsen, Treasurer

## Executive Directors

Susan Allan  
Orrie Babiuk  
John Bowbrick  
Jacqueline Bunker  
Beverly Ford  
Rupy Kambo  
Karen Kilbride  
Mandy Klepic  
Pam Mahoney  
Nancy Mann  
Alinda Ware