



Canadian Harambee Education Society

We can't do everything...but we can do something!

FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

44

446 Kelly Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 3T9 Canada
BN 13148 8017 RR0001

Phone: 604-521-3416
canadianharambee@shaw.ca
www.canadianharambee.ca

Message from the President

Since CHES has been in operation, we have put hundreds of thousands of dollars into the Kakamega area in Kenya, and I am certain that this has had the secondary effect of boosting the economy in this region. For that reason, we have decided to expand our operation into the Rariada region, just south of Kisumu.

I will be travelling to Kenya in December to explore the needs and possibilities. Rariada is a very depressed area and has only one good girls' school. That school, Lwak Secondary, is the only one with boarding facilities. In recent times, because of the scourge of AIDS in the area affecting so many families, there has been little money to pay school fees for these girls. Several fees are in arrears so I will see what CHES can do to help some of them.

We will be working closely with Raphael Tuju, who is presently Kenya's Foreign Minister and with Dr. Ruby Sokwala, who has had a long and wonderful association with CHES. The operation in Kakamega will continue as is but we hope to streamline payment so that we are only paying at the beginning of the year, for the whole year. This will uncomplicate the whole process for the agents.

I am willing to take over SMALL gifts to Kenyan girls if the sponsors wish to send something. I am leaving on December 26th. Please put your gifts in clear ziplock bags with the name, school and form marked so it can be read without opening the bag.

I wish all our sponsors and volunteers good health and the very best for the coming year. May 2008 be GREAT!

Lorrie Williams

Girls in Tanzania and Kenya are very grateful for donations from their sponsors. **A reminder to all sponsors, please send in sponsorship money as soon as possible.** We thank all sponsors who have sent in their funds. The sponsor fee is \$450 for 2008 and it can be sent to the CHES address at any time now.

If you would like a tax receipt for 2007, your cheque should be dated before December 31, 2007. If you would like to send your donation as post dated cheques that would be fine. This year we hope to pay fees for the whole year in January. Early donations are appreciated.

Thank you to the many sponsors who have already sent in their money and you should receive your receipts soon.

Louise Paulsen, Treasurer

If you would like to contact Louise, please email at lpaulsen@shaw.ca



Used with permission by Australian artist, Judy Horasek

Thank you!

Numerous CHES supporters attended the AGM on September 15th. Thank you all for your kind support, generous donations, and continued involvement. CHES is truly grateful.

'07-'08 Board of Directors: Lorrie Williams, President, Nadia Anderson, Vice President, Louise Paulsen, Treasurer

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Directors: | Bev Ford | | | | |
| Orie Babiuk | Catriona Harker | Bev Jakeman | Karen Kilbride | Marvin Lamoureux | Jim Robson |
| Marguerite Chiarenza | Chris Harker | Rupy Khera | Mandy Klepic | Nancy Mann | Sandra Falconer Pace |

This Summer in Katesh

The months of June through September saw incredible activity in CHES Hanang. Catriona and Chris Harker, followed by Jeanette and Robb Taylor, represented CHES Canada and were extremely busy, visiting primary schools, delivering boxes of books and sports equipment, visiting the CHES girls at all the secondary schools that host our students and putting the finishing touches on the equipping of the magnificent girls' dormitory at Nangwa Technical School.

The dorm was opened in February 2007 and offers courses in computer applications, computer training, sewing and tailoring. All courses are VETA certified and 33 CHES girls will soon graduate with marketable skills. The Technical School at Nangwa has an energetic principal and full support of the Bishop of Mbulu. Its



reinvigorated program is welcomed by the village council and citizens of Nangwa. Thanks go to the Harkers and their donors for this achievement.

A two day Grad workshop was held at Nangwa Technical School and saw a departure from the previous format. This year, all the keynote speakers and presenters were women. The focus was on successful women in Tanzanian society and there was no doubt about the success of the workshop – the girls were spellbound by the presenters' stories and suggestions and the question periods were lively and prolonged.

Presenters included:

- Mrs. Bukuzi, a local bank manager;
- Mrs Mary Gitagno, an energetic Barabaig woman who formed her own NGO to assist Barabaig women and actually set up her own internet café. She also gave a stimulating session on "Women and the Law in Tanzania;"
- Emma Jones, a Peace Corps volunteer, who gave a very active, graphic and informative session on HIV and AIDS, all in Kiswahili;
- Two health workers from Tumaini hospital, whose session on family planning was so well received that they had to cancel their session on first aid to make time for a long question period.
- Three CHES Grads who now hold jobs in the District Office.

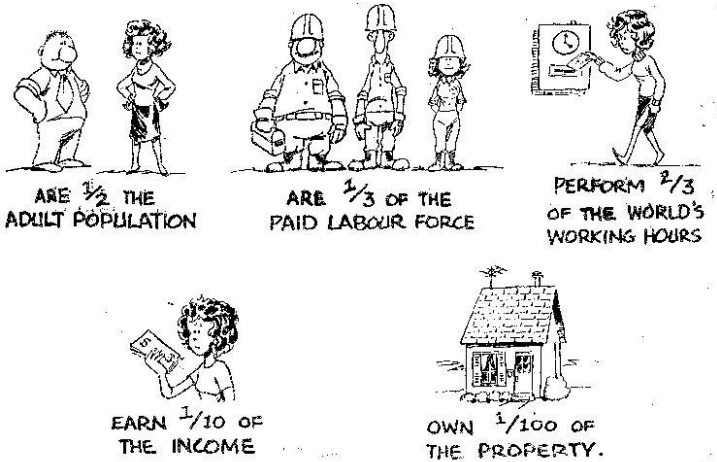


The local executive took some convincing to allow the change in format, but they were very enthusiastic about the results and vowed to make the next grad workshop an all female conference.

Just a little reminder:

Sponsors are reminded that letters that you are writing to your student must be sent directly to the school, in Kenya or Tanzania. Do NOT send letters to the Canadian CHES office to be forwarded to your student. It is only when the student writes to you that the letters come through the CHES office, to be forwarded to you their sponsor. If you don't know the address of the school, you can e-mail us and we will supply it.

WOMEN...



More than 500 generous sponsors and organizations now provide the means for 500 girls to receive their education in Kenya and Tanzania.

Although CHES remains committed to ensuring that the entire \$450 sponsorship is used to support the students, our organization has grown to the point where funding to cover our administration is no longer a nickel and dime affair.

Part time paid support, office rental, computer upgrading and funds for correspondence are among the expenses we now incur. Jewelry sales no longer cover our needs.

Should you wish to help CHES cover these costs, here are three suggestions:

1. Add an amount - large or small - to your \$450 sponsorship.
2. Send CHES a cheque for a specified purpose: office administration; newsletter, transportation in Canada/ Kenya/Tanzania, Dormitory fund, etc.
3. Write CHES into your will.

All donations to CHES are eligible for a receipt for income tax purposes. Your additional support is gratefully received.

Ancilla Rafael

Ancilla lost her leg when she was 9 or 10 because of a bad infection. CHES had asked before if she could be fitted with a prosthesis but the doctors said she should wait until she is full grown. This year she is now nearly 20 and ready to obtain the new leg. The Harkers took her from Katesh to KCMC Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania with her mum and there purchased for her an artificial leg, shoes, pants and required treatment, training and consultations. Her mum stayed for 3 days with her and then Ancilla remained there on her own in a Guest House that we found for her. She returned on her own to Nangwa and subsequently we returned her to her school in Balang'dalálu. She is in Form 4. We arranged there for a tailor to make trousers and/or a long skirt for her in school colours. She has to return for a check up in December as stumps frequently change size and if this occurs her artificial socket will have to be adjusted. In December, if adjustments are required, she may have to remain at KCMC for up to two weeks. Travel and accommodation costs will be paid by CHES.



ABOUT A GIRL

Violet

Violet is one of the most beautiful and confident girls I met while I was acting as a CHES agent in Kakamega. Nevertheless, the first time I talked to her she was in tears and at her wit's end. She said she was sick, with watering eyes, headaches and severe nosebleeds. She could not study and she could not bear to stay in the classroom with her teacher's perfume. Her illness was much worse during the rainy season. She wanted to go to the doctor, but the school had only given her malaria pills. One of the teachers mocked her in front of the class. They called her lazy and punished her. If she could go to her village, maybe her relatives could take care of her, but the school would not allow it. "They say I am just lying because I am lazy, but I know I am sick, I feel so discouraged and humiliated."

I told her to go to the doctor and that we would pay for any medicine he prescribed. Although she never used the word, what she was describing sounded like an allergy and I hoped there would be medicine to help her. I also suspected that the teachers who had been so insensitive to her problem knew very little, in anything, about allergies. Africa has much worse diseases facing them. Before she left, I told her that I believed she was sick; in fact I knew she was sick. From the look on her face it was clear that she needed to hear this.

The next time I saw her, she was radiant. "I am so grateful for the medicine. It has completely changed my life. I am doing well in school and I am happy and energetic. My friends can't believe the change in me." As she talked, I thought how impressive she was, what a strong presence and how vibrant.

The last time I saw her was months later, when I returned for a short visit to Kakamega. She was glowing with independence and confidence. She had recently graduated, which had made her eligible for a micro loan from CHES to help her start up a small business. She would be expected to repay the loan when she began to make money or if she enrolled in a postsecondary program. Like many others, Violet opted to sell fruit at the market but, being Violet, she figured out her own way to do it. She would take the night bus to Nairobi where she would buy fruit in bulk, bring it back the next day and sell it to the other stands at the market. After just three or four months, she had been able to put away about ten times the original loan.

In the meantime, she had befriended a younger girl at the market, a girl who had nobody to take care of her and nowhere to go. Violet took her under her wing and decided she had to be in school. Using some of her own money and some collected in the market and from anywhere else she could think of, including our agents, Violet conducted a small harambee on the girl's behalf. She did not raise enough for all the fees and uniform for the girl, but she raised a good part of it and took it to the principal who, not surprisingly (if you know Violet), agreed to take the girl in, with Violet as her guardian and sponsor. "I thought about it for a long time and in the end I just knew I had to do it. Somebody helped me when I had nothing. I had to help her."

Violet's sponsor should be very, very proud.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail please e-mail your request to:
canadianharambee@shaw.ca or rupykhera@hotmail.com