



# Canadian Harambee Education Society

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

## FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

# 46

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

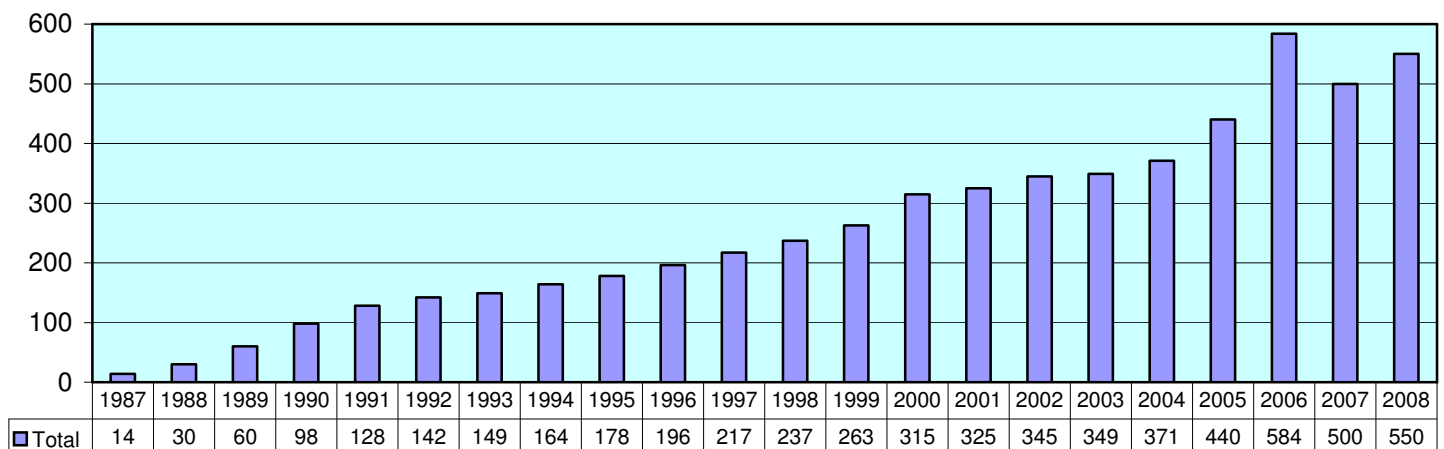
It seems that things have settled down a bit and CHES is running smoothly again. The new office is set up and a secretary has been hired. This, of course, necessitates more administration money and we appeal to all donors that, if possible, you throw in a few extra dollars specifically for administration. The bulk of the work is still being done by volunteers as we continue to keep spending to a minimum.

I was astounded at our Annual General Meeting when a graph was presented that indicated the number of girls that CHES had helped. In total, there has been over 4,000. Imagine the personal and financial impact! Firstly, the girls themselves have benefited (at the very least) by delaying their marriage and child-bearing years. Some have been employed and others have gone on to post-secondary - some sponsored now by the CEDAR Foundation. The community has a much more educated pool of females and the money we have sent over has been substantial - adding to the prosperity of the region.

The follow up from CBC's "Educating Margaret" documentary on CHES has been heart-warming. People saw in Margaret what could become of students they are sponsoring. We, who have so much for which to be thankful, pay it forward by carrying someone on our shoulders. To sponsors, donors and supporters everywhere, my gratitude for making this all happen.

Lorrie Williams

**CHES Students  
(1987 ~ 2008)**



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## 2008-2009 Annual General Meeting

CHES held its AGM on September 27, 2008 at the New Westminster Public Library. We would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters who were able to attend and hope to see you in 2009!

We wish to express our gratitude to the following former Directors whose dedication and commitment to CHES has been sincerely appreciated. Thank you to Orrie Babiuk and Jim Robson.

## 2008-2009 CHES Board

President - Lorrie Williams  
Vice President - Mandy Klepic  
Treasurer - Louise Paulsen

### Directors:

Nadia Anderson	Marguerite Chiarenza
Beverly Ford	Louis Giguere
Bev Jakeman	Catriona Harker
Chris Harker	Rupy Khera
Karen Kilbride	Marvin Lamoureux
Nancy Mann	Sandra Pace

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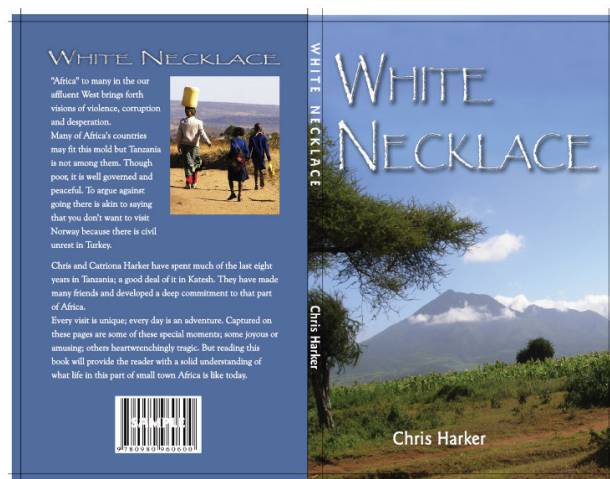
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## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Chris Harker, one of our Directors, has recently published **WHITE NECKLACE**, a book that describes the many adventures and experiences he and his wife Catriona have had as Agents for CHES in the small Tanzanian town of Katesh. Some of these stories are touching, others amusing; still others downright tragic. Packaged like this in a book, these stories provide the reader with a vivid insight into the life and times of young adults in contemporary Tanzania.

The books sell for \$20 with all proceeds going to CHES. There are no taxes or shipping charges. A copy would make an **ideal Christmas gift** for any friends or family whom you feel might want to learn more about CHES or of day-to-day life in one of the world's most impoverished countries.

If you would like a copy (or multiple copies), please mail a cheque to the CHES office or email Chris at [chriscat@pacificcoast.net](mailto:chriscat@pacificcoast.net) for further details.



## AGENTS IN KAKAMEGA, KENYA

Currently Marguerite Chiarenza, CHES Director and former Agent, is volunteering in Kakamega and will be on site to work diligently through the extremely busy period of student selection and marks/letter collection from December to February. Her sister is also helping with the increasing duties that are involved in processing over 400 students at the end of the school term. Joining her in November is the former Agent team

of Cheryl and Norm Filipenko who were in Kakamega last year from September to March and experienced the difficulties during the civil unrest.

We are privileged and grateful to have such experienced CHES volunteers working on CHES' behalf. A sincere 'thank you' for your adventuresome spirit and commitment!

## SPONSORS VISIT THEIR STUDENT



Two of our Directors, Chris and Catriona Harker, arrange and escort safaris to Tanzania several times a year. These 16-18 day trips include tours of world famous game parks such as Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara. There are also visits to Olduvai Gorge, Mt. Kilimanjaro and exotic Zanzibar. A cultural component is included and involves visits to family groupings of the Chagga, Maasai and the remote and seldom seen Hadzabe clan. Chris and Catriona escorted their first safari in 2001 and have now demonstrated the delights of Tanzania to more than 300 guests, mostly from B.C.

Being in Tanzania under these circumstances provides the Harkers with the opportunity to visit Katesh and the CHES programme there with little difficulty.

Since 2002 a total of 24 sponsors and friends have safaried and then travelled in to Katesh for what they all describe as the experience of a lifetime. Though by no means as luxurious as the safari route, this "real Africa" experience plus the drama of meeting the girl they have been supporting for several years, is an emotional "cry for happy" experience for all concerned.

Besides meeting their "Girl", visitors are taken to schools, explore the countryside, participate in a variety of cultural experiences, meet the staff of CHES House and immerse themselves in the life and times of a small Tanzanian town for a few days.

In 2009 two more CHES Sponsors will join them when they visit Katesh in early March. Anyone interested in considering such an adventure should contact Chris and Catriona at [chriscat@pacificcoast.net](mailto:chriscat@pacificcoast.net) or phone 250.656.9229.



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## EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

Thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors, CHES is now supporting the secondary education of more than 500 young women in Kenya and Tanzania. We are proud to be able to organize this support, but increased numbers mean increased work and this all comes at a cost. Over the past year, we have had to acquire new office space (thankfully donated by the Surrey Teacher's Association), hire a part time secretary and replace some of our office equipment. Stationary and mailout costs are also increasing.

We stand by our commitment to use 100% of your \$450 to offset the educational costs of the girl you sponsor. However, our modest office expenses still have to be covered. Many of our sponsors have elected to "round-up" the annual CHES cheque to \$500.

If you are not already doing this, we invite you to consider doing so.

## CHES KENYAN GIRLS

Our Form four graduates of 2007 performed very well. CHES was notified that 4 students received an "A" average in school. Mary Mukusa from BUNYORE scored the second highest of all the girls in the whole nation of Kenya; Sarah Kigamwa from BUNYORE scored at position 89 in the whole nation; Millent Simiyu of LUGULU and Medrin Musabi of MUKUMU all performed extremely well. CHES is very proud of all these girls.

Last year, 2006 CHES graduates were asked to come back to talk with CHES students and provide advice on effective study habits. Promoting initiatives like these have a direct result on their success in school.



Mary is pictured here with Marie MacKay



Mary with other girls.

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Dear CHES friends,

It is with great pleasure that I joined the CHES Board of Directors at the September 27 AGM. Africa is where the greatest needs are, and I was looking for an opportunity to get involved when friends of mine returned from a Tanzanian safari conducted by Chris and Catriona Harker. The necessary connections quickly ensued and I was asked to join the Board of Directors and to contribute my expertise in writing grant proposals on behalf of CHES. I hope to develop a CIDA proposal with the help of CHES members and look forward to participating in CHES activities.

My background is in distance education, adult education, and online learning, and I have been involved in international education for a number of years, from 1995 through 2000. I have worked in India, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Macau, among other places.

At a personal level, I am a French Canadian from Quebec City who moved to Vancouver in 1971 to study at the University of British Columbia. Vancouver quickly became my adoptive home and I married in 1983 and have two grown up daughters who are still living at home. I retired from my distance education job last year but am looking for a new work commitment to round up my career.

I look forward to the coming year.

Louis Giguere



## LETTER FROM A SPONSOR

Lorrie:

*Congratulations on your featured article in Peter Mansbridge's late evening news Monday p.m.*

*We were so proud of hearing about your accomplishments over the past 25 years with CHES and it makes us feel rather humble to be associated with your organization. After meeting three of our girls this past month in Tanzania, it drove home the realization of what we are doing for them, and that when we welcomed them into our family, they were overcome with emotion as we were also. It gave me the same inner feeling that I had when Alice presented me with our children, and each time it was the same deep warm feeling that this is our child. The same feeling came over me when I met our three girls, and I could not be overwhelmed by the same feeling. They were OUR girls now! When they looked at the album of our family pictures from the reunion in Canmore Alberta last year, they realized that our FAMILY consisted of many and varied sizes of people, but we were one big family.*

*I hope that some of the others who accompanied us on this trip will consider sponsoring a girl because they told us that it made a difference seeing how we were able to bond with the girls at our first meeting. We will be encouraging some of the students at the school where I am a volunteer tutor to make a connection with some of the CHES girls. Already some have asked if it is O.K. to send something, but we told them that they should clear everything with CHES headquarters first.*

*Again, congratulations on your successes to date and may you continue to make a difference in the lives of the girls in Africa.*

*Roy and Alice Ohashi*

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## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

- ❖ Please consider purchasing some note cards with hand painted African scenes. A set of 6 cards can be purchased for \$10. Funds will be used for administrative expenses.
- ❖ Several years ago a sponsor had a great idea, which was to consider donating to our charity as part, or in place of purchasing a gift for a friend. If you would like to make a donation to CHES as a gift for someone special in your life, we will be happy to send him/her a card with a note of this generous offering.
- ❖ The book called White Necklace, written by Chris Harker would make a great gift. The book can be purchased for \$20 with all proceeds going to CHES.



## NEW CHES OFFICE

The CHES Office has always been in Lorrie's home since CHES started in 1985. We have finally progressed from a "Kitchen Table" charity to one that has an actual office and a part time secretary. The Surrey Teachers Association has donated one room in their building for the use of CHES. With a bit of work we have moved most of the office material from Lorrie's house to our new location. The new address and phone number are as follows:

CHES

Room 102B

9030 King George Highway

Surrey, BC, V3V 7Y3

Telephone: 778.565.5261

Email: [canadianharambee@shaw.ca](mailto:canadianharambee@shaw.ca)

## MAILING ADDRESS REMAINS THE SAME

446 Kelly Street

New Westminster, BC V3L 3T9

Telephone. 604-521-5416

This is because all CHES official documents use this address.

### Help keep CHES green.

Receive your copy of this newsletter via email and save CHES the cost of printing and mailing.

Email your request to

[canadianharambee@shaw.ca](mailto:canadianharambee@shaw.ca)

All spreadsheets with sponsors and student information are located on the CHES computer in the new office. If you have questions about your students, payment of sponsorship or any other concerns these questions should be directed to our secretary. Phone messages and emails can be left and we will try and answer all questions as soon as possible. **Jing Fernandez** has been working as a part time secretary but she will be leaving for another position in mid November.

We would like to initiate a fund raising campaign to assist us with our increased administrative expenses. If anyone has fundraising ideas or is willing to help, please contact CHES.

We would like to thank Lorrie for the many years that we have used her home for CHES work. We would also like to thank the Surrey Teachers Association for the use of the office space. We would love to welcome any interested sponsors to visit CHES in our new office.

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ANY APPLICANTS FOR THE PART TIME SECRETARY POSITION OR VOLUNTEER OFFICE HELP CAN APPLY TO THE CHES OFFICE OR CONTACT LOUISE AT:

P. 604.582.7654

E: [lpaulsen@shaw.ca](mailto:lpaulsen@shaw.ca)

## NOTE TO SPONSORS

Most sponsors should have received a notice with the last letter from your student requesting the sponsor fee of \$450. There are several new sponsors who are waiting for students and these will be chosen in January 2009. Those of you who have a student in Form 4 in 2008 may choose to send in funds to start supporting another student. CHES hopes to receive the funds by the end of this year so we will have the funds to pay the girls fees early in 2009. Those of you who pay in US dollars, please use the current rate of exchange. For our American sponsors you can still send your money to the American Humanist Association and they will send you U.S. tax receipt. They send the money on to us in Canada.

If you wish to receive a tax receipt dated for 2008, your cheque should be issued on or before December 31, 2008. You may send in post-dated cheque.

Many sponsors over the years have sent gifts for their girls or money that we have directed the agents to pass on to the girls. Unfortunately this has become no longer possible. At the last CHES meeting it was passed that CHES will no longer be able to accept gifts or money for individual girls. Some girls do require some assistance so we will accept donations (receipted) to CHES's **Student Welfare Fund**. With these funds we will help students who have no means of paying for items related to their education, assist parents or guardians to pay for serious medical problems and purchase treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria. We hope to give all girls a small gift of supplies once a year.

Your donations for the education of your students do not cover the purchase by CHES of all the textbooks that might be needed. Over the years CHES has been able to purchase textbooks from extra donations. With the increased number of students we have had to find extra funds for these textbooks and as of lately, calculators too. Again we thank all of you who have made contributions for textbooks over the years.

Administration costs are also increasing but we understand that your contribution for the education of your student is a wonderful commitment. Our administration expenses are paid for by donations and by fund raising. CHES would like to thank you all for your generous donations.

If you have questions about tax receipts or payment for your student you can contact the treasurer Louise Paulsen, through the CHES Office email or my personal email, which is [lpaulsen@shaw.ca](mailto:lpaulsen@shaw.ca)



### Remembering Rosalie

Rosalie Greenwood has been one of CHES's longest supporters. She was actually CHES's first sponsor. Rosalie Greenwood is Lorrie William's mother and she happily supported Lorrie's dream to send young Kenyan girls to school right from the beginning. We will miss Rosalie at CHES board meetings and functions. She could always be counted on for a happy smile and an enthusiastic presence no matter what was happening. She was committed to helping those who were less fortunate and she never worried about what people would think of her.