



Canadian Harambee Education Society
We can't do everything...but we can do something!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the past few months I have been contacted by a few ex-CHES students. When CHES first started, we were helping both boys and girls. It was because I was teaching at a boys' boarding/mixed day school called Ekambuli in a small village called Khumasalaba. The town consisted of the school, a butcher, a bar, post office, grinding mill and a small duka (general store). Everyone was poor and subsistence farming was the main economy. Needless to say, I was moved by the plight of all the students who struggled to pay their school fees and I helped all those I could. I soon ran out of friends to tap and had to return to Canada to make more. It became increasingly evident that the girls were less likely to get help from their families so gradually, we increased the ratio of girls to boys eventually phasing out the boys entirely. It was not done lightly and I must say that the male CHES graduates have succeeded well. One who contacted me was a principal of an elementary school in Kenya and the other has just invited me to his PHD graduation in Washington State. Of course I am going to attend on December 10th of this year. I am very proud of these two young men as I would be of any of our girls who succeed. Education is the key to unlock the door of poverty, ignorance and discrimination. My ultimate wish is to see the elimination for the need for CHES and universal education for all. Best wishes for 2012 from CHES to all of our believers and supporters.

Lorrie Williams

Why Does CHES Sponsor Girls?

A question that I am often asked when I talk about CHES is "Why does CHES just sponsor girls?" Our organization is not sexist - the research is overwhelming as to the impact that education for women has. Presently, two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women and more than half of the 101 million children not attending school are girls. As Bramhan wrote recently in the Vancouver Sun, "It means that they are destined for poor jobs or no employment at all. It leaves them and their children vulnerable to exploitation and abuse since 70% of children live with women without male-income earners."

On the African continent, only 51% of women 15 years and older know how to read and write and yet young women are also interested in education and the opportunity that it gives them regarding work and the possibility of becoming professionals or entrepreneurs. A high school education gives girls that opportunity. It has been shown throughout the world that educated women are less likely to be poor and more likely to have fewer children; the mortality rate also drops in proportion to the years of schooling that women attain both in rich and poor countries. Apparently educated women make wiser choices regarding nutrition, immunization, hygiene, and contraception.

Check out the following link to a Globe and Mail article <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/economy-lab/daily-mix/want-to-boost-an-economy-educate-a-girl/article2172711/>

It's worth your time to read it and be able to answer the question - Why CHES sponsors girls.

By Joy Ruffeski

The Third Annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic

Thursday July 14, 2011 at Musqueam Golf Course

It started as a rainy, blustery day but by the time the golfers teed off at 1:00 pm the rain had cleared. Many credited this weather change to the 'sun dance' by the Drum Mamas who were welcoming the 80 golfers at the registration desk. Before heading out to the course, participants also warmed up with a standing yoga routine, thanks to Sharon Abbondanza.

New this year, one hole featured a sponsored \$10,000 hole-in-one prize, and while one golfer did achieve this feat, unfortunately it wasn't on the correct hole.

The event was a financial success for CHES. The silent auction alone raised \$5,000. Raffle prizes of a sterling silver bracelet, beautifully handcrafted by Sweewa, and a piece by mouth-painting artist, Rob Dunfield, proved popular. The raffle brought in another \$ 1,260.00.

Over dinner, golfers enjoyed two inspirational speakers. The first was Lorrie Rowena Mukirzi, the daughter of Margaret, CHES' very first sponsored student. Lorrie is studying accounting in Vancouver. Only 22 years old, she spoke eloquently about the role CHES has played in her life and her ambition to assist the women of Kenya when she returns home. She enthused about how life-changing a CHES scholarship can be for the girls who are selected.

Subsequently, John Neate of JJ Bean, the presenting sponsor, challenged everyone to analyze their lives and to see if there was room in their personal budget to educate a girl. It was nice to see that many did respond to this appeal and this year, 9 more girls were sponsored through the tournament.

Thanks to everyone involved, the \$ 33,916.48 raised through the tournament will be directed towards providing English and Life Skills workshops for the 700 CHES students in Kenya and Tanzania.

The 4th Annual Harambee Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Monday July 16, 2012. John Neate, of JJ Bean Coffee Roasters has again agreed to be the presenting sponsor.

By Carol Gilchrist

From Top to Bottom

Anna Middlemiss and Pat Dairon selling raffle tickets, Golfers successfully stopping the rain by doing the "sundance", The Drum Mamas, .April Stubbs and Ginny Golding - golf committee co-chairs



Inspired By Sponsor

CHES sponsor **Gladys Hubner** very generously donated the cost of building the kitchen for the Sara Williams Hostel Complex. Last January, Chris and Catriona Harker escorted Gladys and her husband **Peter** into Katesh to inspect the kitchen and, importantly, to meet their student, **Rehema Saidi**.

The kitchen visit was an emotional one as nearly 40 hostel girls burst into songs of gratitude as Gladys walked in. The drive the next day 50 kilometres into the bush to Gisambalang school was charged with expectation. On arrival, a few days after the school year began, we discovered that Rehema had not yet reported to school as she was sick and at home. A further 20 kms drive brought us to her remote house where Gladys and Peter, both in their 80s, were able to surprise and delight their lucky student. Rehema reported to school the next day and, possibly inspired by knowing her sponsors had travelled so far to meet her, has improved her class standing significantly.

By Chris Harker



Above: Gladys and Peter Hubner with Rehema Saidi, outside her home

Tanzanian Workshops and Tutorials

CHES tutorials and workshops have been held for several years in Tanzania as school fees in that country are considerably less than in Kenya. The additional money from sponsorships of Tanzanian CHES students that is not required for fees, lodging, books, and other supplies supports these much needed initiatives there.

On Saturday, June 11, 251 CHES sponsored students from the 30 secondary schools in the Hanang District arrived at the Sara Williams Hostel in Katesh where they were lodged for the three weeks of tutorials and life-skills workshops. Langley School District in BC supplied the girls with bags that the CHES Hanang BOT filled with personal and school items.

The District Education officer opened the tutorials, held at the nearby Katesh Secondary School, and encouraged the girls to work hard as they had an opportunity for assistance with their learning that other Tanzanian students don't. He thanked CHES Canada sponsors for everything that they do in order to help the girls be successful.

The tutorial sessions, starting June 13 and ending June 26, covered eight subjects: Mathematics, Civics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, Kiswahili, and English. Days were long with classes from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday to Saturday. As Sunday is a day of worship in Tanzania, no classes were held and students had time to get to know each other well. Each subject teacher prepared examinations for the students to give them practice in writing exams and to motivate the students to study hard when they returned to school. At the conclusion of the tutorials, awards were given to the top three students in each Form.

Workshops were then held from June 28 to June 30 at the Work Experience Centre at the Sara Williams Hostel. Workshop sessions conducted by CHES BOT and CYWAHA members included such topics as Health, Time Management, Communication, Women's Role in the Community, and HIV/AIDS.

There was an overwhelming positive response by the students to both the tutorials and the workshops. They were most appreciative of the tutorial teachers for their hard work and help in covering material that the students had difficulty comprehending in their regular school classes. Having three meals and a mid-morning snack daily was also a treat for many of the girls as most students rarely get the variety of food that was provided (porridge, rice, beans, vegetables, fruit, maize, meat, and tea to drink).

The girls enjoyed being able to stay at the hostel as this place has turned into a location where all CHES students feel at home. They send a special thanks to all people who have contributed money to make the Katesh Centre a reality.

(from the report prepared and written by Naomi Saulo and Bernadeta Basili)



KENYAN Workshops Report 2011

It has been several years since CHES hosted workshops in Kenya for our girls. There are several reasons why many agents and board members felt that they were very important, mainly that the girls would benefit from various topics that are not covered in their academic courses. Unfortunately, the money received from sponsors for their Kenyan CHES girl only covers the school fees and associated costs of lodging, exam writing, and so forth and CHES Canada had not been able to receive other funds in the form of grants to host such workshops. Thanks to money raised by the women who organize the Harambee Golf Classic, Kenyan girls were able to have these important life-skill workshops this year.

Workshops were held for the Form 3 & 4 CHES girls September 1 - 4, 2011, at Bishop Sulemeti. The sessions covered such topics as Women & the New Constitution, Reproductive Health, Micro-business, and Career & Course Choices, to name just a few. The girls were overwhelmingly positive about the opportunity the workshops afforded them. They particularly enjoyed bonding with girls from other schools and feeling the comradeship of being CHES girls.

The second set of workshops for the Form 1 & 2 girls will take place Nov 24 - 27, 2011, again at Bishop Sulemeti. In order to increase their identification as CHES students, t-shirts were purchased for the girls. They will keep these for workshops and will receive them two times in the course of their high school years. We are encouraged by the positive response of the girls and look forward to this very important aspect of their education becoming an annual event.

By: Marie Skinner, CHES agent



Above: Ruth Aleyo - Position 6/123 Term 2 at Bishop Sulemeti



Above: Cecilia Njeri - Position 11/123 at Bishop Sulemeti



Students Getting Organized



Group Activities



Team Building Exercises

In Memory

Sadly, during the past year CHES has been notified that some of our long time Sponsors have passed away. We will miss the following:

- Morag Maclachlan passed away on Oct. 7, 2011. Her nephew has asked her family and friends to donate to CHES in her memory.
- Violet Lawton passed away in the spring of 2011. She and her husband Art had sponsored girls since CHES started in 1985. Their dedication to helping girls is now going to be continued by their daughter, who recently signed on to sponsor a girl in 2012.
- Patricia (Trish) Grainge passed away on May 16, 2011. A request was made that donations be made to CHES in Trish's memory.

NOTICE TO CHES SPONSORS

SPONSORSHIP FUNDS

CHES would like to thank all of the sponsors who have already sent in the \$500 for their student for the sponsorship for 2012. Receipts (we finally have printed receipts) should be in the mail before the end of 2011. If you have not sent in the donation, we would appreciate the funds early in December so we can have sufficient funds to send to Africa for the beginning of the school year in January. If you wish to post-date the cheque to January of 2012 that is fine as long as we know you are continuing to sponsor a girl. We still have the option of donating by credit card through **CanadaHelps.org**. (Canada Helps takes a 3.9% fee from the CHES portion of donations made through their organization). Those of you who pay in US dollars may continue to send your money to The Humanist Society at 1777 T Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 and they will issue you a US tax receipt. The money is forwarded to CHES and we will notify you when it is received.

Sponsors with girls finishing Form 4 in 2011 may wish to send in funds to start supporting another student in 2012. If you generously wish to help cover administration or student support costs, funds for these purposes will be receipted and are very welcome. Please pass on the word about CHES to your friends as new sponsors are always needed.

If you have questions about tax receipts or payment for your student please contact Louise Paulsen (treasurer) or Julia Kambeitz (secretary) in the CHES Office.

CHES and the students would like to thank you all for your generous donations.

By Louise Paulsen

VICTORIA FUND RAISER

CHES supporters on Vancouver Island ! Put a circle around **MAY 8** when you get your new 2012 Calendars. In cooperation with the 250 seat Ridge Theatre at Claremont School, CHES will be sponsoring a performance of "THE WIZARD OF OZ". Start time: 7pm.

A short power point presentation outlining the various CHES programmes in East Africa will add to this gala evening. Some great door prizes have also been donated. Please consider bringing friends or grandchildren.

Tickets are \$35 and you'll receive a tax receipt for between \$20 and \$25. Contact Chris or Catriona Harker at 250 656 9229 or chriscat@pacificcoast.net for reservations or further information.

By Chris and Catriona Harker

A Pleasurable Thing to Do

As some CHES sponsors are unable to correspond with their students, my friend, Penny Lyle asked me if I would like to answer a few girls' letters. It was a small contribution I could make to CHES. When the first letters arrived, I got to thinking that with each response I would enclose a writing piece of mine since I have been involved in writing stories for some time. To my amazement these girls have taken a great interest in these stories, which are mostly about life in Canada and my life. I also enclose the odd photocopied picture of Canadian life.

A girl from Butere School for girls in Kenya writes that she just can't wait to get another letter and story. She and her friends sit around reading them over and over to each other.

I've grown to love these girls. They are so grateful for the opportunity to attend school and it's all because of the generosity of CHES sponsors. God willing, one day I may volunteer and I really hope to meet these girls. They have such a yearning to know more about the vast world we live in. These girls are Kenya and Tanzania's future.

By Marilyn Kennedy

CHES AGM

The CHES Annual General Meeting was held at the New Westminster Public Library on September 24. Reminders were e-mailed to all sponsors and consequently the meeting was very well attended - one sponsor came all the way from Edmonton. A visual presentation on CHES' Kenyan and Tanzanian operations started the meeting. Many thanks go to Catriona Harker for sharing this most informative PowerPoint with the attendees. Reports were presented and if you wish copies of any of these (Founding President, Executive Director, Student, Agent, Kenya, Tanzania, Golf Tournament), please feel free to contact the CHES office and we will e-mail you a copy of the requested report canadianharambee@shaw.ca. The following individuals were elected to the 2011-2012 Board of

Lorrie Williams	Founding President
Louise Paulsen	Treasurer
Joy Ruffeski	Executive Director

Directors:

Nadia Anderson	Beverley Jakeman
Bev Ford	Karen Kilbride
Carol Gilchrist	Penny Lyle
Catriona Harker	Nancy Mann
Chris Harker	Lorrie Mukirazi



We regret that Mandy Klepic is taking a leave of absence from the board for the coming term but we look forward to her rejoining us on the 2012-2013 Board.

We would like to thank the sponsors and supporters who were able to attend and we hope to see you at our AGM in September 2012 (date to be announced in the Spring newsletter).

Agents in the Field

CHES currently has three agents working at CHES House in Kakamega. Gordon Brown and Marie Skinner started their work in August and Norm and Cheryl Filipenko returned in November for their fifth time as agents. All current agents are staying for six months so we are well represented in Kenya. Mark taking, book exchange, workshops, and screening applicants for replacement scholarships and Form I placements will keep them all very busy in the coming three months.

Joy Ruffeski is going to Katesh in November/December where she will be training some former CHES graduates who now are teachers in using oral language techniques to improve the English comprehension of our CHES girls. An English Immersion week is planned for early January and all students in Forms II, III, and IV will attend. As Form I students are not selected until February in Tanzania, they will not receive this additional training in understanding English until their June school break.

Catriona and Chris Harker will be visiting Tanzania for 3 months from January to March. They will be escorting two safaris and will be spending time in Katesh in January and March as agents. They will also be taking CHES sponsors to meet their girls and to visit the program.

If you are interested in becoming an agent, please check our website: www.canadianharambee.ca. Then contact our office (canadianharambee@shaw.ca) for an application form and to find out about agents' duties, responsibilities, and duration of service both in Kenya and Tanzania.

By Joy Ruffeski

CHES Agents (from top): Gordon Brown
Marie Skinner, Norm Filipenko, Cheryl Filipenko

