



Canadian Harambee Education Society

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

FALL 2006 NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Well, it finally had to happen. CHES has had to raise its fee to \$450 for a student. It possibly could have happened sooner but we supplemented our costs with the "slush fund" that had developed over time due to the high Canadian dollar and the favourable exchange rate. We hope that this increase is a reasonable amount for our sponsors.

We welcome the addition of Edoye Probeni to the CHES team. She is in the role of an Executive Director and will help to co-ordinate the various volunteer activities. The workload is "seasonal" in that when marks and letters are received, or when scholarship renewal time is here, more help is needed.

The opening of the AIDS Conference in Toronto confirmed that what CHES is doing is the right solution. All three special speakers re-iterated that the only permanent solution to this scourge is the education of females. They explained that the ABC method is meaningless without it. The ABC method is:

- A. Abstinence - Meaningless when a fourteen year old is married off or raped by a society that regards her as a commodity.
- B. Be faithful - A young mother of four can be as faithful as possible but if her polygamous or philandering husband sleeps with an infected woman, the wife cannot refuse her husband.
- C. Condoms - Who can afford them and who will make the men wear them?

In all three cases, if women have status and choices, there is a less likelihood that they will find themselves powerless. By keeping our girls in school and educating them, we are possibly saving their lives. At least, we are delaying their marriage and child-bearing years.

They have more status and can have more say about the conditions of their lives and not be left to the whims of a patriarchal society.

On my last visit to Kenya, I was pursued by one of our former students who had traveled to Kakamega to see me and missed me by a day. Just before I left Nairobi, she caught up with me with her husband and two lovely teenagers in tow. She spent all that time and money to let me know that because of CHES, she had a good life with a wonderful husband, a career and (only) two healthy, educated children.



I know we have succeeded!
Lorrie Williams

Photo: From left: Jeff, Brian (9yrs), Sarah, and Beverly (13yrs) Ochieng.

TO ALL OUR SPONSORS,

Thanks to all who have already sent in their scholarship funding. You should receive a tax receipt shortly after the cheques are cashed. For any sponsor who has yet to send in their scholarship money, please do so as the 2007 year is upon the students. If any sponsor wishes to help their student individually, send in the money and it will be receipted. Donations to the Student Medical/Support Fund are appreciated by all of the girls to help supply them with a few of their needed supplies. Thank you for all your generous donations.

Greetings from the Treasurer,
Louise Paulsen

Girl's Dormitory at Nangwa Technical School

The last few editions of the CHES newsletter have included an update of the building of a girl's dormitory at Nangwa Technical School in Katesh, Tanzania. Here is the most recent update.

When Chris and Catriona Harker last saw the dorm in early March, 2006, the building was essentially up but very little of the interior or finishing work had been completed.

On May 25, five rooms were complete and the first group of 9 girls took up residence in the dorm. One of the rooms was assigned to teachers and so the girls were well supervised.

Throughout the summer, Louise Paulsen and Bev Ford, CHES Directors, monitored progress and saw other rooms completed among which was the "Sharon Eagles Reading Room", complete with tables, chairs, books cases and a small start-up library.

Meanwhile, back in Canada, the Harker's succeeded in raising additional funds through generous donors, the use of PR, and a benefit concert organized by Harker's on September 13th – a sold out success!

In early October the Harker's returned to Tanzania to discover that all rooms are now completed, as are the toilets and showers (though much of the plumbing and the septic field is incomplete). Furthermore, the school still lacks its own proper water supply.

With the amount of funding still needed, there is little doubt that the dorm will be completed by Christmas, and in time for a full contingent of girls to enroll for the new school year in January. The official opening is set for February 24, 2007. Chris and Catriona will be there together with some of the donors.

Thanks to those who have given so generously, there are probably going to be funds available to provide the school with much needed tools and equipment for the various technical programmes. Chris and Catriona anticipate being in Katesh yet again next summer and, assuming the water pipe is in, will meet with the staff to determine what is most needed.

Chris Harker

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MAMA UPENDO

I would like to tell you the story of one of our CHES young women who has set an excellent example for girls and women in Katesh, Tanzania.



In 1993 I visited Tanzania with Lorrie Williams to meet the girls recently chosen to receive CHES sponsorships. Udagega Manonga was then a young girl who had completed primary schooling and wanted to go on to Form 1. Uda was a Barbaig girl from a very poor family. She unfortunately had been blinded by red measles when she was very young. We went right to her parent's boma to pick up Uda and help her to get to school. She was to attend a school for the blind in Korogwe. We

drove over roads that seemed more like dry riverbeds and for the last few kilometers we followed a small Barbaig woman, Uda's grandmother, as she ran ahead of the vehicle to lead us to the compound. This being only my second visit to Africa, I was shocked to see such poor living conditions. The Barbaigs are pastoralists and usually move from place to place with their cattle. Uda's family was so poor that they had to remain in their compound, as they had no cattle and tried hard to find enough food to feed the several members of the family. They had to walk 10 km to fetch water each day.

Uda successfully completed both "O-Level" and "A-Level" of secondary schooling, a two-year diploma course to become a secondary teacher and then a degree at the University of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam. Over the years since 1993 I have met Uda several times in Katesh from 1997 to 2006. Each time I met Uda and told her this is Mama Louise, she always said "Oh I know your voice! "

This year we were able to visit with Uda and her young daughter, Upendo, which means Love. We have been told that Uda actually means young girl and now Uda, no longer being a girl, but a married woman, should be referred to as Udagega or Mama Upendo. She helped us this year by making a presentation at the workshops on *Overcoming Obstacles* and visited some Barabaig villages to help with the CHES Primary School Initiatives. We had CHES Barbaig grads meet with Barbaig mothers to try to encourage them to send their girls to primary schools. You would have loved to see the Barbaig women's faces as they met Uda. First they were amazed to find out she was blind, then that she was educated and lastly that she had a baby! When she brought in her baby they all rushed up to put a beaded bracelet on Upendo.



Uda (yellow skirt and school bag) with her family

I took a picture of some of the same family members that I had met back in 1993! The Grand Father (Babu) has trouble walking but the grandmother is in good health. Bev and I were treated to ugali and ghee as refreshments inside the same boma I had visited in 1993.

Mama Upendo is a wonderful advocate of education for young women and she will always be a great example to young CHES students and all young women in Tanzania. Now she is teaching at Balangdalalu Secondary School. She still would like to continue her studies and work on a Masters Degree.

Primary School Initiative

Barbaig Attendance Increases as Lunch Programme Succeeds!

The purpose of this primary initiative is to encourage the registration and continued attendance of village children in primary school, particularly indigenous Barbaig girls. The intention is to offer lunch programs plus some assistance in the form of notebooks, pens and school uniforms as well as tutoring in Standards 4 to 7. Some Barbaig villages involved include: Gehandu, Mureru, Dangéida, Mingenyi, Gidagamond and Dirma

In these villages we have done the following:

- Introduced the tutorial program
- Checked on the number of girls registered in Standard 1
- Offered a lunch program
- Supplied notebooks and uniforms
- Selected a Barbaig representative from each village, informed the Barbaig community that there is a primary boarding school for their children especially when they want to move from one place to another to pasture their animals. They can also send their disabled children to a boarding school.

Note that the uniforms donated were sewn by CHES grads who had taken a sewing course organized by CHES and underwritten by CIDA. Those involved were Raheli Mwasha, Raheli Mathayo, Elizabeth Nachon, Monica Manungda and Rahema Issa. The sweaters were sewn by Theresia Nicodemus on a knitting machine donated by a CHES sponsor.

CHES TEAM:

Pius Mwasha, (Katesh Ex.Director) Magreth Maina, (Dip.Community Development, CHES Grads; Neema Williams, (teacher) Christina Giro, (office assistant), Uda, (Udagega Manong'da-see corresponding article)

THE VILLAGE MEETINGS:

In every case 20 Barbaig women were invited, the numbers that actually attended ranged from 40 to 80. Since 2004, over 10 visits were made, some with agents Chris and Catriona Harker, Jeanette and Rob Taylor and Bev Ford and Louise Paulsen.

GEHANDU VILLAGE:

We took Udagega with us as we wanted our audience to observe the importance of education, particularly for a disabled person. Uda spoke to the group, telling everyone how difficult life had been for her before she went to school and then how education changed her life. Her message was "with education you can do anything".

Breaking news!

The Regional Commissioner has announced a directive that all primary schools in the Manyara region will have a lunch program in place by Oct. 31. This is indeed wonderful news for an extremely poor, drought prone area of Tanzania.

Margreth Maina (Benedict) with Naomi Saulo



Left: Everyone gets involved in the primary initiative! Woman in centre holding folder is CHES graduate Margreth Benedict.

CHES and CIDA

The partnership with CIDA in Katesh began in 2000 and continues until August 2008. As we look back on the initiatives and objectives accomplished, we are satisfied and pleased with the results!. Capacity building and sustainability, key components of CIDA's mandate, have been demonstrated by the large number of employed graduates, the initiatives developed for primary students in remote villages as well as other programs. We thank CIDA for their investment and commitment that has helped reduce poverty and provided a more equitable environment.



Above: CHES girls so happy to receive treated mosquito nets

Notice to CHES Sponsors

We would like all sponsors with students in Kenya or Tanzania to know that the school year in Africa begins in January and fees for the 2007 school year are due by the end of the year. We have had to increase the amount required to \$450.00. Those of you who pay in US dollars would donate around \$395.00 US at the current rate. 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 2006, your cheque should be issued on or before December 31, 2006. You can also pay anytime early in the New Year or with post dated cheques.

For those of you who have also contributed to the Student Support Fund we thank you and we would like you to know that we have changed the name to Student Medical/Support Fund. With these funds we will help students who have no means of paying for items related to their education and serious medical problems that their parents or guardians cannot look after, and for treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria.

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 for lending libraries in Kenya and Tanzania for our students. With the increased number of students we have had to find extra funds for textbooks and lately calculators. 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, some by the ongoing CIDA project in Tanzania and the rest by fund raising.

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

CHES Board of Directors

The CHES AGM for was held on September 23, 2006. At that time the following people were elected to serve as Board of Directors for the 2006 – 2007 year:

President: Lorrie Williams

Directors:

Nadia Anderson	Orrie Babiuk	Sarita Baldeo	Marguerite Chiarenza
Beverly Ford	Catriona Harker	Chris Harker	Rupy Kambo
Karen Kilbride	Mandy Klepic	Nancy Mann	Louise Paulsen
Jim Robson	Alinda Ware		

CHES would like to express our sincere thank you to the following board members who have stepped down. Their commitment to CHES has been a great help to the running of the organization: Susan Allan, Jackie Bunker, Pam Mahony and Peter Minshull.

Kakamega, Kenya

Agents Nancy Carson and Anne Dixon, both from Salmon Arm are currently volunteering until March 2007. They are both extremely busy with meeting students to discuss school, record their marks and collect their sponsor's letters. Thank you, Nancy and Anne, for your commitment and dedication! We hope you enjoy a warm and culturally different Christmas season.



Without the renewal of funding from CIDA, CHES is looking for help in covering administration costs. Any donations would be greatly appreciated specifically for administration. Donations are tax deductible.



Each year hard working volunteer agents have assisted CHES. This past year Don and Wendy Reimer, Sally Gellard and Cecilia Kamara spent time in Kenya working hard to keep the CHES programs operating



The full sponsor donation is sent to Kenya or Tanzania to pay for girls school fees and uniform expenses. CHES would like to thank all sponsors and others who have made donations, which enable over 500 CHES girl's to attend secondary schools.

Happy 50th Birthday Sohan Dulai

CHES benefited from Sohan's birthday celebrations as he asked his friends to donate to CHES rather than give him a birthday present. Many of his friends sent in donations to CHES and we received over \$1000. Thank you Sohan for helping CHES and thank you to all of your generous friends.

Many of our wonderful sponsors have asked friends to donate to CHES instead of giving them presents or they have sent in funds to CHES in lieu of Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, wedding gifts, or in memory of a lost one. These are all wonderful gestures to assist the CHES program with needed funds to help the girls.



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