



# Canadian Harambee Education Society

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

## FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER #48

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last August, a private business college in the Lower Mainland held a world-wide scholarship competition. Students were invited to post a 90 second video on their website and people around the world voted via the internet. After the first round of voting, one hundred top vote-getters were posted on the site. Lorrie Mukirazi was among the top 100. In the second round of voting, only the top twenty were going through to the third round. I realized that this was the critical round and therefore contacted everyone I could to vote for her.

I want to thank all those who voted in the online competition for a scholarship for Lorrie Mukirazi. Despite our best efforts, she ended up in 27th position and they were taking only the top twenty. As a matter of fact, there were no Africans in the top twenty. I guess it was to be expected as there are more computers in Asia than Africa.

On reflection, it seems a pity that it was not more merit-based for the second round. In listening to all the candidates presentations, I was proud of what Lorrie had to say about what she would do with a business degree from the college. She planned to work for CHES in Kenya and add a small-loan banking component. With a degree in business, she intended to help our graduates write up business plans. It was certainly a prize worth struggling for, but it was not to be. Lorrie will continue her education in Kenya and dream about coming to Canada one day.

East Africa is facing some tough times with the global economic situation and the drought. It is more important than ever to support our girls and hope for a better tomorrow for the people of Africa. Never doubt that what you are doing is making a difference. The good you are doing now will ripple in Africa for generations.

Lorrie Williams

### Great Gift Ideas for the Holidays!

Support CHES and delight your friends with one of the following gifts. Contact the CHES office to place your order.

**Gift Cards:** \$10. Our resident artist, Louise Paulsen has painted numerous attractive African scenes. Your package will contain 6 different cards with a picture on the outer cover and a blank page within.

**White Necklace:** \$20. Chris Harker has written a book on the many experiences he and his wife have encountered in Katesh, TZ. In its pages the reader meets many CHES girls and acquires insight into the life of a Canadian agent.

**DVD:** The CBC documentary, "Educating Margaret" is about the first girl ever sponsored by CHES. She is now a registered nurse. This DVD aired twice last year on CBC. A copy is available on request and a donation would be appreciated.

**A Donation:** TO CHES in lieu of a gift to someone who already has everything is a great way to reflect the spirit of the season. The person in whose name you donate will receive a card informing him/her of the name of the donor but not the amount of the gift.

### Call for AGENTS in KENYA !

Would you like to live the Kenyan experience of volunteering as a CHES agent? Appointments of 6 months are available for 2010. Check our website [canadianharambee.ca](http://canadianharambee.ca) or email us for information!

## On Teaching Idioms

I travelled to Katesh to tackle my first stint as an agent in 2001 and was there for a month before being joined by my wife, Catriona.

There was much to do there during the day but the evenings, to begin with, were uneventful. Soon however, several of the recently graduated CHES girls approached me to ask if I could host some English lessons. Catriona is a trained ESL teacher; I am not. Nevertheless, I readily accepted this task.

Three young ladies turned up for the first lesson. Within a week there were between 15 and 20 young men and women crammed into the CHES House living room.

Having no texts and no blackboard, I decided to focus on comprehension and idioms. I told such stories as Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the three "hyenas". This approach seemed to be popular as folklore is enjoyed throughout the world.

Idioms too were fun. I introduced five each day; some more appropriate than others. I then got them to practice creating situations and using each idiom appropriately. They obviously had some impact. One Sunday I was out for a walk in the bush with a young couple. Being new to the area I asked the girl if she was not worried about poisonous snakes. "No news is good news" she replied! Some weeks later, after Catriona arrived, she expressed sympathy to one of the male students whose bike had a puncture. His response was, "No big deal!".

Several of these students from 2001 were asked last June to help the current students compose letters to their sponsors in Canada as many CHES students struggle with English, their third language.

It seems the lessons of 2001 are not all forgotten. Many CHES girls have lost one or more parents. This resulted in more than one sponsor receiving a letter from their student stating, "My father (or mother) has kicked the bucket!"

Chris Harker

## Hostel Fundraiser a Huge Success in Saskatoon

On June 12, Sara Williams, CHES sponsor and the brains and prime mover behind the Katesh Girls' Hostel, together with Co-Chair Elaine Carter saw the fund raiser finally take place in Saskatoon.

Tables laden with books attracted hundreds of bargain hunters and raised funds for the Hostel.



## AGENTS in Kakamega, Kenya

CHES has been privileged once again to have had another excellent volunteer in our Kakamega, Kenya office. Ron Shepherd, newly retired accountant, ventured for a first time opportunity to work as the 'lone agent' from April until September. Well done and thank you, Ron!

Lynn Thomson, retired teacher from Sydney, B.C. arrived in Kakamega in September to be our new CHES agent. Returning for a second time, Jan Irvine, will arrive in late October. They will prepare for the rush of over 400 students when they arrive with marks and letters in November and December.

Penny and John Lyle from South Surrey, will join Jan and Lynn during December to January to help with the challenging task of interviewing and selecting over 100 new students for Form 1.

We give our heartfelt thanks to all volunteer agents whose commitment, energy and dedication to CHES offer inspiration to others. We wish all of you 'nice time' during your stay in Kenya.

## CHES STUDENTS 2009

Every year we have been able to increase the number of girls who are able to attend secondary schools in Kenya and Tanzania with CHES scholarships. This can only be done because so many loyal sponsors have continued to help the girls and each year new sponsors agree to pay for a girl's education. CHES was able to take 242 new Form 1 students in 2009. CHES and the young women in Africa thank you all.

We have 38 brand new sponsors, some from the CHES Golf Classic (which helped raise funds for CHES), and will be assigned a new student in 2010, as nearly all of the current students have sponsors.

We have a **grand total of 647 girls attending secondary schools** in Form 1,2,3 or 4 and some in Tanzania in Post Secondary courses.

### KENYA

**394 girls** funded by CHES individual sponsors.

Form 1 -161

Form 2 - 93

Form 3 - 68

Form 4 - 72

The students attend 13 different schools including Lwak High School in Rarieda and we have 8 girls attending Asumbi High School in Homa Bay near Kisumu.

### TANZANIA

**253 girls** in secondary schools,

Form 1- 81

Form 2- 66

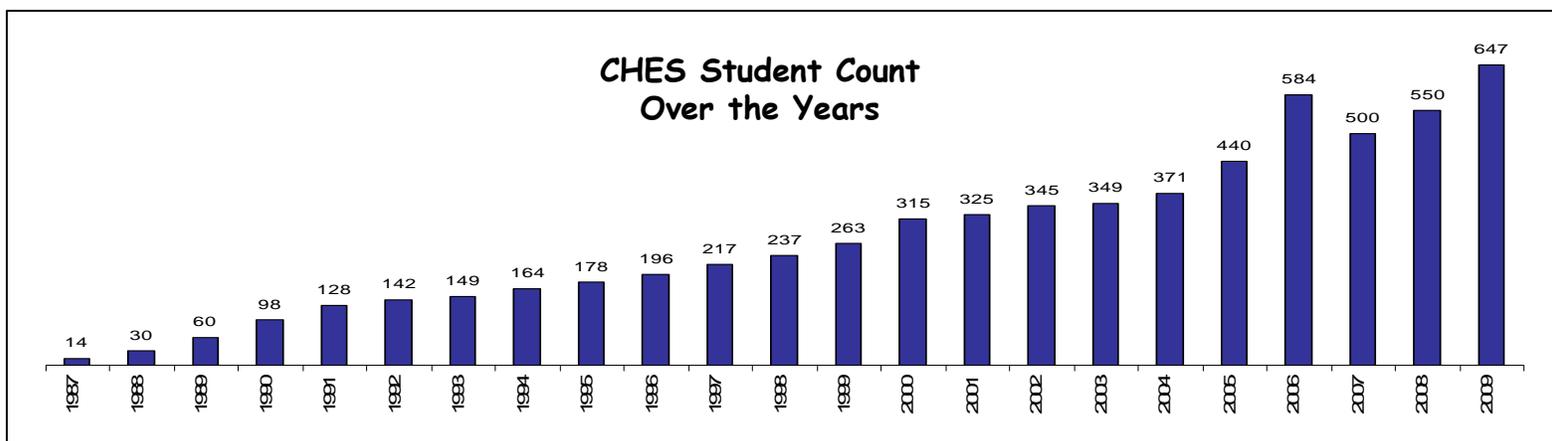
Form 3- 52

Form 4- 38

Form 5, 6 - 11

Post Secondary Courses - **5 young women**

They attend more than 30 different schools, most in the Hanang District. The Tanzanian Government is trying hard to improve access to secondary schools so they have built several new secondary schools. Many are day schools. CYWAHA, the CHES girls association in Tanzania, is paying for 6 of the secondary students. We just found out that there are 4 girls who finished Form 4 in 2008 or before who have been accepted into a 2-year teacher college program. We will assign these girls to waiting sponsors.



## CHES Annual General Meeting

The CHES AGM is always a colourful, joyful gathering of directors, sponsors and those just interested in the workings of CHES. So much interesting information is presented on what is happening with the girls and agents in Africa before and during the meeting with a real bonus display at the meeting's close. This year it was a wonderful power point display by the Harkers from their Tanzania visit.

The directors bring wonderful goodies to eat with tea/coffee/juice for the social following the meeting which again offers opportunities to see the colourful displays around the room and chat with those who have been front and centre in the field and have great stories to tell.

We encourage you to bring friends, family or anyone who has an interest in the 'lifting up and pulling together' which results from educating deserving young women in Africa. We are sure there are many folks who would like to help with a little money (or full sponsorship) or in other ways who appreciate the simple, direct approach of CHES. With no desire to change beliefs, or be involved in politics and especially to use all monies donated directly for the education of the recipients for that purpose and that purpose only; we are quite unique. Please do plan to join us with your guests at our next AGM in September 2010 for an enjoyable and rewarding afternoon.

## 2009/2010 Board of Directors

Lorrie Williams - President  
Louise Paulsen - Treasurer

### Directors:

Nadia Anderson  
Beverly Ford  
Carol Gilchrist

Chris Harker

Catriona Harker  
Beverly Jakeman

Karen Kilbride

Mandy Klepic  
Penny Lyle

Nancy Mann

Sandra Marsden  
Joy Ruffeski

CHES would like to thank the following members who have resigned from the Board; Marguerite Chiarenza, Louis Giguere and Marvin Lamoureux. CHES is sincerely grateful for their dedication and commitment.



Chris Harker, one of our directors, recently wrote an interesting article describing the importance of water to those who live in and around Katesh, Tanzania. It is an eye-opener for those of us who live on the soggy "Wet" coast, and can be found at:

<http://www.speakwell.com/well/2009summer/total.php#total2>

## DUMPSTER DIVING WITH DIGNITY

Robb and Jeanette Taylor, CHES agents who have volunteered for stints in both Kakamega and Katesh, live in Lumsden, Saskatchewan. Through CHES, they support two Tanzanian school girls and manage to do this without having to dip into their bank account for a single cent. Their secret is a form of dumpster diving.

Although she is soon to qualify for the OAP, Jeanette rises at 6 a.m. and goes for a run. Her route is the same one taken the night before by local good ol' boys who tend to chuck their beer cans out the window of their pickup. Jeanette carries a plastic bag and often fills it before she arrives home. "Saturday and Sunday mornings are best", she claims.

Robb, who has recently undergone knee surgery, can no longer run. He sets out for his morning walk at the vastly more civilized hour of 7 a.m. His route winds past both the elementary and secondary schools, through the town park and home along Main Street. He loots nearly 20 trash cans every day and often fills three or four shopping bags.

"The only thing you have to look out for", mutters Robb, "are the bags of dog poop that someone has neglected to tie up". He smiles, claiming it has only happened to him once!

Robb and Jeanette, staunch environmentalists, collect rain water in barrels. This free water is then used to wash the daily collection of bottles and cans. Friends and neighbours who know this penchant of the Taylors and are aware of how the refund money is used, support them by leaving bags of bottles and cans on their doorstep.

On an average day, \$5.00 is collected; after a group barbeque in the park or an illicit teen gathering behind the school, a take of \$10.00 is sometimes possible. The day after the 2009 Summer Festival they made almost \$200.00! Robb took his 6 year old grandson on a morning walk recently. At the first stop Ivan said, "Grandpa, you're embarrassing me". Robb then explained how the money would be used. By the time they got home, Ivan was carrying the bags and proud to be helping his grandpa.

*People raise money for CHES in many different ways. If you have a story to tell, please let us know.*



## First Annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic

The first annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic was held on July 16, 2009 at Musqueam Golf and Learning Academy, and was a stunning success! We were very fortunate to have the endorsement and participation of two CPGA members, Ginny Golding and April Stubbs, who volunteered their time and efforts to create such a great event for such an important cause.

Ninety-six golfers participated in this event, and as well as having a great golf game, the golfers were entertained with a silent auction, yoga, tournament prizes, rhythmic drums, and a delicious dinner.

Over \$ 21,000 was raised for CHES at this event and the money will be used towards textbooks, mosquito netting for sleeping quarters, and to ensure every girl has sufficient funding to pay the balance of her school year. Thank you to all this year's participants and volunteers!

Plans are well underway for the second annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic which will be held in the summer of 2010. For more information on next year's tournament, please contact the CHES office.



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## NOTICE TO CHES SPONSORS

By now you should have received the last letter from your student, along with a notice requesting the sponsor fee of \$450 for your student for 2010. Those who have a student in Form 4 this year may choose to send funds to supporting another student for next year. CHES hopes to receive the funds by December 2009 to pay the girls fees early in 2010. Those who pay in US dollars, please use the current rate of exchange. For all our American sponsors, please send your sponsorship money to The Humanist Association and they will send you U.S. tax receipt. They send the money on to CHES in Canada.

If you wish to receive a tax receipt dated for 2009, your cheque should be issued on or before December 31, 2009. You can also pay anytime early in the New Year, just let us know your plans. Many sponsors send in post-dated cheques, which is also appreciated.

CHES will no longer be able to accept gifts or money for individual girls. You may send your support care of the **Student Welfare Fund**. This fund helps students who have no means of paying for items related to their education, to assist parents or guardians to pay for their girl's serious medical problems, and the purchase of treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria. We hope to give all girls a small gift of supplies once a year.

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

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