



Canadian Harambee Education Society

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

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER #49

446 Kelly Street, New Westminister, BC V3L 3T9
Office address: #102B -9030 King George Hwy, Surrey, B.C. V3V 7Y3 PH: (778) 565-5261

canadianharambee@shaw.ca
www.canadianharambee.ca
BN 13148 8017 RR0001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With CHES, as with any organization, we have our ups and downs. At the moment, we are in need of a short-term Agent for Kenya. This means that if you are free for a month or two, and have a sense of adventure, you can deploy immediately to Kenya. I have a personal adage that says, "I'd rather regret things I do than things I don't do." It has served me well and I have had many adventures in my life. So here's your chance for an adventure.

Our second annual golf tournament is soon upon us and we are thrilled with the efficiency and thoroughness of the preparations. An amazing group of women! There is more information in the newsletter.

If you have never attended a CHES Annual General Meeting, come this year and take part in an interesting, enthusiastic and appetizing afternoon.

Congratulations to Beth Scott for being nominated for the YWCA's Woman of Distinction Award. Best of luck to a very deserving person!

CHES Annual General Meeting, Saturday Sept 25th, 2010

Place: New Westminister Public Library, 716 - 6th Ave, New Westminister

Time: Social 1:30 PM and Meeting at 2:00 PM

The CHES AGM is always a colourful gathering of directors, sponsors and those interested in the workings of CHES. Interesting information is presented on what is happening with students and agents in Africa. The directors bring yummy goodies for the social before & after the meeting - a time to view colourful displays and chat with those who have been front and center in the field and have great stories to tell.

We encourage you to bring friends, family or anyone who would enjoy a *Harambee* - a social time for 'lifting up and pulling together'. CHES helps to educate deserving young women in Africa. We know there are many folks who appreciate the simple, direct approach of CHES, and who might like to help by volunteering or with a donation.

Please do plan to join us & bring your guests to the AGM for an enjoyable afternoon.

Below is an excerpt from the Delta Kappa Gamma newsletter called Totem Talk, regarding the passing of a long time member, and how her efforts went on to support a CHES girl.

"Thanks from Beta chapter.....In our fall Totem Talk we included the information that our long time member, Eva McLeod, had passed away at the age of ninety-four. Eva was a master quilter and did beautiful needlework.

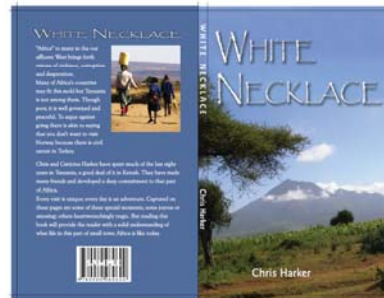
In the last year of life, Eva found that quilting and needlework was becoming difficult for her and she asked her friend and chapter sister, Ann Kergan, to sell her remaining quilting materials, books, patterns and equipment and to use the funds to support a Harambee student. Ann organized a sale at her home and invited DKG members and friends. The buyers had a great time selecting beautiful materials and sewing accessories.

The sale raised enough funds to support one student for four years of high school. Eva would have been pleased."

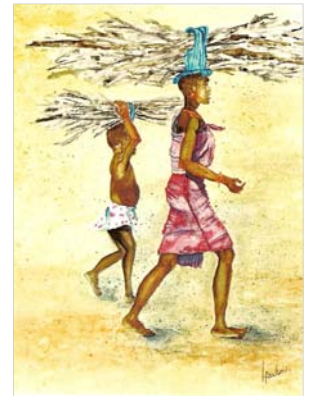
Fundraising for CHES

1. Get your CHES T-Shirt, designed by Louise Paulsen's "Whither Thou Goest" painting. T-Shirts are \$25 and available in cream, yellow and rust in M,L & XL
2. Beautiful blank note cards: 6 cards for \$10. These cards have African scenes painted by Louise Paulsen
3. Chris Harker's book, "White Necklace" for \$20
4. DVD: Educating Margaret, by donation

Please contact Julia Kambeitz at the CHES Office for any of these items



Above: White Necklace



Right: Whither Thou Goest



The first annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic , held in 2009 was a huge success and exceeded expectations!



Over \$ 20,000 was raised for CHES.



The second annual golf tournament is planned for Thursday July 15, 2010 and will be held at the Musqueam Golf and Learning Academy . We expect to have a very successful tournament again this year .



Harambee Charity Golf Classic now has its own website www.harambeegolf.ca with links to the CHES website.

Register today and experience the spirit of the Canadian Harambee Education Society!

Memorable Experience as CHES Volunteers

Penny and John Lyle returned from their first 2 month visit to Kakamega, Kenya in early February after first visiting South Africa. Lynn Thomson arrived home a month later and second time agent, Jan Irvine, arrived home March 31. Their busy schedule involved interviewing and selecting 90 students from a field of 300 applicants.

Our CHES program depends on the perseverance, keen observation and detailed record keeping that these valued agents provide during this busiest time of the school year.

We are very grateful for their generosity and selfless dedication to CHES. Asante sana! (Thank you so very much), from CHES.

ATTENTION SPONSORS...

Sponsors Needed

There are still a few CHES students in school who need sponsors to provide them with a secondary education. The sponsorship currently costs \$450 per year. Please contact the office if you can give a student an opportunity for not only a better life for herself but for her family and community.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all sponsors who have submitted their \$450 for scholarships for the 2010 year. You should have received your receipt by now. There are some sponsors who have not paid the \$450 for the 2010 school year. Please send in your funds as soon as you can.

We also wish to thank those who have topped up their donation with extra money for the Student Medical-Support Fund and funds for other expenses incurred by CHES for the education of around 700 girls.

As student numbers increase, so do additional costs for such things as textbooks, (many schools have no textbooks whatsoever), computer upgrades and office expenses in Canada and Africa.

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

CHES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you have always wondered what it would be like to live in an African community monitoring the CHES program, we may have an opportunity for you! Agents usually spend 6 months at CHES house, however, shorter visits may be arranged.

If you would like more information, please contact our office at canadianharambee.ca or phone the office at 778-565-5261



Dorothy Middleton and friends made these beautiful quilts in Saskatchewan. They were taken to Katesh to be used in the Sara Williams Katesh Hostel. (see article on **Opening of the Katesh Hostel** in this newsletter)

The chart on below shows the distribution of students in Kenya and Tanzania, by Forms.

Country	Form 1	Form 2	Form 3	Form 4	Form 5,6	Post Secondary	Total
Kenya	90	163	96	66	0	0	415
Tanzania	62	81	64	51	11	12	281
Total	152	244	160	117	11	12	696

Opening of the Katesh Hostel

Although funded from abroad (funding championed by Sara Williams, Canadian), the project of building this hostel in Katesh was initiated by the Tanzanian CHES Board, under the leadership of Pius Masha and Naomi Saulo, and carried out from conception to completion in less than two years. The first 16 girls are now "in residence", and the remainder should be in shortly.

Located over 2 acres on the edge of Katesh, it's connected to power and water, allowing the girls to study after 6 p.m. and ensuring clean and plentiful water. The complex consists of a large L-shaped building with two dormitories, each able to hold 10 bunk beds (giving the dorm a capacity of 40 girls); a kitchen-storage building with efficient wood-burning stoves; a shower-latrines-washing block; and a house for the supervising matron (herself a CHES graduate).

About 60 people attended the opening: education officials, Tanzanian CHES Board members, CHES girls living in the hostel or attending nearby schools, interested neighbours, CHES graduates, and parents of CHES girls. Most moving was the appreciation expressed by the parents and the CHES graduates, now young women in their twenties and thirties. "If it weren't for the CHES scholarship allowing me to go to secondary school, I would have no life" said Margaret, in her early 30s and today a rural development officer.

Additional funding would help complete a few incomplete projects:

- The existing kitchen is designed so that a dining room (doubling as a library-study hall after school and in the evening) can be added onto one side. The girls now eat outside or in the sleeping rooms, and have no designated, well-lit study area.
- The L-shaped dormitory building is designed so that additional sleeping rooms can be added to each end, thereby doubling the hostel's capacity.
- The latrine-shower-washing block will have to be enlarged to accommodate the additional girls.



Mt. Elgon Park

Some CHES agents are able to find time to go on weekend excursions throughout many parts of Kenya and Tanzania. John and Penny Lyle, recent agents of CHES, travelled to Mt. Elgon Park on Jan. 27/10. Below is an account of their experience.

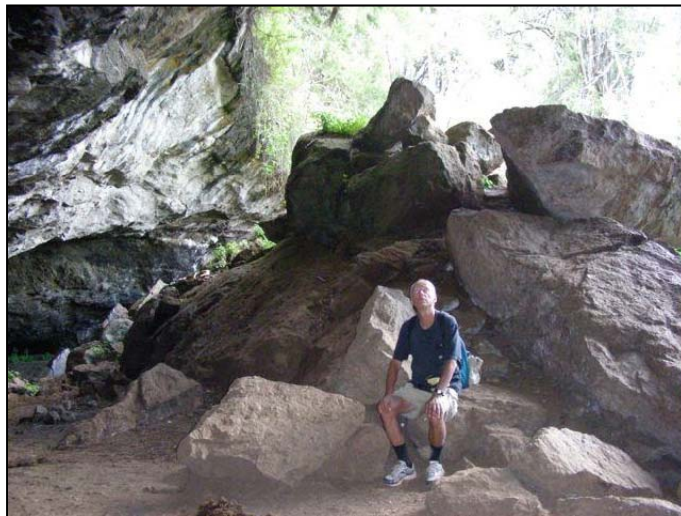
Had we'd known of the great accommodation in the park, we would have stayed two nights instead of one. We hired the required armed ranger/guide (given the wild animals) and enjoyed a wonderful five hour hike. We saw kudus, bushbucks, impalas, monkeys and various birds. The elephants, zebra, buffalo and leopards are deep in the forest at midday, but early mornings see elephants, buffalo and other grazers near guesthouses and campsites, in full view of guests - like being at a game park!

Though beautifully treed, the sun was hot on the red roads so we reveled in the shade of forest paths and cool little rivers as we gradually climbed to the famous, rarely visited, caves. Legend says these caves were the biblical King Solomon's mines.

Kitum, the first large cave, sees 100 plus elephants in its enormous caverns each night. Narrow stairs at the cliff's edge provide humans safe descent to the cave's huge mouth. Eyes adjusted, we were awed by the cave's size and height.

Camera flashes light up bats' eyes from a lofty ceiling: a big, gentle feeling cave.

A 40 minute walk reveals Makingeny Cave; 'owned' by the huge



beastly water buffalo, then we circle back to the main gate, looking down into lush, forested valleys as Colobus monkeys swing through trees, and up three hundred feet to Endeboss, the high, flat point of the mountain where Uganda begins.

A website with maps of the caves may interest potential CHES Agents. We've left all info required in CHES house in Kakamega in the Agent's Travel Binder.

<http://faculty.jsd.claremont.edu/dmcfarlane/MtElgon/index.htm>



A New Face on the Board

As a CHES sponsor and after visiting my Tanzanian *daughter* numerous times, teaching English language to students in both Katesh Secondary School as well as at Nangwa Technical School, and visiting many primary schools in the Hanang district, I have a deep love of the Tanzanian people and the country.

I joined the board this year in order to assist with CIDA grant applications to further projects in the area as I have seen the work that is needed if more CHES girls are to successfully complete Form Four and go on to further their studies or look for work opportunities.

Joy Ruffeski

Check out our website at canadianharambee.ca for back issues of the CHES newsletter. If you would like to receive future issues, please email us at canadianharambee@shaw.ca