Kenyan inflation levels reached close to 20% in all areas in 2011 causing school fees in 2012 to increase substantially. In addition, three schools that CHES had used in the Kakamega area were named national schools commencing in the 2012 school year. Due to the doubling of fees in these schools (fees per student became $850+) financial reality necessitated the decision to move Form 1, 2, and 3 CHES girls currently enrolled in said schools to other schools with equal rankings. Form 4 students were left in these schools so that there would be no disruption for their final year. Even with this change, the average cost of educating a girl in Kenya was $536 for the 2012 school year. This amount did not include any operational and administration costs (uniforms, textbooks, medical, CHES house) in Kenya; these were over and above school fees and again increased significantly in 2012.

Although inflation occurred in Tanzania, it was not as high as in Kenya. However, food costs escalated markedly and where CHES girls were housed in the few dorms/hostels near schools or in the CHES Sara Williams Hostel, this financial change was felt as well. As secondary schools in Tanzania are not boarding schools and most CHES girls live at home, fees are not as high as in Kenya so Tanzanian sponsor fees did cover these additional costs for students in Tanzania. With the small shamba (farm) at the hostel in Katesh, food cost increases were fortunately kept to a minimum there.

The funding shortfall in 2012 has necessitated CHES to return to the former policy that CHES will pay 85% of Kenyan student fees and the family of the student will pay the remaining 15%.

Families of students were informed of this change in September 2012 in preparation for the coming school year and will have until September 2013 to pay the funds to the school their daughter attends.

This change in fee structure is not a choice that the board of directors made without a lot of heart-wrenching thought, but as we had raised sponsor fees just two years ago, we chose not increase them for the 2013 year.

With this change, along with any extra donations from sponsors and the fundraising initiatives that the board will be undertaking in this coming year, we should be able to, once again, have a balanced budget this fiscal year. Please be assured that at least 95% of all money donated goes to cover the costs of educating CHES girls in Kenya and Tanzania; administration costs in Canada are minimal as all board members are volunteers, our office space is donated by the Surrey Teachers’ Association, and our secretary in Canada works only part-time.

by Joy Ruffeski, Executive Director
A very hot September afternoon saw the CHES directors as well as former agents and supporters meet once again at the New Westminster Public Library for our brief meeting, social gathering, display of things African, as well as two entertaining powerpoints.

Following reports from the Founding President, Lorrie Williams, and the Executive Director, Joy Ruffeski, (copies of the minutes and reports available from the CHES office) the remaining directors with portfolios presented their reports and all were thanked, along with part-time secretary, Julia Kambeitz, for their continuing and oft times amazing hard work and contributions to CHES.

The election of directors saw the resignation of long-time director Mandy Klepic and also Lorrie Mukirazi, who will be returning to Kenya when her studies are complete. They were thanked and a gift of a CHES article will be presented to them. We are pleased to welcome two new directors: Anne Norman and Don Phillips. Anne works as an editor for WorkSafeBC. Don is a secondary teacher at Magee Secondary School who lived in Kenya for many years and who mentors the Global Connections club at Magee whose students are active CHES supporters.

As usual, the goodies provided were as delicious as they were varied. During this social time there were opportunities to connect or reconnect with other CHES sponsors, former agents, directors, and folks who joined us to learn of CHES. Also on view were jewelry, books, photos, greeting cards and other African items, some of which were for sale to the benefit of CHES.

The Board of Directors for the 2012–2013 year are:

Nadia Anderson  Bev Ford
Carol Gilchrist  Chris Harker
Catriona Harker  Bev Jakeman
Karen Kilbride  Penny Lyle
Nancy Mann  Anne Norman
Don Phillips  Louise Paulsen
Joy Ruffeski  Lorrie Williams

by Penny Lyle

Many companies match charitable donations given by their employees or retirees. If you are employed, or receive a company pension, please check whether the company will match your donation to CHES. If so, the company may deduct your donation from your wages or pension in a lump sum or monthly and also send a matching donation to CHES. We recently received a large donation ($2,370) from “Team Telus Charitable Giving Program” as they match donations made by their employees.

It’s working! In January, Forms 2, 3, and 4 CHES students in Tanzania received two weeks of English immersion. Form 1 students received 6 days in June. Grades for many Form 2 and 3 students at the end of Term 1 indicated a marked improvement in most subject areas as the students were able to understand the language of instruction (English) more readily. The next set of lessons will be given to all CHES students in Tanzania in January 2013. Students in Kenya will receive life skills workshops in December.

Donors often wonder why marks seem so low in Tanzanian Schools. A full explanation of how marks are calculated and their meaning was given in our Fall 2010 newsletter available on our website.
The Barbaig Community

Back in 1991, as CUSO co-operants, we were assigned to work in Hanang District, Tanzania, as an attempt on the Canadian government’s part to help rectify some of the economic and human rights abuses perpetrated by workers of the Tanzanian Canadian Wheat Farm Project (TCWP) upon the nomadic cattle herders of the area, the Barbaig. Barbaig households in many areas lost thousands of cattle to raids, houses were burned, crops were destroyed, women raped and people killed. Barabaig children were forced to attend schools with limited resources far from their homes. Land was seized and taken over by agricultural tribes.

Our assignment with the Community Development Department of Hanang District was to work in three villages that requested development help. For CUSO, we were to assess the breadth of the problems caused by the TCWP and make recommendations. Bringing in CHES, a Canadian NGO operating in Kenya, was an initiative we took on privately as CUSO would not support educational projects. This year marks the 20th anniversary of CHES in Hanang. CHES has had over 1040 girls who have been sponsored to attend secondary school, many of whom are Barbaig.

Much of our two-year assignment was spent with the Barbaig, who came to trust us to some extent, particularly in the area of Mureru. The Barbaig migrated to this area of the Rift Valley over 90 years ago. As nomadic cattle herders, they do not have permanent settlements. Cattle are the economic backbone of Barbaig communities. This area experiences a harsh climate on the dry savannah with shortage of water for cattle, limited arable land, lack of safe drinking water and very limited services.

The Barbaig have been marginalized by mainstream society and the Tanzanian government. The challenge of providing health, educational, and veterinary services to these nomadic peoples has yet to be fully met.

Now, 20 years later, we notice some changes. In 1992 the first primary school for Barbaig children was built. The Barbaig of the area had asked for a school, not that they valued formal education so much, but that they realized that they needed to educate themselves to fight against the confiscation of their land and the erosion of their rights. Now, a secondary school has been built and provides education for those graduating from that primary school.

At the culmination of a Bungneda, a nine-month funeral ceremony of an esteemed elder, we noticed children not attending school. Just as we had found in 1992 when we invited CHES to Tanzania, many Barbaig fathers in this polygamous society prefer their children keeping cattle than going to school. They fear that their traditions and customs will be swallowed up by formal education. Many problems continue to exist that limit access to education: corruption, witchcraft, corporal punishment, and demands for unnecessary contributions by the schools.

There is still much to be done where CHES works in Tanzania. It’s obvious that until the Barbaig community understands the importance of education for their children, until government and NGOs initiate special programs to sensitize the Tanzanian community on the rights, needs, and potential of these nomadic Barbaig children, little change will take place. It was done previously through CIDA grants but funding is no longer available through CIDA. However, CHES and CYWAHA (alumni group in Tanzania) still play a vital role by providing awareness raising programs in remote areas in pastoralist communities.

I’m not sure I will be back on the 40th anniversary of CHES, but I do know that these interventions of educating girls will have a major impact on the next generation. I think it’s very true, here in the Hanang district, that if you educate a girl child, you educate her entire family and her community.

by Linda Breault

Linda Breault and Don Fraser, CUSO co-operants with the Community Development Department of Hanang District, invited CHES Canada to Hanang in 1991. Within a few months Lorrie Williams and Karen Kilbride arrived, keen to consider the development of CHES Tanzania. By January 1992, CHES was established in Hanang and the first 11 girls began sponsorship. 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of CHES Tanzania. “Mama Linda” and her daughter Kelci were proud to have been in Katesh for the 20th anniversary.
Why We Keep Asking for More

The information below illustrates clearly the costs that are covered by your sponsorship and our expenses for which we have to find funding elsewhere. This past year the golf tournament, the benefit performance of *The Wizard of Oz*, and the extra $50 that many of you added to your sponsorship cheque helped reduce the total required but the steep rise in Kenyan school fees and the 20%+ inflation rate there means that we had a serious shortfall this past year.

Not everyone is in a position to provide extra support. However, if you feel you can offer any additional help to CHES, here are some thoughts.

- **CARDS**: Louise Paulsen’s beautiful African scenes can be used as a thank you note or a Christmas card. Only $10 for 6 cards (at the CHES office or from any of our directors).
- **WHITE NECKLACE**: Chris Harker’s stories of some of the CHES girls of Katesh is now ON SALE for only $10 plus $2 for mailing (or pick up your copy in person at the office).
- Some of our particularly talented Kenyan students may be offered places in elite schools. This can help pave their way to success. We can’t send them to these schools because the $500 sponsorship doesn’t cover the fees. Volunteer to become a SUPER SPONSOR by donating $800.
- Consider leaving something to CHES when you are writing or revising your will.
- Add a bit extra when you mail in your sponsorship.

CHES sponsorships pay for school fees, uniforms, room and board, student transportation, tutorials (Tanzania), “survival” money.

We have to raise extra funds for costs for the girls such as text books, mosquito nets, student welfare (medications, glasses, etc.), short-term training and English immersion workshops (Tanzania), and life and learning skills workshops (Kenya). Administrative costs include 3 office salaries (Kenya, Tanzania, Canada), students and sponsor data management, askari services, sponsor communication, insurance and audits, office rental (Kenya), accommodation rental for agents (Kenya), maintenance, and equipment. Now we also need extra funds for school fees that are in excess of $500 (Kenya).

by Catriona Harker

Sponsorship Donations

CHES recently sent out renewal letters to all sponsors informing them that the fee of $500 for their student is due by December 1, 2012. We would like to thank the sponsors who have already sent in this fee for their student’s 2013 school year.

The renewal letters mentioned that the scholarship costs in 2012 averaged over $500 per student. In spite of the rising fee costs, CHES did not raise the sponsor’s fee for 2013 but we would very much appreciate an extra donation for scholarship support, student welfare, or administration.

You may donate by mailing a cheque or a postdated cheque to the CHES office and will receive a tax receipt.

You can also donate by credit card through CanadaHelps.org. However, Canada Helps takes a 3.9% fee from the CHES portion of donations so we ask that you add a minimum extra $20 to your $500 fee donation so that CHES actually receives $500 for your donation.

American sponsors may send their donation to The Humanist Society at 1777 T Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-7125 and they will issue a US tax receipt. The money is then forwarded to CHES and we will notify sponsors when it is received.

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

by Louise Paulsen

Securities Donations

CHES now accepts donations of securities and other investments. There are tax incentives for Canadians who donate to charitable organizations, and since 2006, an additional incentive has allowed Canadians to donate publicly traded securities with unrealized gains. Any capital gains triggered on donations of publicly traded securities to a registered charity are not taxable. However, selling the securities first and then donating the monies received does not garner the same tax break as donating the securities themselves.

Please call our office at 778-565-5261 or email canadianharambee@shaw.ca We will be able to provide the information for your brokerage firm.

by Penny Lyle and Louise Paulsen
I was the CHES agent in Kakamega, Kenya, from July 22 to October 3, 2012. I found it to be a rich, rewarding time volunteering for an organization that truly makes a difference.

I spent the first couple of weeks touring all of the schools in which we sponsor girls to talk about the new fee structure and to familiarize myself with their lives.

I soon realized why they went to boarding schools and did not remain in their own homes and travel each day. There is no viable bus system to get them to school daily that they could afford. For me to take a round trip to these schools often costs the daily wage for a Kakamega worker. Many of the roads are poorly maintained and doubly treacherous after the daily rains, which often came at 2 pm, so travel is frustratingly slow. Their homes generally lack electricity, which means the girls could not study or do homework after 6 pm. Rural homes are small and cramped with whole families often in a 20 ft by 20 ft structure. Could your teenager do well in that situation?

So, the girls go to boarding school, and they bring along their own mattress, blankets, eating utensils, toilet paper, soap, personal hygiene items, and any extras they can afford, such as sugar or cookies. They are assigned a bunk in a dorm room that often houses 100 to 150 girls in bunk beds stacked three deep. Some have mosquito nets (all CHES girls are given nets) and some don’t. There are bare light bulbs hanging from the ceilings at intervals, and not much else. All toilets are brick outhouses built some distance from the dorms; water for flushing and hand washing is often hauled in and sits in a bucket outside the latrine. Showers are communal affairs and never extend to warm water let alone hot. The girls hand wash all their own laundry and sheets and hang it on lines provided, if they are sufficient, or drape items over bushes. Foam mattresses are regularly brought out to air on the ground.

Food is adequate but basic and often the same every day. I spoke to one young girl from Bunyore, which has become a national school and therefore beyond our price range. I asked what changes had taken place since its status changed, and all she spoke of was the improved food. “We now have rice, and potatoes, and eggs, and meat,” she said, “every day.” The rest of the schools serve ugali and beans and cabbage or kale. Tea only has sugar if the girls bring it from home, and there was no fruit that I saw.

All food is cooked in huge cauldrons over wood fires. The food is often grown or produced on the school farms.

But, the girls are extremely happy and frequently said things like, “Mukuku was a good home for me.” The schools are clean, well supervised, and the staff that I met cared deeply, particularly the CHES patrons at each school.

The girls put in an incredibly long day, often beginning by 5 am and ending at 8 or 9 pm. There is little free time - they spend their day in classes, assigned study blocks, tutorials, etc. Classes are mostly academic subjects, with only some schools offering home science, music, computers, or art. Teaching is often lecturing with little discussion or interaction. Textbooks are plain and basic and there are no films or projects done on computers, although there are occasional fieldtrips. Think 1950s or 1960s Canadian classrooms, double the number of students in each class, and add in fearsome exams at regular intervals and you have the picture.

But the end result is that the girls are educated and housed in a friendly environment that gives them opportunities they would never have had without our scholarships. I was proud to have been a part of that.

by Colleen Gatenby
**Quilts for the Hostel**

When the hostel first opened, a group of Saskatchewan women, made quilts for each of the beds in the hostel. The girls treasure the quilts and ensure that they are clean and well cared for during their stay at the hostel. They are only for use in the hostel and the girls may not take them home when they finish school.

These same quilters have continued to supply new quilts as needed as the number of students housed at the hostel grows. With 80 girls now housed at the Sara Williams Hostel while they attend three different secondary schools in the Katesh area, these quilters have been busy!

by Sara Williams

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**The Happy Fundraiser**

Jillian Schaffner, from Alberta, is the granddaughter of Don Berry, a long time hostel supporter from Saskatoon. For her 16th birthday, Jillian requested that all “birthday cheques” be donated to “Granddad's project in Africa.” And so they were.

When Dale told this story to Sara Williams, she invited Dale to come over and select some Tanzanian fabric as a gift for Jillian. And so he did.

Beside is a photo of Jillian and the fabric. Sara reports that the expression on Jillian’s face is startlingly similar to the expression on the faces of the teenage hostel girls when they recently received quilts from Sara and her friends when they visited Katesh. Happiness is something CHES engenders in both those who give and those who receive.

by Sara Williams

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**Many Ways to Donate to CHES**

Some of our sponsors are very creative in the ways that they have found to have donations go to CHES. Thanks to the following individuals who did so:

- Sarah and John asked their guests to donate to CHES in lieu of wedding gifts.
- Gabriela is sponsoring a student with donations made for her 9th birthday.
- Since 1999 the Seed Group has sponsored 3 girls through their secondary education.
- Families have sponsored students instead of exchanging holiday gifts.
- Maisha sponsored a student for her Bat Mitzvah celebration.
- Gifts to CHES in memory of loved ones have generated funds to sponsor girls.
- Diane is organizing a Pennies for CHES fundraiser.

What creative ideas do you have? We’d love to hear from you about your ideas and what you did. You truly make a difference with your additional donations.

by Louise Paulsen

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**Success for the Wizard**

In April 2011, Chris and Catriona Harker gathered a team of five couples, all CHES supporters who have visited Katesh. A brain-storming session elicited the idea of “buying” a performance of *The Wizard of Oz* from Victoria’s Claremont Secondary School's theatre program. The school’s drama department was enthusiastic and supportive.

We agreed to pay $10 for each seat taken and then set out to re-sell the seats for $35 and offer a $25 tax receipt. Our team was persistent; our friends were cooperative; the result was a virtually full house on the night of May 8, 2012. During the interval we sold Lucky Draw tickets for a series of prizes that had been donated. “Dorothy” drew for these after the curtain call.

The evening was a resounding success. The audience departed claiming to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment. Meanwhile our committee tallied the totals and were able to send slightly over $9,100 to CHES.

by Chris Harker
Harambee Golf Classic - 2012

The sun shone brightly for the 4th Annual Harambee Golf Classic held on July 16, 2012, at Musqueam Golf and Learning Academy.

With beautiful African music playing in the background, 108 golfers, many of whom golfed in previous Harambee Golf Classics, registered to play golf in support of CHES.

For the 3rd consecutive year, JJ Bean Coffee Roasters generously agreed to be a presenting sponsor. As well, Woody and Sherrill MacLaren (Sylvan) joined as presenting sponsors this year. This meant that JJ Bean Coffee Roasters and Sylvan each donated $5,000.

As in previous years, the event was a financial success. The silent auction alone brought in almost $8,000.

For the 3rd year in a row, Joe Kambeitz (Sweewa) donated a stunning and unique handcrafted sterling silver bracelet for the door prize. This coveted prize raised almost $1,500 for CHES.

The golfers were sent to their respective holes after a yoga warm-up, thanks again to Sharon Abbondanza.

While a few golfers came close, no one was successful in winning the $10,000 hole-in one prize.

Before dinner, while perusing the silent auction items, the golfers enjoyed wine-tasting thanks to SpierHead Winery.

Over a delicious BBQ dinner, golfers were inspired by John Neate of JJ Bean, and Lorrie Rowena Mukirazi, a successful CHES student who is completing her undergraduate degree in Business Administration at Sprott College in Vancouver. John acknowledged the bountiful riches we enjoy in Canada and encouraged each of us to “be our brother’s keeper” and generously support the girls in Kenya and Tanzania who are much less fortunate than children in Canada. Lorrie highlighted the success of three former CHES students whose lives were changed by the help they received from CHES.

Thanks to so many people involved, the golf tournament was able to present CHES with $34,053.85. Partial proceeds of the tournament were targeted for girl sponsorships, while the remainder were directed towards providing English immersion and life skills workshops for the over 700 CHES students in Kenya and Tanzania.

The four Harambee Golf Classics have netted over $125,700 for CHES. Many thanks to the organizing committee of Ginny Golding, April Stubbs, Judi Angel, Pat Dairon, Carol Gilchrist, Sherry Klopfer, Anna Middlemiss, Ginger Rovers, Carol Storoz, Joanne Thorpe, and Joan Tylidesley for again hosting this wonderful event.

by Carol Gilchrist

A Goat or . . .

You could give a GOAT . . . and perhaps feed a family for a few days or you could give a girl an EDUCATION . . . and help feed her family for a lifetime.

Goats can make a difference, but think of the difference an educated girl can make to the life of her family. It’s a gift that will literally give for generations!

For the holiday season are you looking for a gift that won’t end up in the recipient’s cupboard, the closet, or your garage?

Please consider giving your friends or family a priceless gift. A donation to CHES in the name of your friends or family member will help educate another girl in Kenya or Tanzania.

She will never forget your generosity and the chance you gave her.

For each contribution, CHES will gladly inform your friend or family member of your generous contribution. Please include the name and email address and/or postal address of each recipient.

by Don Phillips
We wake somewhat earlier than desired thanks to the crowing of the handsome cock we were presented with last week. He has taken over the property and aims to establish his territory by volume. By Wednesday, he’ll be silenced.

Last night’s rain has left a sheen of moisture on the various vegetables growing in the “shamba” next to our house in Katesh, Tanzania. Everything is growing well, even the bananas at the back of the property.

The nearly teenage 70 girls across from us emerge at differing times; some to breakfast, others to deal with their laundry, a few mope and stare, wondering what the day might bring. In mid-morning, most head off to church, all dressed beautifully in their Sunday best.

We feed ourselves and then head off for a bracing walk. We greet the traffic cop outside the hostel entrance, pedestrians on the newly paved road, and those scurrying to deal with their personal affairs as we wander through the shambas.

Back home about 11 am, we spend a good part of the day reviewing budgets, writing reports, responding to correspondence and entertaining several people who appear at our door, some for social reasons, others to explain a problem or to make a request.

As the afternoon cools and the local wind dies down, the girls assume predetermined tasks. Some cut grass and weeds, others tend the shamba, while still others clean the cement walkways in various locations around the project. Later, some of the active ones settle in for an hour-long session of volleyball. It is amazing how active they can be in skirts that reach within an inch or two of the ground.

As the sun sets just before 7 pm we retire to our sitting room to read before dinner and enjoy the beautiful sound of the girls singing in their study hall as a seemingly necessary post-dinner exercise.

Silence reigns about 9 pm. Even the main highway, a few metres from our door, is void of nighttime traffic. Soon after 10 pm, we send our final emails, read a final chapter, pull down the mosquito net and drift off to sleep.

by Chris and Catriona Harker

The CBC video “Educating Margaret” is available for viewing on YouTube http://youtu.be/tpzMX4b_8kI
Share this link with your friends so they understand why they should support the work of CHES.