



Canadian Harambee Education Society

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

Fall 2013 Newsletter #56

Executive Director's Message

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who was shot in the face by the Taliban for attending school, spoke at the United Nations on July 12, 2013. She said, "Women have the right to be treated with dignity, the right to be treated with equality of opportunity, and the right to be educated." She also said that freedom and equality for women is a must "so that they can flourish."

The dream of a promising bright girl to attend secondary school is rarely fulfilled in rural Kenya and Tanzania -- if there is any money, the boys get educated first. This is where CHES has helped so many girls have a future and raise the standard of living for their families as a result of their education. Most educated girls stay in or return to their communities after post-secondary education and assist their extended families. Educated boys, however, tend to head for the big cities with the hope of getting a better job, and most forget about helping to improve their family's wellbeing. In addition, educated women are not forced into early marriages

or to become second or third wives of much older men. When they do choose to marry, they have generally healthier, smaller, and better educated families.

CHES has been supporting girls so that they can get a secondary school education for almost 30 years now. During that time thousands of girls in Kenya and Tanzania have been educated because individual donors have recognized the difference that a secondary school education makes to these girls. Please take time to read, in this newsletter, about two such recent graduates, Beverlyne in Kenya and Sesilia in Tanzania, and how CHES has had an impact already on their lives and their hopes for the future.

CHES directors and all the students helped by CHES thank you for your continuing support. Your sponsorships of girls and your donations have truly made a real difference for many.

by Joy Ruffeski

Call for Agents

If you are looking for travel and adventure, consider volunteering for CHES in Kenya. Information about agent's duties and responsibilities can be found at www.canadianharambee.ca or contact our office at canadianharambee@shaw.ca

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Here are some thoughts for gifts that will give pleasure as well as support CHES:

- White Necklace, Chris Harker's evocative book describing the joys and struggles of CHES girls in their communities and school lives. Available from the CHES office for \$15, or two copies for \$25.
- Tickets to the CHES benefit choir concert on March 7, 2014, in Vancouver. See details on page 4. Print tickets are not available until the new year, but you can create a gift card and copy of the poster on the back page to let recipients know of your gift.
- Tickets to a production of 42nd Street on May 13, 2014, at Claremont's Ridge Theatre in Victoria. This fundraiser is organized by CHES members in Victoria. Main sales will occur in April but if you wish to purchase \$35 tickets to use as Christmas gifts, please contact Chris or Catriona Harker at chriscat@pacificcoast.net or 250 656 9229. Tax receipts for \$25/ticket will be issued.

AGM Report

CHES directors, former agents, sponsors, donors, and interested individuals met at the Centennial Community Centre in New Westminster for the CHES AGM on September 14, 2014. Reports were given by directors and questions from attendees were addressed.

With the new charities and income tax regulations, directors of charitable organizations are now appointed rather than elected at an AGM. We regret that Bev Jakeman and Don Phillips are unable to continue serving as directors in the coming year and we thank them for their work with CHES. However, we are pleased to welcome Gordon Brown, a former agent in Kenya, to the board. Gordon is a retired school administrator from Nanaimo and has spent many years working in Africa, primarily in Tanzania, Zambia, and Ghana. His knowledge of challenges faced in Kenya will be an asset for the board.

The meeting ended with Catriona Harker's informative PowerPoint presentation on CHES' current work in Africa including photos of the new shamba in Katesh, Tanzania.

Board of Directors for 2013–2014:

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



Congratulations to Sara Williams

Sara Williams was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in August 2013. This honour recognizes Sara's many years promoting horticulture and gardening in urban and rural Saskatchewan. She gave courses and workshops in the province and also wrote a book on gardening in the prairie with a limited water supply.

Sara has been a CHES supporter for many years. Through her fund-raising efforts and generous donations, CHES was able to



build the Sara Williams hostel in 2010. The hostel, expanded from the original two rooms, now houses 99 CHES girls in a safe home while attending school

in the Katesh area of Tanzania. The hostel has a shamba (garden) that keeps down the cost of food and ensures a regular supply of vegetables and fruit for the girls living there. The hostel is on the grounds of the CHES complex that has been built by special donations from individuals and includes a dining/study hall, kitchen, matron house, the CHES office, Mshikimano (business) centre and shop, and agent quarters.

CHES congratulates Sara on her induction in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Harambee Golf Classic

The sun was shining down on the 108 golfers who participated in the very successful 5th Annual Harambee Charity Golf Classic, the major sponsor of which was JJ Bean Coffee Roasters. Many other donors and volunteers willingly gave their time, money, and talents to make the tournament the success it was.

The hosts for the day were the co-chairs and tournament founders, Ginny Golding and April Stubbs, both from the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). They were ably supported by a dedicated committee, all of whom have also been involved in the previous Harambee Charity Golf Classics. After a fun day of golf, the golfers enjoyed the wine tasting, visited the silent auction tables, took chances on winning either a stunning sterling silver bracelet or a beautiful gold and opal ring, and enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner at Musqueam.

Over the past years golfers participating in the golf tournament have made a commitment and are individually or in a group sponsoring more than 50 girls.

The approximate net of this successful golf tournament was \$27,300, bringing the total money raised by the five tournaments to over \$147,000. The money will be used to provide life skill workshops for CHES girls in Kenya and English workshops for CHES girls in Tanzania.

HELP KEEP CHES GREEN

Receive your copy of CHES newsletters via email and access the hyperlinks with just a click. Save CHES the cost of printing and mailing. Email your request to canadianharambee@shaw.ca

Concert Fundraiser



Mark your 2014 calendar for this this exciting evening concert on Friday, March 7, 2014, at 7:30 pm. The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and Magee Secondary School Chamber Choir are raising their voices in song to support CHES.

CHES is delighted that the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir has chosen CHES and girls' education for a benefit concert on the evening before International Women's Day. The choir has been performing since 1980 and does tours within Canada and internationally. The 100 male voices sing a wide range of music, including spirituals and folk songs, anchored in the wonderful Welsh tradition of men's choral singing.

Magee Secondary has been a strong supporter of CHES for many years. The award-winning chamber choir will perform, and Magee has donated the use of the auditorium and printing. A Magee grade 12 student designed the poster included in this newsletter on the back page.

Double Exposure stars Bob Robertson and Linda Cullen have offered to be hosts for the evening.

The evening's entertainment is set, and CHES needs to sell tickets. We are counting on our supporters in the Vancouver area to come with their friends and family. We know you'll enjoy the inspirational music and have a good time. Please plan to attend and bring others.

Friday, March 7, 2014, 7:30 pm
Magee Secondary School, 6360 Maple Street,
Vancouver
\$25 adults, \$10 students

We want to sell as many tickets in advance as possible. Please send your cheque to CHES and indicate the number of adult and student tickets you want. Your tickets will be held for pickup at the door.

For more information contact Anne Norman at 604-525-9173 or watermusic@telus.net

Notice to CHES Sponsors

All sponsors should have received a printed invoice stating that the fee has been increased to \$600 starting in the 2014 school year. CHES would like to thank all of the sponsors who have already sent in the \$600 for their student. Receipts should be in the mail before the end of 2013. If you have not sent in your donation, we would appreciate receiving it by early December 2013 so we can have sufficient funds to send to Africa for the beginning of the school year in January. If you wish to postdate the cheque to January 2014 or send monthly postdated cheques for 2014 that is fine.

Many of you had students who finished Form IV in 2013 and you may wish to send in funds to start supporting another student in 2014. Please send in the funds by December 1, 2013 as we need to know how many new students we can support in 2014.

You can also donate by credit card through CanadaHelps.org. Canada Helps takes a 3.9% fee from the CHES portion of donations made through their organization so an additional \$25 to cover this service charge would be appreciated.

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

Extra donations to help cover school supplies, student support costs, or operating expenses 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

Insights Into How Others Live

How important is an education when your family lives in a one- or two-room mud-and-stick hut with dirt floors? Is it better to get an education or earn money? This is a question that CHES students debated after a 10-day English immersion program.

In June 2013 I spent eight days co-teaching English with Joy Ruffeski to Form III "replacement" CHES students, age 15 to 19, at CHES House in Katesh, Tanzania. These girls attend schools in the Hanang District surrounding Katesh. The girls applied to CHES and were chosen to take a spot vacated by a student who was not continuing in school. The reality of having to pay for secondary education, and that a family could not afford to pay for a year of secondary school, still sits with me.

Our primary goal was to enhance their English skills, both spoken and written, in preparation for their Form IV exams, which are in English in all subjects. A secondary goal was for them to be able to write a reasonable letter to their sponsors. We worked with the girls from 7:30 to 10:30, followed by a "bites break," then from 11:00 to 2:00, when we stopped for lunch, and finished up in the afternoon from 2:45 to 4:30. Our students were not used to asking questions or talking with each other. They are used to large classes where rote learning and often choral responses were the norm. Over the eight days, the girls became more spontaneous and used to sharing in pairs and in groups of four, as they practised their English and learned from each other.

It was evident that the students were not used to being given feedback on ways to improve. Their diligent work habits and desire to do a good job was heartwarming. As we led them through sharing their ideas, and practising writing through descriptive, narrative, expository and explanatory paragraphs, they worked on concepts such as the 5 W's (who, what, where, why and when), and transitional words such as first, second, and finally. They also worked on sentence structure and verb tense, the later often a challenge.

We used charades and many strategies for conversation to develop and practise language before writing. At the end of the eight days of classroom work, the girls spent two more days when they completed their letters to their sponsors and prepared a debate. After the girls considered several topics—marriage at a



young age or older, female mutilation, boys only getting an education, living in your village or staying in residence, living in a city or a village—they chose the topic, "Is it better to get an education or to earn money?" Although it is a bit of a "chicken and egg" topic, it was clear that getting an education was enabling these young women to find their voices. We were proud of the growth and self-confidence that they acquired in the 10 days.

My experience in Katesh affirmed the extraordinary gift that one can give by sponsoring a girl's education. How can one argue with contributing only \$50 a month (\$600 a year) to provide the opportunity to enhance the future of a young woman?

by Sue Elliott

Sesilia: Portrait of a CHES Girl

When Catriona and I were in Katesh last March, we wanted to visit a distant primary school. We needed a translator since most of the teachers there had marginal English skills and the students had virtually none. No one from the CHES office was available and so we took CHES student Sesilia Ligogo, who had recently written her Form IV exams and was waiting for her results. We hoped her translation skills would be up to the challenge.

Her skills far exceeded our expectations. In the classes, we presented our message in a sentence or two to Sesilia. She expanded on the theme with impressive communication skills that held the attention of every child in the room. As usual, we asked if there any questions before we departed. A male teenager asked why CHES supported only girls. Sesilia didn't ask us to respond; she did so herself. She pointed out that girls invariably remain close to their home communities and that educated women are of value to those communities. In addition, she said, their families would be healthier, smaller and better educated, which would prove to be a bonus to future generations. She was eloquent and impassioned and, much to our amazement, had not only the boys in the class but also the male teachers in the room nodding in agreement.

On the long drive back to Katesh, I asked Sesilia to tell us about herself. This is her story.

"I was born about 30 kilometres from Katesh in March 1994 and am the first of three sisters. I started primary school in 2002 and by the time I was in Standard 3, I was first in my class and retained this position until I graduated from Standard 7. Unhappily my father, a subsistence farmer, died four days before I graduated so you can imagine that this was a very difficult time for me. It also meant that, despite my good marks, I would not be able to attend secondary school. However, on my final day of primary school, one of my teachers suggested I apply to CHES. I did, and I received a scholarship that has carried me through Forms I to IV. I really thank CHES from the bottom of my heart. With the workshop and tutorial sessions, CHES has improved my self-confidence and taught me the importance of goal setting and other important life skills. I also love being able to share ideas and skills with my fellow students and the teachers, all of whom come together during these sessions.

"As I have grown up, my views and attitudes have been influenced by friends, relatives, and teachers. All these people impress me by giving me different advice that can help me become successful as an adult. I like living in peace and love, and I respect everyone except those who exhibit improper behaviour. Such people I dislike.

"I came down with a bad case of malaria when I was in Standard 3 and had to be rushed to hospital in the middle of the night. The skill, care and attention that brought me back to good health impressed me a lot and I have decided that I want to study medicine so that I can help people who are ill. I especially hope I can help students who, like me, would not be able to continue with their education without medical or financial help."

Sesilia's dream is likely to come true. She is a lovely person and a marvelous communicator and she is exceptionally talented academically. Shortly after our drive she received her results telling her that she had done extremely well. She later received "Joining Instructions" to a high school where she is currently enrolled in Form V. If she does well at the end of Form VI, as I'm sure she will, she'll receive the call to attend university. In a few years, I have no doubt that she'll return to the Katesh area to practise medicine.

Not all CHES "grads" will carry on to Form V. All, though, come from backgrounds similar to Sesilia's and all will be enriched by four years of secondary schooling along with the interaction and additional learning provided by the CHES tutorial and workshop sessions that Sesilia mentions. She is an outstanding advocate for all CHES stands for and aspires to.

by Chris Harker



Catriona Harker with Sesilia. Sesilia translated for the Harkers so the primary school teachers could understand.

Beverlyne

Beverlyne Shivoko is 20 years old and a recent graduate of Archbishop Njenga Girls High School in Kenya. I worked with Beverlyne in February 2013; she was one of the CHES graduates who screened each applicant first, just past the gate.

At the end of primary school, Beverlyne did not have the option of going out to work as a housekeeper at 2,000 shillings per month (approximately \$20) with room and board. As the first born, she would have had to care for her younger siblings instead. Her parents brewed illicit chang'aa for a living and died of it, her mum in 2007 and her dad in 2008.

A neighbour stepped in as caregiver when Beverlyne earned a spot at Archbishop Njenga, having graduated from Standard 8 at the top of her class



with an average of 358 out of 600. She first heard about scholarships from a former CHES student and at age 16 she applied for sponsorship. Beverlyne describes high school as "nice, fantastic."

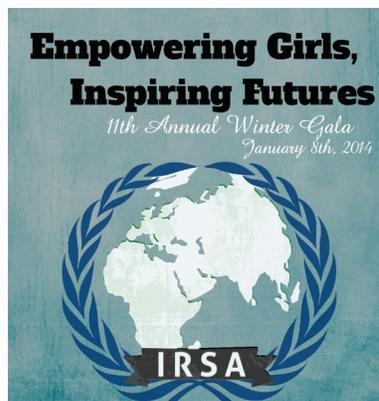
Had Beverlyne gone to work at 16 in someone's home she

would have had neither privacy nor freedom. Finding food for herself and her sisters and brothers was such a struggle that she likely would have begun cooking and cleaning for a woman building a home nearby, but with no remuneration, just room and board. But safety is often critical for those girls who find such positions. I asked her what kind of harassment. She replied, "Physical, emotional, mental."

Beverlyne is waiting for her marks to be published. "If I pass well I might do computer science," she says. She needs good marks for a government grant. Even if she has to take a housekeeper's job, she says that after these four years at school, "I can now stand up for my rights."

by Tony Dawson, from his blog. Used with permission

A Special Invitation



Every year the International Relations Students Association of UBC hosts a gala dinner complete with music, PowerPoint presentations, and a keynote speaker for up to 250 people. Each year proceeds

from the evening are donated to a different charitable organization that is working to improve an international social or economic issue. This year IRSA has selected CHES! We are delighted and the IRSA is excited.

The evening – January 8, 2014, at Performance Works on Granville Island – begins with cocktails at 6 pm followed at 7 pm with dinner and entertainment until approximately 10 pm. Tickets purchased before November 29 are \$40. Thereafter, they are \$50. Information about purchasing tickets can be obtained by contacting Brenda Nguyen at irsa.nikdcoordinator@gmail.com

Some CHES board members will be attending the gala. It is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of CHES and our goals. Other CHES supporters are encouraged to attend this very special and enjoyable event. You'll experience a great dinner, informative entertainment, warm camaraderie while, at the same time, helping CHES raise the funds we need to sustain our activities.

BUSINESS OWNERS. Three sponsorship levels will promote your business to those attending the gala. Contact Brenda Nguyen at irsa.nikdcoordinator@gmail.com if you are able to support any level shown in the table below.

	Silver (\$100+)	Gold (\$250+)	Platinum (\$500+)
Advertisement at Event	x	x	x
Advertisement IRSA Social Media	x	x	x
Advertisement on IRSA Website		x	x
Advertisement on Online Promotions		x	x
Advertisement on Printed Material		x	x
4 Tickets to the Event (\$200 value)			x
Recognition at Closing Session			x

For those who receive a print copy of the newsletter we hope you like the new format that it is in. We've changed our print company and for the same cost we are able to print in colour and on much better quality paper!



A picture of the new shamba just outside of Katesh. Watch for news in the Spring 2014 newsletter on this exciting development.

One Swing at a Time

On June 23, 2014, Ginny Golding, PGA of Canada, will play golf for girls! One Swing at a Time will take place at the University Golf Club in Vancouver, BC, when Ginny will play 65 holes on her 65th birthday!

Ginny Golding, co-chair of the Harambee Charity Golf Classic, which celebrated its fifth annual tournament in July 2013 is taking on a personal challenge to generate revenue for CHES. Ginny turns 65 on June 23, 2014, and plans to raise \$65,000 by inviting individuals and groups to sponsor each of the 65 holes.

Next year marks Ginny's 29th year as a member of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) of Canada. Ginny is a pioneer for women's golf in BC as she is the first female member of the BCPGA, joining in 1985. Currently, Ginny teaches full time at the University Golf Club and in the off-season Ginny escorts men and women golfers on unique golf vacations around the world.

One Swing at a Time -- Important Information

When: June 23, 2014

Where: University Golf Club, Vancouver, BC

Why: To raise at least \$65,000 for CHES

Who: Everyone is invited to sponsor a hole!

What: Hole sponsorships for \$1000 per hole

Already 21 of the 65 holes have sponsorships. Contact Ginny Golding to sponsor a hole as an individual, corporation, or group of friends or family.

To raise further funds for CHES, Ginny is also seeking an individual or corporation that is willing to match the sponsorship funds raised.

Ginny is also seeking volunteers to serve on the planning committee. Please contact her if you are able to help.

Please make sponsorship cheques payable to Canadian Harambee Education Society. On the bottom of the cheque write One Swing at a Time. Cheques may be dated with today's date or June 23, 2014. Funds will be held 'in trust' by CHES until after the event.

Mail your sponsorship cheque to: Ginny Golding Golf 540 - 1027 Davie Street Vancouver, BC V6E 4L2

it's her turn

A CONCERT TO AID GIRLS' EDUCATION IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
in concert with the award-winning
Magee Chamber Choir

March 7, 2014
7:30 PM

magee secondary
6360 MAPLE STREET
VANCOUVER

\$10 students
\$25 adults

Tickets available for sale by cheque to Canadian Harambee Education Society (for ticket pickup at the door) #102B 9030 King George Blvd, Surrey, B.C., V3V 7Y3. Call 604-525-9173 or email watermusic@telus.net

Check out our website www.canadianharambee.ca to read the latest news from CHES as well as to find some lovely gifts under the DONATE section