It can’t be 30 years already! CHES was incorporated in 1985 and since that time we have helped almost 10,000 students finish high school. To celebrate three decades of educating girls in Kenya and Tanzania, this newsletter focuses on some memorable events of the earlier years.

Founders: Lorrie Williams, Mandy Klepic, Betty Lou Callahan, Maureen Polard and Brenda Keen

However, CHES would not be where it is today without the support of its wonderful sponsors and donors, individuals who have volunteered as agents and overseen our operations in Kenya and Tanzania, and those who have served as directors. Thank you for the past 30 years and may CHES be able to continue to give a “hand-up” through education to needy intelligent girls with your support.
Ekambuli

It was 1982 and I had just read a letter in the BC Teacher magazine. It was a plea from a teacher in Kenya who desperately needed some help in staffing an isolated harambee school. Now, a harambee school is one that was not supported by the government and was funded solely by the students’ school fees. I was at that time a vice-principal in the New Westminster school district but was about to be bumped from my administrative position because of declining enrollment. I thought this was a good time to go on an adventure so, firmly clutching my return ticket, I headed for Kenya.

My send-off was wonderful and I was presented with an orchid corsage and when I dressed for my departure, I was in a suede suit, pantyhose, high heels, and my corsage. I was also in possession of 10 promissory notes from my colleagues who pledged to send me anything I requested. I also slung my guitar over my shoulder. After a long flight to London and an eight-hour stopover, I finally arrived in Nairobi. I was supposed to have been met but no one was there. I was tired, confused, and a little anxious. I got some money changed and tried to call the school but could not remember the name of the village – Khumusalaba. I could barely remember the name of the school – Ekambuli. So, I sat down with my luggage around me, fended off the cab drivers who were insisting that they knew where I was going. I held firm for four hours and just as I decided to take a cab into town and go to a hotel, someone approached me and asked if I was Lorrie Williams. Was I ever! They drove me into town and explained that I had missed my bus connection and that I would have to go on the late bus. Okay, I got on that bus and ignored the hole in the floor that was spewing up red dust. I became lightly coated. Arriving in Kisumu with great expectations, I was dropped off by the bus and there was no one there to meet me – again. I sat there alone in the encroaching darkness and actually started laughing – hysterically. Luckily, the truck arrived to take me up country.

By the time we reached the school, I began to wonder what I was doing there. I met the headmaster and was shown to my little tin shack – one room with a shower stall attached at the back. The boys disappeared and I was there alone. No one showed me where the loo was. I ran around the side of the shack and squatted. I wasn’t about to go exploring at night. Back inside, I opened my bottle of Southern Comfort and had supper. One lonely lamp lit my abode so I got my stuff out of the suitcase and prepared for bed. Luckily, there was a mosquito net over the bed and for the first time that day, I felt secure.

The next morning, I awoke to the sound of singing. I opened the door and saw the students at assembly and their voices were angelic. The sun was shining and I was rested. The headmaster invited me for breakfast – bacon, eggs, potatoes, tomatoes, and toast. I ate everything. My adventure had begun and all was right with the world.

Footnote: The corsage did not survive the journey. I awoke from a nap on the dark bus, brushed my arm against it and, thinking it was some sort of creature, beat it to death!
No One Loved Elizabeth...

... and why should anyone? On first meeting Elizabeth, I was not enamoured. She was small and elf like, with darting eyes and a calculating look. Even worse, her reputation preceded her. “She’s a thief and a liar,” they told me, “poor but bright.” The latter two qualities were the ones I was interested in.

I had been teaching in the Kenyan bush for almost a year, and during that time, I had organized many sponsoring scholarships by tapping friends back home. Most responses were from women, many of whom we wanted to sponsor girls. We had many problems finding girls whose primary marks were high enough to qualify, because they were already lagging academically behind the boys. The girls not only are expected to do the chores at home, but are also the first to be dropped if a family has insufficient school fees. Girls are not considered a good investment in future job markets - a risky return for an impoverished family. So, you understand my interest in my “intelligent thief.”

Elizabeth was attending the primary school across the road and was brought to my notice by one of the Kenyan teachers. The teacher told me about Elizabeth’s first 13 years. Her mother had married a man of a different tribe and had come to live in his compound. The man left his wife and child and went to seek his fortune in Nairobi. There he met and married his second wife (polygamy is legal in Kenya) and he stopped supporting his first. Elizabeth and her mother became a burden on the father’s family; Elizabeth’s mother abandoned her and went back to her tribe. The girl-child was unwanted by everyone; she was shunted from aunt to uncle.

Primary school is free in Kenya so Elizabeth attended; she obtained marks usually in the top 10%. I confronted Elizabeth about her thievery, and she hotly denied any such actions. I did not bother to listen, for there was no point in looking back. I offered Elizabeth a scholarship in my school - on three conditions. First, she must not steal. Second, she must maintain her marks at scholarship level. Third, she must not become pregnant. Elizabeth readily agreed and really plunged into her studies. Quite impressed with her energy, the headmaster made her class prefect. Elizabeth showed up on Saturdays to do manual labor - it is expected of all scholarship students.

But this is not a success story. Elizabeth’s marks began to drop. Things went missing and other students complained about Elizabeth’s bossy manner. She managed to hold her own until the end of the year, but the headmaster recommended, and I agreed, to drop her from our scholarship program at the end of 1984. The next year, Elizabeth did not attend school. This summer, I received a letter from the headmaster: “Very sad news for you. Elizabeth Alushula is being buried today. She was staying with an uncle. Seems she got pregnant and tried to take an overdose of medicine (12 chloroquine, I’m told). Instead, it finished her.”

The words nasty, brutish, and short come to mind when I think of Elizabeth’s life. It was loveless. Her brightness turned to lying; her energy, to stealing; and her desire for love, to sex. I feel sorry that this little life came and went, and nobody really loved Elizabeth.
Margaret Maywaka – the 1st CHES Girl

Margaret Maywaka was the first girl that Lorrie Williams sponsored. Upon graduation from secondary school, she took training to become a registered nurse and is now Head Nurse in a hospital in Nairobi. The CBC documentary “Educating Margaret” was based on her education by CHES. Her daughter, Lorrie Rowena Mukirazi became a CHES girl, graduating in 2007. She received a bursary from Sprott-Shaw College, studied in Canada, receiving her BCom in 2013. She currently resides in Vancouver where she works as an accountant.

Well Loved Sponsors

CHES would not have been able to succeed without the many loyal sponsors who have contributed over these 30 years. When Lorrie started teaching in Kenya she soon found that several students had to be sent home as their fees had not been paid. Lorrie sent requests home to get help for yet another student when she realized that she was not able to help everyone. Many of those who answered her pleas are still sponsoring girls today.

We have been trying to update the records of all the students and their sponsors that have been helped over the last 30 years. While working on this task we noticed that there were many names which occurred over and over again.

We would like to honour some of the sponsors who have passed on as their contributions probably meant that over 100 students were helped. A few of these well remembered sponsors stand out because of the many students that they had supported.

Art and Violet Lawton – 14 students
Raye McAllister – 11 students
Elizabeth DeBeck – 14 students
Beatrice Rankin – 11 students
Marion Haig – 9 students
Ruby Tompkin – 7 students
Barry & Irene Gollob – 8 students

All of the past and present sponsors are really the back bone of the CHES program.

Thank you all.
The Mystery Bus Ride to Katesh

My good friend Lorrie Williams and I were the original CHES members to visit Katesh in Tanzania. In 1992 Lorrie and I were invited to visit Katesh by two Canadian CUSO volunteers. They were searching for help for a tribe of animal herders just outside Katesh in Tanzania. These nomadic people, the Barbaig, were being displaced by a large Canadian grain project. CHES was asked to help provide funds so that the children of the Barbaig people could attend school in Katesh. None of the their children had been able to attend school before. We were already planning to be in Kenya so a short trip to Tanzania was planned. I believed my good friend when she said that it would be a short easy trip.

The Canadian CUSO members were to meet us in Arusha and drive us to Katesh. Unfortunately, when we arrived in Arusha there was a mix up and we were left a note that we would have to find our own way to Katesh. The note said to go to Babati and turn right. Katesh at that time was a remote area away from the more populated areas of Tanzania. There was a local bus but it did not do a run to Katesh every day and we found out later that it ran when there were enough passengers and cargo to fill the bus. We really had no idea where we were going or how long it would take to get there.

The ride was not smooth. Unlike the paved road that exists today, the road that we travelled was more like a dried riverbed of red dusty soil. The bus was totally loaded on the top with goods and supplies. The inside was filled with people and the odd chicken. We could only travel at a very slow speed and the driver stopped often to negotiate some particularly deep ruts in the road. Luckily we were able to find a seat on the bus but once everything was loaded no one could move.

When we reached Babati we almost missed the “turn” to Katesh because we did not realize it meant to get on another bus. At the last minute a kind soul told us to run for the next bus to Katesh. Lorrie was incredibly cheery and I was feeling very bus sick. I wondered if I would survive. She was happily sampling the beverages provided by British Airways.

The arrival in Katesh made the whole journey worthwhile. We were able to visit with the CUSO reps and their family and friends. We travelled to the village of the Barbaig people to see their new water system and meet some of the children that they wanted to send to school. The local Commissioner was very gracious and welcoming. He toured us through the local school and we collected the information that we would need to make a decision with the Canadian CHES board.
Memories of the Start of CHES in Tanzania

It first started when Linda Breault and I decided to canvas a number of groups whose names we found listed in a directory of overseas aide agencies. At the time we were into our own 2-year contract as CUSO volunteers in Hanang District, Tanzania. The response we received from CHES more than made up for those others who we never heard from. Lorrie Williams and Karen Kilbride survived the local bus ride from Arusha to Katesh and stayed to help us build the foundations of the CHES Scholarship Program in Tanzania.

Some of our most heartwarming experiences over the next year were to be connected with the newly formed CHES Tanzania connection. There was the formation of the scholarship committee, an outstanding combination of women and men from nearby villages. There were the periodic meetings at our home where the committee members gained confidence to eat Mama Linda’s “mzungu” cooking. There were the trips to the isolated homesteads to locate the successful CHES applicants. There was the fun of helping CHES scholarship winners reach their secondary school destinations and of introducing them to big city sites and sounds which they had never experienced before. There was all this and much more for Linda and I.

One of the big words in development these days is “sustainability”. The CHES Scholarship Program matches any in its chances for continuing success. Not only has the program continued since we left, but it is now expanding from 13 to 20 students and perhaps more.

All this would have been impossible without the two forces. One was the dedication of the local Hanang Committee and the second was the generosity of the CHES sponsors in Canada.

by Don Fraser; November 1993 Newsletter #16

For more about the early days of CHES in Tanzania you can go to canadianharambe.ca and read CUSO volunteer Linda Breault’s story.

In a thank you letter to her sponsor, Justina Getaknod, CHES Tanzania Form IV grad, writes:

I shall never tire of saying thank you for your sponsorship . . . . thank you very much to support me to get this education. I have learned many things, not only about subjects but also to know my rights as a Human Being. I thank you because the women together with the girls in our society: I mean the Barbaig Society, have no right to do anything to improve their own development without the permission of men. From your sponsorship and my education I have learned that women and girls do have rights just like men. So that is why I say I shall never tire of saying thanks to you.

30th Anniversary

We can’t do everything . . . but we can do something!
My Kenyan Experience

I had an opportunity to visit Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 to “monitor” two student interns who had received CIDA funding to go to Kenya and Tanzania on behalf of CHES. One of the projects in Kenya was to establish a library at the CHES house. Part of the trip also included visiting Tanzania to see how CHES operations differed in the two programs/locations.

Interestingly, because I had been part of CHES from the beginning (I had driven Lorrie to the airport when she took her first trip to Kenya) I thought I had a good understanding of what to expect in Kenya and Tanzania. I listened to first-hand accounts of Lorrie’s and other travelers’ experiences, saw vivid photo and slide images of the dusty markets, students in uniforms, read moving letters from students, etc, etc. I had an intellectual understanding, so I expected to walk right in to Kenya with my second hand experience and get involved in whatever projects were on the horizon.

On the way to Kenya, I spent two days in London, experienced the expensive hotels, cars, and shops, and the fabulous modern marvel of an airport. When I landed at the Nairobi airport, I was met by the students who were already in Kenya. Thank goodness the students were there because I thought that I had landed in an airplane hangar, not an airport. I was guided through the immigration lines and we finally got outside with all the oversized and heavy boxes of materials I had brought for students.

I was informed that we were waiting for a taxi to take us to the hotel in Nairobi. We were to stay overnight before our 8-hour bus ride to Kakemega. I was on the look-out for taxi like vehicles – like a yellow cab. What arrived was a bright blue 2-door Toyota. There were no taxi signs on this beat up car, only yellow ropes holding up the back fenders. After watching our taxi driver tie up the boxes on the roof and trunk of the car, the four of us squeezed into the car, all holding boxes on our laps.

Well, if this wasn’t an adventure, the ride to the hotel was. Cars honking, driving erratically, people running beside the vehicles trying to sell items, yelling, all manner of vehicles zigzagging across the traffic, was just some of the activity. If I had ever experimented with drugs and knew what a bad trip was . . . this may have been what it was like.

It took me about 3 weeks to get over the culture shock. What I learned was that my intellectual experience was nothing like my visceral experience. All the talks, photos, and letters did not prepare me for the emotional rollercoaster I experienced during those first three weeks.
CHES CIDA Grants

CHES has had four successful CIDA grants that have enhanced our programs in Tanzania and Kenya. For each of these projects CHES funds were matched 2:1 by CIDA funds.

Year 2000 - in Tanzania for $75,000
Year 2001 to 2003 - Tanzania for $180,000
Year 2003 to 2005 - Kenya for $210,000
Year 2004 to 2007 - Tanzania for $210,000

During the years of CIDA assisted funding, the main project goal was to increase the capacity development of the young women through education training and improved organizational skills.

To reach this goal some of the activities included:
- Establishing and registering a youth NGO
- Annual workshops held for 100 youth to cover such topics as basic human needs, gender equity, human rights and democratic development, sustainable development and the links between female education and many social problems.
- Peer mentoring and tutoring organized and delivered to project participants
- Primary school initiatives to encourage Barabaig tribal mothers to send their girls to school. This was accomplished by having a team of CHES Barabaig educated young women visit villages.
- Increased opportunities for girls to attend secondary schools, teacher training colleges and short-term training.
- Administrative infrastructure in Kenya, Tanzania, and Canada
- It is evident that the main project goal was met when you visit Katesh and meet the many young women who are proud to tell you that they have been educated through the CIDA CHES project. These capable young women are working as teachers, in private and government offices, running their home based businesses, or looking after their own young families and their extended families. These women are self-assured, capable of taking care of themselves, and an asset to their communities.

CHES Tanzania Grows

In 1997 13 girls attended the first workshop.
In 2014 there were 340+ girls for the workshops.

30th Anniversary
We can’t do everything . . . but we can do something!
A Gross of Undies

When CHES in Tanzania decided to host its first workshop session in 2001, planners felt that providing each girl with a “goody-bag” would add a nice touch. As a number of significant purchases were required for the workshop, Chris Harker and Samwell Mwasha, the then Office Manager, were delegated to go to Arusha to acquire them. They were told to buy panties for the girls as, at that time, poverty prevented some girls from owning a pair, which in turn, caused problems and often monthly absences from school.

Neither Chris nor Sam had had any experience in buying lady’s knickers, let alone 12 dozen pairs. They discovered in short order that few stores had more than a couple of dozen pairs in stock. Moreover, they learned that they came in infinite variety and were made of many different materials. Some were adorned with slogans and pictures highly unsuitable for our schoolgirls. Chris and Sam found themselves on an intriguing learning curve but were unable to make purchases.

Walking back to their hotel for lunch on the second day, they discovered a lady selling panties by the side of the road. About 30 pairs were displayed along the dusty path. Sam, negotiating in Swahili, established a good price and asked her if we could meet her here tomorrow to purchase 12 dozen pairs. She appeared delighted and excitedly agreed.

The next day they were in place at the appointed hour. The saleslady was not. However, a few minutes later a car arrived; a rather tough looking fellow asked them to get in. They were driven to a location known to the locals as a “thieves market” and were shown into a small store that had iron bars separating the customer’s section from that of the “salesman”. A lengthy and volatile conversation between Sam and the salesman then ensued. Chris was told later that because he was white and Sam was wearing a jacket and tie, they were suspected of being undercover cops. Sam had to explain not only that they weren’t but also why two guys wanted so many pairs of women’s underwear. His explanation took quite some time.

Finally the salesman agreed to take their money and the “CHES Agents Extraordinaire” took possession of 144 pairs of panties. The salesman even threw in a few extra pairs for good luck. Although they got some strange looks as they carted their purchases back to their hotel, Sam and Chris’s true reward came later when they saw the looks of delight on the faces of the CHES girls when they opened their goody-bags. As the panties came in a variety of colours, it was fun to observe the swapping session that followed soon thereafter.
CHES Girl Supreme

Ceci excelled at her studies for the 4 years she was sponsored by CHES. Not only did she achieve high marks, she was also made head girl. She was expected to do exceptionally well in her final exams. Unhappily, she came down with malaria during the exam period. She did her best and went home to await her marks.

Her parents were traditional Barbaig people; wealth and status was determined by the number and health of the family cattle. A month after returning home, Ceci noticed several new cows in the corral at nightfall. She asked her mother where they had come from. “You father has accepted them from Mr. G. as a bride price. You are to become his third wife”. Ceci was horrified. Mr. G. was exceptionally unattractive and was about the age of her father. Ceci hardly knew him and any degree of love or even affection was nonexistent.

Determined not to be given away like this and defying the wishes of her parents, she packed a small bag and slipped away in the night. She reached Katesh where she took up temporary residence in the storeroom of a school friend’s family. She then learned that Chris and Catriona were agents at the CHES house. Not wishing to miss this opportunity, she wrote them a letter outlining her plight. It was clear and forthright. However, the seminal sentences that summed up what CHES stands for and supports were the final ones. “I am an educated woman. I do not wish to become an old man’s third wife”. Mr. G. may have a third wife but if so, she is certainly not a CHES girl.
The Road to Katesh – Getting There is (Not Always) Half the Fun

2001 – 2008: We leave Arusha and follow hoards of Land Rovers packed with excited safariers on paved roads as far as Makuyuni. There the tourists turn off to seek the delights of Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti. We head south on an unpaved road. The land is flat and stark; a few huts are noted from time to time. No farming exists but small herds of spindly livestock shepherded by ragged little boys are occasionally seen. If it rains, nearby Lake Manyara spreads is shores to flood the road. There are no bridges, only “drifts” which are cemented dips in the road; dry for most of the year but dangerously torrential when it rains. The soft sand becomes a quagmire; trucks and busses are soon bogged down. Our land rover can handle the road but is often stopped because of other vehicles that block it. After Babati the road climbs from about 4000 feet to over 6000. Flooding is no longer a problem but overloaded trucks chew up the road and a single heavy rain squall can gulley it. There is a village on a hilltop called Logia, so named because truckers have to use “low gear” to reach it. We feel blessed if we make the 250 km trip in six hours. It has taken as long as twelve.

2009 – 2012: A Chinese company is contracted to pave the road. They follow the route of the established road and solve the flooding problem by raising the road base by an average of 4 meters. Lots of fill, lots of trucks, and lots of workers. Travelling during this period has us re-routed on a hastily made track beside the road. It is rough and narrow. Busses and trucks crawl at the pace of a lame snail; we are forced to follow.

The Chinese build bridges which means that during construction, we are required to ford the streams elsewhere. The locals love this for they earn a few shillings when they push or pull out those of us who bog down. This process seems endless as several new bridges are destroyed in the first heavy rains and have to be rebuilt; stronger and higher. Travel time remains about the same and just as unpredictable.

2013: The road is completed. It is wonderful and initially travel time is cut to a little over three hours. However those who live in the small villages along the route are unused to the speeding vehicles. Several deaths are recorded. The locals respond by creating “sleeping policemen” at each end of their community. These are known to us as “speed bumps”. They are very significant; one soon learns that hitting one at speed can do damage to the vehicle and rearrange anyone or anything “in the back”. Bus drivers in particular learn to slow. The trip of about 3½ hours is now comfortable; relaxed; enjoyable. Those of us who love Katesh no longer shudder at the thought of getting there.
The Success of CHES

Known employment data for CHES students from 1985 to 2012 in both countries shows the following:

However, we know there are many others who are employed in various capacities and thanks to the work of Sarah Anyika, a Kenyan CHES graduate, and the CHES Tanzania office we are tracking more of our girls. If you are interesting in finding information on one of the girls you sponsored in past years, a data base has been established. Contact the office canadianharambee@shaw.ca for information.

CHES ALUMNI KE & TZ
Known Jobs 1985-2012

- 65 primary teachers
- 165 secondary teachers
- 62 nurses
- 9 doctors
- 60 office workers
- 193 with degrees in various areas
- 13 working in the tourist area
- 26 accountants
- 6 lawyers
- 90 other jobs

Do you like to travel to warm, sunny places? CHES is always looking for volunteers who would like to spend several months in Kenya as a CHES agent. For information contact the CHES office at (778) 565-5261.

30th Anniversary
We can’t do everything . . . but we can do something!
Targeting Self-Sufficiency

One of the more rewarding aspects of CHES’ Tanzanian programme has been the success the local committee has achieved in off-setting many of the costs related to educating over 300 girls.

The Sara Williams Hostel provides full boarding facilities throughout each term for up to 120 girls and temporary accommodation for over 300 during the tutorial and workshop sessions in January and June. The amount each girl pays, through her sponsor, is similar to hostel charges elsewhere. These “fees” cover the cost of the cook, watchman, matron and all utilities, maintenance and services required to operate the hostel.

CHES now owns 10 acres of prime farmland about 35 kms from Katesh. The substantial annual harvest of corn and sunflowers (oil) can be stored and used over the year to offset the cost of food purchases for the girls in the hostel. If it grows a cash crop such as wheat, the money from the sale is used to purchase food for the hostel girls.

The CHES House and business offices are on the same property as the hostel. Hence we no longer need to rent accommodation elsewhere.

Mshikimano, also on the grounds of the hostel complex, provides secretarial services for the community. It is also a store that sells school supplies, toiletries, snacks, and a multitude of other items to the townsfolk in general and the CHES girls in particular. Following the practice established by the Hudson Bay Company, CHES gives girls “survival funds” with which they are expected to purchase their school supplies and personal toiletries for the forthcoming term. They can purchase these wherever they like but as Mshikimano’s prices are the lowest in town, they tend to purchase there. Hence the funds return to CHES.

Although the funds to enable these services to exist came from generous Canadian donors, the ideas were initiated by our Tanzanian team and it is they who now run each so efficiently and economically.
Notice to CHES Sponsors

All sponsors should have received a printed invoice stating that the fee continues to be $600 for the 2016 school year even though school fees in Kenya actually cost over $650 per student.

CHES would like to thank all of the sponsors who have already sent in the $600 for their student, and the receipts should be in the mail before the end of 2015. If you have not sent in your donation, we would appreciate receiving it by early December 2015 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 2016 or send monthly postdated cheques for 2016 that is fine.

Many of you had students who will be finishing Form IV in 2015 and you may wish to send in funds to start supporting another student in the coming year. Please send in the funds by December 1, 2015, as we need to know how many new students we can support in 2016.

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. If you prefer, you may phone our office to receive information as to how to do a bank transfer of funds directly from your bank account into the CHES bank account; this costs considerably less than the fee charged by Canada Helps. 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 always appreciated. 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.

AGM Update

Our AGM on Saturday, September 19, was well attended. As well as hearing reports of the various aspects of CHES this past year and seeing a PowerPoint showing successes of many of our graduates, attendees feasted on a variety of food items provided by the board.

At the CHES AGM, the following individuals were confirmed as directors:

- Nadia Anderson
- Gordon Brown
- Bev Ford
- Caitlin Davis
- Carol Gilchrist
- Catriona Harker
- Chris Harker
- Karen Kilbride
- Mandy Klepic
- Nancy Mann
- Louise Paulsen
- Joy Ruffeski
- Lorrie Williams

Remember 1993?

30th Anniversary

We can’t do everything . . . but we can do something!
Update on Kenyan Building Project
The land for our own CHES building is officially ours - the deed was finally registered (it takes considerable time for this in Kenya). After input from former agents, CHES directors, and the Kenyan board as to needs on the site and for the building itself, plans are being drawn up. Director Gordon Brown has been in Kakamega for several months overseeing this and ensuring that all legal requirements are fulfilled.

Special thanks go to Ginny Golding for her One Swing at a Time event in June 2014 and Diana Dolack from Biggar, SK for her most generous donation of securities this summer. The total of these targeted funds ensure that we will have sufficient monies to complete this project.

UGC Business Women
Every year the ladies who are members of the various golf clubs in the Lower Mainland have a golf tournament at the University Golf Club. They choose a charity to support and the charity chosen this year was CHES. Unfortunately, the tournament day was the day of the decade's biggest storm, August 29. After some delay, the plucky ladies started off and all of them finished the round in the midst of wind, rain, trees crashing on the course, and so forth. As the tournament ended, the golfers found that the power was out at the University Golf Club so the planned dinner was cancelled and consequently their silent auction and 50/50 draw couldn't go ahead. However, from funds raised by these women through various other events during the year combined with a donation of $5000 from Scotia Bank, a cheque for $11,300 was presented to CHES at their AGM on October 23.

The 6th Annual Harambee Golf Classic
It was an early morning start for the golfers who participated in the 6th Harambee Golf Classic held on Monday, July 13, 2015, at the University Golf Club in Vancouver. Many donors and volunteers willingly gave their time, money, and talents to make the tournament the success it was. A dedicated committee provided support to the co-chairs and tournament founders, Ginny Golding and April Stubbs.

After a fun morning of golf, the participants visited the silent auction tables and enjoyed an outstanding luncheon buffet while they listened to CHES director Joy Ruffeski, and former CHES student Lorrie Rowena Mukirazi talk about what life is like for girls before and after CHES. This successful golf tournament raised $37,000 which will be used to provide needed student workshops in Kenya and Tanzania as well as supplies for Form 1 students in Kenya.

Congratulations Sara Williams
In June, Sara Williams was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Saskatchewan; a well-deserved honor for her work in many areas. Sara was instrumental in raising funds for the building of the hostel on the CHES site in Katesh. Please check out the website www.canadianharambee.ca for her acceptance speech and photos of the girls at the hostel wishing her well.
CHES has a new book for you!

Chris Harker’s previous book, White Necklace, chronicled some of the interesting things that he and his wife experienced in Katesh during their visits there between 2001 and 2006. THE CALL OF KATESH published in October, 2015, casts a broader net, describing a greater variety of places, events and people in and around this remote town in Tanzania. Central to most chapters is the hugely successful CHES programme that he and his wife support so ardently.

If you READ the book, you will add substantially to your knowledge of what life is like at this time in rural Tanzania. You will also discover the impact that a small NGO can make on the people it targets; in this case, bright but poor girls seeking a secondary education and thereby, an opportunity to improve the opportunities and future standard of living not only for themselves, but for their present and future families.

If you BUY the book, you will be making a most helpful contribution to CHES, because ALL proceeds from the sale of this book revert to CHES. If you are a CHES sponsor or donor this book will help you “see” the life of the girl you support.

Do you have friends who may be attracted to knowing how young women in the third world can be helped and supported? This would make an ideal Christmas present.

Price: $20 if picked up or delivered. If mailed, please add $4.00.

Please mail cheques made out to CHES with “Call of Katesh” on the memo line to:
CHES Office
102B, 9030 King George Blvd, Surrey, V3V 7Y3
Email: canadianharambee@shaw.ca
Phone: 778 565 5261

Please be sure to include your mailing address and the number of copies you want.

Many thanks for considering this.