

AKIBA NI MALI

EDUCATION IS A TREASURE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR KENYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND INTERNATIONAL

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New Partnership with Arizona Guide Right Foundation

Arizona Guide Right Foundation (AGRF) www.azguideright.org is KSF International's newest partner organization. The 25-year-old non-profit's mission is to assist organizations like KSF in improving academic achievement of young students. AGRF's Chairman Ray LaStrape led the charge in developing this new partnership, which is rich with great potential for both non-profits.

The partnership marks an exciting new chapter for KSF International, with ongoing annual sponsorship for 2 KSF students, a clothing drive and developing a pathway for KSF students to attend college in the US. The potential to open doors for bright young students to seek higher education in the US represents an important advancement to KSF's mission. We greatly appreciate this new partnership and all that it represents.



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New Partnership with Growth Through Learning

Growth Through Learning (GTL) is another recent partner organization that KSF boardmember Kenneth Gakuya champions. GTL was founded in 1997 to support education and development in East Africa.

Its mission aligns closely with KSF's: GTL provides full secondary education scholarships for exceptional young women in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, who would otherwise be unable to afford an education beyond primary school. GTL encourages cross-cultural exchange of information and ideas, especially promoting women's empowerment in East Africa.

This partnership is symbolic in that it reflects back to when KSF International primarily supported girls' education. We are excited to see the progress we can make together.

The COVID19 pandemic poses significant challenges to our schools and students. School has been canceled, to resume January 2021. Students are back home with family or guardians. Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) offers radio and TV lessons, but these students have limited access.

Brother Beausang High School, one of our newest schools, is sharing assignments and guidance with students through WhatsApp; however, only 50% of students have access to smartphones and WiFi.

Ndururumo High School students are doing personal studies at home, using their text books from school, and this is supplemented through an online platform.

Nguumo Secondary School students are facing challenges studying from home due to lack of space, electricity and paraffin to study by lamplight.

Kasuue Secondary School students have limited access to digital learning. They are studying with their text books that they took home. The school created a WhatsApp form for four revision groups, but one of the four KSF students has limited access. Purchase of internet bundles to download the materials is a challenge. The second student has no access to a smart phone. Less than 1/3 of our candidates can access alternative learning programs. The school worries some students may not return to school next year and may end up in the work force.

Concern was expressed about KSF's financial support with schools being out for so long. KSF International is committed to continuing to support our students throughout this global pandemic, which poses unique challenges to our students.

Student Update

Peninah Wambui, 2011 Alumna from State House Girls School, texted Alice some exciting news: "Hello Alice! Hope you're well. Just thought I'd share this good news with you. I'm so happy and can't stop crying... tears of joy. Mesh proposed to me on my birthday on live TV! I'm still so shocked yet excited for this new level in life."



KSF International held a virtual board meeting in July 2020 via Zoom to go over updates and hear from our success story Peterson Njamunge.

The meeting started with brief introductions. We were able to hear from our newest volunteers Calvin and Remmy, aka team Nairobi. Remmy has been providing us with excellent graphic design work in addition to helping us coordinate with schools with Calvin. We appreciate their hard work.

Volunteer Khalil Kaba assisted Dorothy Hastings-James in re-vamping the KSF website to freshen the look at <https://kenyascholarshipfund.org/>.

The date of this board meeting held significance because it marked 10 years since the outreach trip where we connected with Peterson Njamunge. Board member Audrey Lhemann traveled to Kenya with Alice Hastings-James, and they met a brilliant young man Peterson Njamunge. They were able to assist him in raising funds to travel to Ohio for his full ride scholarship at Oberlin College.

Jacqueline Oburu and Audrey Lhemann shared some words about their introduction to Peterson. Jacqueline Oburu introduced Peterson Njamunge to KSF. Her brother-in-law is a professor at Oberlin College and her sister was the Dean of the freshman class, A.G. and Brenda Miller respectively. A.G. sent her a note, saying, "There is this incredible young man in Kenya who has a full ride scholarship to Oberlin, but he needs the resources to get here. That's the only thing that would hold him back." Jacqueline reached out to Alice asking if she would like to contribute, and the rest is history.

Peterson's Success

Dorothy read the words of Susan Oloo-Oruya, who was unable to join the meeting from Nairobi:

"When you are destined for greatness, and God has plans to bless you, no one can come in your way. This is how I always remember this episode in Peterson's life. I met him when Alice Hastings-James was visiting Kenya. Jacqueline and Dan Oburu introduced her to Peterson. She said she would be bringing a young, brilliant Starehe Boys' alumni to our Wednesday Rotary Club of Karen meeting.

That evening, a shy young man shared about the book he had written as well as his impressive academic achievements. However, what was most captivating was that he had gotten a full scholarship to Oberlin College in the states and did not have the needed funds to buy his ticket to the US. We hoped that those there that evening would help raise funds towards this.

The next day they visited the Langata Rotary Club, which was known to have young, successful lawyers and a vibrancy like no other club in Nairobi. When they heard about Peterson's story and plight, they vowed to make sure that this young man got to the states.

Well, the rest is history, as the young man arrived to the United States with a big smile and a tiny bag, holding all of his earthly possessions ready for a new life.

I vividly recall the night he left Kenya, as his closest friends from school said he wanted to spend that night with him. I had planned for the taxi to pick him up early in the morning the next day, so 3 or 4 young men stayed up late in my living room talking and laughing and crashed on the sofas. What a display of friendship that was to me. It really touched me.

Peterson went out there and made a success of himself. This story remains with me as it reminds me that in life there are those institutions, organizations, people and friends that will play a part in your life. They will cheer and spur you on, and if you can do the same for another and give back, do. Never forget those that made you, but above all, never forget to give thanks to God. Congratulations, KSF, and well done, Peterson. You've made us proud!

Peterson shared his incredible story with the board members. He grew up in Kiamaina slum in Laikipia. His scholarship to Starehe Boys was his way out of the slum. After graduating in 2007, he had been accepted into med school on a government scholarship but had to wait 2 years to start, so he returned to Kiamaina.



He started taking night classes in the slum, where students would show up drunk. He had enjoyed writing biology essays in high school, and although he had no qualifications, he decided to write a book, which he pitched to text book publisher Longhorn in 2008. They eventually accepted it in 2009.

Pete's book was quite a journey for him. He was excited about interest in his book idea, which he had handwritten. He got a raw deal from the publishers, who told him initially that he would earn 10%. They then said since he wasn't well known, they needed to attach 2 other well-known writers to the project, who ended up getting 3% each. They refused any advances, and he only received one small payment for royalties when he was in Kenya. Despite the issues, he is impressed that even through curriculum changes, his book reached a larger audience than Kiamaina.

He started med school, and after reading *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah, who had gone to Oberlin, he decided he wanted to go there. He took his SATs without studying because he was working 20 hours per day. He got in with a full scholarship of \$55,000.

Peterson's Success

When he shared this news, he was met with, "If they gave you \$55,000, why can't they give you air fare?" It doesn't work that way. It was very trying to have this great opportunity but no money from the book and a string of broken promises from friends and politicians whom he had asked for help for his airfare.



The deadline for his ticket to Ohio was the end of July 2010. He had his visa and passport but no ticket. Auntie Alice emailed him in June when he was giving up. Pete recounted meeting Audrey and Auntie Alice at the upscale Village Market, where he took 3 hours to eat his small steak since he struggled to eat and talk. He has since mastered that. He felt hopeful after that meeting – here was someone he could trust, even though they had just met. Susan Oloo-Oruya summarized the rest of the process very well. He was eager to get to Ohio and start this exciting new chapter in his life.

He returned to Kenya in his sophomore year at Oberlin with his friend Shawna. They started a small non-profit Kenya Reads with the Dalai Lama fellowship grant as well as Projects for Peace. They started a library in his old school in the slum. Growing up there were no libraries or places to get a textbook. The plan was to get a shared library system that teachers would help them manage to keep costs low.

On that trip, he visited KSF schools, and he was surprised with a signing of his Biology Essay text book, which he hadn't actually seen. They are now in bookshops across Kenya.

In 2013 Kenya Reads added to the books in the library and got school uniforms to instill dignity in the children and encourage them to stay in school. Pete feels passionately about giving back to where he came from.

After graduating Oberlin, Peterson moved to New York and worked for Cancer Support Community. This is a nationwide organization that was based in Washington, D.C. with New York headquarters. He was doing program development and delivery for them, managing their cancer support help line, and help provide gas cards and funding for stage four cancer patients.

He moved to D.C. in 2017 to work for National Patient Advocate Foundation. He was helping patients lobby for Obamacare not to be repealed.

Pete's next job was with Culture Center, which helps journalists publish with different media. They make sure that those stories you would otherwise not see are being reported on. A big one was the 1619 project podcast last year, which won a Pulitzer Prize. They brought that kind of work to schools, which really has fit with Pete's value of giving back since he feels he has received so much.

This year Peterson applied to business school in Maryland and received a Deans Scholarship, which is another full ride. He started in June and is on the consulting and finance track.

Ten years in, he's just getting the hang of how America works. He is so thankful that this is possible because each of the KSF volunteers helped give him the push he needed. He wants to continue to give back to the small slum where he comes from. It's taken a village to get him through school, and it's been a lot of women who really helped him through the process, and he recognizes and appreciates that so much. It's an unlikely story if it wasn't for all the people who did their part.

Hakeem Nzimbi Aquil Memorial Scholarship

March 10, 1998 – January 6, 2020

In loving memory of Board member June Kikumu-Aquil's son, Hakeem Nzimbi Aquil, KSF International is creating a memorial scholarship in his honor. Hakeem grew up in Tampa, Florida, and he was active in his local community. He was a gifted Athlete who loved to play basketball and run. Hakeem ran 5 to 10 miles daily and dreamed of visiting Iten, Kenya, home of the running champions. Iten is a small town located in the Rift Valley province.

Kenya is his mother's native home. Hakeem's legacy is the gift of life through organ donation. He is missed dearly by his Mother June, Father Curtis, Sisters Aisha and Sade, Nephew Malachi, and Niece Amara.

R.I.P. HNA 🙏



About Kenya Scholarship Fund



KENYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND INTERNATIONAL

Educating Kenyan High School Students One at a Time

MISSION

To provide scholarships to needy students.

ABOUT US

Kenya Scholarship Fund (KSF) International was formed by several professional Kenyans living in the United States and wishing to give back to their communities. KSF International is a volunteer-run organization, which relies on funding and support from family, friends, well-wishers and private fund-raising events. The board comprises twelve volunteers who lovingly dedicate many unpaid hours to manage the affairs of the organization.

This non-profit organization is an Equal Opportunity Organization that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, tribal affiliation, gender or religion.



www.kenyascholarshipfund.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From the
Kenya Scholarship Fund International
Board Members:*

Alice Hastings-James	Houston, TX
Audrey Lhemann	Houston, TX
Irene Mwangi-Harvin	Cocoa, Florida
Jacqueline Oburu	Richmond, Virginia
June Kikumu-Aquil	Tampa, Florida
Kenneth Gakuya	Houston, TX
Peter Kariuki	Richmond, Virginia
Rhoda Matiru	Houston, TX
Susan Oloo-Oruya	Nairobi, Kenya
Wilma D'Souza	Ontario, Canada
Emmanuel "Remmy" Cheruiyot	Nairobi, Kenya Volunteer
Calvin Mwanza	Nairobi, Kenya Volunteer