

AKIBA NI MALI

EDUCATION IS A TREASURE

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR KENYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND INTERNATIONAL

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KICKS FOR KENYA

KSF's 2nd Annual Shoe Drive

KSF Board Member June Kikumu-Aquil partnered with Grace Vaughn, a Junior High student athlete at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School in Tampa, Florida to organize a second annual shoe drive.

Over one hundred and fifty pairs of gently used athletic shoes were donated by the community and shipped to Kenya for the student athletes at St. Patrick's High School, Kenya.

June was inspired to start this annual shoe drive in loving memory of her beloved son Hakeem, an avid athlete who always wished to travel from USA to Iten, Kenya and train with the student athletes.

In his memory, KSF established the Hakeem Nzimbi Aquil memorial scholarship.



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In 2023, five academic scholarships will be awarded to St. Patrick's High School.

Donations are most welcome and much appreciated.

<https://kenyascholarshipfund.org/hakeem-nzimbi-aquil-memorial-scholarship/>

Garden of Hope Community Outreach

I am currently a student at Kenya College of Accountancy University, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Counseling Psychology.

I am eternally grateful to KSF International, for not only paying for my high school education from 2016-2019 but also for engaging me in a worthwhile community outreach, volunteering at Garden of Hope Centre. Garden of Hope Centre is a children's home that provides food, shelter, schooling and care to orphaned and underprivileged children.



On 21st June 2022, I was part of a team of twelve volunteers serving lunch to one hundred and ninety children. I can describe the whole experience as inspiring and amazing. It shaped my view on volunteering and giving back to the community. I learnt volunteering does not only mean service to humanity but service to God. Putting a smile on kids' faces or just spending quality time with them is similar to spending time with God. I also learnt that as a young person it is good to use whatever skills, talents or gifts you have to give back to the community for a better today and tomorrow.



I am inspired to use my knowledge in psychology as a way of giving back to the society through mentorship, peer counseling and creating awareness campaigns on mental health to people around me and the society at large. It has always been my dream to establish a foundation named "INSPIRE ME" that will provide mentorship, counseling and mental health advocacy to Kenyan youth.

I am doing my best to get connected to other KSF International alumni so we can come up with volunteer projects and help the organization celebrate fifteen years of changing lives in October 2023.

My deepest appreciation to KSF International for transforming lives of many Kenyan students.

May the good Lord continue blessing this organization.

Banice Makau
KSF International Alumni
Akiba School 2019

Garden of Hope Community Outreach



Wanja Kimani's Success Story



I did not realize how hard it is to write about myself until this glorious opportunity arose. My name is Patriciah Wanja Kimani, and I'm a research consultant and communications specialist based in Nairobi, Kenya. I am also the reigning Mrs. Congeniality Kenya 2021-2022.

My congenial nature is my superpower, especially because I smile my way out of the most challenging situations. But the catch is, I could not and cannot smile if I did not have angels on earth, such as KSF International, to hold my hand. Coming from an unstable home, where dad was a physically and verbally abusive alcoholic, a good education was never a guarantee.



Patricia with her precious children; Samantha Wambui, born on 1st May 2014 and Faneva Mwangi born on 21st January, 2020

Mom used to do small jobs for as low as \$2 per day, three days a week. Despite being academically gifted, I would be sent home over fee arrears. It was close to impossible to get any sort of financial aid because both my parents were alive. None of the organizations I approached ever put into consideration that only one parent was gainfully employed, and that same parent would squander all money on alcohol.

I really cannot tell how it happened but KSF International took me in. They sponsored my high school education until completion of high school. I will forever remember February 2, 2010, the day that, for once, I was not mentioned among the students that had outstanding fee balances. From then on, I became more confident, and my academic performance improved drastically.

Upon doing my final exam (KCSE), I excelled and was called to enroll in Kenyatta University as a government-sponsored student. This enrollment criteria implies subsidized university fees. At the time, my dad had lost his job in the most startling manner. Mom was a domestic worker in the Middle East, and we were hardly ever in touch. I had to try every way to raise the fees, amounting to slightly over \$300 per year.

Through a grueling turn of events, I was molested and conceived from the incident. I was already unable to afford life on my own, how much more challenging it would get with a child! I kept the faith and raised the child amidst poverty and lack. But through it all, I did everything in my power to ensure that each passing day was better than the previous one.

I went to seek readmission at Kenyatta University. While waiting for the response, I maintained my position as a domestic worker. Luckily, I met a lady who, instead of hiring me in her house, paid my fees and my daughter's for the next three years.

The optimism alongside the desire to pick up the pieces made me nurture my daughter's talents. It is through my daughter's talent in poetry and public speaking that doors began to open both locally and internationally. She became the youngest player escort of the Africa Cup of Nations. We took our first ever flight together then.

This joy was shortlived because of the COVID-19 menace. When the economy reopened, and I could not get a job, I sought a job in the Middle East. Little did I know that I would wind up as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia.



It is by the help of my friends that my story trended on Twitter, and by the intervention of IOM, I returned to Kenya with nothing.

Home had never felt sweeter. I was reunited with my kids, and we began life afresh. My experience drove me towards active advocacy against human trafficking. I now work alongside non governmental organizations (NGO's) that are fighting human trafficking at different capacities. Also, out of of experiencing violence at home and the sexual assault incident, I joined the Mrs. Universe Kenya pageant that is aimed at eradicating sexual and gender-based violence. I was awarded the Mrs. Congeniality title. As a research consultant at two antislavery organizations, I am privileged to be among the few attending a regional conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

The quote that keeps me going is, "When you hit rock bottom, the only way to go is up." I may have hit rock bottom several times but as many times have I gotten back up STRONGER. In all these, KSF International has played a pivotal role in my life in ensuring, first and foremost, that I completed high school with confidence.

LONG LIVE KSF INTERNATIONAL!

*With Love and Gratitude,
Wanja Kimani*



Ndururumo High School

P.O.Box 120 - 20300
NYAHURURU

Tel: 065 - 203 2048
Mobile: 0729 - 129618

Email: ndururumo@gmail.com

Your Ref:
17TH December 2022

Our Ref:

Date:

Kenya Scholarship Fund International
Houston, Texas USA

Dear Madam,

RE: GRATITUDE TO KSF INTERNATIONAL

Ndururumo High School is an extra county co-school in Laikipia County, Laikipia West Constituency, Nyahururu Sub County. It was established in 1952 by the Dutch Settlers under the name Jan Van Riebek School. Later, it was bought by a consortium of churches and renamed Thompson Falls High School which later changed to the current name.

It admits students from other counties though about 70% of students' population comes from Laikipia County. Laikipia is predominantly an economic hardship area where farming is the main industry.

School retention, completion and accomplishment are daily challenges facing students from financially unstable backgrounds as manifested during Covid 19 (March 2020 to October January 2021) resulting to total school closure in Kenya.

During this closure, the school integrated technology to try to reach out to students with limited success. All class teachers formed WhatsApp groups for their classes where learning materials would be posted for learners. Some assignments would be posted with clear instructions on what was expected of learners. Any follow up that was done was quite heartbreaking since less 10% of the students would access the learning resources. For monitoring purposes, voice calls would be made to check on non-compliance. Finally, it was discovered quite a number of parents did not have smart phones or internet bundles to access the materials. Lack of electricity in most of these places and poor telecommunication connectivity in these areas compounded an already worse situation.

All these factors made it almost impossible to keep track of our students with disappointing results. Destitution, early pregnancy, early marriage and drop out cases hit us in a big way. Girls were most vulnerable. Technological failure in supporting academic programs during Covid 19 showed how important it is to have students in school under the tutelage of their teachers. Fortunately, schools reopened fully for all students in 2021.

We are grateful for your continued support of these students to enable them realize academic goals and be the transformative shining lights in their communities.

Yours faithfully,

NDURURUMO HIGH SCHOOL
P.O. Box 120 - 20300
NYAHURURU
Tel: 065 - 203 2048
Zachary W. School Champion
Ndururumo High School

School Motto: Marching to Excellence

Vision: To be the best preferred centre of excellence in Kenya

Mission : To excel in providing quality education, develop talents and produce an all round individual equipped with knowledge, skills, values, right attitude and self discipline

A Word from the Executive Director



During a personal visit to Massachusetts in February 2022, I was privileged to meet Professor John M Mugane. He invited me to share my story via Zoom with twelve of his student during three of their one hour classes. The following is his personal gratitude.

Dear Alice,

How can I say this? Your talk was just fantastic and so very inspiring!! A great takeaway for me is the way you embraced those children and the community with your face lit up and the tenderness with which you speak to them. There is such energy there in the sound of your supporters and sponsors in Houston and elsewhere. It is a breathtaking experience, and I am left wondering how you pray for those children, staff and elderly women who grace the environment and give them the feeling of being needed and appreciated. It has to be without stop. I applaud your efforts even more and indeed hope to learn from you.

I am hoping that you will return to us next week or a later week, so that the students can then ask you questions about yourself - in an oral history, tracing from childhood to present.

The course you are visiting has the following description:-

As a Social Engagement course, the aim of the course (Introduction to Africans through their languages and cultures) is to wed scholarly inquiry and academic study to practical experience and personal involvement in the African/Black communities. Students are given the opportunity to study Africans, their languages, and their cultures from the ground up, not only through textbooks and data sets but also through personal relationships, cultural participation, and inquisitive explorations of individual Africans in Africa and the diaspora. The students seek to do “social-portraiture,” of Africans, their social engagements through languages, and African cultures. By examining linguistic debates and cultural traditions and interrogating their import in the daily lives of Africans in the US, the course hopes to bridge the divide between grand theories and everyday practices, between intellectual debates and the lived experiences of individuals, between the American academy and the African world. Ultimately, this course aims to bring Africans themselves into the center of the academic study of Africa - where they should truly belong but seldom are.

I know that this is a mouthful, but hopefully you can see through it why your story is critical in staying grounded on what is real education and the call to selflessness. This call to selflessness is why the poor are among us, and each of us poor in some way, yet able to give (deny oneself) for the sake of those who are not relatives, friends or fans but unknown. There is a good core in your story that constitutes true education.

Again THANK YOU very much for your presentation. You are a blessing because you are blessed with a certain kind of heart and mind.

A pleasure it was indeed!



John Mugane
Professor of the Practice of African Languages and Cultures
Director, African Language Program
Department of African & African American Studies
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

John M Mugane is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AFRAMER 20: Introduction to African Languages and Cultures
Time: Mar 2, 2022 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom meeting
<https://harvard.zoom.us/j/96184836734?pwd=UHBkl6KzRuemYrdHRWSGJ3bkdLZz09>

Password: 231828
Meeting ID: 961 8483 6734

About Kenya Scholarship Fund



KENYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND INTERNATIONAL
Educating Kenyan High School Students One at a Time



KSFInternational

www.kenyascholarshipfund.org

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 organizations, which relies on funding and support from family, friends, well-wishers and private fundraising 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.

EIN #: 80-0778998

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From the
Kenya Scholarship Fund International
Board Members & Team*

Alice Hastings-James
Audrey Lhemann
Irene Mwangi-Harvin
Jacqueline Oburu
June Kikumu-Aquil
Kenneth Gakuya
Peter Kariuki
Rhoda Matiru
Susan Oloo-Oruya
Wilma D'Souza

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Houston, Texas
Cocoa, Florida
Richmond, Virginia
Tampa, Florida
Houston, Texas
Richmond, Virginia
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Valued Volunteers:

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Moses Wambua
Calvin Mwanza
Emmanuel (Remmy) Cheruiyot

Houston, Texas
Houston, Texas
Nairobi, Kenya
Nairobi, Kenya

