

AKIBA NI MALI

EDUCATION IS A TREASURE

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR KENYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND INTERNATIONAL

December 2023, Issue Number 13

15 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

On Saturday 14th October 2023, Garden of Hope Centre, Ngong, Kenya, a trusted partner, hosted KSF's Community Service Day. The fun-filled event included games, door prizes and volunteering. We served one hundred children with a delicious meal.

A special treat was a musical production by KSF alumni Peninah and her husband Mesh of Wapendwa Muziki (<https://fb.watch/oWXhgriFB4/>).

The following volunteer statements are a testament of joy to serve and make a difference:

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Antonny Gichinga Nairobi, Kenya

Hello, I'm Antonny Gichinga, and I'm proud to be a volunteer with KSF International. KSF has played a crucial role in facilitating my high school studies, opening doors to education and opportunities that I'm immensely grateful for. I believe that giving back to KSF through volunteering is the least I can do to show my appreciation and support for their invaluable work. Together, we can make a positive impact and empower more individuals to access education and brighter futures.



Chipso Tucker Virginia, USA

My experience participating in a KSF event for the first time was amazing! Not even twenty minutes after arriving at Garden of Hope, I was welcomed by smiling little children who held my hand throughout most of the event. I was so touched by the dedication and love that the staff give to all of the children and teens to create a healthy and supportive environment. I had the opportunity to listen to alumni students and sponsored kids and was impressed by their accomplishments and goals for the future.

Best Wishes for Many More KSF years...



Eleanor Tomczyk

Virginia, USA

As an American on vacation in Kenya, I recently had the privilege and the honor of attending the Kenya Scholarship Fund International 15th celebration which was held at Garden of Hope Centre, Ngong, Kenya.

We spent the day celebrating the success stories of the KSF Scholarship winners (some of whom had been orphans at the Garden of Hope) as well as participating in a day of service at the orphanage. I have first hand knowledge of how educational support can transform a destiny, and I was very moved to see the positive results of that support during the testimonial time of KSF's celebration. I am so thrilled to have been a part of this very inspirational day.

To say that KSF is changing lives is an understatement.



Fiona Ndinda

Nairobi, Kenya

As an enthusiastic volunteer for KSF International, an organization dedicated to funding Kenyan high school students, I, Fiona Ndinda, am committed to empowering the younger generation through education. With a passion for ensuring equal opportunities, I wholeheartedly devote my time and efforts to support KSF's mission. Through mentorship, fundraising, and advocacy, I strive to make quality education accessible to every deserving student. I firmly believe that investing in education is key to unlocking potential and building a brighter future for Kenya. I am honoured to be part of KSF International's impactful journey in transforming lives through education.



Jacinta Mueni

Nairobi, Kenya

I first volunteered at Garden of Hope in August 2018 during a medical camp and learned that Health is Wealth.

Returning on October 14th 2023 gave me joy.

Hairdressing countless happy girls is a talent I will share as often as possible.



Jacqueline Oburu

Virginia, USA

After almost 15 years serving on the board and supporting KSF, it meant the world to us to meet some of the KSF recipients and hear their stories of success for the first time. It brought such joy to see the lives that have been changed. And now they are changing lives.

KSF is making a difference... one child at a time.

It was a great pleasure for Dan and I to serve.



Jane Kariuki & Doris Nguli

Nairobi, Kenya

The feeling of doing good while feeding the future is long lasting.



John Tomczyk

Virginia, USA

I was so blessed and full of joy throughout Kenya Scholarship Fund International's 15th celebration. I was truly honored to be there for the testimonies and presentations during this heartwarming event. The fact that KSF has such a life-changing vision and has fulfilled that vision so efficiently and effectively is a very special and much needed accomplishment. It was great to be with the students and to hear of their achievements and aspirations. Many thanks to KSF International for including me in this rewarding occasion.

Congratulations on your service, dedication, and devotion to the children!



Kevin Odhiambo

Nairobi, Kenya

As we celebrate our 15th year milestone, we express immense gratitude for the resounding success of our anniversary event. The day was filled with joy and achievements, made possible by the dedicated individuals behind the scenes, enthusiastic participants, and the beautiful contributions of the Garden of Hope. A special thank you to our invaluable Board Members for their guidance and unwavering support.

Cheers to 15 years of growth and impact – thank you for being part of our journey!



Timothy Chege

Nairobi, Kenya

Volunteering at KSF's 15th anniversary celebration was wonderful. I enjoyed taking photos and listening to scholarship recipients' stories. The best being "The memory of receiving school supplies for the first time left me feeling both amazed and uneasy. I wasn't used to being the recipient of so much generosity."

Thanks for changing so many lives.



Susan Oloo-Oruya

Nairobi, Kenya

This year marks KSF's 15th anniversary, which was celebrated at the Garden of Hope with music, dance, games, door prizes, hairdressing, and a delicious lunch.

Past recipients shared moving messages of their journey from receiving their scholarship to the present, inspiring us all.

It was a privilege to volunteer alongside Jacqueline Oburu, her friends, and dedicated supporters of this program in Kenya.

I particularly felt blessed to be amidst some young, promising faces with big smiles from children who are beneficiaries of the seven-year feeding program, courtesy of Alice Hastings-James' friends in the USA.

Thanks to Remmy Artist for creating a beautiful mural that now brings joy to everyone entering the simple dining space at the Garden of Hope.

For me, this truly made all the sacrificial hours put into this service more meaningful and worthwhile.

My prayer is that these young people will also continue to carry forward this act of kindness and generosity from which they have benefited.



Vita Tucker

Virginia, USA

I was introduced to KSF International by my very good friend, Jacqueline Oburu, who also serves on the board of this extraordinary organization.

My daughter and I, accompanied by Jacqueline and Dan Oburu, visited the Garden of Hope and were graciously included in their day of service celebration. We were embraced by the joyous sounds of children singing and dancing. As welcomed spectators, we listened to speeches delivered by individuals representing success stories of scholarship recipients, those aspiring to further their education with future funding, and those too young to comprehend what lies ahead due to the promising and effective leadership at the Garden of Hope. Throughout the day, we happily participated as volunteers in various capacities, beaming with joy. We captured moments in pictures, held hands, joined in sing alongs, and moved to the beautiful rhythmic beats of familiar African music.

I am immensely grateful to have been part of this incredible day and heartened to know that there are individuals working on the frontlines in community-based organizations to empower underserved communities. I am humbled by the impact this organization will have on the marginalized communities they serve and the positive and influential future awaiting the children in this remarkable community.

Asante Sana (Thank you very much, in Swahili).

15 Years of Changing Lives



15 Years of Changing Lives



Kicks for Kenya KSF's 3rd Annual Shoe Drive

Our family trip to Kenya was the trip of a lifetime: productive, enlightening, and inspiring. Our visit to St. Patrick's High School-Iten (Home of Champions) to deliver donated shoes, backpacks, and hats was particularly inspiring and moving for all of us.

They honored us with a tree planting ceremony in tribute to the KSF Hakeem Nzimbi Aquil Memorial Scholarship. During our visit, we met the five scholarship recipients. It was evident that KSF is making a tremendously positive impact on the lives of these young men.

Additionally, we were fortunate to visit Ngummo Girls High School in Kibwezi, where we met three students sponsored by KSF. Once again, it was very apparent that KSF scholarships have made a significant difference in the lives of these young ladies, putting them on a solid path toward a brighter future.

Keep up the good work, KSF!

Curtis Aquil
Florida, USA

During our family trip to Kenya in October, I had a wonderful time visiting St. Patrick's High School-Iten, Kenya.

Meeting the KSF Hakeem Nzimbi Aquil Memorial Scholarship recipients in person was an incredibly rewarding experience.

The young men were polite, hospitable, and appeared to be motivated to succeed in life. They expressed how much of a difference the KSF scholarship has made in their lives, enabling them to focus on both academics and athletics.

We also had an opportunity to visit Ngummo Girls High School, where we briefly met three KSF scholarship recipients.

All of them held high aspirations to succeed in their academics, emphasizing how the scholarship provided them with peace of mind.

KSF is making a significant impact in various communities across Kenya. I hope that we can extend scholarships to more students in the near future.

Sade Aquil
Florida, USA



Kicks for Kenya KSF's 3rd Annual Shoe Drive

In loving memory of Hakeem Nzimbi, KSF Board member June Kikumu-Aquil, husband Curtis and daughter Sade made a special trip to Iten, Kenya in October 2023, to deliver athletic shoes to St. Patrick's High School-Iten.

This third annual shoe drive began in May 2023 at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School in Spring Hill, Florida. Graduating senior Grace Vaughn, a dedicated volunteer, headed the drive.

Donations are most welcome and highly appreciated.

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



Schools Meet & Greet

During her visit to Kenya, June-Kikumu Aquil and family visited Ngummo Girls High School in Kibwezi, Kenya.

They were happy to meet faculty and three KSF scholarship recipients.



Recruiting 3 new schools to bring the count to 15 schools for 15 years was exciting.

KSF's Nairobi team accompanied me to the following schools:

- Nanyuki High School
- Batian Christian School
- St Catherine's Lema Girls School
- Garden of Hope

60 scholarships will be awarded to 31 girls and 29 boys in 2024. This is a dream come true, and we are eternally grateful.



A Word from the Executive Director

What an incredibly busy summer it was!

Farida, daughter of board member Rhoda Matiru, graduated with high honors from The Imani School, Houston, Texas, in May 2023.

Farida, an avid volunteer at KSF's car wash fundraising events, is a scholar at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Congratulations, Farida!



Mental Health is Real

A highlight of my Kenya trip was attending a very solemn, enlightening event with board member June Aquil's family on Monday 23rd October 2023 in Tassia slum, Embakasi.

Through Hakeem's Space, a USA 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Aquil family's special project is creating a legacy for beloved Hakeem and making a big difference to the less fortunate in Kenya.

A. Hastings-James



About Kenya Scholarship Fund



KSF International

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 organization, which relies on funding and support from family, friends, well-wishers and private fundraising events. The board comprises ten 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

Houston, Texas
Houston, Texas
Cocoa, Florida
Richmond, Virginia
Tampa, Florida
Houston, Texas
Richmond, Virginia
Houston, Texas
Nairobi, Kenya
Ontario, Canada

Valued Volunteers:

Ann Karanja
Calvin Mwanza
Dorothy Wambua
Emmanuel (Remmy) Cheruiyot
Fiona Ndinda
Kevin Odhiambo
Moses Wambua
Timothy Chege

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

