



## Investing in Kenyan Co-operative Development for Education, Health, and Economic Vitality

### *Highlights of 2018*

#### 2018 Fundraising Events



#### Harvest Half Marathon and Pasta Dinner

Alex Hutchinson, author of “Endure”, was the guest speaker at our annual Harvest Half Marathon pre-race pasta dinner on Friday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. The pasta dinner featured live music and a silent auction with fifty items ranging from massages to Kenyan artwork. Thanks to the many volunteers who played music, prepared and served food, helped with set-up and clean-up, provided marshalling and water station support at the race, and numerous other tasks. Thanks also to those who attended the dinner, purchased an auction item, made a donation, or ran a race. Special thanks to Calvary United Church for hosting the event. We also appreciate the local businesses who have supported the Harvest Half race for many years. Our race sponsors include Wellesley Home Hardware, Stemmler’s Meats (Heidelberg), Dr. Erin Walker (dentist, St. Clements) and AutoFleet (St. Clements). We hope to see many of you at next year’s event.

#### Karin’s Kilimanjaro Fundraising Climb

In September, Karin Kuntz of Kitchener hiked to the summit of Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain at 5,895 m (19,341 ft) above sea level. She invited her friends and family to join in her challenge by making a donation to our scholarship program for high school students.

Karin took KKFC fundraising to “new heights” as our top 2018 fundraiser!

Thanks to all of those who supported Karin and KKFC in her adventure.



## Water Projects at Mwaita and Murkuywa



Dan Chepkwony has played an important role providing support for Canadian volunteers on all of our trips to Cherangany. He gained valuable experience when he assisted an American team repairing well hand-pumps. When Canadian hydrogeologist, Nell Van Walsum (now a KKFC director), went to Kenya with Blair McKay (KKFC chair) in 2017, Dan organized visits to existing wells and arranged meetings with government officials. He was instrumental in helping us learn about the limited access to clean water in Cherangany and the need to improve it. We are pleased to have Dan working with KKFC as our Water Project Manager. KKFC arranged for Dan to attend a week-long well drilling course in Kenya in March, 2018. The course provided some basic training in how to drill, develop and test a well. Dan and Eliud, our Dairy Project Manager, have been working together to develop a plan to provide better access to clean water. They began by working with the County government and KKFC co-founder, Wesley Korir, to create a list of sites

where there was a real need for better access to clean water. Dan and Eliud worked with our Canadian water committee (Nell, Blair, and Joe Brunsting) to prepare reports on these potential sites. After careful consideration, the list was shortened to the three most suitable sites for our first water project.

Following visits by Blair, Dan, and Eliud to all three locations, Murkuywa Primary School was selected for our first well. We planned to work in partnership with the County government using their large drill rig, but unfortunately, they are unable to fulfill their commitment so we will not be working with them at this time. As a result, we decided to drill a smaller well at Murkuywa Primary School using a small drilling rig that KKFC shipped to Kenya in early 2015. In order to gain experience using the KKFC equipment, Dan's team began drilling a well at the Mwaita Dairy Project site in October.

We will start work at the Murkurwa site once an electric water pump is installed and the Mwaita water system is completed.



## Cooperative Dairy Development Project Update

This project began with a fact-finding visit to Kenya in June 2014. In December 2014, four milk cooling tanks and other equipment were shipped to Kenya. While our container was on route to Kenya, we worked with two Cherangany dairy cooperatives to obtain land and design buildings for this equipment. In July, 2015, two 3,000 Litre milk cooling tanks and a diesel generator were installed in these newly constructed buildings in the small Cherangany villages of Mwaita and Taito. Since the equipment was installed, the number of farmers active in the Mwaita and



Taito Cooperatives has grown. Today, these busy cooperatives have a combined membership of more than 2,000, providing members with a source of income. They also employ a number of people at both locations – including milk transporters, quality control staff, and management. In addition to collecting and chilling milk, both cooperatives provide other services to their members. Agro-Vet stores at each location sell dairy and farming supplies. The cooperatives have also been working with Semex Canada to provide AI (Artificial Insemination) services. Using quality semen from Canada will help improve milk production and herd health. The cooperatives also operate a SACCO (Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization) that makes it possible for members to purchase farm supplies and AI services on credit. Members can also take out special school-fee loans from their SACCO so that more children can attend school and members are able to make farm improvements.

Other highlights in 2018 include the installation of a wood-fired hot water system at Mwaita (see photo) and a new drilled well in Taito.



## **Education Projects – Early Years Programs**

### **Cherangany Program**

Since expanding our high school scholarship program, it is no longer possible to operate our Cherangany Early Years program in the Cardinal Guest House. Beginning in May 2018, our Cherangany Early Years program began operating at the Nzoia Church. The church provides the classroom space and cooking facilities while KKFC provides two teachers, a part-time cook and financial support for a daily lunch program. Our teachers, Jane Tenai and Harriet Gesare, are able to provide two levels of instruction – known as baby and top classes (similar to junior and senior kindergarten in Canada). The current enrollment is almost fifty students and is expected to continue growing. Our cook, Ann Mosong, prepares a nutritious meal each day for the students. In addition to providing the facility, parents and the church community provide some financial support to help cover the cost of firewood (for cooking), chalk, and other teaching materials.



### **Ngong – Early Years Program at Tusemezane Nursery**



This Early Years program in an impoverished area near the village of Ngong (not far from Nairobi) currently provides a structured learning environment for thirty young students. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated Kenyan volunteer, Margaret Karani, who oversees the operation of this program. Margaret has been successful in securing some financial support from a local architect and a construction company to improve the classroom space.

KKFC pays the salary for our hard-working teacher, Cynthia (see photo), as well as a security guard who ensures that the students and building are kept safe and secure.

We also provide funds to purchase food so that the students are able to have a nutritious lunch – often porridge and vegetables. As this program grows, we plan to add a second teacher so that we can begin to offer both baby and top classes at this location as well.

## Education Projects – High School Scholarships

In 2018 KKFC awarded scholarships to allow 39 students to attend high school. Six of these students live in Ngong (near Nairobi) and attended our Tusemezane Nursery school when they were much younger. The other 33 students live in Cherangany, a poor rural area in northern Kenya, where KKFC co-founder Wesley Korir was born and raised. We have a total of 19 students in Forms 2 to 4 (grade 10 to 12) attending St. Francis Girls and Boys Schools in Suwerwa (in the Cherangany Region). In addition to receiving education and accommodation at these schools, these 19 students also receive extra support as part of our Transcend Running Academy program. Beginning in January, 2018, we expanded the Transcend Academy program to include 14 students enrolled in form 1 (grade 9)



at Biribiriet Secondary School in Cherangany. KKFC provides accommodation for these 14 students so that they can live together at the Cardinal Guest House. Here they receive nutritious meals plus on-site coaching and tutoring provided by a teacher/coach and two recent graduates of our Transcend Running Academy. They also receive running gear donated by Canadian athletes.



## Congratulations to our 2017 graduates



Transcend Running Academy graduates, Dorcus Ewoi and Gladys Jemaiyo, played an important mentoring role to our form 1 (grade 9) students from January to July 2018. During this time, Gladys and Dorcas continued to train and study so that they could write the SAT tests and apply to American universities. As a result of their hard work, both girls earned full athletic scholarships to South Plains College in Texas.

We are also pleased to report that two of our 2017 male graduates also received scholarships to attend college in the USA. Both boys spent the first six months of 2018 at the home of our co-founders Wesley and Tarah Korir training and studying prior to applying for college. Alex Kitum is now attending South Plains College in Texas and Wesley Banguria is at Colby Community College in Kansas.



### Dorcus Wasike (2015 Transcend Running Academy)



After graduating from St. Francis Girls High School, Dorcas spent the first seven months of 2016 training with Tarah and Wesley Korir and preparing to write SAT's. In August 2016, she accepted a full scholarship to the University of Louisville in Kentucky (the same school that Wesley and Tarah Korir attended). Dorcas competed in track distances, ranging from 800m to 10,000m. At the 2018 NCAA Outdoor Championships she earned a silver medal in the 10,000m event. She also set Louisville school outdoor records in 3,000m, 5,000m, and 10,000m. As a result of these impressive achievements, Dorcas was named "Women's Track Athlete of the Year" in the ACC conference. This fall she won the ACC Cross Country Championships, covering 6 km in a time of 20:08.

In July, Dorcas volunteered as a guide, leading a group of Louisville high school students on a mission trip to Cherangany. These students volunteered in Cherangany schools and trained with our current Transcend Running Academy students. We want to thank Dorcus for providing this important leadership to students from both Kenya and the USA. We wish Dorcas continued success in her future running career.

For more information or to donate, please visit: [www.kenyankidsfoundation.ca/donate](http://www.kenyankidsfoundation.ca/donate)

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We invite you to consider volunteering at an event or serving on one of our project committees (Agriculture, Administration, Education, and Water). Please contact us at [info@kenyankidsfoundation.ca](mailto:info@kenyankidsfoundation.ca)