

ISSUE 1

2008

STEPS FOR THE FUTURE

NEWS FROM KARATU EDUCATION FUND

IN THIS ISSUE:

Sponsor A Child
Program Kicks Off

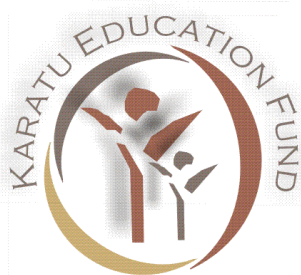
A Place to Grow

Thanks to our Donors

2008 at a Glance

Community News

About KEF



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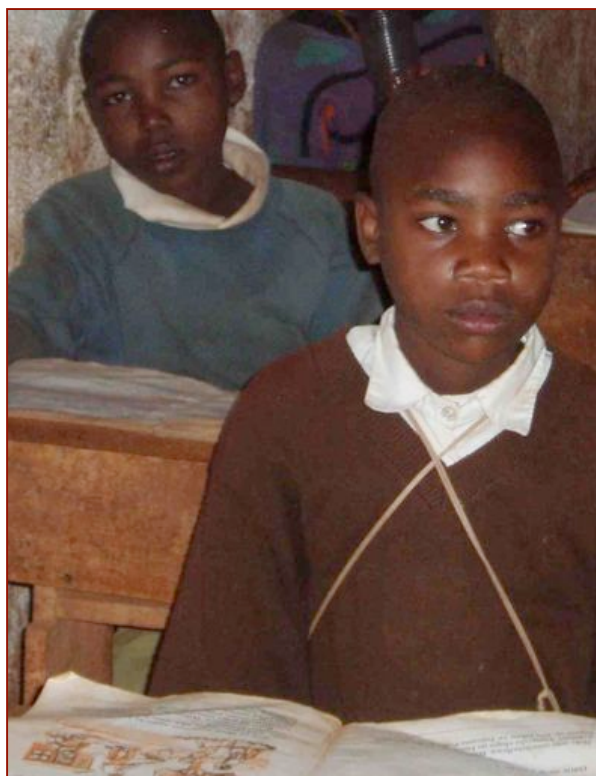
WEBSITE:

www.karatu-edfund.org

KEF 'Sponsor A Child Program' Kicks Off

Karatu Education Fund's new Sponsor A Child Program has kicked off to a great start. We are very pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring twelve children through secondary school this year. This is truly a wonderful contribution to the Karatu community, and we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to the following sponsors:

- ◆ St Paul's Episcopal Church, NJ, USA (3 students)
- ◆ Deborah Todd & Harvey Stone, WA, USA
- ◆ Karen & Kerry Quint, WA, USA
- ◆ Tracey & Gary Bennewies, Canada
- ◆ Derek, Danica & Evan Bennewies, Canada
- ◆ John and Louise Riber, Tanzania
- ◆ Karatu High Tech Group, Canada
- ◆ Frank and Deborah Mellor, Canada
- ◆ Steve & Sally Smith, CO, USA
- ◆ Sandra J Madden, FL, USA



Many Primary School students pass their exams with excellent grades, and show incredible potential for the future, but are unable to continue their education because of the high costs of Secondary School. This year Karatu Education Fund will sponsor 12 children through Secondary School. Thank you sponsors for giving these children an opportunity to achieve their dreams!

KEF designed a committee, including the district commissioner, village chairmen, KEF board members and people in the education field, to review the applications and choose the scholarship winners. The final selection has been made, and sponsors will shortly receive a photo, background biography and contact details of the child for further correspondence.

A Place to Grow

It is said that the early childhood years (0-5) are the most important - the years when children develop the valuable skills needed to grow into an emotionally, physically and socially mature child and adult. Many children under 6 in the Karatu Community are not receiving the kind of care they need – not because their parents neglect them, but because there is nowhere for them to go. There are currently no preschools in the Tloma area. Underage children whose parents work or are unable to care for them are forced to follow older brothers and sisters to Primary School, where they are putting additional strain on already crowded classrooms, insufficient facilities and overworked teachers. And parents have no choice: school is the only place where they feel assured their children are in good hands.



SAMWEL MADANGI (above), Senior Chef at GIBB'S FARM and highly respected elder in the community, wants to make a difference for these children. His plans to build **KILIMANI NURSERY SCHOOL** are well underway. With funding from Karatu Education Fund and 150 families in the community, Samwel will be able to finish building the Kilimani Nursery School by the end of February. Once the building is finished, we then need to secure funding to build toilets and a kitchen, an outdoor play area and furniture for the school. And then we need to stock the shelves! Karatu Education Fund plans to support this project until it is completed, so please let us know if you are interested in contributing.

Thank you to our 2007 Donors!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of our donors in 2007:

Alderwood Terrace Rotary Foundation; David Marsh, John & Louise Riber; Stephen and Carol Ries; Brock Haussamen; Richard Rediker; Juliane Richter & Gunnar Grimm; Caleb Hurtt; Mr & Mrs Terry Rothermel; Margaret W Clarke and many more.

And thank you to all of you who have sent books and supplies this year!

And a huge thank you to our **DONOR OF THE YEAR, A SCHOOL BELL RINGS**, who recently donated \$15,000 towards building new classrooms at Tloma Primary School. Jamie Turner traveled recently to Tanzania, to see the schools, meet the children and see first-hand where his team's hard-earned money is going. Thank you to Jamie Turner, Bill Staley and the whole team at A School Bell Rings for your very significant contribution to this community.

2008 Proposed Projects at a Glance

JUST NOT ENOUGH

TLOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL has more than 650 students. There are usually 3 or 4 children to one desk, and 4 children to one textbook. 45 children share one latrine. Needless to say there is a great need for additional facilities. Mr. Msuya, the headmaster, proposes that KEF helps to fund the building of additional classrooms, latrines and desks, to make learning more comfortable for children and teachers alike. The above needs do not apply only to Tloma Primary School. All the schools KEF has assessed are in dire need of these basic facilities – especially textbooks, desks and toilets.

OUR PIONEERS

GANAKO SECONDARY SCHOOL Form 4 students last year wrote the first “O” Level Exams in their school’s history – with no Science Labs! These 124 brave pioneers managed to sit their practical exams for Biology, Chemistry and Physics in make-shift labs that teachers set up with the limited resources they had. KEF hopes to assist the school to finish the labs they have started and equip them with the necessary chemicals and apparatus for this year’s students.

ADDING ENRICHMENT

TANZANIA has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world. Unfortunately, the schools do not have the funding to offer comprehensive education on family planning and reproductive health. Karatu Education Fund hopes to start showing educational movies at the schools that promote safe sex and educate children about HIV/AIDS. This is a very low-cost project, but we do need some simple equipment to get started, and we welcome any suggestions for films to show!

IN THIS DAY IN AGE

In the west nowadays, technology in schools is fairly mainstream. Most children in Karatu have never seen a computer, much less explored searching the internet or emailing their friends. Karatu Education Fund has been researching the “\$100 dollar laptop” project, and we feel the project would be very successful in our schools. If you are interested in pursuing this project, please visit:

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/10/04/technology/04pogue.php>

for more information, or contact us.

FOR THEIR READING ENJOYMENT

One of Karatu Education Fund’s long-term projects is to build a library at Ganako Secondary School. If you are interested in donating books, or helping to fund the building of the structure, please contact us.

THE TEXTBOOK DILEMMA

When you walk into a classroom in Karatu, the first thing you notice is how many children are huddling around one textbook. Sometimes up to 6 children are sharing one textbook – making it very difficult for them to read and follow the exercises. Karatu Education Fund hopes to help to create a more comfortable learning environment by buying textbooks directly from the publishers, making the ratio of children: books 2:1.

Other Community News

THE NEW TOWN CENTRE

Thanks to Rick and Judi Thomson for donating the new and very popular playground to the Karatu Park (top). A local NGO, Mazingira Bora, together with the town council, are now discussing plans to develop the park further. Ideas include tree planting, a volleyball court, setting up stalls for small local businesses and building a stage/ amphitheatre for entertainment events in Karatu.



PIONEERS

Ganako Secondary School recently had its first ever high school graduation ceremony! Congratulations to those 124 pioneers – we are proud of you!



A REASON TO SMILE

With contributions from Elena Jensen, Ben Gitarda, Annie Birch and an Australian donor, Festo Salaho, a young boy from Tloma Village, (right) was able to receive reconstructive surgery for his cleft palate. He is recovering with a smile!

About Karatu Education Fund

KARATU EDUCATION FUND is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community of Karatu, Tanzania. It was established in 2000 by Dale Jensen, former Manager of GIBB'S FARM. KEF is a legal organization, registered in Washington, D.C. All donations are entirely tax-deductible. Proceeds of the fund are used strategically to build and restore education facilities, and to improve the quality of learning in Tanzanian schools. KEF also supports organizations with social service programs in the areas of healthcare and environmental preservation. KEF supports efforts that encourage teamwork and active participation, in the hopes that we can help to develop a community of confident, educated citizens capable of making contributions of substance to their community, their region and their country.



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*PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR EDUCATION,
ACHIEVEMENT AND PROSPERITY*