

Empowerment Through Education



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Thank You to Our Generous Contributors and the following sponsors:



Our Mission is to empower individuals and communities in need to achieve sustainability through education, leadership and partnership.



Raven Education Centre Pre-Unit Student

Raven Education Centre

Raven Education Centre is an Early Childhood Development School located in Nairobi, Kenya, fully sponsored by People for Progress Foundation. Students of Raven Education Centre receive free education, security, hygiene and 2 meals per day. The school is always operating at a full capacity of 65 children. This ensures quality education at a class size of approximately 22 children per teacher. Our 5th year concludes in November 2015.



Raven Education Centre parents at Fun Fest

Our new developments at Raven Education Centre are twofold. One, we are increasing our focus on identifying and providing external care for at risk students with improved medical support for illnesses which spreads to fellow students and the community (such as ring worm). Secondly, we continue to strive for increased participation by parents, siblings and community members. In May 2015 we launched parent meetings and we followed up in September 2015 with involving parents and family members in a community based fundraiser to support the school.



PPFF visit to Shamsi's home.

Student Sponsorship

The People for Progress Foundation Student Sponsorship Program assists children who are impoverished or at risk the opportunity to receive quality education. While our primary objective is to provide tuition, adequate nutrition, medical insurance, secure housing, learning resources, school supplies and hygiene items to the sponsored student, our local and international teams also provide ongoing monitoring, mentorship, physical, emotional and psychosocial support.



Shamsi's school intake interview

The student's family and community also benefit from sponsorship. Once a child is sponsored, the family members and neighbouring families receive care packages including food rations, hygiene items and learning resources.

Thanks to the generous support of our contributors we were able to complete the pre-screening and interview process for Shamsi, a newly sponsored child in the Machame community of Tanzania. Shamsi will begin his sponsorship in class 1 in January and we plan to continue sponsoring him until he completes form 4 and moves onto tertiary education if he qualifies and chooses to continue.

New Programs

Refugee Student Scholarship



Patrice Ndikumana



Kakuma Primary School



PFPF Meeting with DRA and UN



PFPF Executive Director with Kakuma
Community Leaders

Program Information

PFPF's Refugee Student Scholarship Program provides students from Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya the opportunity to attend quality secondary schools in their host community. Students who perform well in primary school will have the opportunity to apply for secondary school sponsorship which will provide tuition, nutrition, housing, school supplies and hygiene items as well as logistical support in the way of mentorship, transportation and support for the student's family. The program is inspired by Patrice Ndikumana, a current PFPF Canada board member and former Kakuma Refugee who has successfully re-settled in Calgary.

Background

Children in refugee camps receive basic education but under conditions that are far from ideal. Lack of security, food and clean water with poor sanitary and hygiene conditions added to a lack of educational resources in extremely overcrowded classrooms (80 to 1 student to teacher ratio) make for a poor learning environment. Of the limited number of students who attend secondary school, very few of these students will have the chance to continue their educations at a post-secondary level as they have not been equipped to perform well on Kenyan National Exams. Providing scholarships to students to attend secondary school in their host community improves their chances for secondary school completion and higher education. Our target group is refugees from Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Program Development

In September 2015 a PFPF Team visited Kakuma Refugee Camp to facilitate the Refugee Student Scholarship program Development. Hosted by the UNHCR, our team met with the Kenyan Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) to attain legal permission to operate within the camp. The PFPF team then began meeting with NGO's responsible for education within the camp. Currently Kenyan host community schools rarely permit refugee students entrance due to lack of financial and physical resources on the part of the student and instability leading to significant drop-outs. The UNHCR and partnering NGOs have come together to petition host community schools to permit entrance for Refugee students. Our program will lead the initiative through the assurance of fee payment and sufficient resources for successful completion.

Implementation

The Refugee Student Sponsorship program will be implemented directly through community leaders within the camp. A selection committee will submit nominees to an elected liaison who will forward applications through our Kenyan board of directors to our contributors who will then submit their candidate to the Canadian Board for final approval. Upon approval all tuition, housing and meals will be paid directly to the school while logistical support such as supplies and transport will be provided by our Executive Director.

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St. Peter's School, Calgary



Msufini Secondary School, Tanzania



Dandora, Kenya



Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

Canadian Student Support Program

PFPF's Student Support Program works with students in need, in Calgary and area schools, and provides the students with items necessary for performing well in school. The objective is to help students reach their potential by providing them with personal as well as academic support. Caring Kits of school supplies, hygiene and nutrition items along with fun creative learning items are supplied to the children through donations from People for Progress Foundation's supporters.

Empowering students enables them to be more active in school and community. We are currently looking for volunteers in Calgary to assist in facilitating reception, management and distribution of donated items, as well as logistical support in program advocacy and fund development. Please visit the How You Can Help section on the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Community

Like the Machame community in Tanzania, and the Dandora community in Nairobi, our newest community to be part of PFPF is the Kakuma community. When visiting Kakuma to create the scholarship program based on the vision of Patrice, the PFPF team met with service organizations, government representatives, and the community leaders living in the Kakuma refugee camp. The community leaders listened to the vision of the scholarship program and then were asked for guidance and advice. The conversation that ensued was filled with hope, energy, questions, dreams, ideas, solutions, and true wisdom based on their reality in the refugee camp. Together the community leaders and PFPF have shaped a scholarship program that will help students in the future access educational opportunities they might not

otherwise have. By ensuring community is included in program design, we are ensuring both relevancy and sustainability for both the program sponsor as well as the students the program assists.

Students have a better opportunity for success when they are backed and supported by their originating community. We humbly thank the community leaders for their wisdom and look forward to working with you as our newest community member in PFPF.

My Inspiration: Mary-Ann Stushnoff



My inspiration from my most recent service in September 2015 comes from the determination and perseverance of Shamsi, our newly sponsored student and the team of People for Progress Foundation leaders, volunteers and contributors who support him.

Shamsi is 10 years old. He is attending grade 1 in a public school walking distance from his home. Shamsi's mother is paralyzed, his father is an abusive alcoholic and the family of 6 lives in a small mud house. The future of Shamsi and his younger sister Shamini, if not for sponsorship through PFPF, is as straight forward as a conversation with his two older siblings who did not finish primary school and have never conceptualized a life outside of their current state of poverty and abuse.

We have been monitoring and supporting Shamsi and his family for 5 years. Our first stop in determining candidacy for sponsorship was Shamsi's home to speak with his family where his mother had to make the difficult decision of whether to put Shamsi or his younger sister Shamini forward for sponsorship. With the mother's permission and Shamsi's aunt's support, our PFPF leadership team of 2 Tanzanians, 2 Kenyans and 2 Canadians interviewed Shamsi's head teacher. She testified to awareness of Shamsi's abuse at home, attending school hungry or unkempt and lack of school supplies and confirmed that Shamsi was not able to learn productively at public school while living in his current environment. For this reason we took him to intake interviews at local boarding schools.

The first intake interview was a meeting that I will never forget. The head mistress administered an exam. Shamsi was excited and confident while writing his numbers from 1 to 10 and reading the letters of the alphabet. Then the teacher asked Shamsi to read 3 letter words and do simple math. He strained and focused to sound the letters and count on his fingers but he simply did not understand the process of reading or math well enough to answer the questions. The head teacher left the room during the interview. Shortly thereafter I exited the room and found the teacher busy with other things. I asked her if the school would be able to take Shamsi and she refused entry.

Vumilia is the Swahili term for perseverance. We all witnessed Shamsi potential for learning, value for education and persistence in the interview and no one on our team was willing to let Shamsi continue to be neglected or rejected. The same day we were able to locate a good quality healthy learning environment for Shamsi in his community where he will be able to attend boarding school, receive security, nutrition, hygiene, mentorship and guidance.

I feel honored to represent the amazing leadership teams in People for Progress Foundation in Tanzania, Kenya and Canada, our dedicated volunteers, our valued sponsors and the students we support. Thank you for continuing to trust me and give me the opportunity to lead us in our vision toward achieving Empowerment through Education.



Volunteer Reflections: Christine Bennett



I participated as an international volunteer with PFPF in September 2015. Meeting the families and schools in Machame, the children and staff at Raven Educational Centre, and visiting the Kakuma refugee camp to create a new scholarship program was a very big agenda, and Mary-Ann and the PFPF Kenyan Board were very busy. As an international volunteer, my role was to document the process of the PFPF activities during my time in Tanzania and

Kenya.

As I reflect back on my visit to Tanzania and Kenya, I have witnessed first-hand the result of policy decisions made in my and previous generations to force African countries to charge for education, thus making African families face the choice of sending their child to school – can they afford to send all their children, or only one or none? Which child will they



send? Which child won't get an education? PFPF is working hard so that these conversations are lessened, and the value of education remains. The faces of Raven Education Centre affirm what we know – education and literacy started at a young age pays dividends later. Scholarships to better educational centres are necessary to ensure children are receiving quality instruction. The community plays a role too, and PFPF works to ensure the community is part of the team that support the students.

If anyone is interested in becoming an international volunteer, and are curious as to what role you could play, I encourage you to pursue your interest and contact PFPF to discuss further. You will have an amazing experience!



Editor's Reflection: Ron Bennett

A child dreams – of becoming a pilot, a doctor, a teacher, a nurse, a banker. A student dreams – of a nice house for the family, a fulfilling career, a hope-filled future. A parent dreams – of a good education for the children, food for each day, a safe place to live. A community dreams - of uniting for a better tomorrow and making a better today.

To many around the world - to those who must choose each day between food and school fees; rent and school supplies and to those displaced from their homes - these seem to be only dreams.

But they are possible dreams. Possible with help and encouragement from friends they may never meet.

Education is key. Support education. Empower the dream.



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Maximize Your Personal Wellness Lunch and Learn

Participants at the Maximize Your Personal Wellness Lunch and Learn on June 10, 2015 at Hudson's Canada Pub enjoyed a dynamic, informative and motivational presentation along with pleasant conversation; hearty healthy food and good fun. Proceeds were in support of People for Progress Foundation's educational programs. Thank you to all who attended, to Hudsons Downtown, to Mary-Ann Stushnoff for her presentation and to our volunteers who made it happen.



Intercultural Study Trip to Turkey

PFPF President Mary-Ann Stushnoff and International Volunteer Christine Bennett joined with the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of Calgary for an intercultural study trip in Turkey. Among many social development and historical sites they visited were; Mevlana University in Konya which partners with businesses to provide quality post-secondary education to students from around the world who otherwise could not afford it and Kimse Yok Mu, an international aid organization specializing in disaster relief. Engaging in dialogue with like-minded social agencies develops our awareness of the far reaching outcomes of our international humanitarian efforts, improves our resources and strengthens our Global relations.



Festival Networking

Our enthusiastic team of volunteers participate in cultural events and festivals around Calgary to create awareness about People for Progress Foundation programs and raise funds. If you would like us to attend an event, you would like to host an African market or you would like us to speak to your organization about our programs, please contact us using the information provided on the last page of this program.



Harambee

Our 7th annual Harambee is set to take place on Friday November 6th, 2015 at 6:00pm at Cardel Theatre in Calgary. Harambee is an evening of wonderful entertainment, great conversation, informative presentations, valuable networking, good fun, light snacks and amazing silent auction. All in support of People for Progress Foundation's educational programs. Tickets may be purchased through eventbrite or directly on our website at peopleforprogress.net.

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Fun Fest 2015 Nairobi: Roystone Mwiti



On September 12, 2015 local artists joined together for Fun Fest in support of Raven Education Centre. Fun Fest was held at Destiny Court in Dandora, Nairobi and attracted a large enthusiastic crowd who were thoroughly entertained. The amazing performances included Foty Cows, Skipper, Mangadula Crew, Emdizee, Wax Candle and several groups of children, youth and adult dancers showcasing their routine styles. Other fun activities included a bouncy castle, face painting and camel rides. There were also acts showcased such as singing and poetry recitation. Thank you to PFPF Kenya, Foty Cows, the performers and all the volunteers who made this event such a success.



Fun fest is a yearly event that People for Progress Foundation of Kenya (PFPFK) organizes in order to mobilise the whole community and have fun. This is also a fundraiser for PFPFK, we hand out envelopes to the people for their contributions and we also charge a small fee for the various fun activities we have for the kids. The idea is to bring together all the community members, the Raven Education Centre (REC) children and staff, the children in the whole community, other supporters of PFPF and local artists and raise awareness of REC.



As Funfest is going on, PFPF and REC staff we are mingling with people from the community so they get to know about our organization, what it is we do, and they get to ask questions about the organization. The Fun Fest event was inclusive of age and interests differences and the kids were the biggest crowd, with a lot of children attending, reciprocating a huge parents' attendance. They were very interested to know what the event was all about.

Community members learned more about R.E.C as some from other parts of Dandora still didn't know the existence of such a fully sponsored Pre-school in the Dandora community that supports children from needy families. The entire community was amazed to learn details of the school, and talked to the R.E.C staff about enrolment and application procedures.





Sponsorship Opportunities- [Donate now at peopleforprogress.net](http://peopleforprogress.net)

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| Humanitarian Outreach | \$ 10 per family | care package includes rice, sugar, maize and or beans. |
| Secondary School Student | \$ 85 per month | or \$1025/year, includes tuition, room and board. |
| Teacher's Salary | \$ 100 per month | or \$1200/year for a full time, qualified teacher. |
| Children's Meal Program | \$ 170 per month | or \$2000/year provides 2 meals/day for 65 children. |
| School Supplies | \$ 200 per term | provides for 65 children |
| College or University Student | \$ 100 per certificate | ex: computer skills, driver's license, leadership training. |
| | \$ 1000+ per diploma | ex: Nursing Assistant, Beauty, Business Administration. |
| | \$ 3000+ per degree | ex: Nursing, Business Management, Communications. |

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities- [Donate now at peopleforprogress.net](http://peopleforprogress.net)

People for Progress Foundation appreciates your support and would like to have the opportunity to acknowledge your business in our newsletter, website, event signage and social media. For Sponsorship opportunities, please contact admin@peopleforprogress.net.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Event Coordinator
- International Volunteers
- Fund Development Coordinator
- Board Members
- Book Keeper
- Newsletter Editor
- Event Committee Members
- Administrative Support

Connect

-  facebook.com/pfpcf
-  twitter.com/PFPFofficial
-  flickr.com/photos/peopleforprogressfoundation
-  youtube.com/user/PeopleforProgress



Volunteer Leaders

Ruth Chen
 Ron Bennett
 Muriel Keeling
 Christine Bennett

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canadahelps.org/en/charities/people-for-progress-foundation-pfpcf/

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