

President's Message:

Sustainability is one of the watchwords of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working toward better living conditions for people in Third World countries. It is exciting to learn that, as a result of donations made to CHES and ACCES (both certified NGOs), the principle of sustainability is being upheld in a new, second way.

The first way is clearly part of our purpose: ACCES is committed to giving the kind of aid which is not a response to a crisis situation, but a contribution to the continuing improvement of the conditions of deprived people. By giving money for African continuing education, ACCES supporters enable Kenyans to become self-supporting and thus, help to correct or alleviate some of the conditions which lead to crisis situations in their country. We believe, then, that one way to provide on-going assistance is to educate people so that they can help themselves.

But something has been added. *Sustainability* is now being extended by a society organized by the student graduates of CHES and ACCES, the CHES/ACCES Alumni Association. An editorial in the Alumni's Newsletter #4 includes this statement:

Much as we may like to live our childhood dreams, we will have the responsibility to uplift our families. Above this there are many more children who are bright but cannot afford their academic expenses. We may not be able to perform a miracle, but we can pull together in our various capacities and help at least one child. That way we appreciate the fact that we received similar help.

Members of the Alumni Association raise money through membership drives, special donations, and raffles. A recent meeting was attended by about 70 members.

In Kenya, families expect that those who have achieved an education and have found employment will assist other members of their families and their clans. But here we have an organization which sets out to help other people in the community. Nora Harrison, a long-time CHES and ACCES agent, has been a great help to the graduates who have formed this society. She has said that she believes that the CHES/ACCES Alumni Association is the most promising part of the whole ACCES project. It is an exciting prospect!



Beth Scott
President, ACCES

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The activities of non-governmental organizations are helping improve the lives of 250 million human beings in developing countries.

By the year 2000, the work of NGOs is expected to touch the lives of 40 million people.

MACLEAN'S, February 12, 1996

Education is one of the best ways to help the most disadvantaged improve their living conditions and build hope for the future.

The Honourable André Ouellet

The Snowball Effect



Education is the cornerstone of development. The influence of education cannot be overstated in every area contributing to the quality of life - from health to employment, birth rates to environmental protection, community organization to nutrition.

In development programs across the globe, special emphasis is placed on education of girls, for it is girls who overwhelmingly make up the group most disadvantaged when it comes to access to education.

In many regions of the world, there exists a very strong relationship between a woman's level of education and the number of children she brings into the world.

A study by the World Bank has found that for each year a girl spends in high school, the effects are startling: a drop of 10 percent in the birth rate; an equivalent reduction in infant mortality; and an increase in family income of between 10 percent and 20 percent.

It is in families where at least one parent is educated that the number of children is smaller and the chance of a child's survival is highest. When at least one parent receives a decent education, the children of that family achieve better physical and intellectual development. Education allows parents to understand and to adopt better hygiene, better nutrition and better health care - all of the basic factors for healthier children.

It is also clear that as young people, particularly young women, discover the benefits of education, their own children will go to school, stay in school and achieve better results in school.

A higher level of education offers access to better paying employment and that, in turn, enables parents to better meet their basic needs and those of their families. It really is a snowball effect.

Education plays a central role in the social, economic and democratic organization and advancement of communities. A better educated population is more capable of implementing democratic rights, more capable of taking charge of its own development and more capable of ensuring that success is sustainable.

International Development Week Supplement
MACLEAN's Magazine, February 12, 1996





Joey Goodings, who contributed this article, has recently returned from Kakamega, Kenya, where he and Diane were ACCES agents for six months.

(Thank you, Joey and Diane, for your dedication and hard work in Kenya. It is much appreciated!)



Persevering for a Better Future

Some days, Daniel Mate would probably prefer to sleep in. It can't be easy to spend two-and-a-half hours walking to school, attend classes all day, walk home for another two-and-a-half hours and then study into the evening.

But every morning before classes, Daniel wakes at 5:00 a.m. in one of the seemingly hopeless slums that surround Nairobi and sets out for school without pausing for breakfast.

"It is difficult, but I have to persevere," says 22-year old Daniel, a phrase he repeats so often that it seems to be his motto. "You have sacrificed to pay all that amount of fees."

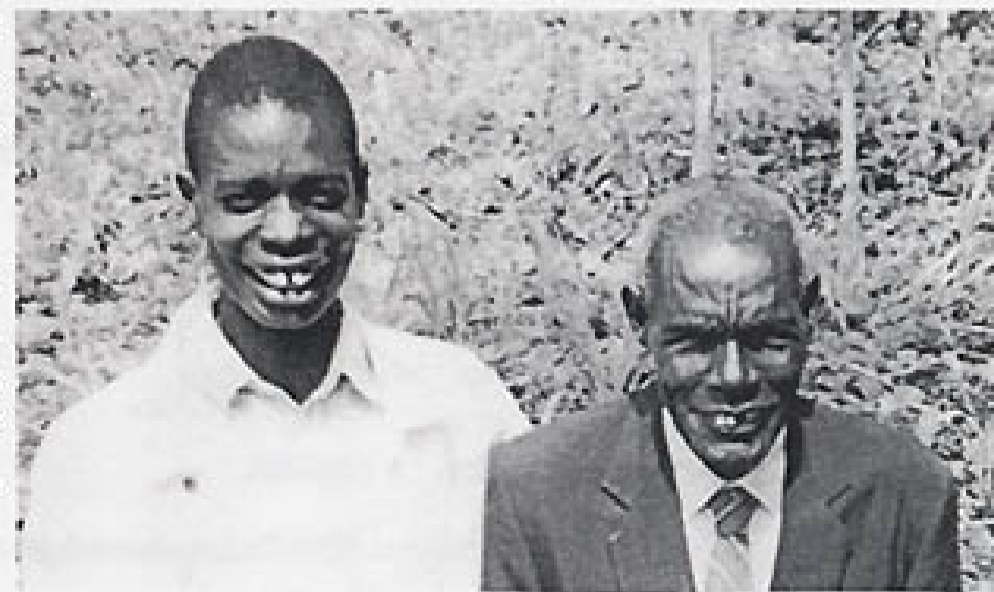
What's more is that he was persevering on an empty stomach.

When Daniel visited the ACCES office after completing his first year of study he seemed rather thin, and after a few direct questions by the ACCES agents, it was learned that he was receiving only one meal a day from his uncle's home in the slums. He had planned to continue in this way even though his doctor said he just wasn't getting enough food. (In light of this information, ACCES has increased Daniel's funding to allow for breakfast on the way to school).

Although it is difficult at times for Daniel, getting an education is a dream come true for him and his family.

Coming from a large family in a rural area called Bulanda Shimukoko, Daniel never imagined that he would be able to attend secondary school because of the high cost of school fees. "My grandfather was just encouraging me to work hard in primary school, but I had no hopes," he said.

In 1986, Daniel's father abandoned his two wives and 10 children to seek a better life for himself in Nairobi. That left Daniel, his mother, his two younger brothers and three younger sisters alone with a half-acre plot of land to provide for their needs. They have received no support from the father.



Daniel's maternal grandfather tried to assist him to go to secondary school, but by the second term of the first year the money ran out. In the third term he didn't attend school.



After meeting some other students sponsored by the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES), Daniel decided to visit the CHES office with his mother. Soon after, he was sponsored by former CHES agents, Jo and Larry Hunter. "I was very grateful," he said emphatically.

During his four years of high school, Daniel was consistently among the top 10 in his grade, but he had difficulty with his final exams because he was ill. That meant that he failed to be accepted into university.

"Even my teachers were sure of myself to go to university," he said, adding that he was disappointed to achieve a C+ average. "But still it is not a bad grade."

In 1995, his sister sold some chickens and maize to provide fare for Daniel to travel to Nairobi so that he could find a college which would accept him. Last February, he began a three-year course in applied chemistry at the Kenya Polytechnic in Nairobi with ACCES paying his school fees and his uncle supplying room and board.

Daniel says that he is confident he will be able to find a job when he graduates. And his younger brothers and sisters are counting on it because Daniel has promised to help them with their school fees as soon as he is able. "I'll be glad to help my mother out," he said.

In the meantime, he will continue to wake up at 5:00 a.m. and persevere.

Our Agent in Kenya:

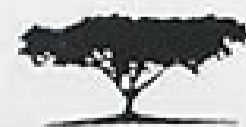
ACCES is delighted that Nora Harrison has, once again, returned to Kenya to be our agent for the next several months. Her extensive experience and understanding of the students is invaluable! ACCES is most fortunate in having such a dedicated and empathetic agent. Good luck and "nice time" in Kenya, Nora!



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Why Do People Make Charitable Donations?

In these times, when there are so many requests for donations from such a variety of charitable organizations, ACCES supporters are, no doubt, having serious thoughts about the basis of charitable giving and the position of ACCES in relation to other charities.

Essentially, most charitable giving comes from a feeling of compassion arising from within the giver which leads to a desire to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. Most true charity neither demands, expects, nor wishes any return other than the donor's knowledge of having done the right thing.

But, for a number of reasons, to be as generous as is comfortable to the giver's inner self is no longer easy. Many people in Canada feel pressed for money. Many do not feel secure about the future: for themselves, for Canada itself, or even for the world at large. At the same time, the demands upon the individual to provide aid for the needy have increased many-fold. This is partly because governments have reduced their grants to charitable organizations, thereby leaving the support of these organizations largely to individuals. At the same time, there has also been a vast increase in the number of requests for aid: for a flood in China, for a famine in Ethiopia, or for a family down the street that has slipped through the "safety net".

Some requests for charitable donations get responses that surprise everyone. Requests that involve

deprived or abandoned children or that result from natural disasters quite rightly get prompt and generous support. Requests that have broad media coverage, or, even better, the support of 'stars' of one variety or another, can raise even millions of dollars.

Other requests for aid get very different responses. Many small organizations have no budget for advertising, and the aid and its results are located far away, often in remote places. These are groups that address no dramatic problem with pictures of doe-eyed children or vast hordes of starving people, but rather attempt to redress the day-to-day poverty and hopelessness of much of the Third World. They are groups which will bring about a gradual change for the better on a long-term basis but will have no immediate or dramatic results. Such charitable organizations are, often, not as readily supported, no matter how effective the final remedy they offer or how great the need for help.

ACCES belongs to this second group of charitable organizations. How can ACCES, aware of these difficulties, extend its work? It can only expand by means of its present base of committed people: organizers, workers, and donors. *If each organizer, each worker, and each donor could obtain just one more supporter, the size of ACCES would double, twice as many students would be in school, and twice as much of the poverty and hopelessness in Kenya would be alleviated.*



George Scott
Vice-President ACCES

**"Each of us has to believe that we can make a difference."
"Chacun de nous doit croire qu'il peut faire une différence."**

Dr. Charlie Clements
(former Vietnam pilot and humanitarian)

❁ A GOLDEN CHANCE ❁

Despite coming from a poor family which discouraged her from getting an education, ACCES-sponsored nursing student Margaret M'Mbone still has ambitions of being a doctor, someday.

"I had that feeling that if you begin as a nurse you can still upgrade," said Margaret, 22, about her acceptance to the community health nursing program at the St. Elizabeth Hospital near Kakamega. "If given the chance, I still have that feeling."

But there was a time when just becoming a high school student seemed an impossibility for Margaret.

When Margaret was seven years old, her parents separated and her mother moved with the children to the home of Margaret's maternal grandmother. The extended family, which included Margaret's uncle and his children, lived on about two-and-a-half acres of land which was just about enough to provide the basic necessities. Her father abandoned his wife and children and gave no support. "He didn't care about us," said Margaret.

She thought her education was going to end after the eighth grade. "Looking at the funding, I didn't expect to go to secondary school because there was no source of income."

In primary school, Margaret was a good student which caused some jealousy in the family. Sometimes she was not allowed the small amount of kerosene she needed to study at night. "There was no one to encourage us," she said. "It was very difficult."

Fortunately, a friend of hers who was studying at

Mbale Secondary School told her about an organization that was providing scholarships for bright students from needy families. Soon afterwards, Margaret visited the office of the Canadian Harambee Educational Society (CHES) in Kakamega where she met the CHES agent, Nora Harrison.

At first she was told that CHES had accepted enough students for the first year but that she may be given a scholarship after her first term of study. "I was told that I would be considered as a CHES student if I performed well." And Margaret did perform well, becoming the fourth-ranked student at her level in school.

When she finished high school, she had the highest mark of all the female students.

After high school, Margaret took a nurse's aide course to qualify for Nursing School. Sponsored by ACCES, she is currently half-way through her nursing program and she says that she particularly likes working with children.

Margaret won't be the only one who benefits from her CHES and ACCES scholarships. When she gets a job after completion of her degree, she hopes to assist her younger brother and sister with their high school fees when they finish primary school.

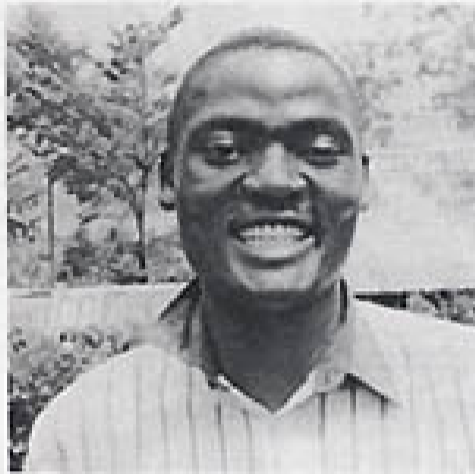
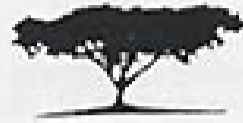
For Margaret, the CHES and ACCES scholarships have been a 'golden chance' that has made all the difference in her life. When asked what she would have done after Grade 8 without the financial assistance, she replied, "I would have just stayed at home!"

Joey Goodings
ACCES agent



ACCES continues to grow and receive applications from students who realize that their hope of a better future lies in receiving a good education. Without the generous sponsorship of you, our donors, a post-secondary education would not be possible for these needy students. The following are excerpts from letters received from our students.

Letters from Africa:



With compliments I am delighted to say hallo. My sincere heartfelt greetings and best wishes to your entire family and the whole ACCES body...

Our family is made up of eleven members, nine children plus my mother and father. We live on a 0.3 hectare piece of land. We grow crops like tangerines, maize (our staple food crop), cassavas and vegetables...I live in a grass-thatched house which I share with my two brothers, both still in primary and working hard...

sponsorship enabled me to secure a chance at the State University. It is very hard for a poor bright student to achieve such privileges without money. I am looking forward to join Nairobi University in November this year, sponsored by ACCES...

...Malack

(enrolled at University of Nairobi - Bachelor of Arts)

• sponsored by Cecil Binns



I am a first-born of five. I have two brothers and two sisters. We stay with our mum who, though literate, is jobless. We have a dad who's forgotten all about us...Fortunately she has brothers (my uncles) who help us survive. They send us some cash to add onto what my two brothers bring home after engaging in a bit of laboring. I also contribute positively after earning some cash from my untrained-teaching part-time job...One of my interests is learning different languages and teaching people different languages. Presently I am learning *Luganda* (Ugandan) and *Lingala* (Zairean) to add into *French*, *Kiswahili*, *English* and my native language *Luhya*...I would love to work in an embassy, as a translator or Master in French to become a lecturer in any institution.

...Gloria

(enrolled at Kenyatta University in B .Ed. (Arts) French)

• Gloria is in need of a sponsor



First and foremost, I take the initiative of thanking you very much for having taken the hard task and responsibility of aiding me in my post-secondary education...I'm very grateful and I promise to always do my level best in order to achieve the best distinction in my course. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly for your magnificent offer.

I am the first born in a family of six. My dad is a casual worker; he has to sacrifice a lot to get us to school. I really thank CHES, a mother organization of ACCES, which really helped me a great deal in my secondary education. It would have been impossible for my parents to put me through.

...In spite of all the hardships and difficulties that I encounter in life and in my learning, I have hopes for a very bright future and a prosperous life...I aspire to have a Master's in Sociology and to work with an international organization.

...Esther

(enrolled at Egerton University in Bachelor of Arts (Sociology))

• Esther is waiting for a sponsor



I am a boy aged twenty years. I come from a needy family of six, being the fifth born. I am the lucky one to have completed secondary school since the others dropped out due to lack of school fees. I was lucky to be sponsored by CHES and I do thank them for their generosity and kindness.

I am pleased to have been accepted at the University of Nairobi to pursue a Bachelor of Science (Electrical Engineering) degree course...Needless to mention, I am extremely thankful for your generosity and acceptance to lend me hand so that I can complete my studies...Many poor students dream for such chances but can't get them...I am anxious to join the campus since I am now an ACCES student . I promise to work hard so that your help can bear fruits.

...Kenneth

(enrolled at University of Nairobi in Bachelor of Science (Electrical Engineering))

• Kenneth is awaiting a sponsor

ACCESS CONTINUES TO GROW

DATE	SPONSOR	STUDENTS	GRADS
Nov/94	46	50	0
May/95	65	62	0
Oct/95	70	99	9
May/96	77	88	13
Nov/96	80	104	28



A FULL ACCES SPONSORSHIP IS \$360.00 PER YEAR.

100% of your donation is sent to Africa for scholarships.

PLEASE NOTE: Some renewals are due. If you wish to obtain a tax receipt for 1996 please give this matter your consideration.

ACCES is happy to accept post-dated cheques for all sponsorships.

