



ACCES CELEBRATES ITS FIRST TEN YEARS with a new website

www.acceskenya.org

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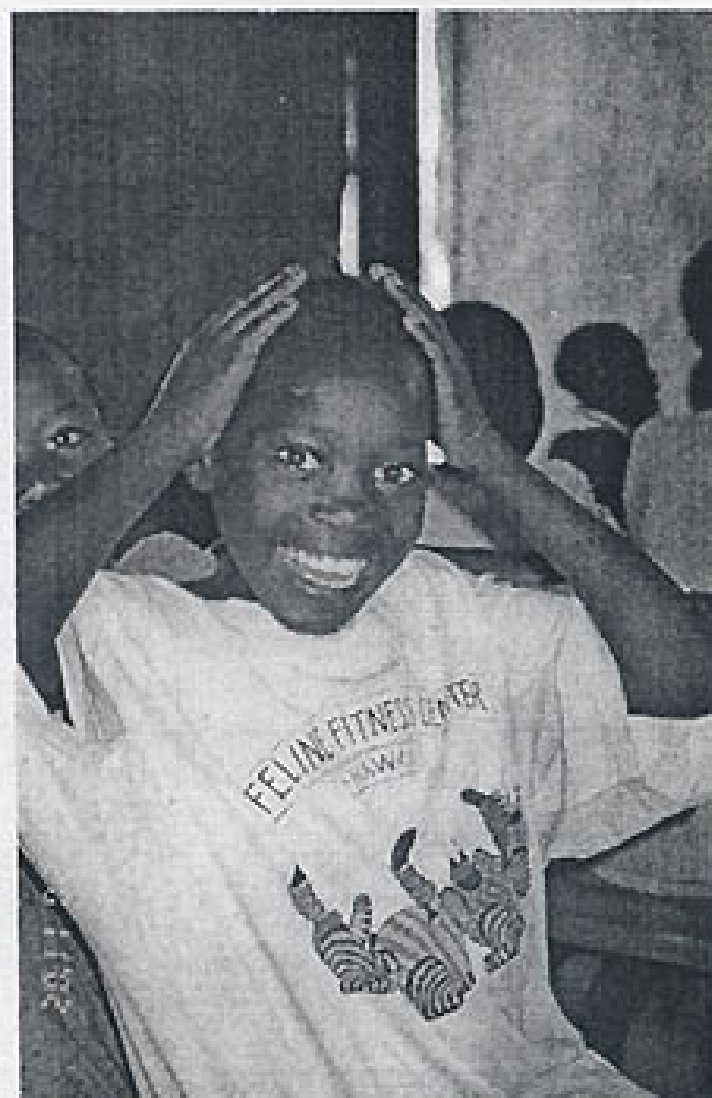
It is ten years since ACCES began to assist children and youth in Kenya to acquire an education. What a grand way to step ahead into its next decade with a beautiful, informative new website. If you haven't done so yet, do go to www.acceskenya.org. You will be impressed!

You may want to use the website to review for yourself the history of the organization, its mission, its goals, and its progress. You may want to read about the organizations with which ACCES is affiliated or partnered. But you may also want to tell someone else about the society and what better way than through this website.

At www.acceskenya.org, prospective new donors can learn how to become a member, how to donate, and whom to contact. You can point them to previous newsletters that you have particularly enjoyed and tell them that they can find out some ways that volunteers can help to raise funds. One whole section tells "What you can do."

It is easy to become linked to allied websites once www.acceskenya.org is before you. Immediately, you can read in some depth about many other organizations involved with international development such as *Care Canada*, the *Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)*, *Human Rights Watch* and *The Stephen Lewis Foundation*.

The new website was designed and produced by Jay Procktor and his friend Sean Devine. Three years ago, Jay was an agent for ACCES. During his eight months in Kakamega, Kenya, Jay played a major part in the organization of the first literacy centres.



**The greatest natural resource
that any country can have
is its children.**

D. Kaye



A tireless worker, he walked miles and miles with Francis Butichi and Floyd Harry, from one site to another, to help these very primitive schools get their start.

Jay was a great favourite with the children in the classes, playing and dancing with them as no one else has done. He would tell you that ever since that time, ACCES has had a special place in his heart.

Jay easily infected his friend Sean with love for the Kenyan children. Sean has stayed in touch with ACCES, eventually seeing the opportunity to design a new ACCES website. This has been no small feat for Sean who has needed to stay on top of his business commitments. Sean is 26 years old and has run his own computer design company out of Edmonton for the past seven years. You, too, will want to thank Sean and Jay when you have spent some time at www.accesskenya.org.

All that is needed now is a response from our readers. Please let us add your comments and present your information on the new website. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Beth Scott

Beth Scott
President, ACCES

2441 Christopherson Road,
Surrey, British Columbia,
Canada V4A 3L2



One of the first messages of congratulation extended to Jay came from Dean Elbe. Many of you will remember that Dean was the person who boosted ACCES into the world of digital communication by volunteering his company "Powernetdesign" to host the ACCES site. Dean has been generous with his time and now with his praise. We are very grateful to him.

**Man's mind stretched to a new idea
never goes back to its original
dimensions.**

Oliver Wendell Holmes

New Board Members

ACCES is delighted that Sandra Harper and Laurae McNally have agreed to become ACCES Board members. They both have wide and varied experience in the field of education and we know that their contributions will be invaluable to ACCES.

Sandra Harper, B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D. has had extensive experience teaching and working at the Primary, Secondary, District and University levels. She was a school Principal for eighteen years. Last



April, Sandra went to Kakamega as an ACCES agent where she put her administrative skills and vast teaching experience to excellent use on behalf of ACCES.

Sandra has been an active member in Rotary for the last five years. She first joined Rotary as an education representative when

she was a Principal in North Delta. Currently, Sandra is the International Director of the Vancouver South Rotary Club.

Sandra went to Kakamega as a volunteer-agent with ACCES because she believes that the organization is making a difference in the lives of young people in Kenya.

Laurae McNally was first elected a Surrey School Trustee in 1980, and in that capacity, has dedicated many years of service to the students in White Rock and Surrey. She has also served as an Executive member and Vice-President of the B.C. School Trustee Association.

Laurae has also been very involved in her community in a great many capacities including membership on the provincial *Task Force on Child Abuse*, the Ministry of Labour's *Drug and Alcohol Abuse Committee* and, currently, the *Ministry of Children and Family Development Transition Committee*.



An optician, Laurae has made several trips to Third World countries, fitting needy people with donated eyeglasses. **Welcome, Sandra and Laurae!**

Health Check at Imbale

Barbara Scott, a recent ACCES agent, wrote eloquently about her time in Kakamega in a series of communications sent to ACCES Canada. This is an excerpt from one of them.

I am sitting here drinking spiced chai and writing to you about my morning at Imbale. The school sits in an idyllic location - treed, peaceful, some classes held outdoors, others inside a dim mud-walled building. A couple of teachers were teaching but the others were in a back office watching as one of the male teachers disinfected and treated a tropical ulcer on the legs of one of the girls. They occur when children are malnourished. They leave great gaping raw mouths of wounds.

Jackline (a nurse's aide employed by ACCES) and Marie set up a table in the shade. The teacher who had been treating the girl kept notes of the health inspections, and Jackline asked about any health



problems. She poked and probed and noted conditions for the teacher to record. Then the children came one by one to our end of the table where I sat opening worm pill boxes and Marie poured boiled water into a tumbler and placed two pills in each child's hand with the order, "Meza," followed by "Ma meza?" and an insistence in several cases that he open his mouth

so she could see if he actually had swallowed. Some of the children had a terrible time swallowing and wanted to chew the tablets. Their grimaces revealed the bitterness of such decisions. The system was an efficient one and all of the classes were processed within an hour.

Jackline pointed out a child with odd marks all over his body. When questioned more closely, he said there were bugs in the mattresses at home. Marie instructed that the bedding must be cleaned well to get rid of the insects. Then she called back the children with jiggers, ringworm and infected tropical ulcers.

First came the ones with jiggers. Marie washed their feet with water and soap and then told the children to sit up on the table with their feet on the

bench below. Four solemn faces. Stolid. Unflinching. Big-eyed. Jackline started with the boy on the end. She disinfected the safety pin with Dettol, disinfected the foot with a Dettol solution, and with a rubber glove on her right hand and the pin and a piece of sterile cotton held in the same hand, began to probe at the spot where the jigger resided. It was a hard calloused lump and the adjacent toes were gnarled and swollen, the nails grown into horny masses. "Too many jiggers over the years," was the comment when I asked. She poked and dug until she opened up a hole that revealed raw flesh and a hard white cyst enclosing the jigger. The size of the jigger determines the size of the hole. The child didn't say a word as she opened it up and tore the jigger free. I said, "You are very brave," and Jackline said, "It is very painful."

The next child was equally staunch even though this jigger was considerably larger and left a small cave in her foot. Jackline began to work on the second one on the girl's foot. As she got closer to the cyst, it moved away. "It's still alive," she said. It took a few moments to loosen its grip on the flesh. After each operation was complete, the foot was washed in the Dettol solution and the child told to sit until the blood had dried. They would all eventually get down and continue to walk barefoot in the dirt from whence the jiggers entered in the first place, dirt which housed numerous bacteria that could enter an open wound.

Milton sat and watched as each of the others was treated and then it was his turn. He was a tiny boy in a dirty suit of clothing that reminded me of the outfits worn by toddlers in Canada in the 50's. I thought he was about five years old, but he was eight or nine. Children are smaller here than in Canada.

Both feet were swollen and the nails twisted and overgrown like anything in nature that is prevented from receiving what it needs to grow naturally. He had four jiggers on his right foot and as many on the left. Jackline prepared the pin and the cotton and set to work. Milton was the first to pull his foot back. I crouched beside them and held his leg steady. He snuffled and I looked up. Big tears rolled silently down his cheeks, creating runnels in the dust. "These ones are very big," said Jackline and she continued to dig. The snuffles were the only sound to break the silence in that shady little glade, and it was only when I looked up to his face that I realized how much pain this tiny child was enduring. After two, I wondered if Jackline would give him a rest the way my dentist gives me a break between tough procedures. She finished the first foot and said, "It would be better to do these one jigger at a time, but he has so many."

One of the teachers came over and examined the foot. It was a raw bleeding mess. Two of the jiggers had been half an inch in diameter. "He won't be able to walk." said the teacher.

While Jackline and I had been working on Milton's foot, Marie had washed another child's arms and legs with the Dettol solution and left him to dry in the sun so that an antibiotic ointment could be rubbed on his ulcers. He had been covered in them. "His diet consists entirely of maize," Marie said. When the location assistant came over to talk, Marie asked if the children were receiving their multi-vitamins every day. The location assistant nodded. "He shouldn't be in such a state if he is getting them regularly," Marie said. Another teacher pointed out that the child had gone to a regular primary school for a while and had just returned to the LIFA Learning Centre.

They don't get vitamins at the government schools. Or health checks.

Save Those Points and Canadian Tire Money

ACCES is working with The Bay, Zellers, and Home Outfitters to collect points. We have received key tags that can be used to gain points for ACCES when shopping at stores belonging to The Bay Group. The points will automatically go into the ACCES Points Account to buy needed technology. So:

- present your key tag every time you make a purchase at The Bay, Zellers, or Home Outfitters
- use your key tag with your Hbc Credit Card and ACCES will receive 50% more Reward points
- use your Hbc Credit Card at any Esso station and earn Hbc Reward points.

Call ACCES (604-538-7267) if you wish to have a key tag.

ACCES is also collecting Canadian Tire money. It will be used to buy much-needed items for Kakamega. To date, soccer balls have been bought for children in the Learning Centres with funds raised from redeeming this money. You can send your C.T. money to ACCES or notify them that you have it. **Thank you!**



ROWLES INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*RIEF strives to eliminate
poverty through education*

RIEF provides long-term funding for ACCES.

You can plan now to make a gift of cash or property by including RIEF as a beneficiary in your Will or life insurance, naming RIEF as the owner and beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy.

By these and other options, you can reduce, quite significantly, the tax paid by your estate, or gain tax credit at the present time.

The RIEF charitable registration number is #88659 4670. **Donations are tax-deductible.**

For more information, consult your tax advisor or lawyer.

Contact: George Scott Phone: (604) 538-7267

Have you made a Will? Everyone should have a Will! Why?

By your Will, you can assure yourself that your assets, on your death, will go where you want them to go.

By making a Will, you will also have an opportunity to make gifts to charitable societies and thereby significantly decrease the amount of taxes to be paid by your beneficiaries.

MAKE A WILL AND REMEMBER RIEF

It is always wise to consult your own professional advisor to determine the best way to make a bequest to RIEF, one that fits your particular circumstances.



While some progress has been made in recent years, poverty remains the daunting challenge of our times. Of the planet's six billion people, half live on an income of under US\$2 per day, and 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty on less than US\$1 per day. Healthy, well-nourished, and educated people are the basis of prosperous economies and stable states. Without them, development is impossible. Despite it being a fundamental human right, millions of children, especially girls, are denied a basic education. Rapid population growth, increased poverty, and the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic are worsening the situation and leaving an increasing number of children and youth without educational opportunities. (CIDA's Social Development Priorities: A Framework for Action, September, 2000.) With the financial help of you, our donors, ACCES is committed to helping these disadvantaged young people at the grass-roots level in our LIFA Learning Centres as well as at the post-secondary level in order to uphold the cornerstone of ACCES' mission: - "economic and social development through education".

Letters from Africa:

Irene Shilwato has been accepted at Nairobi University where she is enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine. This is a 5-year programme. Irene, who is 22-years old, writes:



I am the second born child in a family of six. Currently we are living in Matende village in a semi-permanent house. My father, a secondary school teacher, died in 1999. My mother is a primary school teacher and she earns a net salary of Ksh2,853 per month (\$55 Canadian), a salary that can hardly put

food on the table, let alone pay school fees.

In high school I was a science club official and I participated in various symposiums and science congress. At one time, I presented a talk on lasers and I managed to read to the national level. I was a netball player and I represented my school at various levels.

Since childhood, I have always wanted to make a doctor - I have always wanted to help those in pain. Now that I have been admitted to university, I wish to pursue my dream and I wouldn't wish to lose this chance. I appeal to anybody to help me financially. In return, I promise to work hard and save somebody's life.

****Irene is in need of a donor**

Jafred Apwochi has been accepted at Kenyatta University where he will pursue a Bachelor of Education degree. This is a four-year program. He hopes to become a Science teacher.

I was born out of wedlock and brought up by a single mother who sells vegetables at Kakamega market. In 1994, she moved into a relationship with a man who eventually ran away when she gave birth



to a boy who is, at the moment, in Class Four. His father has never surfaced to claim his son. My mother's efforts to get in touch with my late father never resulted in fruitful results because he always dodged and denied any responsibility.

My education has never been smooth, but due to the grace of God, I obtained good marks in school. I was the class prefect for the four years of secondary school, assistant captain for the school soccer team and chairman of the geography club. At the moment I am the organising secretary of the Butere University Student Association.

Future prospects that I put in place is to attain the highest level of education. After getting a job I can provide part of my salary towards helping the poor, disabled, less fortunate and not forgetting to alleviating my family beyond the poverty line. I will be in the front line in joining or forming an NGO that aims to cushion people from any kind of adversity, be it economical, political or social.

I write earnestly hoping that your assistance will enable me to attain my dreams.

****Jafred is in need of a donor**

Elizabeth Nyagoha, is 20 years old, and has been accepted at Kenyatta University where she will enter the Bachelor of Science programme (Environmental Studies). This is a four-year program. It is her ambition to become a Mathematics teacher.

I come from a small village called Chambiti and I am the second-last born in my family. My mother died in 1999 because of asthmatic problems. She used to be a tailor, thus provided for our daily needs at home. My father is a peasant farmer. He grows maize and



beans. My brother studies Agriculture and Technology at Kenyatta University but although he has problems raising funds, donations from friends and relatives and members of the church help us a lot.

I was a very hard-working student while at Secondary School. I got an A in mathematics and

I also liked Home Economics very much. I was a prefect in the Clothing and Textiles.

At home I offer great help to my father, especially at the farm where I plant vegetables such as sukumawiki and cowpeas which helps my family. I also play a very big role in our home church where I am the song leader in my church choir. This is a talent I will never abandon.

My ambition is to become a successful Mathematics teacher. I would also like to become a highly respectable woman in my village.

May God bless you and other Canadians who see to it that we get an education.

****Elizabeth is in need of a donor**

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing

Abraham Lincoln

Rose Nkatha Muturi is from a family of nine, and her father is also responsible for the care of his sister's four children. This places a severe financial strain on the family. Rose has been accepted at Maseno University where she is enrolled in Business Administration. She writes:

My father managed to support most of us in primary school since he was a primary school teacher, but he retired in 1993. Most of my family members couldn't go on with secondary education, hence a poor future. My brother and sister who managed high school were supported by the sale of



most of our little land. We are only left with 2-1/2 acres which is occupied with our semi-permanent house and coffee. Unfortunately, the Coffee Board of Kenya collapsed about eight years ago and coffee offers hardly any money to the farmers, hence, no hope. We also possess no livestock except one dairy cow since Dad sold the other three for support in my final year at

secondary school.

Since my parents are minor peasants, I spend most of my time with them in the shamba for the purpose of home food production. Also, since Dad is 63 years old and Mom is 53 years, I seem to perform most of the kitchen duties on their behalf. Since they supported me at school to become an intellectual, I also perform the duty of welcoming visitors who are both literates and illiterates.

I have always been so optimistic in my life from when I was a little kid. I am determined to work very hard, especially in the university, for betterment of my future, our family's, and the society at large.

****Rose is in need of a donor**

A FULL ACCES SCHOLARSHIP IS \$400 PER YEAR.

100% of your donation is sent to Africa for educational purposes.

PLEASE NOTE: Some renewals are due. If you wish to obtain a tax receipt for 2003, please give this matter your consideration.

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

What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?

George Eliot



ACCES Savings and Loan Program

- A Shilling Better Off -

A new and innovative programme that has been developed with CAAA is the Savings and Loan Program. Many CAAA members lack the means of becoming independent. The ACCES/CAAA Savings and Loan Program is geared towards ensuring that ACCES graduates have access to financial resources that will enable them to become independent members of their society through setting up small businesses.

In the latest CHES/ACCES Alumni Association - CAAA newsletter, Gilbert Ebole, the ACCES/CAAA Program Co-ordinator, writes:

A new beginning is happening all around the country and CAAA is no exception. This time round, our Savings and Loan program takes the day, having undergone tremendous changes. This is indeed worth talking about at length. This keeps you in the light of where we have come from and where we are headed.

The strength of a structure lies in the ability of the foundation laid. True to this saying the ACCES/CAAA Savings and Loan Program has undergone a thorough streamlining which is meant to see it off to greater heights in the near future. Indeed, it will not fall short of becoming an example of an excellent Savings and Loan Program in Western Province of Kenya, our topmost goal.

Gone are the days when nobody would readily monitor and evaluate projects, have time for consultations and vet proposals on time. Mid-May saw ACCES appoint a Savings and Loan Program co-ordinator who is readily available to see that the program is up and running. Thanks to Sarah Ford for the promotion of a new look to our program.

With the selfless commitment and timely feedback of the ACCES agent, Dr. Sandra Harper, the Co-ordinator set off with formulating philosophy, vision, goals and objectives. After an in-depth consultation with Floyd Harry (Canada) and the CAAA Finance Committee, a very comprehensive document was formulated.

CAAA's vision is to build a community of self-sufficient business people who work together to save some capital, obtain some funding from ACCES and other sources, learn together through

their own in-service program, and build a strong Savings and Loan program to help the small businesses grow.

The above is based on the beliefs that:

- *people are capable of learning about setting up and effectively running small businesses*
- *people can change from dependency to independence in Western Province of Kenya*
- *in order to emerge from poverty, members need access to credit, without which they can't be expected to launch their own enterprises, however small these may be.*

In the next three to five years, CAAA is geared towards achieving a number of other goals. Members will be trained through individual and group work-shops in the skills of developing small businesses and how to write proposals that will attract sponsorship.

CAAA is looking forward to being independent and diversifying its source of funding. With current funding, over the next 3-5 years CAAA wants to have fifty small businesses (10 per year) operating effectively and promptly repaying. These projects will be individual, self-chosen, quick-income generating activities which will employ the skills that borrowers already possess.

The Savings and Loan Program will be guided by clear-set policies and procedures that will govern the entire process right from the application for a loan to the time the last cent is repaid. This program focuses exclusively on the beneficiaries of CHES and ACCES donations who form CAAA. Interest and knowledge of the program will be developed in CAAA members by organizing training services and publishing a CAAA newsletter.

(An interesting aspect of the monthly loan repayment procedure is that 33% of the money being repaid will be directed to Savings and the remaining 67% will be channeled to loan re-payment - hence "a shilling better off". This ensures that, at the end of the repayment, an individual will have some savings that can be used for the expansion of his/her business.)

**Whoever wants to reach a distant goal
must take many small steps.**

Helmut Schmidt



Funding

ACCES is a unique charitable society. All of the money that is donated to ACCES for the ACCES programmes is used for that purpose. One might reasonably ask us, "How can that be? Surely ACCES must buy stamps, pay to have agents travel to Africa, or have letters typed."

Of course, ACCES has expenses, but they are paid for by the ACCES Board members or by donations made specifically for those purposes. It is worthwhile noting that the Canadians who travel to Africa to supervise the ACCES programmes in Kenya are volunteers who pay their own airfares and also pay for all their own living expenses with the exception of living accommodation.

So, we can repeat, "when a donor gives a dollar, or \$400 or \$2,000 to ACCES, all of that sum of money is sent to Africa to further the work of ACCES in scholarships, primary schooling, HIV/AIDS education or Savings and Loan funds.

ACCES is a growing charitable society. ACCES began ten years ago in October, 1993. The gross income of ACCES in its first year was \$27,000. The gross income of ACCES this year will be in excess of \$300,000. Ten years ago, ACCES assisted fewer than 40 high school graduates. This year, ACCES has 454 post-secondary students in training, has 367 post-secondary students who have graduated in 41 different programmes, is operating eight little schools (Learning Centres) where nearly a thousand needy children are receiving primary education, and has given HIV/AIDS training and instruction to thousands of persons.

All of the above has come about because of hundreds of ACCES workers and supporters. The fund-raising committee is forever trying to raise the profile of ACCES in an attempt to gain more supporters, but it is clear that the surest and best way for ACCES to expand its base of support and to gain more funding is for each supporter to talk about ACCES, to tell friends (or anyone who will stand still) about the work of ACCES and to ask them to support ACCES.

**When we are confident,
all we need is a little support.**

Andre Laurendeau
Une vie d'enfer

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