



Dear Friends of Kenya Help,

This is the 11th time I have written a Kenya Help report. Most have concerned the progress of building St. Francis Xavier Secondary School for Girls (SFG) in Naivasha, Kenya, as well as telling about the students and faculty. This is the first time I have given you an update on some of our SFG graduates. You may recall that all 17 pioneers passed the National Exam in November 2010 and 14 qualified to attend the university.

These four of the 17 graduates are now or shortly will be in university:



Teresa



Effie



Mercy



Alice

Teresa and Effie are able to attend university because of scholarships from Kenya Help.

Thanks to all of your generous support, our dreams of building a girls' high school is complete. Now our focus will be to continue our high school program for both boys and girls as well as sending as many as possible of our SFG graduates on to university. All of them want to attend university but few families have the funds.

Below are the pictures and heartfelt stories of a few of our girls and boys who are receiving scholarships.



Grace Nyambura: I am the second of two children. My older brother is married and has two children. We are Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) from Eldoret where our home and all our things were burned during the post-election violence of 2008. We moved with my grandmother and were given a house by my aunt. My mother is a casual worker, but cannot always find jobs. My aunt helps us as best she can. When I saw SFG I really wanted to attend. I like history, biology, chemistry and agriculture. I want to be a doctor or a member of parliament.



Ann Muthoni: From the time I was very young I was a hardworking and disciplined girl. I can remember well that when I was in Class 2 [2nd grade] my father fought with my mother. My mother carried us to my grandmother's home. I was so mournful that I was just crying all the time. In 2003 my mother came back. I was taken to another school where they said I must repeat Class 1. I said OK. I dream of being a doctor and even if I have to repeat, I will still work hard to achieve my dream. I am the oldest of 13, with 6 brothers and 6 sisters. From the time I was in Class 4 until Class 8, I went to school without taking breakfast and carried no food to school. When I was in Class 6 my father bought some calves, but a year later they died. My father lost hope and gave up. In Class 8 I worked for my best, whatever I was able. I used to be the best student in my class. The teachers loved me very much for that. I was head girl in my school of 225 pupils. I earned first position on the KCPE with 304 marks. [Note: Ann also did all the cooking and caring for her brothers and sisters while going to school.]



Betty Wambui: I have one younger sister. Both my parents have died and we live with our aunt who is loving to us, but.... My marks are C+ on tune-up [review exam], C+ on term 2. I know I have to bring up my grades. I have a hard time with physics and computers. I want to be an actress and have joined a recently established youth club provided by the government to develop talent, singing, etc. Plan B is to study law. At home, I took a job in a cereal shop owned by my aunt's friend to earn money for my personal needs. I like working there – it's fun.



Lucy Nyandia Wanjohi: I have four brothers, two older who have finished high school and two younger. I live with my mother and father. My mother has a business selling fruit and my father is a farmer. My grandfather paid school fees for my brothers, but has now passed away and my parents cannot pay. My grades have gone from C- on the tune-up, then B-, then B. I am working very hard to bring up my grades because I want to be a doctor to help the poor and needy and help orphans.



Beverlyn Esendi: I have two younger brothers. I never knew my father, who has never been part of my family. A few years ago my mother married a man who is not willing to support someone else's children and will not pay school fees. I have several aunts who love me very much. Several years ago, one of my aunts found a sponsor who sent me to a private boarding school so I could finish my primary education. It had been very hard living with my mother as we often didn't have food. That same aunt helps me with my personal needs. During school breaks I stay with another aunt. I began SFG two years ago, but because of a mix-up I was sent home, even though I had a sponsor. By the time I returned I had missed so much that I had to repeat part of Form 1 and am still catching up. My grades are in the C range, but I know I can bring them up, now that my place in school is secure. I earned 356 on KCPE and I want to be a civil engineer, build a big company, give people employment.



John Murage Muchiri: I was born in 1992, but could not go to nursery school, because my parents couldn't pay. I worked at home until free primary school was available. I did very well. After I finished Grade 8 I wanted to attend high school. My mother tried but could not pay the fees. Then the head teacher called to say I could be sponsored. My primary principal saw I had potential and helped me to fill out the forms for Archbishop Ndingi. He even paid the exam fee for me. Mother was helped by neighbors to get my uniform and my personal needs. Then my mother left to go to her family home and my father disappeared. I had to take care of my younger siblings. I want to be a doctor.



Bethwell Marette Mutugi: I struggle with biology but I have a plan to bring up my grade. I get help from older students. I was born with a droopy eye but I have vision in it. I hope that someday Lions International will be able to treat it. I am 2nd born of four plus a stepbrother and sister. My mother died when I was in Class 6. Two years later my father married a step mom, but later she left. I had to cook for my two younger siblings. I hope to go to university for mechanical engineering.



Ezekiel Kagotho Karanja: I come from Keroche, (not far from Archbishop Ndingi). I have a younger brother. My mother works in a flower farm [very low paying job]. My father is not living. I want to be a civil engineer.



David Ginthinji Kuria: I have a hard time to understand so must repeat Class 8. The hardest for me are business, agriculture and physics. I am the oldest of five. I live with my guardian (my aunt) who is a farmer in Kinagop. My three brothers and one sister live with my mother on a small farm in Subukia near Nakuru. My guardian wanted to help me in Class 8, because my parents could not pay the school fees. The headmistress told my aunt about Kenya Help so I could get a scholarship to Archbishop Ndingi. I want to be a TV journalist. I like to write very much and I want to start a yearbook club. [At this point David's face lit up like a star!] I was born knowing I wanted to write and be a TV newsman.



Daniel Mbugua: English is my hardest subject. I am the youngest of three boys, but one of my brothers died as did my father when I was 3. I live with my mother on a small farm. We have a cow and plant potatoes and maize. I want to be a lawyer so I can help the poor who have no representation. I will read more, pay attention to how English sentences are put together, study vocabulary lists, learn better grammar and get help from my teacher.

Thank you for the support you have provided to these and other students through Kenya Help. They are counting on you as they work to achieve their dreams.

Warm regards,

Margo

Margo McAuliffe
Executive Director