

AWEF

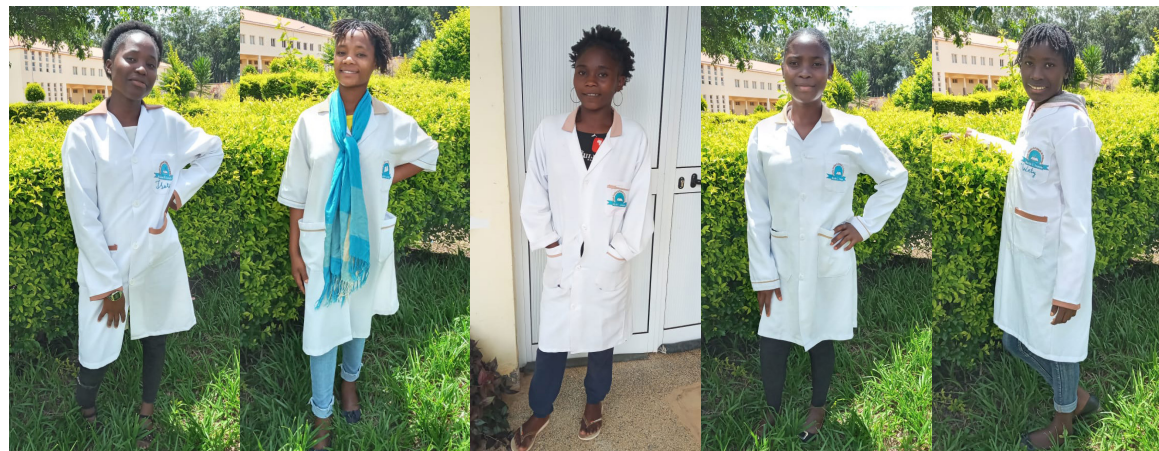
AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
EDUCATION
FUND
SPRING, 2024



20th ANNIVERSARY

**“IF YOU
EDUCATE A
WOMAN,
YOU EDUCATE
A NATION.”**

African proverb



Isolda Malaquias

Domingas Cameia

Inês Bokila

Laurinda Gomes

Edna Wety

Celebrating 20 Years of AWEF

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE it has been 20 years since Brother Jack Rathschmidt met with Claire Cronin and her family in Croton after returning from a retreat in Assisi with his brothers. He chatted with the family about his trip to Africa.

“I remember sitting outside and listening to Jack’s stories of Assisi,” said Claire. “He mentioned that one of his brothers from Tanzania told him a story of a young girl who had passed all her exams to move forward with her education but could not because her parents were forcing her to marry. She ran away and took refuge with a group of nuns. Her wish was to go to school, but of course she did not have the funds to do so. We asked Brother Jack what it cost to send a girl to school, and he responded: \$800 a year. In the next months Gaynell, my mother, and I, gathered together women to share this story. During one gathering we raised over \$7,000 dollars, and so our AWEF journey began by supporting four students in Kenya. We have since reached out to Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Angola. And the young girl whose story was told to Brother Jack ended up becoming a teacher because of AWEF!”

One of the highlights for AWEF’s original board members happened 10 years ago, when they made their first self-funded group trip to Kenya.

“The friars offered a space for all the girls we were supporting at the time to join us for a weekend at a retreat house,” Clarie said. “There were about 30 girls who traveled from their hometowns to be there. We enjoyed gathering to hear the girls’ stories and to share ours.

“One night we were all doing dishes, dancing to the music on the radio, and laughing, when the girls started talking about boys! As I listened and watched them blush, I thought how the young women here were just like the students in my town in Croton.”

AWEF’s mission today remains the same as it did 20 years ago: to offer a space through education to build the confidence and plant the seeds for young women’s dreams to become reality.

“We have been so fortunate,” said Claire, “to see these girls finish their education with AWEF and go on to become teachers, nurses, bank workers, and simply catching the spirit of trying to change our world.”

Meet Aya Nakamura, winner of AWEF’s 20th Anniversary logo competition. Turn the page to see the event held at the Croton River Artisans Gallery



20th Anniversary Celebration Save the Date! Join us to celebrate 20 years of AWEF on Saturday, October 5, at Senasqua Lodge in Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY. Details to follow!



AWEF Marks 20th Anniversary at Croton River Artisans Gallery



THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S Education Fund marked its 20th anniversary with a reception held at the Croton River Artisans Gallery on Sunday, February 25. The reception honored first-place 20th anniversary logo creator Aya Nakamura and second-place winner Mikayla Thomas, both Croton Harmon High School students.

AWEF currently supports 132 students in several countries in Africa.

"AWEF covers the costs of girls who would not otherwise receive a high school education," said AWEF President Connie DePinho. "We are unique in that our board covers all operating costs, so 100 percent of donations go to the students."

First place logo winner Aya Nakamura said, "I really want to become more involved in AWEF and get my friends involved."



We thank all who have so graciously contributed their time, talent and resources in support of our mission to educate young women in Africa. With small efforts such as ours we are contributing to making a better life

for African women, their families and communities. AWEF is a 501(c) (3), tax-exempt organization.

Send donations to AWEF, 104 Grand Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 or to be added to our e-mail or postal mail list, please go to info@awef.org. (If we can contact you by email, that saves us mailing costs).

Like us on [insta@Africanwomenseducationfund](https://www.instagram.com/Africanwomenseducationfund).

Spotlight! *Want to know how your donations are helping support young women in Africa through the African Women's Education Foundation (AWEF)? Keep up with our students via our email newsletters. Visit our website www.awef.org for a history of AWEF and to learn about alternate giving.*