



AWEF

AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
EDUCATION
FUND
SUMMER, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON KENYA

A Visit from David Kamau, Who Planted the Seed for AWEF in Kenya

SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS were fortunate enough to welcome David Kamau, the Capuchin brother who planted the seed that helped expand the African Women's Education Fund to include Kenya, at a gathering in Croton-on-Hudson on July 9. On this lovely summer evening, we spoke to David about the origin of AWEF in Kenya and how the organization has contributed to the lives of the young women it has helped to educate over the years.

"For young women in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, education is difficult to come by," David said. With no running water, electricity, or proper sanitation, families have little to no money available for education, particularly for women, who are often forced into early marriage.

"I started a school to help break the cycle of poverty for young women," David said, "but we needed more benefactors to grow."

Jack Rathschmidt, a Capuchin brother from the U.S. and a founder of AWEF, met David more than 20 years ago. Jack told David about AWEF, a not for profit and non-



"We have a saying in Africa," David said.

"If you educate a woman, you educate a nation."



AWEF Board members with David

denominational organization begun in Croton, and how it was helping young women in Tanzania, and that it would be happy to expand into Kenya with David's help.

That first year, AWEF supported six girls in Kenya. This year the organization is supporting 75 young women in Kenya, in addition to supporting women in Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

David told us that alumni success stories are numerous, and the women keep up communication with their schools.

"We have a graduate who works for an NGO in renewable energy, two who are teaching in our schools, one who teaches at Tanzania University, and one who runs a bakery," David said, adding that these women are just a few of the many success stories.

"We have saved girls who would have

been forced to be child brides and enabled them to have an education that includes room, board, books, clothing, and personal supplies," he said.

"Our graduates are grateful to AWEF for helping them to change their lives for the better in a profound and lasting way."

A group of graduates has also formed an alumni organization to help other girls by pooling their resources to pay the tuition for three young women.



Kenyan AWEF students studying chemistry

Save the Date for our 21st Anniversary Fundraiser

Friday, September 26, 7pm - 10pm at Half Moon Bay, Croton-on-Hudson. More information to follow.

Go to www.awef.org for more information or to donate.