



AWEF

AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
EDUCATION
FUND
SUMMER, 2024



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Spotlight on Our Students

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, AWEF has contributed to the education of young women in Africa who could otherwise not afford it. The organization is non-denominational and seeks to help all those who need it. Below are two of our students' stories.

Charity Cherono

"In too many societies in Kenya, girls still face the double discrimination of being young and being female," says Charity Cherono, who attends the Mama Africa Secondary School in Kenya. "They are pulled out of school, married off early, and are more likely to be subjected to violence. Girls also have less opportunity to be educated and are more at risk of gender-based violence and genital mutilation. They face greater risks of economic and sexual exploitation." Had it not been for AWEF, Charity says, she might have succumbed to that type of fate.

Charity was raised by a single mother and lived in a small mud hut with no electricity or toilet, limited food and clothing, and little to no medical care.

"I was born into a tribe where the girl child does not count," Charity said. Despite these hardships, Charity received the highest score on her Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education Exam.

"All this was to go to waste because I had no possibility of secondary education," she said. Luckily for Charity, she was introduced to Fr. David Kamu, who in turn introduced her to the Mama Africa Sec-



Charity Cherono



Beatrice Kerubo

ondary School.

"The AWEF scholarship I received was a godsend," Charity says. "It paid for my school fees, personal items, and everything I needed for my education."

Charity said she is beyond grateful for AWEF. "I want to be sure not to let AWEF down, so I am working hard," she says. "I am always number one in my class. I wholeheartedly thank AWEF. If given the chance, a girl can do just as well, if not better than a boy, but she must get that chance. My story is a proof that it can be done."

Beatrice Kerubo

"I can't imagine where I would be now if I had not been given the sponsorship by AWEF," says Beatrice Kerubo, a student in the Mama Africa Secondary School.

"My mother was always sick, and my elder brother had to drop out of school for lack of school fees. My uncle took the five of us to his one-bedroom house in the Mathare slums. I knew for sure my education was doomed. Even if I were to pass my grade eight exam, I did not see any way of advancing to secondary school. I knew I could end up in the streets."

Fortunately for Beatrice, her schoolmate told her about AWEF.

"From then on, the rest is history," Beatrice says. "I was given an AWEF sponsorship that covers my school fees and even my personal shopping. I am now in form three, and I hope to get good enough grades to take me to university and pursue my dream career of being a doctor. I am so thankful to AWEF."

Save the Date for our 20th Anniversary Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 28, 5pm - 8pm at Half Moon Bay Hudson House, Croton-on-Hudson.

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