



MUFU - ONESMUS TODAY, IN FORM 3 AND WHEN HE FIRST JOINED SECONDARY SCHOOL

## Onesmus

Onesmus was brought into the care of the Mufu Home in 2012. Onesmus had been living with several family members including his mother and grandmother. Many members of his family struggled with mental illness, leaving his 90-year-old grandmother as the primary breadwinner. Even with the support of others in the community, the family lived in extreme poverty. Since arriving at Mufu, Onesmus has realized the value of a good education and has worked very hard in school. The EBF had not yet been established, but he was able to begin secondary school in 2019 thanks to fundraising efforts within his community. Since then, the EBF has provided funds to ensure consistent support and cover the remaining shortfalls, and he is now working hard to achieve his goals in Year 3.

## Caroline

Caroline and her sister were brought to the Mufu Children's Home after being rescued by a local church. Their single mother had abandoned them, leaving them in the care of their aged great-grandmother. The girls lived in extreme poverty with no other relatives able to take them in. Caroline often missed school to care for her younger sister and bedridden grandmother. Nevertheless, she completed her primary education in 2020 and, after hearing her story, a community member volunteered to sponsor her secondary education. Mufu is so thankful for the efforts of community members who partner with them and complement the EBF in ensuring that the children's access to education is preserved.



MUFU - CAROLINE AND THE LOCAL SPONSOR WHO OFFERED TO PAY CAROLINE'S FEE



BARRACK ON HIS FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL

## Barrack

Barrack and his younger step-brother were brought to the Acheho Children's Home in 2018. Their single mother had become mentally unstable when the boys were very young, leaving their maternal grandmother to care for them. However, the meagre income she earned from mending clothes was never enough to meet their needs. After the boys stole money from her, she sent them away. When the boys were found on the streets at night, they were taken to Acheho Children's Home. The boys were enrolled in school, where it was soon discovered that Barrack was a very good soccer player. His talent in soccer allowed him to obtain an educational scholarship that paid for all his secondary school tuition fees. The EBF was used to help with additional fees including the costs of boarding, meals, and other needs. Barrack is very appreciative of the assistance he has received and looks forward to excelling in his studies so that he can find employment to support his family.



ACHEGO - MERCY MORINE WITH HER TEACHER

## Morine

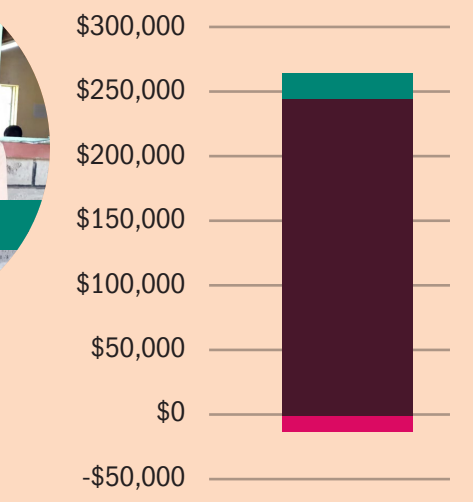
Morine was brought to the Acheho Children's Home when she was just six weeks old. Her mother passed away from malaria and her father did not feel he could care for her. When she was six years old, she was placed in foster care, but she was still able to participate in the programs at Acheho. Shortly thereafter, Morine's father remarried and stopped providing support. She stayed with the foster family throughout her primary years and did very well in school, but this family could not afford to pay her secondary school fees. Through the EBF, Kenyan government subsidies, and a private educational assistance organization, Morine was able to attend high school and continue her education. Morine hopes to complete her secondary schooling next year and then pursue college education.

## From the EBF Committee

Since its inception at Thanksgiving 2019, the Education Bursary Fund has been blessed with strong support. Our earnings on capital donations to date have allowed us to support 29 children so they could attend secondary school in Kenya. During the 2023 site visits to our Kenyan rescue centres, we saw first-hand what a positive and transformative impact our education support was having. Interestingly, there was clearly also a motivational effect - we noted that local EBF committees raised more than 50% of the total cost for our sponsored students, thereby doubling the impact of our support.

## CRWRF's Education Bursary Fund Income

TO AUGUST 2023



- SUPPORT GIVEN TO DATE \$12,515
- FUND EARNINGS TO DATE \$24,081
- DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE \$243,034

Learn about all the ways you can help at: [CRWRF.ca](http://CRWRF.ca)

## AUTUMN 2023 Newsletter



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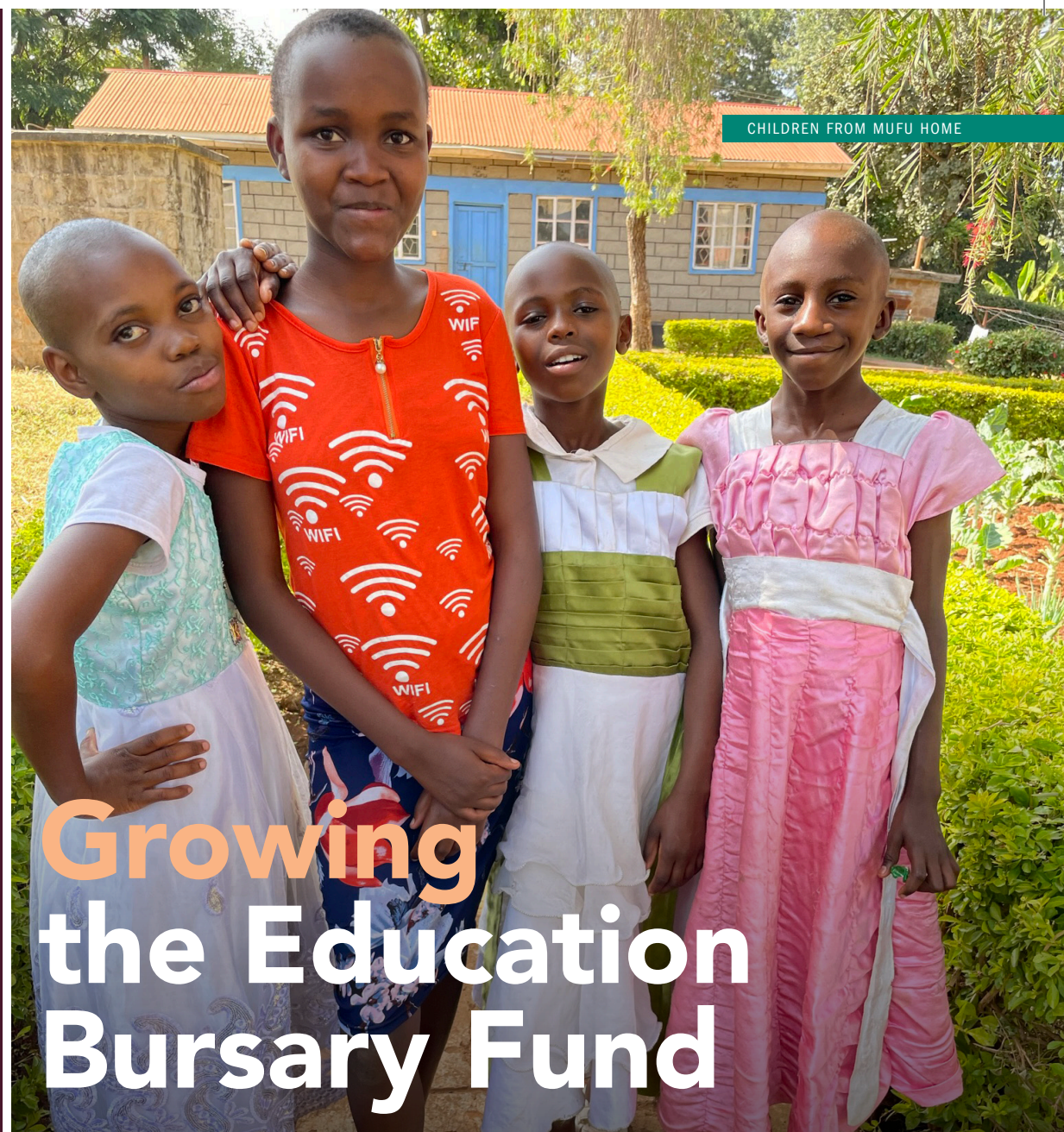
- EMILY-KATE BOSVELD
- SUE JAGT

### Contact Us

ADMIN@CRWRF.CA  
P.O. Box 62054  
Burlington, ON L7R 4K2



[CRWRF.ca](http://CRWRF.ca)



CHILDREN FROM MUFU HOME

# Growing the Education Bursary Fund

On a site visit to our partners in Kenya earlier this year, two of our Board members (together with a previous Board member with years of knowledge and experience) had the privilege of seeing firsthand how the Education Bursary Fund (EBF) is benefiting student recipients in very meaningful ways. The financial support that these students receive to complete their secondary education provides great incentive for them to work and study hard. For many, the assurance of steady financial support signals to them that there is a community of believers who are 'for' them, who have their back. It allows them to dream of a future where they can support their own families and give back to their community, and it allows them to work towards the job opportunities that will make this a more achievable goal for their future. The EBF has only been in operation for a few years, and already the positive impact is impressive. In fact, local community members and organizations are also investing in these students' education with financial support - so much so that the EBF is rarely the sole sponsor of any individual student!

We hope that you enjoy reading stories of students who have benefited from the EBF and learning more about the fund in this special newsletter. With your support, the CRWRF Board is aiming for significant growth in the EBF by the end of 2023 so that we can use increased earnings on the fund to expand our assistance of students in Kenya, and in other countries where we have existing development projects - South Africa, Mali, Senegal, and West Timor.





BOYS FROM TUMAINI HOME SHOWING OFF PRODUCE FROM THE CENTRE'S BANANA PLANTATION

# The Education Bursary Fund General Overview

Using funds received from Thanksgiving collections, CRWRF established an endowment fund in 2020. The goal is to use the interest earnings from the fund to support access to secondary education for children in material poverty across the globe which is then approved by the EBF Committee, a subcommittee of CRWRF.

An Education Bursary Project Agreement was signed in 2021 with AICCAD (Africa Inland Child and Community Agency for Development), CRWRF's partner in Kenya. Kenya was prayerfully selected as the first country where endowments from this fund would be directed for a number of reasons, including our longstanding relationship with AICCAD, the faithful presence of the African Inland Church (AIC) in the community, and the fact that more than half of the children in rural Kenya live in poverty.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted education for Kenyan children, and after a 9-month closure, schools finally reopened in July 2021. As a result, two school years were condensed into 18 months. During this time, Carolyne Vielezi, AICCAD's Sponsorship Coordinator, guided the establishment of three local committees, one connected to each Rescue Centre supported by CRWRF (i.e., Achege, Mufu, and Tumaini).

Local committees include representatives from the centres, the local AIC congregation, and community leaders. Each semester, they propose a list of students who qualify for support through the EBF, which is then approved via the EBF subcommittee of CRWRF. The local committees work hard to ensure that all students who need support receive it, and they search out additional funding from numerous sources, ranging from local sponsors to the Kenyan President's office.

Through the diligent work of the local committees and generous donor contributions to CRWRF, the EBF has already been able to support 29 students in the first two years of operation!

**We thank the Lord for blessing these initial efforts and pray for his continued provision moving forward.**



CHILDREN FROM MUFU HOME, POTENTIAL FUTURE RECIPIENTS

## We are Having A Real Impact

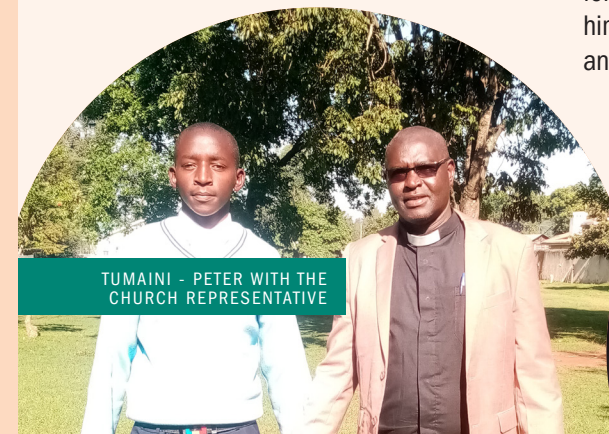
STORIES FROM THE KENYAN RESCUE HOMES

### Peter

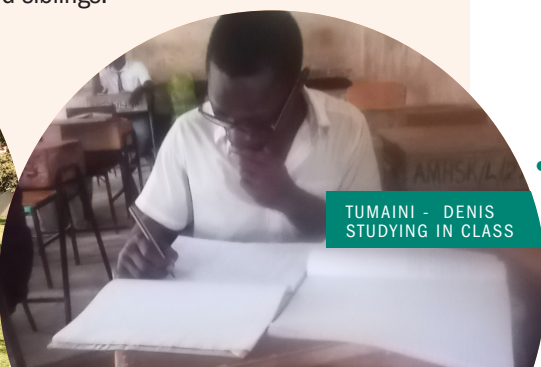
Following the death of their father, Peter and his three siblings were left in the care of their grandmother. Sadly, while Peter was finishing his final year of primary school, his grandmother, who had already been struggling with disabilities, passed away. Peter had been involved with the Tumaini Children's Home for some time, and the local church raised the necessary funds for his secondary schooling. By partnering with the EBF, they could ensure that all the required fees were paid. Peter is thankful to both the church and CRWRF for their support.

### Denis

Denis and his three siblings were abandoned by their father, who was an alcoholic. His mother was crippled and struggled to provide the essentials for her children. Eventually, Denis left home, but life on the streets of Kitale was very difficult. In 2016, after he approached an AIC pastor and told him his story, he was brought to the Tumaini Children's Home where he completed his primary education. Without financial support, attending secondary school would have been extremely challenging. Denis is thankful that his entire secondary education is supported by the EBF, and he is looking forward to a brighter future, not only for himself but also for his mother and siblings.



TUMAINI - PETER WITH THE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE



TUMAINI - DENIS STUDYING IN CLASS

## Supplementary Funding Sources

- Recipients' schools
- Governments – national, county, constituency fund
- Presidential bursary
- Local magistrates' offices
- Caregivers/guardians
- Local benefactors
- Banks and other businesses
- AIC congregations

## Education Bursary Fund Advantages

- Using only the fund's earnings allows for support in perpetuity.
- Administration costs are low because both the local committees in Kenya and the EBF Committee in Canada are volunteers.
- Church and community leaders in the local committees use their influence to:
  - > leverage additional funds from other sources, and
  - > ensure bursary recipients are well treated and supported at their schools.
- Students are motivated to study hard in their last years of elementary school in the hope of receiving a bursary that would help to make secondary school an option for them when it would otherwise be unaffordable.
- Bursary recipients have a reduced dropout rate and perform better at secondary school.

## Poverty & Education

Children living in poverty in developing countries who have access to quality primary and secondary education are:

- Less likely to live in abject poverty;
- Less likely to engage in prostitution and/or marry young;
- Less prone to engage in or be victims of sexual violence or become HIV-positive;
- Less likely to be recruited by militant groups or organized crime;
- More likely to have the skills to face daily life challenges;
- More likely to be employed;
- More likely to have better health and;
- More likely to have healthier children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "How Education Transforms Lives", UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), 2013

Access to quality secondary school education is one of the most important factors in lifting people out of poverty.



**CRWRF aims to double the funds in the Education Bursary Fund** by the end of 2023 in order to double the number of students whose high school education we can support by the end of 2024.



**The EBF Committee is searching for an additional member:** someone who has a heart for children's education and an interest in learning about education systems around the world. Committee work requires about 20 hours per year and attendance at quarterly meetings via Zoom. (This means the position is open to anyone across Canada!) Interested? Contact us at: [admin@crwrf.ca](mailto:admin@crwrf.ca).