



AWEF

AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
EDUCATION
FUND

AUTUMN, 2017

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

African proverb

AWEF was started in 2004 by a small group of committed individuals in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. AWEF members believe that the education of girls and women is a powerful antidote to the cycle of poverty, ignorance and violence that has increasingly engulfed so many parts of our world.

To this end, AWEF is doing its small part by providing secondary education to deserving girls and young women in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The young women we support are poor, often orphaned, or living with one parent or relative, and several siblings, but all have shown academic promise and a desire to complete their education.

At AWEF every dollar donated goes directly to the education of young women. Since its inception the AWEF Board of Directors has donated all operating expenses.

With your generosity we are doing our part to help improve the future of these young women, their families, and their communities.

Since its local beginning AWEF has expanded to include donors from 15 states across the country! Please see our

Meet Three of Our Students



ANNET

is 17 years old and a student at Cardinal Otunga Girls High School, one of Kenya's finest secondary schools. Annet's father died of HIV/AIDS and her mother is HIV positive. Although Annet herself has sickle cell anemia, she somehow maintains an A average.

She met our co-founder Br. Jack Rathschmidt last year at her school, when she was suffering from a recurring case of malaria. Though she was shivering and feverish, she wanted to tell him personally how grateful she is for AWEF's support. She said that she will continue to work hard in high school and that she wants to serve in Kenya's Senate to work for justice for all people, but especially for women and girls.



BRIDGETTE

wrote about what her life was like before we began sponsoring her at Mamma Africa Secondary School in Kenya. "Fights were the main challenge, resulting in family breakups and no stable home to rely on," she says. "I once even ended up as a street child when my mom ran away for two years. Now I and my five siblings live with my mother in the Mathere slums."

Her principal says that Bridgette is smart and "one of the best girls in science in her county." "I've been working hard," Bridgette assures us, "and I can't afford to see myself wasting a single minute in high school. I have great dreams and future plans in my life. One is that I'll pay beyond by educating a needy child like me who needs support in gaining a good, quality, secure and standard education... I'll make it happen."



DIANA

has two more years of secondary school in Tanzania. Her father is deceased, and she hopes to go to university and to become a lawyer in order to support her mother and the rest of her family. She wants us to know how grateful she is for our support, and was relieved to learn that as long as she does well, she will have our support for her entire schooling.

calendar for future opportunities to participate. Visit our website www.awef.org for a more in-depth history of AWEF and to learn about alternate giving.

To make a donation by mail: AWEF, 104 Grand Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

To be added to our mailing list please go to info@awef.org and send us your name, mailing address and email address. By adding your name to our email list we save mailing costs which is most appreciated.

Like us on Facebook@ African Women's Education Fund

Making It Personal

LAST YEAR a circle of women, some of them already AWEF supporters, asked whether they could pay the fees for a particular girl – “sponsoring” her in effect – and we said, emphatically, “Yes.” Since then these women have been sponsoring Brenda, a 17-year-old whose father is deceased and who lives with her 6 siblings in the huge Mathere slums in Kenya. Brenda is occasionally in touch with the circle, and has promised that she will continue working hard in order to achieve her dream of being either a pilot or a doctor.



Perhaps you belong to a group that would be interested in doing the same thing – providing all school support, which amounts to about \$750 a year, for a deserving teenage girl. This is an especially good idea for youth groups, who could help out one of their peers halfway around the world. If you are interested, please contact Carla Dago at dagocarla@gmail.com.

Donations

WHERE DO donations come from? From you. And you are so generous: Through your efforts and support, we are able to sponsor 12 additional students next year, bringing the total to 57. The girls thank you and we thank you!

Broken down by category (and in rough figures), our yearly income sources are:

Annual letter appeal	\$14,000
Women's spring cocktail party	\$ 8,000
Interfaith outreach ministry	\$ 4,000
Karibu Dinners and other small gatherings	\$ 6,000
Miscellaneous donations, mailed throughout the year	\$ 8,000

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DESIGNATED OCTOBER 11 THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD. YOU SEE HOW MUCH STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR GIRLS IN AFRICA. PLEASE HELP AWEF HELP THE GIRLS.

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. www.awef.org

“What if the cure for cancer is trapped in the mind of someone who can't afford an education?”
– author unknown

Paying Forward

OUR CONTACT Br. David in Kenya writes that a group of AWEF alumnae – girls we have sponsored – has helped to build a classroom in Mamma Africa Secondary School in Kenya so that more girls can continue to benefit from our help.

Karibu Dinners

WOULD YOU be interested in hosting a Karibu (which is pronounced kah-REE-boo, and means “welcome” in Swahili) Dinner this fall for your family and friends to introduce them to AWEF and our mission? This can be anything from a pizza party to a potluck to a gourmet dinner, and we provide a kit with invitation template, donation information and a brief presentation for your guests. You'll be advancing the education of young women in Africa and enjoying yourselves besides.

For more information, contact Sue Ellen Maher at: segmaher@optonline.net



Annual Women's Cocktail Party 2017