

Week One in Kenya



Freshiah Starts University

Freshiah found Education is Power in 2009 when she was continuously sent home from Secondary School because her family could not afford to pay school fee balances.

EIP supported her through her last 2 years of high school. Freshiah was accepted to start at Kenyatta University in September of 2013 but has had to wait two years for Education is Power to raise funds to send her to University.

Finally, after many challenges for her, Freshiah started her degree in Commerce this Monday, January 6, 2014 at Kenyatta University. A spe-

cial thanks to current EIP students, Samuel Wakang'u and Stephen Nyuto who helped show her around the bustling registration process!

She is excited but most of all so thankful to have the opportunity to be going to school. She is the first in her family to pursue a degree and has definitely had some ex-

treme challenges along the way. Freshiah's yearly tuition fees will be \$1775 and she will also require funds for accommodation

During our visit she wanted to let us know that she was very thankful to EIP and it's donors as she had almost lost all hope before EIP stepped in.



Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Still to Come:

- *Trip to Laikipia County (IL Ngwesi Maasai Land) this coming week to visit with students, teachers, and others in this remote village without electricity*
- *Trip to Tanzania to initiate EIP with partners*
- *Sunday, February 9th Fundraiser in Kimende, Kenya*

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Education is Power had a very successful meeting on Sunday, January 5, 2014.

Students in EIP are offered funding because of their efforts in community service. This was evident at the meeting as students willingly volun-

teered to form committees; mentoring other students, assisting with the application process and organizing fundraisers including one this February and again later in the year.

Often students in EIP are not only students but

they work, are parents, volunteer and have family responsibilities at home.

It shows how committed students are to their community and education as you see how much they assist with ensuring EIP runs smoothly.



Photo (Centre): Freshiah and family with EIP team
Photo (L-R): EIP students Steve Kamau, Ken Kamero and EIP Trustee Robyn Penfold about to start hike in Kereita rainforest where Kamau guides professionally

Monica to Start Form 1 in February

We met Monica on Monday, January 6th at her home in Magina where she lives with her Grandmother, Grandfather, older brother and cousins.

Monica grew up with her single mother in Kimende until she was 3 when her mother married. The new husband did not allow Monica to stay with them and was abusive when she did stay. Monica was forced to move with her Grandmother and Grandfather with her older brother Francis. Her grandmother has diabetes and is often unable to work because of this. Her grandfather picks up occasional work but too often it is not enough to support the family.

Last year Monica did Form 1 (Grade 9

in Canada) but during term 3 she was sent home because her family did not have the funds for school fees. We have suggested that she should have the opportunity to start again in Form 1 so she could catch up on what she missed.

Monica is a very bright and friendly 15 year old. She says her favourite subjects are Math, Christian Education, English and Kiswahili. Her school fees this year will be \$175.

She was so happy and thankful when she found out Education is Power will try to support her this year.

Photo to the right: Monica at her home in Magina after finding out she will be supported this year



Updates, Updates and More Updates

January is a busy time at schools in Kenya! Many students are starting a new grade in high school while university and college students are starting for the year or going into their second term.

Here is an update on some of the students being supported this term.

Florence: We met with Florence helping at her Mom's hair salon in Kimende on Monday this week. She started with EIP in Form 2 (Grade 10 in Canada) and this coming week she will be starting her final year of high school. She hopes to go on to study Law so she can be an activist and fight for people rights, particularly single mothers as her mom had struggles providing for her and her sister as a single mother throughout their life.

Ken Kamero: Ken is doing a paid internship in marketing and events with his former College *Zetech*. He recently completed an Advanced Diploma in Tourism Management. Ken helps organize EIP fundraisers in Kenya, and hopes to go to Moi university for a joint degree as soon as possible.

Thank you to donors who have helped to 'empower one who can empower others'.

Zipporah Mugure: Zipporah continues to excel as a volunteer for EIP. She organizes students payments and carefully makes sure receipts are collected and sent to Canada. Zipporah is half-way through a bachelor of Accounting and Finance. While visiting her home this week she expressed that she was so thankful to EIP and founding student Sam Wakang'u for encouraging her to go back to school.

Samuel Wakang'u: Samuel is starting his final year in his Masters in Environmental Studies (Community Development) at Kenyatta University. When he is not doing coursework he is busy helping EIP students to enroll, fundraise and get back in school.

Chris Wekesa: Chris is very happy to be entering his second semester of Journalism at Moi University in Eldo-

ret, Kenya. His favorite subject is video journalism.

Stephen Kamau: Stephen Kamau will be starting his second term in a Bachelor of Tourism Management at Moi University in Nairobi next week. Stephen attends classes at night and spends his days doing educational tour guiding in Kereita forest nearby Kimende. He dedicates a lot of his time to EIP through mentoring students, assisting with fundraising and collecting applications.

Joseph Gitau Kamau: Joseph is entering his second semester of Information Technology at Mount Kenya University. Joseph will perform as a Gospel artist at the EIP fundraiser this February.

Leah Wangui: Leah is completing her final semester of a Diploma in Community Development at the *Kenya Institute of Social Work and Community Development*.

Read more on our website.