

Summer  
Newsletter

August 12,  
2014

# Education is **power**



*"We really appreciate all the help and guidance you've given us throughout our project. You have inspired us to care about the world outside our happy Vancouver bubble. You have also shown us that with hard work, dedication and passion we can actually make a difference".*

*Endless thanks,*

*Jules, Aryan, and Zoe*

Grade 11 students at Prince of Wales Secondary

## A Big Thank You to our Sponsor Canadian Schools

This school year we have started a new move for Education is Power. It is a move to not only increase fundraising but also to inspire young Canadians to volunteer and become more globally responsible. We had the opportunity to work with many inspiring students, teachers and schools who have worked selflessly to raise school fees for students in East Africa.

They have shared the message about Education is Power (EIP) at their school and in their communities. They have participated in bake-sales, radio-a-thons, class buy out activities, cultural nights and even a "pie-ing" your teacher in the face event.



**Haliburton Highlands Secondary Teacher being pied in the face for a good cause.**

Dave Cuddy, Director of EIP raises awareness about our projects through his work in outdoor education at Strathcona Park Lodge. Often, after completing a field trip at the lodge, students or teachers contact Dave and let us know they are interested in learning more and possibly doing some fundraising throughout the year. We then

do a talk at the school and often students come up with creative and interesting ways to fundraise. It is truly admirable to see these students come to realize their strengths and privileges and use them to help other people. Of course, patient and dedicated teachers work very hard to guide students on their way.

Thank you to these participating schools this year:

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, John Oliver Secondary, Matthew McNair Secondary, Prince of Wales Secondary, Ecole Phoenix Middle School, Carhi Secondary, Ecole Andre Piolat, PDCI Secondary



**Picture above: EIP secondary student Monica Wanjiku and EIP post-secondary student Freshiah Nyokabi volunteering at KENVO's tree nursery.**

## First Volunteer Tutoring Week for Kimende Students

This April, EIP secondary students in Kimende spent their April holiday doing volunteer work at Kijabe Environment Volunteers (KENVO) resource center. The six volunteers from different schools assisted in the forest rehabilitation project by watering tree seedlings, seedling potting, weeding, arranging the seedlings and cleaning the

KENVO compound. After volunteering in the morning, they then participated in tutoring sessions in the afternoon led by EIP post-secondary students Stephen Kamau, Stephen Nyutu and Freshiah Nyiha as well as volunteer Joseph Wathiru.

This volunteer week was a valuable opportunity for high school

students to gain new experiences and engage with other students in their community. This initiative led by EIP post-secondary students clearly shows how EIP "empowers one who can empower others". These volunteer and tutor sessions will continue on each high school break in the future. The next session is scheduled for this month.

To learn more or to donate visit [www.educationispower.org](http://www.educationispower.org)



# Sending Students to School is Not Easy



Nantana is a 16 year old from Laikipia Region. In January we found out about Nantana’s story and her determination to go to school instead of being put into a pre-arranged marriage (the reality of many girls her age in her community). She graduated from primary school with good marks but could not pay \$450 to go to high school so she had to stay home for a year. She managed to convince her parents that she was sure there would be a way for her to go to school and refused several marriage arrangements.

After a year of missed school, we tackled the challenge of registering her in school. The closest secondary school in her region is a very long day’s trek by foot (about 35 km). We arranged transport for Nantana, her

father and EIP volunteers to go to her school to bring the good news that we could now pay for her fees.

After two and a half hours of the roughest spine rattler of a road we have seen (not including a major delay and confrontation at a security checkpoint) we arrived at the school. After arriving, the principal said she couldn’t register Nantana based on the grounds that she had missed a year of school. The reality was that the principal was afraid that Nantana would bring down the school average since all schools’ performances are broadcast all across the country and this can determine the success of school enrollment.

With some tactful convincing we were able to sway the principal into giving Nantana a test showing that she would be capable of per-

forming in school. Nantana passed with flying colours ,showing that missing one year still left her very able to perform and the principal finally allowed her to register.

Nantana started Form 1 (or Grade 9 as we say in Canada) in January. Nantana reported in April that she is really enjoying school. Her favourite sports are volleyball and netball. Her favourite subject is Government and History because she says “it deals with the rights of the people living in her country”.

This story is just one example of how much support is needed to have students properly registered in school. Students need help shopping for school supplies, figuring out transportation, collecting official documents, and arranging accommodation, not to mention hand delivering bank slips to confirm the payment of school fees.

This young women’s journey to get to high school sure wasn’t easy but we are excited to see Nantana grow as she gains more skills and experiences with the power of education.

*“Nantana’s favourite subject is Government and History because she says it deals with the rights of people living in her country.”*



**Picture to the left: Nantana with her father and mother after receiving news that she will be registered for high school.**

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## EIP Student, Ken Kamero Wins Awards

On May 23, 2014 Ken Kamero graduated with his Diploma in Travel and Tourism. At his graduation Ken was awarded with "Best Tourism Student" and "Most Disciplined Student in the Institution".

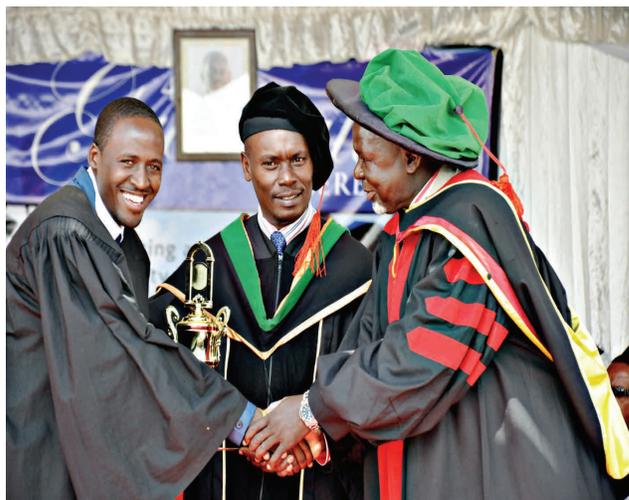
He is now continuing his Bachelors of Tourism Management at Moi University in Nairobi to further his skills and experience.

Ken is a dedicated volunteer for Education is Power. In February, Ken was integral to EIP's fundraiser and coordinated a bus of students from Zetech college to

come participate and contribute to fundraising efforts.

He is also a very active volunteer in his community and school. He is an active member of his school's environmental club. On June 5th, he organized the World Environment Day activities at the National Museum of Kenya reaching out to other universities as well as primary and high schools.

Congratulations to Ken for such accomplishments this school year!



## Education is Power Then and Now

In May 2008, EIP began supporting our founding students Stephen Kamau and Samuel Wakang'u to start their post-secondary studies in Kenya. It was one concert benefit in Quebec City where a community came together; friends and family of EIP founder Dave Cuddy saw something special and support and encouragement helped light the spark for Education is Power. In the summer of 2009 EIP became a registered Canadian charity. Now in 2014 Education is Power has supported 37 students to go to school in Kenya and Tanzania. This makes 14 post-secondary students and 23 secondary students. To date EIP has raised over \$83,000 from fundraisers in Canada and Kenya as well as through independent donors and sponsors.

To support our current students in school, EIP needs to raise approx. \$26,000 per year. This total also includes paying the salary of a Kenyan primary teacher in Laikipia North Kenya where we work. The amount of money we collect from confirmed student or teacher sponsors is approximately \$15,000. This leaves EIP with approximately \$11,000 that needs to be funded through Canadian school outreach pro-

grams, events, occasional supporters, grants or other means. This unconfirmed \$11,000 per year actually puts EIP's students at risk of having to stop school while they are studying. So far we have never missed a payment so students have remained in school, and we have a lot more in school than we would if we didn't take this risk. The \$11,000 does not include funding re-



**Above: Nairobi Rapper X-PO performing at 2013 EIP fundraiser in Kimende, Kenya**

quired for the many student applicants on our waiting list. This shows a large need for increased monthly donors or for more confirmed student sponsors. We are a volunteer organization with very little administration costs. The only administration

fee we take is to cover bank transfer costs to Africa and basic expenses required by our Kenyan and Tanzanian volunteers including transportation, communication and occasional stipend wages for our East African volunteers who devote large amounts of time to Education is Power operations or programs such as our tutoring/volunteer weeks. If you would like to make a donation or get involved in fundraising efforts please visit our website at [www.educationispower.org](http://www.educationispower.org) and contact us at [info@educationispower.org](mailto:info@educationispower.org).

**Below: A big thank you to the St. Paul's United Church in Perth, Ontario who put together a Spaghetti dinner with entertainment to fundraise for EIP in 2014.**



**To learn more or to donate visit [www.educationispower.org](http://www.educationispower.org)**