



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter



Winter/Spring 2022

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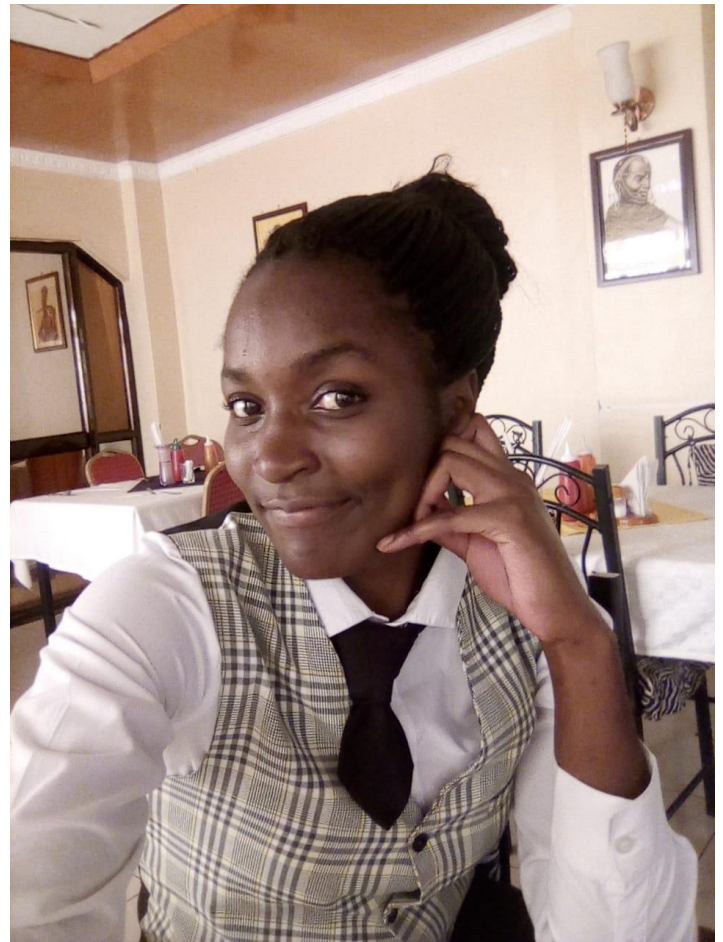
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Celebrating Henrietta's success as our Educational Sponsorship Program reaches its 12 year milestone.

In Memory of Michael Seaman



We would like to introduce you to Michael Seaman who passed away on January 10, 2022. Not only was he Wendy's cousin but he was a great friend to Suitcases for Africa.

From the beginning on our path to become a recognised and registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency, Michael was always a comfort at the end of a telephone call. Michael's legal expertise was essential as he guided us through the maze of Revenu Quebec bureaucracy. He believed in our vision and was our champion no matter how complicated or how trivial our questions were. We valued his advice which was always freely given with his trademark sense of humour and grace.

Thank you our dear friend - Rest in Peace.

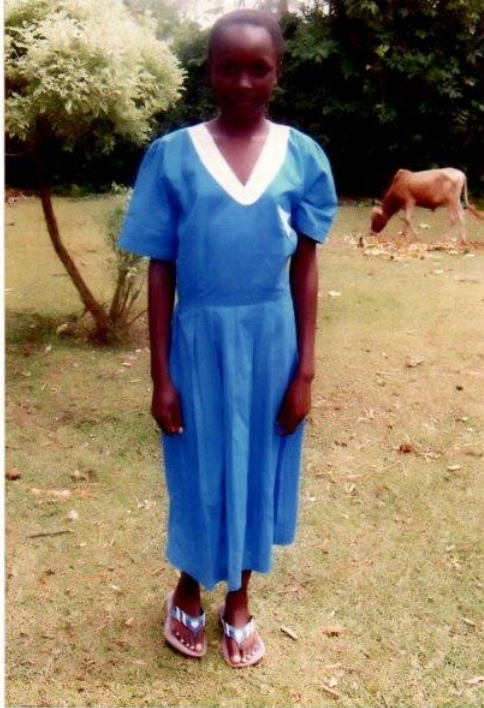


We are happy to announce the formation of...

The Michael Seaman Scholarship Fund.

In Michael's honour we would like to announce the creation of a special scholarship. A scholarship fund will be established to assist a deserving student in their endeavour for post-secondary education. The criteria for the award will be determined in collaboration with Susan Nanjala who is the administrator for our Education Support Program in Kenya. The 2023 school year will see a student identified as the first recipient of this scholarship.

Anyone wishing to support this initiative can do so by assigning their donation to The Michael Seaman Scholarship Fund.



Henrietta's Success Story

A Narrative Report by Susan Nanjala

Henrietta was born on 27th August 1998. She was enrolled on our education support program on 7th December 2010, shown in photos on her first day.



She was 12 years old at the time of enrollment in class

6. She is the 6th born out of 8 children. Her father passed on when she was 3 years old. She has been under the care of her widowed mother who has always been faced with multiple health challenges. Her mother is positively living with breast Cancer and mastectomy was done. She is also living with the immunodeficiency virus. Henrietta's mother was really overburdened with a large number of children to take care of after the death of her husband and was also ailing at the time. This was the main reasons why we enrolled her on the program.



HENRIETA'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY BEGINS

Henrietta has remained a very good girl right from the start. She has always remained focused in her education and was never derailed by her peers. At school, throughout her primary and high school education, we never received any report of indiscipline. She was always in school and had respect for everyone. She passed well in her primary and secondary examinations and had passion for Home Science in high School. This prompted her to pursue Catering & Hospitality as a career whereby she has completed her course and she is currently on internship.

At home, Henrietta has always been peaceful with her sickly mother. Unlike other children, we have never received complaints from her mother. Despite all challenges at home, she remained committed and dedicated to her studies. Her mother also worked hard to look for extra financial support to fully fund Henrietta's education in high school and college. Her mother has always been very supportive too and did not let her health challenges overcome her.

Henrietta in our CCTD Education Support Program:

We have seen Henrietta grow / develop from childhood to adulthood. We know her as a very disciplined girl, ever smiling and very cooperative. She is always ready to give a hand where need be especially on the side of catering during our group functions. She always keeps in touch with us by either texting or calling the office just to let us know how she is getting on and also wanting to know how other students are getting on too. She is a very polite girl and has never given us problems / disciplinary issues.

She has always appreciated the support given to her by her sponsor through SFA. She appreciates our CCTD organization for mediating /being the linkage for her education support. She is one of our best role models and we are proud of her as an organization.

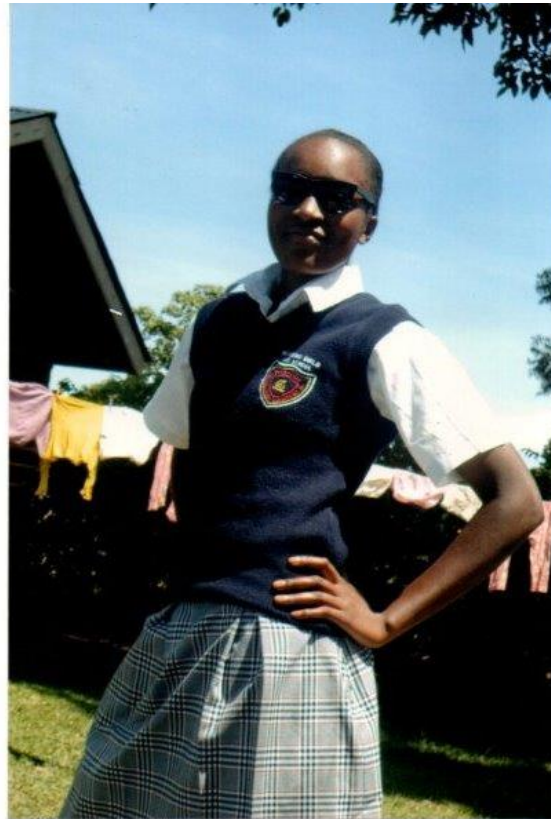
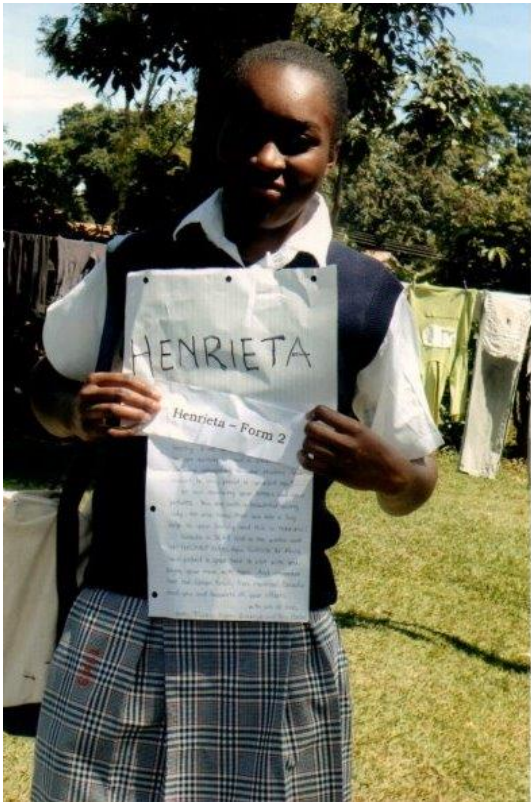
With her career in catering & hospitality, her customers will receive the best treatment and care.

Henrietta is pictured here writing a letter back to her sponsor in Canada.

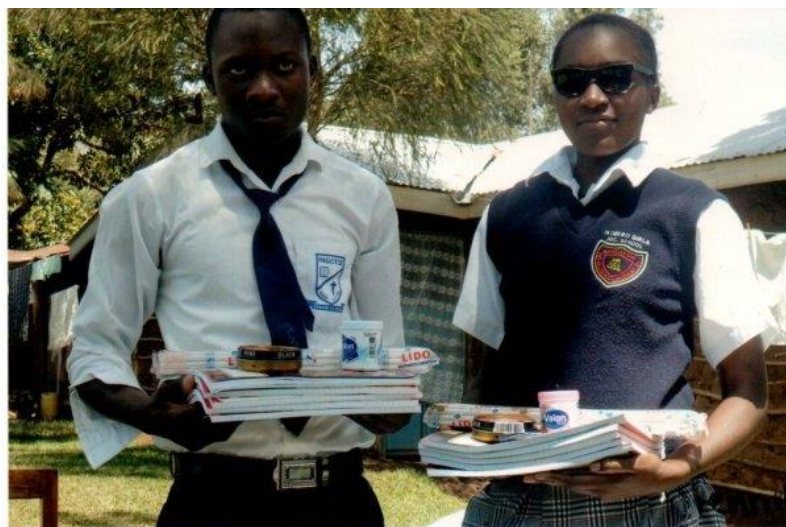
The following pages contain more photos of Henrietta's journey.



Henrietta goes on to High School



Photos show Henrietta receiving a letter from her sponsor, proudly wearing her new high school uniform and receiving scholastic materials. All of which were made possible by her sponsor's support. It is the precious gift of a bright future.





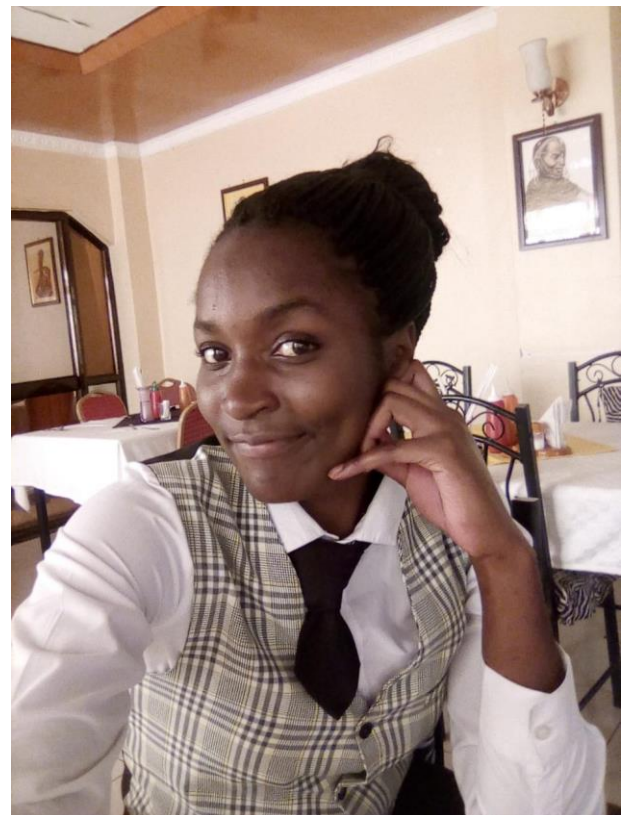
Henrietta is pictured here working during her internship with a Hotel Group in Nairobi and during her college courses in catering and hospitality.



Suitcases for Africa would like to add our congratulations to Henrietta for all the concentration and hard work required to reach her goals. It is a wonderful achievement!

We also thank her great sponsor who made this all possible!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



“Am so grateful for your support. May God add you more years to keep on breathing”

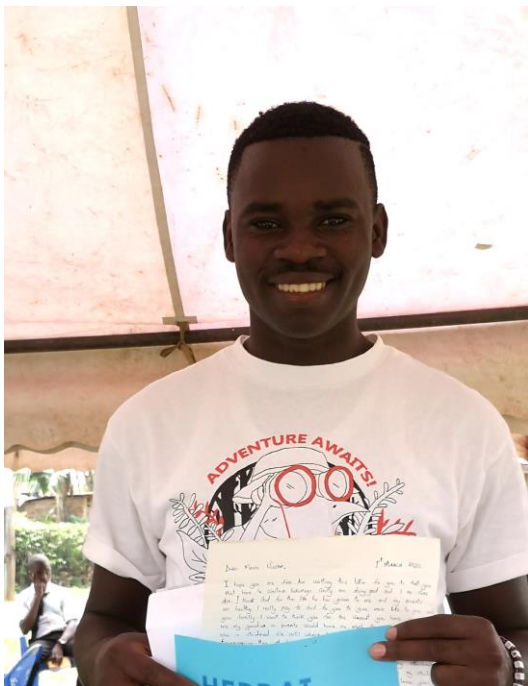
A Sponsor Shares her Experience

Below is a note from one of our long time sponsors. Susan has sponsored two young boys for many years and they have both developed into fine young men. One is completing his diploma course at a technical college and the other is aspiring to become a priest. We thank Susan for her dedication to this really wonderful program.



“During my career as a teacher, I found that many of my students did not appreciate how fortunate they were to have free primary and secondary education and opportunities for further education and career development. This was often manifest in unmotivated, lacklustre academic performance. Therefore, it is a real privilege to support the education of students who are really “hungry” to learn and pursue their dreams. There is nothing sweeter than to receive a letter from the Kenyan students I sponsor wherein they share their dreams and goals and admit their short comings and even divulge some of their personal stories. These young Kenyans appreciate the opportunities this type of funding can provide. Their education is not free. Their lives have not been easy. I have grown very fond of these children. Such letters let me know that my small effort is helping a young person succeed and that my support is appreciated. “

Herbert



Kingsley



Preparing Students for Government Exams

Some of the members of the Community Centre for Transformation and Development (CCTD) are shown preparing the materials for the students who will soon be sitting their exams in March. Our Administrator, Susan, is taking the picture of Julia, Esther, Elizabeth & Wycliff. Students who are graduating from grade 8 and those graduating from high school sit national exams and require specific educational supplies for the exam. Members of the CCTD Team meet with each student and provide encouragement and support as the exam day approaches.





How Canadians are Helping in their own Way



SFA would like to thank all those who hosted, volunteered their time or donated to the following events:

The Fall “Five in One” Fundraiser Event 2021



Homemade soups, baking, indoor plants, Kenyan market and garage sale tables were all rolled into one for this enjoyable event. It was our first in- person fundraiser since the covid restrictions and lockdowns came in. We were more than excited to see old friends and new. Thanks to Edwina & Joe for hosting this event in Beaconsfield.

The photos below show two happy ladies who participated in our 5 in 1 Fundraiser

Jennifer on the left was really pleased to be able to contribute a well thought out raffle prize for our event. The basket was filled with cooking related items such as kitchen supplies, recipes & cook books etc. The value of the basket was approximately \$140. Joy on the right was absolutely thrilled to be the winner of the raffle basket. Joy had come from Dollard des Ormeaux to support our fundraiser.



Thank you both for helping us to raise funds for our Kenyan projects.

Beautiful Knitting Donations from Florence



We extend a huge thank you to **Florence Johnson** as our “**resident knitting specialist**”.

For the past few years Flo has provided the small knitted comfort teddies and dolls that we take with us to Kenya. The teddies are given out to the children that we encounter on our daily travels.

As you can see from the photos her talents are boundless. One of the biggest hits at our markets and events this year is her LAMB CHOPS hand puppet. This puppet brought endless smiles and happy memories of their own childhood to so many happy shoppers!

Be Contagious! Spread Joy!

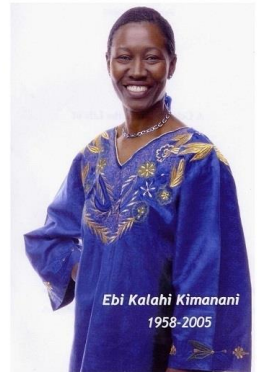


The Kerry Anne Kutz Annual Concerts



“My voice students and I present "Coffee Houses" each October at the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation for Suitcases for Africa. We choose a different musical theme each year, 2021 being French songs of Quebec and France! My students range in age from elementary school age to seventy years. They are wonderful people and fine singers, who are very committed to contributing their talents and time to the wonderful community of children in Itegero, Kenya.

Ebi Kimanani was a close and magnificent friend of mine. I think of her constantly, remember her wisdom and often imagine what she would like us to be doing to help others. I am very grateful for the tireless work of the volunteers at Suitcases for Africa and look forward with great enthusiasm to our coffee houses every year.”



Note from the Suitcases for Africa Board of Directors

We are grateful for this wonderful partnership with Kerry-Anne. She is very giving with her time and talents. This is a great opportunity for Kerry-Anne’s students to get some “on stage experience” and for us to highlight our organization. We also appreciate the members of the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation for always being so supportive of this great fundraiser.

Beaurepaire Village Holiday Market 2021



It was a very, very cold and frosty Saturday morning at our SFA booth but the visitors and shoppers were warm and friendly. We were selling our merchandise, donation cards, beautiful knitting by Florence and Homemade SOUP! We joked that if we had the soup for sale hot there would be a stampede! Maybe we will try that next year. Thanks for all the brave hardy souls who stopped by and made it so worthwhile. Soup sold out, knitting was a big success and so many people enjoyed Lamb Chops the puppet. Thanks to Les Amis de Village and our kind soup chefs.

See you next year!



Corpus Christi Parish Christmas Market 2021



Thank you once again to the parish for opening up the church hall and their hearts by hosting and supporting the annual SFA Christmas Market.

The market was a great success and we were so appreciative of all those who took the time to make delicious baking, cultivate indoor plants for sale and donate items for sale.



The Kenyan Nativity sets, Angels & Christmas decorations, helped us to prepare for this season of joyful contemplation and celebration. We were grateful once again for the generosity of your support for our projects through the purchase of Donation Gift Cards.

Thanks to all for making it so special!

Thank you SOKO

Even though we could not have our Annual Shopping Evening at SOKO in Pointe Claire Village this year we were fortunate to have a special Christmas tree dedicated to our beautiful ornaments – especially the colourful angels.

Thank you Michele!



Introducing our new Website IT volunteer Tyler Mayoff



We are so grateful to Tyler for taking over the technical assistance side of our website from his dad Jason Mayoff. We also wish to thank Jason for setting up our website and maintaining it for us for many years. Tyler follows in his family's tradition of being very active and generous with their time and energy for social justice and humanitarian causes. They have been very supportive of our work since day one.

Thank you for all you do!

“My name is Tyler Mayoff. I'm 21 and I've studied computer science at John Abbot College. I got an internship at CAE Inc. doing software development in my final year and was planning to continue working there after I graduated. COVID lead to myself and many others being laid off. While I finished my studies, I did some freelance web development work for a handful of clients. Since I was more immersed in the world of web development and had some free-time, my dad suggested I take over Suitcases for Africa's website management”

**“Act as if what you do makes a difference.
IT DOES”** William James

Coming Events

May 21, 2022 9:00 – 12:00
61 Beaconsfield Ct. Beaconsfield



Plant Sale

Just in time for spring planting



Home Baking

Treats – Treats & More
Treats



African Market

Great opportunity to see some of the treasures that were brought back from Kenya



Rent a table!

For information please call:
Wendy 514-992-5500 or Darlene 514-457-3786

Thank you for being our partners for 16 years!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join us in raising funds and awareness with your own ideas or events.
- Make a donation to support our projects.
- A tax receipt will be issued for all donations of \$25.00 or more.
- Purchase our donation cards (see samples on our website).

Thank you for helping Suitcases for Africa throughout this difficult time. During the Covid19 Pandemic you have helped us to maintain our presence in Kenya. It was crucial in the maintenance of our Educational Sponsorship Program, supporting orphans and vulnerable children.



If you wish to make a donation

Please click on the “Donate Now” button on our website at www.suitcasesforafrica.com

Thank you – Asante Sana

