



THE NEWSLETTER

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GTO Supports Education for Young Kenyans Impacted by HIV/AIDS.



Jon Howcroft, Christine Robby, Juma Nyongesa and Malik Khaemba.

WSP employees have an opportunity to get involved in helping Kenyan secondary school and post-secondary school students build a better future for themselves.

This opportunity arises from the new partnership between GTO and Community Education Services (CES) Kenya, a grassroots NGO that provides scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. CES Kenya, headquartered in the western Kenya city of Kakamega, receives funding from its sister organisation, CES Canada.

Every year, CES Kenya leaders request recommendations from principals and teachers of carefully vetted secondary schools for bright, eager, yet needy students deserving of a scholarship. CES conducts interviews with the students, investigates their family backgrounds and then selects some for scholarship support. This assistance covers school fees, textbooks, uniforms, school trips and other incidentals, accompanied by mentoring from CES Kenya's two part-time staff members.

In addition to supporting secondary school students, CES Kenya has extended its assistance to students in technical colleges and universities over the past five years. These students receive funding covering approximately 90% of their expenses, with an expectation of being resourceful in sourcing support for the remaining portion.

How to Donate
www.givengain.com

The connection between CES and GTO originated through Carl Friesen, a former employee of Golder Associates and current Chair of CES Canada. Carl, acquainted with GTO's endeavours in supporting grassroots organisations aiding vulnerable young people, including those impacted by HIV/AIDS, facilitated preliminary discussions. Following these discussions, Jon Howcroft, GTO Trust Manager, conducted a site visit to CES operations in Kakamega, Kenya. During the visit, Jon engaged with CES Kenya staff, volunteers, principals, teachers and students at supported schools. The outcome was CES becoming GTO's newest NGO partner.

Beyond funding scholarships, GTO aspires to provide additional support through mentoring. CES Kenya primarily focuses on supporting university and college students in STEM fields such as engineering and environmental science. We aim to facilitate mentorships wherein WSP employees can guide CES students in STEM fields regarding their career pathways. Please reach out to GTO if you're interested in participating. Employee donations to GTO are fuelling numerous initiatives like CES, contributing to making the world a better place.

Lewa Children's Home (Eldoret, Kenya). Holiday Smiles News.

On behalf of Lewa's Children's Home, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the GTO for your generous donation. Your support has had a significant impact on our children and the programmes that we offer.

During the 2023 holiday season, we were able to host a variety of activities and welcome guests who celebrated with our children. Our team organised creative and engaging activities, including arts and crafts, party games such as Musical Chairs, a treasure hunt, dancing and even a fashion show using everyday materials. These activities not only brought joy to our children but also allowed them to express themselves creatively.

The funds received were allocated towards supporting the education of some of our children attending boarding schools for junior high and high school. This support was instrumental in purchasing necessary school supplies especially during the period of rising costs.

Your contribution has made a real difference to the lives of our children, helping them access education and fostering their growth and development. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and commitment to our cause.





Shoes Designed and Created by Students.



Musical Chairs.

ACET (Zimbabwe) Holiday Smiles.

On the 2nd of March 2024, we celebrated our Holiday Smiles, and had three delicious cakes made by our local Spar Supermarket. The children enjoyed a hot meal and food hampers were distributed to their families. A big thank you to GTO Trust for your donation and your continued support in making a difference to the lives of our children and community!!



Enjoying a Hot Meal.



Food Packs for the Families.



GTO Holiday Smiles Cake.



Cutting of the GTO Cake.





Dave Underwood from the WSP London office has joined the GTO Canada team of Office Champions. Dave had this to say on why he supports GTO: “After participating in a mission trip over 30 years ago (my friend’s sister was a Youth with A Mission missionary in Guinea-Bissau, Africa), I gained a better understanding of the struggles of many people in impoverished nations. I also gained immense appreciation for the quality of life and multitude of everyday benefits that we enjoy in North America, such as clean water and consistent electricity.

Seeing how our efforts changed just a few lives and provided benefits to the community, I am happy to be an Office Champion to support (and have supported with donations) the GTO and their mission and vision to make a big difference for little lives.”



Lindsey Bevan, the long-time Victoria Office Champion, has agreed to take on the National Fundraising Role for GTO in Canada! She will be heading up national programmes such as TruEarth and Fundscrip, as well as assisting in planning an annual calendar of events. We are very excited about Lindsey’s new role. Please join us in congratulating her!

Will You Bee Mine? (Sudbury, Canada Office Initiative).



The Sudbury, Canada office held a Valentine’s Day fundraiser for the GTO, selling honey donated from Nancy Wilk’s very own honeybees! Nancy, a colleague from the Cambridge office, is a long-time supporter of the GTO and donated 20 jars of honey for the 20th anniversary of the GTO, raising \$400! Thanks for being you, Nancy!

Calgary and Victoria Offices (Canada).

Pi Day in Canada: Several offices celebrated their inner nerds with Pi Day on March 14 raising over \$800 CAD between Calgary and Victoria. See photos of the volunteers serving up the delicious pies to waiting customers!

