

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Commonwealth Countries League

Education Fund



A Secondary Education Sponsorship Scheme for Girls



Registered Charity No. 1048908

OUR MISSION

To sponsor girls of ability through secondary school where, without assistance, they would be unable or unlikely to continue

To give them a sense of their own value and worth

To enable them to act as ambassadors for female education within their own communities

FACTS: Worldwide there are approximately 100 million children of primary school age who are not in school. Approximately 45% of these are in Africa and in many countries, including those within the Commonwealth, girls will suffer greater discrimination at both primary and secondary school levels. Yet education has the potential to transform lives and its benefits are numerous. Women, even those with an education, may still face discrimination in labour markets, property ownership and other areas. However, education equips them with a basic confidence in their abilities and rights and is one of the key factors in advancing equality and women's empowerment.

ACHIEVEMENTS: During 2009/10, the CCL Education Fund helped over 300 girls through their secondary schooling in 20 Commonwealth countries. One of the aims of the Fund is to support the individual girl in her own school and to tailor the costs to the needs of the child on an annual basis. In this way each pupil is encouraged to achieve her potential and her progress is monitored. We work through head teachers and occasionally with bona fide local charities which put forward cases for consideration. Close contact is maintained with schools and girls and our Administrative Secretary, Dr Casmir Chanda, is increasingly able to use IT and mobile phones for this task



Adontsi is from Lesotho. Her father is frequently ill and neither parent is in work. Without CCLEF sponsorship she would be unable to attend school.

HELPERS: Also key to the smooth operation of the Fund is our Hon Treasurer, Judith Fisher, and the Board much appreciates the commitment she has shown since her appointment. Indeed I thank all the Trustees for their assistance and in particular Jania Geoghegan and Ruth Whitehouse who gave so much support to the Fund before retiring during the year.

Cover: Some of our girls with their teacher and classmates in Papua New Guinea

SUPPORTERS: Thanks are also due to High Commissions, CCL Members and Absolute Return for Kids for their support both personally and financially. The Trustees are also grateful to all the other individuals, trusts and organisations who continue to offer support including The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, The Canadian Federation of University Women-Salt Spring Club, The Australian Women’s Club and others who wish to remain anonymous.

EVENTS: The enthusiasm of the Commonwealth Fair Chairwoman for 2009 – Mrs Salamatu Tafida of Nigeria – and her committee seemed endless, and in addition to the Fair a number of fund-raising activities were held including a very successful barbecue at the Chairwoman’s residence. The Australian Women’s Club and the UK Team were active in many areas, as was Majorie Rennie who, despite her heavy workload as CCL Chairman, took on the busy role of Fair Coordinator. We are very grateful to them all and to the many others who arranged events on behalf of the Fund.

Considerable thanks also go to those who took part in the London 10K. This event is becoming an important part of the charity’s fund-raising and we hope to continue increasing our sponsorship income in the years ahead. However, with increasing challenges from the global recession we need to think of new ways to fund raise.



THE WAY AHEAD: In this connection the charity is pleased to receive the promise of funding specifically donated to enable a former scholar from Nigeria to undertake a year’s consultancy with the aim of raising the charity’s profile and seeking sponsorship from new sources. The Board of Trustees is deeply appreciative of this generous offer which we are sure will greatly benefit our ability to sponsor girls’ education in the Commonwealth.

Finally, a generous donation from supporters enabled Dr Chanda to represent the Fund at the Commonwealth Education Ministers’ Meeting in Malaysia. We greatly value her involvement with gender work across the Commonwealth and our close links with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation which help deepen our knowledge about Commonwealth issues.

Jenny Groves, Chairman, Board of Trustees

CCLEF:
Commitment to changing Lives through Education and Friendship

CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL and SOUTH AMERICA: Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines



Sponsorship needs and educational fees vary considerably throughout the region and, even when tuition is funded, the cost of books, transport and other charges can cause great hardship.

Shenniel (*left*) lives a long way from school in Grenada and her parents could not afford transport costs. She explained the difference sponsorship has made saying *“I looked at how hard my dad worked and used to sit down and cry. Now your support means I have a goal to achieve. I will not disappoint you.”*

Janeen lives in Belize and her parents also faced problems with school fees. Once sponsored she wrote: *“Please express my gratitude to my sponsors. I went through the year without worrying about my fees and have concentrated more on my studies.”* Janeen is a high achiever, gaining over 70% in all her examinations.

Although poverty has declined in Jamaica and children are targeted under many government initiatives to improve access to education and health care etc., the country does not yet have the resources to meet all of its objectives. Bridgette (*right*) is the daughter of a self-employed electrician and finding work can be difficult so the family’s income is not regular. Bridgette’s best subjects are English, Maths and Science and she is determined to succeed. She wrote: *“My philosophy is never under-estimate the power of a black woman. In the future I would like to pursue a career in the field of Science.”*



Meanwhile in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Anastasia wrote *“I am so thankful for this scholarship. I am not a quitter and you will never be disappointed in me. My family and I are doing well, and in school, although it is kind of tough right now, it is manageable.”*

ASIA: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Enormous strides have been made in primary school education in Bangladesh with attendance now over 80%. However, at secondary school level enrolment falls to below 50% and many families struggle to provide for their children.



Tanzina (pictured left) is just one of the girls we sponsor in the country and, like all the others, she is determined to contribute to her community. *“I have a strong desire to become an engineer. Being an engineer will enable me to take part in the social works of our country and also be able to serve my country in a better way. Due to my father’s limited income, I cannot afford to pay for my education. I avail myself to CCL for the sponsorship, so that I can reach my goal.”* Other sponsored girls are looking forward to careers as teachers or working in the medical field.

Even when tuition is state funded, family circumstances may prevent girls from attending school, for example money for books and uniform may not be available. Rasi in India explained how the scholarship helped when her father became unable to work: *“When my father was admitted to hospital your help enabled me to continue my studies. In the same way if I am helped for this year, I could reach a good position in life.”*

A number of girls are now sponsored in Sri Lanka. Hashini lives in a rural area and her parents are unemployed and unable to meet school fees and other educational requirements. Now she is at school and doing very well in maths and the sciences. She wrote *“With the help you have given me I have the school uniform and all the other necessary things. I am very anxiously doing all my work to succeed in the future so I thank you once again and my family thank you a lot.”*

We also had good news during the year from Fatima, one of our “old girls” in Pakistan. She came from a poor background with parents unable to pay for her schooling.

Now Fatima (shown right) has written *“I not only got quality education, but my teachers built confidence in me. I thank the Trustees and CCL Education Fund for their support. I am now doing B.Sc.at the university.”*



PACIFIC ISLANDS: Papua New Guinea and The Solomon Islands

With around 800 tribes and languages, mountainous countryside and lack of infrastructure, accessing education in many areas of PNG is a considerable challenge, even when families are supportive. Many of our girls come from remote villages where families rely on subsistence farming for their needs. If they are to continue to secondary school, boarding is often essential but the cost can be beyond the parents' capabilities. That cost, together with cultural pressures, including early marriage, mean the gender gap in education can be considerable.

Lydia is one of our girls and has been sponsored for three years. Her family had to move when their village was flooded and she wrote *"We were in danger because the whole village was under water"*. She and her family are extremely grateful for CCLEF sponsorship and during the year she told us *"I was so glad to receive a letter from you and so happy my sponsorship was renewed. Thank you 100 times. Without you I would not be in grade 10 this year. I am studying very hard"*.

The Solomon Islands have a large rural population spread over many islands and education can be difficult to access, especially at secondary school level. The Fund has sponsored Jane and Tracey throughout their secondary schooling.



Tracey still has a year to go but Jane is now at Fiji University and in February 2010 wrote: *"I am writing to thank you for sponsoring my education for the past six years. I wouldn't have reached this far if you hadn't helped me. Throughout high school I faced study problems and peer pressure but was determined to do well and earn this scholarship every year. I knew my parents couldn't afford to pay my school fees. I celebrated all my high school achievements at the 2009 graduation. I was awarded a Solomon Island Government Scholarship to do Dental Surgery at Fiji School of Medicine in Fiji. I am glad to pursue my studies in Medicine because it was my aim."* She is pictured with her proud parents at her school graduation ceremony.

AFRICA: Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda

There are many challenges facing families in Africa and drought, poverty, death of parents, sickness, and remoteness of location can all be barriers to gaining access to secondary schooling, especially for girls.

Malawi is one country battling malaria, HIV/AIDS, poor nutrition and child abuse. However, improving educational opportunities is a major government goal and primary school enrolment is high with no gender gap: at secondary school the situation is very different. The Fund is helping girls at a number of schools and Bertha (right), whose parents are peasant farmers, wrote *"I would like to thank you for paying my fees. I promise to make good use of the chance so in future I will also be able to assist needy students. I am now always happy at school since I do not have anything to worry about as I am assured of having my school fees paid for."*

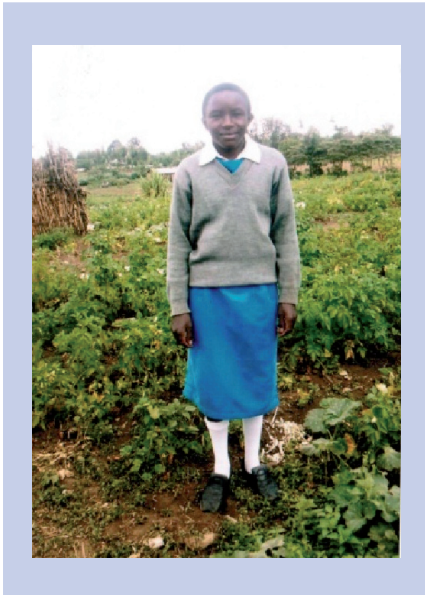


The landlocked country of Lesotho also faces many challenges through poverty, drought, land degradation and lack of employment opportunities. In addition there is a high incidence of HIV/AIDS and life expectancy has fallen to 35 years. These factors have a major impact on education, especially for girls who may have to leave school to care for family members following the death of a parent: yet schooling is their main hope for the future. CCLEF is continuing to support girls at a number of different schools in the country.

During 2009 a number of our girls in Cameroon completed their secondary education with some hoping to enter university. Others, including Nadesh, continue at school. Sponsored since 2005 she has written *"I am taking 10 subjects at GCE O Level and will then go on to High School for A Levels."* What a difference from the hopelessness of Nadesh's first letter when she told us her father had died when she was very young and she could not remember his face.

In Tanzania sponsorship has meant Consista can study without the constant worry of school fees – she wrote *"I have improved academically because of your help. Therefore I beg you to help me again to make me comfortable without being chased away from school because of not having fees."*

Assanatou in Sierra Leone – where, partly due to the ongoing legacy of the Civil War, literacy rates are less than 40% - also wrote that her results had improved because she no longer had to worry about school fees. She understands that many people contribute time and money to the CCLEF and wrote *“I will like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the kindness you are giving me. I want to be computer literate. I have been promoted to Senior School”*.



In Kenya, the Fund continues to sponsor many girls including some who were adversely affected by the violence following the 2007 elections when families were displaced and some schools closed. There have been many encouraging results among these girls, some of whom are completing school this year while others still need help to continue. Joyce (left) wrote: *“My parents are unable to pay for my school fees due to unemployment. We were affected by the past election violence and forced to move from our original home. I require sponsorship to achieve my dream of completing secondary education.”*

Literacy rates continue to rise in The Gambia but secondary school enrolment remains very low. Olimatou comes from a family of nine and without funding she could not attend school. In 2009 she sought sponsorship renewal saying *“Thank you for the help and support you have given me. I am now in grade 12 and will work hard and succeed so that when I get a job in future I can help my family. May the good Lord give you long life, good health and happiness with your families”*.

Malchit lives in Nigeria with her mother who is a nurse. However, the family's income is such that her mother finds it difficult to pay school fees. Malchit wrote *“I was very encouraged when I saw the letter from you. I promise to study hard and do my best to make you proud and happy. I am determined to fulfil my dream of being a doctor in the future and to ensure this opportunity given to me by CCLEF will not be abused and that your labour for me is not in vain.”*

It has to be remembered that, although primary education in many African countries is in the national language, or perhaps the local language, secondary education may, by law, be in English. This means that, in addition to the complexity of new subjects, students also have to cope with learning in what is their second, or even third, language. The fact that they do so is yet another example of their determination to succeed.

Finally, we are always delighted to hear news of girls who have completed secondary school and one Headmaster in Uganda wrote *“Mbekeka, Auma and Josephine have been admitted to the two most influential National Universities in Uganda - Makerere and Kyambogo. They have been allocated the following courses: Mbekeka, Civil Engineering; Auma, Development Economics and Josephine, Industrial Chemistry. We truly appreciate your support throughout their secondary education. We have given the girls your address and contacts so that they can continue to share with you their experiences and updates on their university progress directly. However this does not mean we shall stop to monitor their progress and moral standards as a school. It’s our conviction that they are a resource to the school, their respective families and the Commonwealth Charity in future. The girls and I thank you so much.”*

We also received news of a number of our “old girls” in Kenya: Janerose is in her first year at Teachers Training College, Vairusy is taking a course in accountancy and Caroline has trained as a tailor and dressmaker. Metrine is hoping to study medicine while Cecilia has completed her course and is a high school teacher in Teso district.

There has also been good news about Kimberly and Stacey, two sisters previously sponsored in Guyana. They come from an Amerindian family in the South Pakaraima mountain region close to the border with Brazil and faced a difficult and challenging journey to reach boarding school for their secondary education. Both girls achieved good results in their CXC examinations after which Kimberly found work as a nursery school teacher. Now, thanks to the assistance of their local parish priest, they have applied for government sponsorship to enter university. Kimberly is hoping to study for a degree in English and Stacey a diploma in Forestry. Having a background of living in an interior community she has first-hand knowledge of sustainable forest use.

Kimberly sent us this photograph of herself with some of the children she has been teaching and wrote *“After leaving school in 2005 I made an application to fill a vacancy at the nursery school. I like working with the kids although at times it can be very challenging.”* She has been described as a highly intelligent and thoughtful young woman who could contribute significantly to the development of the Amerindian communities following completion of her university studies.



CCL EDUCATION FUND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Income	2010	2009
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Grants & donations	13,718	33,344	-	47,062	93,656
Activities generating income	57,943	-	-	57,943	54,953
Investment income – interest	7,388	-	95	7,483	10781
Total	79,049	33,344	95	112,488	159,390
Resources Expended					
Cost of generating voluntary income (including salary costs)	21,752	-	-	21,752	21,299
Fundraising costs (including hire of Kensington Town Hall)	14,822	-	-	14,822	20,144
Charitable activities (sponsorships)	15,799	50,872	95	66,766	74,543
Governance costs	1,593	-	-	1,593	1,313
Total	53,966	50,872	95	104,933	117,299
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	25,083	(17,528)	-	7,555	42,091
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/ (LOSSES)	38,563	-	854	39,417	(38,163)
Net movement in funds	63,646	(17,528)	854	46,972	3,928
Total funds as at 1.4.2009	252,063	25,000	3,447	280,510	276,582
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 31.3.2010	315,709	7,472	4,301	327,482	280,510

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
Fixed Assets		
Investments	198,467	159,050
Total fixed assets	198,467	159,050
Current Assets		
Sundry debtors	25,000	25,000
Cash at bank and in hand	105,484	97,773
Total Current Assets	130,484	122,773
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	(1,469)	(1,313)
Net current assets	129,015	121,460
Net assets	327,482	280,510
Funds of the Charity		
Endowment funds	4,301	3,447
Unrestricted funds	315,709	252,063
Restricted income funds	7,472	25,000
TOTAL FUNDS	327,482	280,510

NOTE: The summary information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet has been extracted from the statutory accounts. An unqualified audit opinion was given on the full accounts, copies of which are available on request from The Administrative Secretary, Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund, 29 Tennyson Street, Swindon, SN1 5DT and are available on the Charity Commission website. The full accounts were approved by the Trustees on 17th June 2009 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Independent Examiner's Statement – As independent examiner to the charity, I have reviewed the summarised accounts shown here and consider they are consistent with the full accounts on which I gave an unqualified opinion. Richard Limburg, FCA

NB The charity retains sufficient funds in its reserves to ensure the completion of secondary schooling for all girls sponsored at any one time

The profits from the Commonwealth Fair held in Kensington Town Hall and from associated activities are incorporated in the overall figure for "Activities generating income" in the main accounts but details of the Fair Account are given below.

CCLEF Fair account for year ended 31st March 2010

Income	2010	2009	Expenditure	2010	2009
Advance Tickets	0	106	Photocopying	47	415
Gala Evening	0	4,225	Advertising	580	892
Kenya lunch	0	8,851	Fair cost – hire of venue	10,857	14,869
Fusion lunch	360	2,150	Kenya lunch	0	775
Education Fund	0	5,000	Functions	0	2,125
Donations	1,600	10,010	Education Fund	30,000	30,000
Merchandise	0	28	Printing	583	70
Stalls	2,925	2,200	Sundries	0	20
Commonwealth Fair	26,986	27,916	Caribbean evening	110	0
Nigerian BBQ	10,669	0	Nigerian BBQ	2,250	0
We are the World	2,150	0	We are the World	700	0
Brochure	1,075	0			
Book Fair	850	0			
Bridge Afternoon	2,511	0			
	49,126	60,486		45,127	49,166
Surplus/(Deficit)				(3,999)	11,320
TOTAL	49,126	60,486		49,126	60,486



Trustees:	Jenny Groves Judith Fisher Ann Chivers Ruth Whitehouse Jania Geoghegan Leolynn Jones Sheila Kennard Parveen Yusuf Louisa Service	(Chairman) (Hon Treasurer) CCL CCL (to July 2009) CCL (to Jan 2010) CCL CCL CCL CCL President
Observers:	Majorie Rennie	CCL Chairman
Correspondent:	Mavis Longhorn	CCL
Administrative Secretary: (Part-time paid)	Casmir Chanda	
Principal Bankers:	Barclays Bank, 210 High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1DL	
Independent Examiner:	Richard Limburg, Vantis Group Limited, 66 Wigmore Street, London, W1U 2SB	

Registered Charity No. 1048908
The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund
Registered Office: 13 Capel Place, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent,
DA2 7PU, England

Administrative Office: 29 Tennyson Street, Swindon,
SN1 5DT, England
Tel: +44 (0)1793 616 693 Mob: +44 (0)7760 201452
Fax: +44 (0) 870 123 1813
Email: ccl.edfund@googlemail.com
Website: <http://www.ccl-int.org>