

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

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

WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE is the theme for the Commonwealth for 2011. The Fund recognises in its mission that girls' education has the potential to transform lives and its benefits are numerous.

The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund supported the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Secretariat, London South Bank University and Soroptimist International in organising a meeting on Commonwealth Day - 14th March 2011, at the House of Commons. The meeting issued a call for action to Commonwealth Governments to:

- *close the gender gap in access to education that leaves 121 million children, most of them girls, out of school and 500 million women unable to read or write - twice as many as men;*
- *provide women with equal access to complete secondary education; ensure all sectors of education have trained teaching and support staff;*
- *support pastoral policies that prevent girls and women from dropping out of education due to early marriage, domestic and childcare responsibilities, economic activity, including marginal employment and subsistence agriculture;*
- *ensure education programmes in all sectors, reject cultural stereotyping of women to provide equal access in all subjects and provide for the specific needs of girls and women;*
- *Introduce employment legislation to ensure women's economic rewards reflect their academic achievements and abilities and end the discrimination that still holds back women at work;*
- *to ensure equality in decision-making on education, and commit to achieving equal representation of women in Commonwealth Parliaments, Governments and inter-governmental agencies.*

The CCLEF supports these action points and continues to provide access to secondary schooling for around 300 girls across the Commonwealth. Some of the stories of these girls are found in this report.

Cover: Some of the girls sponsored in Zambia.

Chairman's letter

The CCL Education Fund continues to be indebted to the Commonwealth High Commissioners, CCL members and friends and women's organisations who work tirelessly to raise funds. Mrs Zarina Wajid Hasan of Pakistan, supported by HE Ms Ruth Elizabeth Rouse, High Commissioner for Grenada, and Mrs Sharon Farquharson of the Bahamas, is already hard at work for the 2011 Commonwealth Fair to be held at Kensington Town Hall on 12th November. Special mention should also be made of HE Mrs Jean Kekedo, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea, for her support during her term of office in London and we wish her well as she returns home.



*"Angie runs 4
Commonwealth girls"*

The Commonwealth Fair, coordinated by Majorie Rennie, remains our main fundraising event but other activities include the London 10K. Thanks are due to all who took part in 2010 raising over £10,000. David Munday has run since 2004 and has recruited others, including Angela Walker who raised a magnificent £5,000; other new runners included members of the Australian Women's Club.

The Fund welcomed new Trustees: Andrew Fox, a retired Accountant, who visited our girls in Grenada in 2010; Educationalist, Anne Munt-Davies and Judy Hardy, a retired teacher. I am most grateful to all the Trustees for their commitment and to Dr. Casmir Chanda, our Administrative Secretary.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, Ladi Dariya, a former scholar, has been sponsored as a fundraising consultant. She is charged with raising our profile and has redesigned our website, generously hosted

by YoComm. On Commonwealth Day Ladi launched the "Thousand Schools for a Thousand Girls" (TSTG) Initiative. Working with Burntwood School, who sponsored her in the 1980s, Ladi scripted a DVD "Girls Just Like Us" which was uploaded to "YouTube". With support from CCLEF Patron Baroness Flather she will promote this project to UK schools thereby increasing awareness of the challenges to girls in the Commonwealth and enabling British girls to be "Agents of Change". With this and other initiatives in place, the Trustees hope to more than treble the number of girls sponsored (currently around 300) and increase the countries (currently 23) in which support is given.

Jenny Groves LVO, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

TSTG Initiative: For information contact Fundraiser at 7 Manor Court, 152 Abbey Road, London, NW6 4ST or e-mail fundraising@ccl-int.org

Sponsorship Application Forms: Commonwealth Head Teachers can request forms from the Administrative Office, contact details are on the back of this Report

Donations: At the end of this Report you will find a slip indicating ways to donate to CCLEF. Thank you.

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

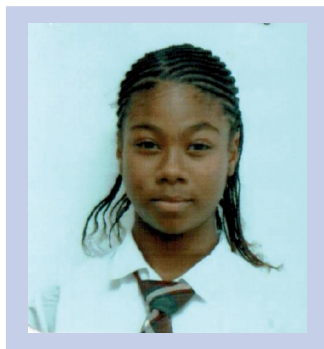
Poverty has declined in most of the countries in the Caribbean but in many areas the need for educational support remains. Even when tuition is state funded, the cost of books, transport, exams etc can cause great hardship for girls. Sponsorship gives hope to girls and also enables them more time to spend on school work rather than worrying about school fees.



Yuri (left) in Belize came from a family unable to meet her school fees and other needs. She explained why sponsorship was important to her and the difference it has made: *“I thought I would never make it through secondary school, but with your help, I can see a future ahead....I always used to worry about school fees”*. Yuri’s performance improved markedly when she received sponsorship.

Some of the girls in St Vincent & The Grenadines and Jamaica travel long distances, sometimes by foot, to reach school. Difficult journeys such as these, together with hunger arising from inability to pay for lunches or school meals, result in lack of concentration at school and hamper progress. Provision, via the school, of transport money and help towards other requirements eases life for the girls and they are better able to focus on school work giving them the hope and confidence that their ambitions will be fulfilled.

When girls have that hope they work hard. Nisa (right) in Grenada, comes from a single family home and was stressed when her father underwent surgery. Her performance dropped and she needed help. While the school intervened to help Nisa’s academic performance improve, the Fund assisted her to get the basic necessities for school. Nisa hopes to become a teacher. She wrote *“As a teacher, I believe that I can be of great help to underprivileged children in my community and my family so that they too can enjoy a better life. Providing this scholarship to me has been truly a blessing.”*



Bridgette from Jamaica wrote *“The letter you sent me had very inspiring words. When I sat and read it I was motivated. As the proverb says ‘hard work brings success’ and I now can say I truly believe.”*

ASIA: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan

Great strides have undeniably been made in primary school education in Bangladesh where attendance is now over 85%. However, at secondary school the net enrolment falls below 50% and many families struggle to meet the fees and other expenses at this level.



Salma (pictured left) was one of fourteen girls sponsored in Bangladesh. Like all the other girls looking forward to careers in the medical, political, educational or technical fields, Salma is determined to contribute something to her community. She is concerned about food security in her country and wrote: *"I wish to become an agricultural engineer, this will enable me contribute and serve my country in a better way."*

The sponsored girls in Sri Lanka are also full of hope and determination to work hard and achieve their dreams. One of these is Thilini who is happy that she is now able to go to boarding school and spend more time studying than walking long distances to and from school.

Meanwhile the girls sponsored in India continue to achieve good results. The girls, who come from very poor backgrounds with parents often working as labourers in stone quarries or on the land, have few resources. Thanks to sponsorship they are now described as "hard working and full of ambitions and dreams". Sangeetha (extreme left) wrote *"My father has no regular income and the family is living in utter poverty. Now, I will study hard and secure a high post in the Indian Police Force."*



The Fund continues to sponsor girls in Pakistan, many of whom are nearing the end of their secondary schooling. Fortunately all remained safe during the floods which affected the country so badly in 2010.

PACIFIC ISLANDS: Papua New Guinea and The Solomon Islands



Many girls sponsored in Papua New Guinea come from remote villages where their families rely on subsistence farming for their needs and where boarding school is essential if girls are to continue their secondary education. However many girls drop out of school completely. The lack of a supportive and enabling cultural, social, political and economic environment often forces them to leave at an early age, although this situation is not unique to Papua New Guinea. Sponsorship from the Fund means that the needy and bright girls can achieve secondary schooling and some of our "old girls" are now hoping to enter further education.

Gandis (pictured left) comes from a poor background. She has been sponsored for four years and is grateful to the Fund, writing: *"I was so happy and so was my family. We gathered*

for thanksgiving prayers and had a party when we got the news that I had received sponsorship. Thank you so much."

Esther, another of our girls from the Highlands, wrote during 2010 *"I am fine but in the Minj district there are tribal wars. I am concentrating fully in my studies and preparing to sit for the Grade 12 examinations. I hope to do well because I am studying hard to challenge other students in the country and hope to go to university. When I finish school this year I will never forget CCL Education Fund because I paid all my school fees."*

The Solomon Islands have a large rural population spread over a number of islands and education can be difficult to access, especially at secondary school level. Students often have to leave home and travel to one of the larger islands which means families are faced with boarding fees. The Fund has sponsored Jane and Tracey throughout their secondary schooling. Tracey will complete secondary school in July 2011 and hopes to win government sponsorship so that she can go on to tertiary education, joining Jane who is now in her second year studying Dentistry at Fiji University.

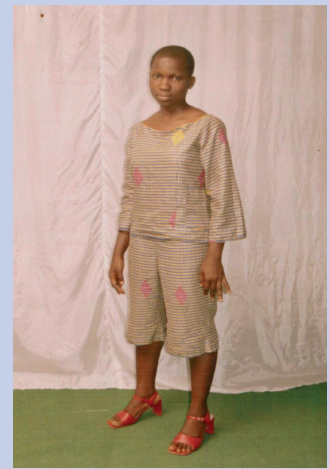
The Fund is currently awaiting the return of sponsorship applications from other countries in the region including from Fiji and Tonga.

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

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

Susan (shown when first sponsored) is from Cameroon. She lives with her unemployed mother and the Fund has supported her for six years. Now in her final year, she is studying the Sciences, Economics, Mathematics, English and French and striving to attain good results in her examinations so she can pursue medicine at university. She wrote *"I do lack words to express my gratitude for the sponsorship which I have been receiving over a number of years.... I count myself lucky and will work hard to achieve my ambition."*

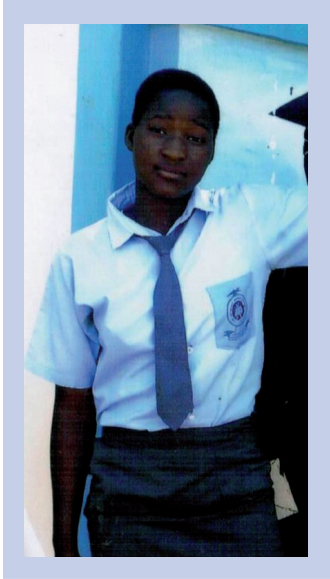
Other challenges can be cultural. In Lesotho Florinah's father is deaf and is virtually a prisoner in his own home as others think he has magical powers. He is unable to find employment and cannot even work on his small plot of land during daytime. Florinah gains



high grades in the sciences and is determined to become a nurse and fight discriminatory practices against those with disabilities. Many of our girls in Lesotho and Malawi will complete school in 2011.



The loss of a parent in countries where there is no social security or free schooling can mean a huge struggle. Rosemary (left) from Tanzania wrote about the hopelessness of not being able to see herself through secondary school. *"My father died when I was in Standard Two. We are six children and I am the 5th born. I live with my mother who is a poor subsistence farmer and can't pay my school fees. If I don't get any help, I might not complete my studies. I would like to become a lawyer when I will be able to help disadvantaged children like me. I request you to pay for my school needs."* Rosemary is now sponsored.



Some families in Kenya still suffer as a result of violence following the 2007 elections. Newly sponsored Edna (left) wrote *"My family were evicted from our farm. We lived in an Internally Displaced Persons Camp. The environment at the camp was not conducive for studying. It looks like you are the only option I am remaining with. I have been out of school for not paying school fees which keep on increasing due to many developments at school."*

Girls are always delighted when they hear that they are part of a larger community of sponsored girls around the Commonwealth. From Uganda, Brenda wrote, *"I would like to express my gratitude to you for accepting me to become part of a larger family. I am settled at school and have no more worries of being sent home. I am committed to becoming a professional in the medical sector."*

Another of our new girls in Uganda has a tragic story. Joselyn wrote *"I was born by a lady who threw me at garbage pit in Kampala at age of few weeks. A good Samaritan picked me and took care of me up to now. This lady who I call mother sells tomatoes, onions, cabbage on the road for money. Now she has gone older and sits for a long time because of problem with her backbone. Whenever term ends I fail to sit for exams and I will be so glad and proud of anyone who will help me in education because I want to be useful to my lovely mum."* Joselyn will now be able to pay for her exams and gain entrance to the next year.

The Fund is now supporting eight girls in Zambia including Purity (pictured right) who lost both parents at a young age. Her relatives struggled to keep her in school and when she nearly dropped out of school, the Fund came to her rescue. She wrote *"My ambition is to be a medical doctor because I want to save lives of people and parents so that their children don't suffer."*

While literacy rates continue to rise in The Gambia secondary school enrolment remains low. Haddyjatou comes from a family of nine and it was impossible to pay school fees. Once sponsored she wrote *"My family and I are very happy and we all say to you a big thank you. Without your help, I would have found it difficult to go to school."*



In the coming year CCLEF sponsorships is expected to extend to a number of girls in Rwanda, the Commonwealth's most recent member. Many children not only lost family members in the civil war but also the opportunity to gain an education.

NEWS FROM GIRLS

We are always pleased to hear news of girls who have completed school. From Belize, four girls in

their final year of schooling expressed their gratitude to the Fund and their joy at receiving good results. They now hope to gain entry into University. The Principal complimented the Fund for enabling the girls to complete secondary school, which would not have been possible without sponsorship.

From Kenya we received news of current and 'old girls'. All the girls currently in school are doing very well with many showing improved results compared to the previous year. Emily in form 3 has improved considerably now she has the assurance that her school fees are paid while Celestine and Ampicah, who sat for their School Certificate Examinations, qualified to join University in 2011. Milka completed school in 2005, trained as a computer analyst and is now employed. Janerose and Maximilla are in Teacher Training Colleges, Metrine is at Kenyatta University, while Vairusy is pursuing training in hair dressing.

Five girls in Pakistan are entering university. Sonia, Esther and Helen completed school in Papua New Guinea and also hope to gain admission to university. In Tanzania six girls completed secondary school and they hope to secure places in tertiary education and other training institutes.

Jane from the Solomon Islands continues to communicate with the Fund and was delighted when she received funding to study in Fiji. She wrote to the Fund *"The Solomon Island Government has given me a scholarship to do Dental Surgery at Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji. I'm happy to do that and hope to graduate and come back and serve in the country."*

Finally a letter received from Uganda expressed gratitude for the sponsorship of three girls who, although gifted, had little hope of ever completing secondary school. Once sponsored, their commitment was absolute and now all three have been admitted to university, two to Makerere and one to Kyambogo. Auma's letter read *"In the first place I wish to express my appreciation on my behalf and on behalf of my friends for the support you have given us throughout. You took us from the time when there was no light ahead of us and surely when all our dreams were shattered. We have gone through different experiences and challenges but at last we have been able to realise our destiny. Never had we ever dreamt of becoming professional at some stage in life. This is a step forwards transforming each of us as individuals and to our societies intellectually, socially and economically."*

EDUCATE2EMPOWER

CCLEF: Committed to Changing Lives through Education and Friendship

The CCLEF offers grants to enable girls to complete their secondary or high school education in their own Commonwealth country in cases where, due to economic circumstances, this might otherwise not be possible. Sponsorship is subject to academic performance and may not cover all costs. It is not for university or any other form of higher education or training. Applications may be made by the Head Teacher or a recognised Commonwealth organisation on behalf of the girl. Full supporting documentation as detailed on the application form will be required. Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of Sponsorship must be acknowledged. Grants are made in local currency to the School Bank Account. Renewal, on an annual basis, is subject to annual progress reports. Prompt acknowledgement of the receipt of monies is required. Application forms are available from the Administrative Secretary, 29 Tennyson Street, Swindon SN1 5DT, England. Email: ccl.edfund@googlemail.com. For more information on the Thousand Schools for a Thousand Girls Initiative and to sign up your school, visit: www.ccl-int.org and/or email: fundraising@ccl-int.org.

COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES LEAGUE EDUCATION FUND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment income	2011	2010
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	114,310	33,397	-	147,707	47,062
Activities for generating income	46,840	-	-	46,840	57,943
Investment income – interest	7,821	-	7	7,828	7,483
Dividends received	2,324	-	-	2,324	-
Total incoming resources	171,295	33,397	7	204,699	112,488
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income (including salary costs)	20,773	-	-	20,773	21,752
Fundraising costs (including hire of Kensington Town Hall)	11,450	22,000	-	33,450	14,822
Investment management fees	1,942	-	-	1,942	-
Charitable activities (sponsorships)	36,379	12,066	-	48,445	66,766
Governance costs	2,364	-	-	2,364	1,593
Total resources expended	72,908	34,066	-	106,974	104,933
Net income for the year	98,387	(669)	7	97,725	7,555
Other recognized (losses)/gains	(3,389)	-	103	(3,286)	39,417
Net movements in funds	94,998	(669)	110	94,439	46,972
Total funds at 1 April 2010	315,709	7,472	4,301	327,482	280,510
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st March 2011	410,707	6,803	4,411	421,921	327,482

BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2011

	2011	2010
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	295,168	198,467
Total fixed assets	295,168	198,467
CURRENT ASSETS		
Sundry debtors	382	25,000
Cash at bank and in hand	128,735	105,484
Total current assets	129,117	130,484
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	(2,364)	(1,469)
Net Current Assets	126,753	129,015
Net Assets	421,921	327,482
Funds of the Charity		
Endowment funds	4,411	4,301
Unrestricted funds	410,707	315,709
Restricted income funds	6,803	7,472
Total funds	421,921	327,482

NOTE: The summary information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet have 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 22nd June 2011 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Through the generous sponsorship of an anonymous donor a former CCLEF beneficiary currently living in the UK has been appointed consultant to increase the profile of the charity and increase fundraising opportunities.

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 shown below.

CCLEF Fair account for year ended 31st March 2011

INCOME	2011	2010	EXPENDITURE	2011	2010
	£	£		£	£
Fusion Lunch	0	360	Photocopying	0	47
Donations	2,080	1,600	Advertising	0	580
Stalls	2,025	2,925	Fair cost - hire of venue	8,392	10,857
Commonwealth Fair	22,796	26,986	Education Fund	30,811	30,000
Nigerian BBQ	0	10,669	Printing	94	583
We are the World	0	2,150	Caribbean Evening	0	110
Brochure	1,680	1,075	Nigerian BBQ	0	2,250
Book Fair	535	850	We are the World	0	700
Bridge Afternoon	2,319	2,511	Functions	223	0
Pakistan lunch	1,775	0			
PNG coffee morning	810	0			
Grenada taste of spice	500	0			
Surplus /	34,520	49,126		39,520	45,127
(Deficit)				(5,000)	3,999
TOTAL	34,520	49,126		34,520	49,126

Twenty girls have completed secondary school in this financial year. Most of them have been admitted to universities and colleges in their home countries to study Medicine, Chemistry, Education, Economics, Engineering, Pure Sciences and Social Sciences.

The Trustees are grateful to all who help our girls build a better future for themselves, including everyone involved with the Commonwealth Fair and those who hold fundraising events large and small. Also the Canadian Federation of University Women Salt Spring Island, the Australian Women’s Club, Absolute Return for Kids and others who wish to remain anonymous. Finally, many thanks to all our individual donors.



Trustees:	Jenny Groves Judith Fisher Ann Chivers Anne Munt-Davies Andrew Fox Leolynn Jones Judy Hardy Sheila Kennard Parveen Yusuf	(Chairman) (Hon Treasurer) CCL (from Sept 2010) (from Sept 2010) CCL (from Jan 2011) CCL CCL
Observers:	Louisa Service Majorie Rennie	CCL President CCL Chairman
Fundraiser: (privately sponsored)	Ladi Dariya MSc ACMI	
Administrative Secretary: (Part-time paid)	Casmir Chanda	
Principal Bankers:	Barclays Bank, 210 High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1DL	
Independent Examiner:	Richard Limburg FCA, RSM Tenon Limited, 66 Chiltern Street, London W1U 4JT	

Registered Charity No. 1048908
The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund
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Administrative Office: 29 Tennyson Street, Swindon,
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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>

DONATIONS

Your support can enable more girls to receive the education that could change their lives.

In some countries just £10 could help with pencils and paper and £40 could provide basic uniform and school shoes. In others it will be more. Depending on the country, between £150 and £450 could cover everything.



I enclose my cheque/postal order/CAF charity voucher made payable to "CCL Education Fund" in the sum of £

Signature Date

Please print following

Title..... Forename

Surname

Address

..... Postcode

giftaid it I would like the CCL Education Fund to reclaim tax on any qualifying donations made by me until further notice. I confirm that I have paid an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to any tax reclaimed.

Signature Date

Please send this slip together with your donation to:

Judith Fisher, Hon CCLEF Treasurer,
44 Church Road, Flitwick, Beds, MK45 1AE

Donations can also be made via www.justgiving.com/cclef or by selecting Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund on the JustGiving website.

THANK YOU

HOW TO SUPPORT US

While one-off donations are always welcome (see form on reverse) perhaps you would consider becoming a regular supporter. This enables us to plan efficiently for support throughout a girl's education.

STANDING ORDER (please print details in black ink)

I wish to make a regular donation of £..... (figures)

..... (words)

Each month

Each quarter

Annually

until further notice

Starting on --

Title..... Forename

Surname

Address

..... Postcode

Your Bank's Name and Address

.....

Sort Code -- Account No

Signature Date

To: The Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund,
Barclays Bank, Hounslow Branch
Sort Code: 20-42-73 Account No: 50232394

giftaid it I would like the CCL Education Fund to reclaim tax on any qualifying donations made by me until further notice. I confirm that I have paid an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to any tax reclaimed.

Signature Date

Please return form to Judith Fisher, Hon CCLEF Treasurer,
44 Church Road, Flitwick, Beds, MK45 1AE