Mercy Katindi Kituku, a Kenyan girl who joined the Girl Child Education Fund in 2007 and graduated in 2011, has received a Silver President’s Award for her participation in community health services. The President’s Award-Kenya exists to develop and deliver quality experiential activities that impart positive life skills and ethical values to young people for a better society. It is a member of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award which oversees the Award Programme for young people in over 100 countries.

Mercy graduated from Bishop Gatimu Ngandu Girls’ High School in December 2011. She excelled academically, particularly in the sciences, played on the school volleyball team and acted as the treasurer for the research and journalism clubs. She plans to go on to study at the university level.

Mercy sent the following word of thanks to the GCEF:

My secondary school education was funded by the National Nurses Association of Kenya and its sponsors and that is why I want to express my gratitude to the Girl Child Education Fund for this generous deed. I want to thank the GCEF because if it were not for their help, I wouldn’t have known the joy of exploiting my talents and my abilities and I wouldn’t have experienced the joy of education in the secondary level. This programme simply saved me from a life of eternal poverty. I am certain that if all the beneficiaries of this programme were asked to stand and say thanks in their own sort of way, it would be such a teary affair because everybody would say that this programme is a life saver. I say kudos to the Girl Child Education Fund, its sponsors and all its well-wishers...Thank you. Mercy Katindi Kituku

Florence Nightingale
International Foundation

Friends of FNIF

NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Dear FNIF Friends,

These are difficult financial times for so many throughout the world, and many nurses have lost their jobs, or seen their salaries cut. This is not a time when we can afford to help out others financially – or so we would think. However, the 2011 Charities Aid Foundations World Giving Index “demonstrates that the world has become a more charitable place over the last 12 months”. Thailand tops the list when it comes to charitable giving – with 85% of its population giving money in 2011. But why? One explanation is that people are now concentrating on what is most important to them. Another is perhaps that giving makes us happier. As shown in a 2009 study entitled “Feeling Good about Giving: The Benefits (and Costs) of Self-Interested Charitable Behavior” (Anik, et al. 2009), “Happier people give more and giving makes people happier”. Whatever the reason, we thank you for your continued support of FNIF and the Girl Child Education Fund.

Sincerely, Rosemary Bryant, FNIF President

The World Giving Index can be accessed on: www.cafonline.org/pdf/World_Giving_Index_2011_191211.pdf

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Kenya GCEF graduate wins Silver President’s Award

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Mercy is pictured here holding the Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear which is sold in support of the Girl Child Education Fund.
Welcome to Simon Amandi, GCEF Coordinator for Uganda

FNIF is delighted to welcome Simon Amandi RN, as the new Coordinator of the Girl Child Education Fund in Uganda. With 88 girls currently in the programme, Uganda has the largest programme of all the four countries.

Simon has a Certificate in Registered Nursing from the Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery, Uganda; a Bachelor's degree in Nursing (BSN) from Makerere University, Uganda; and a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from Curtin University, Western Australia.

Simon is currently Project Officer at the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU). His previous experience includes working as a personal carer at the Grace Wood Aged Care Facility in Western Australia, and volunteering with the Western Australian AIDS Council (WAAC). He was also Senior Nursing Officer in-charge of Terego Health Sub District, Arua, Uganda; Field Technical Coordinator for the HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Reproductive programme for a USAID funded programme in north west Uganda; and Nursing Officer in-charge at a rural health facility in Arua, Uganda.

Simon says, “I have a passion for humanity and strive to serve others above myself in all that I would do. I love teamwork, and am committed to work, honesty and effective communication. I pledge my commitment and readiness to support GCEF as the Coordinator.”

Simon replaces Patrick Bateganya who passed away last year.

Recently, the GCEF Coordinator from Kenya, Faith Mbehero, visited Uganda to mentor Simon in his new role as GCEF Coordinator for Uganda.

Faith Mbehero (third from left) is greeted by members of the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU).
Recent Publications on Gender

In 2012 UNESCO released its World Atlas of Gender Equality. The report shows that “Despite the substantial gains that have been made in recent years, access is the single most important cause of disparities against girls in the pursuit of primary and secondary education.” (p. 98)

WHO recently released an important publication entitled Gender, Climate Change and Health. The publication reviews the interactions between climate change, gender and health and provides evidence of the gender differences associated with increased health risks due to climate change, mitigating and health promoting factors. One of the many interesting aspects of gender and climate change discussed in this report is access to education: “Increased time spent collecting water means a decrease in available time for education and places women and girls at risk of violence when travelling long distances. A lower education status implies more constraints for women to access health information or early warning systems as they are developed. This also means that girls and women have decreased access and opportunities in the labour market, increased health risks associated with pregnancy and childbirth, and less control over their personal lives.” (p. 18)

The World Bank’s World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development focuses on four priority areas for policy going forward: (i) reducing excess female mortality and closing education gaps where they remain, (ii) improving access to economic opportunities for women, (iii) increasing women’s voice and agency in the household and in society and (iv) limiting the reproduction of gender inequality across generations.

How you can help sub-Saharan Africa achieve gender parity in education

Each and every one of you has already helped 122 girls complete their secondary education. These are all girls who have lost a parent or parents and been obliged to drop out of school - until you came along and decided to change their lives for the better. We can’t thank you enough for what you have done. But there is still more that each of us can do. We have committed to supporting the 188 girls still in the programme until they graduate but we need your help to do that. Please donate what you can by going to: www.icn.ch/Donations.html or buying a Florence Nightingale teddy bear on www.gcefbear.com

“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.” Margaret Mead

A GCEF Guardian’s Story

When children lose their nurse parent or parents, their world collapses and the future looks lonely and uncertain. The extended family often steps in to support and care for the children, and to try to ensure their continuing education as well. We would like to share with you a story of two girls in Kenya which was sent to us by their guardian.

Jennifer* and Precious* had a good life. Their mother, Rose*, was a successful nurse who, in 2000, was voted Kenya Nurse of the Year. As a result she was given the chance to study for a BSc in Nursing at the University of Eastern Africa-Baraton. Her daughters, Jennifer and Precious, were 6 and 4 years old at this time.

It was while she was at Baraton, that Rose suddenly collapsed and died, shattering the lives of her two young daughters. They were sent to live with their grandmother in the rural area of Ndalu where they attended a poor rural school nothing like the good private school they had attended when their mother was alive. In fact, their academic performance dropped and, with little money for food and health care, the girls were often ill and missed school while they went in and out of hospital.

Then one day, their grandmother received a letter from the President of the National Nurses Association of Kenya who informed her of the existence of the Girl Child Education Fund. The girls were enrolled in the programme and immediately began to make improvement. In 2008, Jennifer passed her national exams (KCPE) with flying colours and was admitted to an excellent girls’ high school where she is now in Year 3. Precious also took the national exams in 2010 and, like her sister, did very well and is also now in an excellent girls high school.

Today, the girls are full of praise for everyone who is making the GCEF a reality: the nurses, the volunteers, and the donors. In her letter, their guardian writes: “It is their prayer in earnest that well-wishers contribute so that the orphans of nurses can be reached out there with education and other assistance and be given a chance in life. For those who are already contributing, may God give you the strength and ability to continue doing so and subsequently bless you accordingly.”

* Names have been changed to protect their privacy.
GCEF Supporters

Sanofi Aventis
A new corporate donor came on board in 2011 – the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Aventis. Sanofi has raised and donated more than 2000 Euros (funding received in 2012) and has actively promoted the GCEF and the GCEF Bear among their 100,000-plus global work force.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF)
SLF has been a supporter of the GCEF since 2007 and over the past two years has supported the girls in the Uganda GCEF, salaries for the GCEF Country Coordinators, administration costs and the Nurse Volunteer capacity and recognition workshops in all countries. The funding is on a year by year basis, i.e. the Agreements with SLF are renegotiated each year as the Foundation is not able to sign multi-year Agreements. This funding is received via ICN.

The Great British Teddy Bear Company
In 2010, FNIF was approached by the Great British Teddy Bear Company, a British owned family run business, which specializes in making hand made, plush teddy bears each dressed in beautifully detailed iconic British costumes. The idea was to raise funds for the Girl Child Education Fund through the sale of a Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear. “Florence” was launched in May 2011 and has so far raised almost £8000 for the Fund.

Upcoming Events

FNIF Luncheon 2013
We are happy to announce that a date has been set for the next biennial FNIF Luncheon to be held in Melbourne, Australia during the ICN Congress. The Luncheon will take place Tuesday 21 May 2013. All FNIF Friends and ICN member national nursing associations will receive preferential booking for the Luncheon so please look out for our email in early September.

GCEF Coordinators Workshop 2012
The annual Girl Child Education Fund Coordinators’ Capacity Building Workshop will be held in Geneva in September 2012. This three-day workshop will bring together the in-country GCEF Coordinators in each of the four countries where the GCEF is currently running (Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia). It will focus on developing the leadership, management and technology skills of the Coordinators and enable them to strengthen their capacity to make this programme the best it can be for the girl scholars.

The ICN • FNIF Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear
www.gcefbear.com

GCEF supports the primary and secondary schooling of the orphaned daughters of nurses.
Thank you for helping to keep the girls in school and for giving them the chance of a brighter future by purchasing a GCEF Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear.