

**Children and Widows Protection
and Fellowship Group
FaceBook Page Postings
July to September 2024**



In December, 2023 an acquaintance of mine, Geoffrey Kashdan, asked me if I could help with a feminist group in rural Kenya being guided by Odongo Kenas, a high school business teacher. Bit by bit, I realized Kenas' talent for thinking both inside and outside the box.

Debbie Ullian Kashdan met Kenas' family when she was in charge of a local health clinic in the area in the mid 1990's. Later, Geoff and Debbie met and married, and travelled back to that area in the late 1990s. Debbie and Geoff kept in touch with Kenas for over 20 years and provided financial assistance when he was in need, since neither high school or college in Kenya is free. Kenas was a beneficiary of their charity, and is now paying it back.

Kenas' appeal to me was based on his vision of giving the local residents some bootstraps to use to raise themselves. He started working with the Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group (CWPFPG), formed in 2001 and headed now by Vivian Awuor. The following pages are from FaceBook postings in CWPFPG's page in mid 2024.

—Natalie Andre, Fall 2024

F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program



Merolyne Atieno is a 17 years old teenage mother who dropped out of school in Form Two last year due to pregnancy, She is a beneficiary of F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program where she is getting free contraceptives every three months.

CWPFPG is planning to take her back to school next year for readmission the funds be available through the Deborah Ullian Sponsorship Program.

Women lining up for Depo Provera injections organised by CWPFPG, to offer free reproductive health to women in the community.





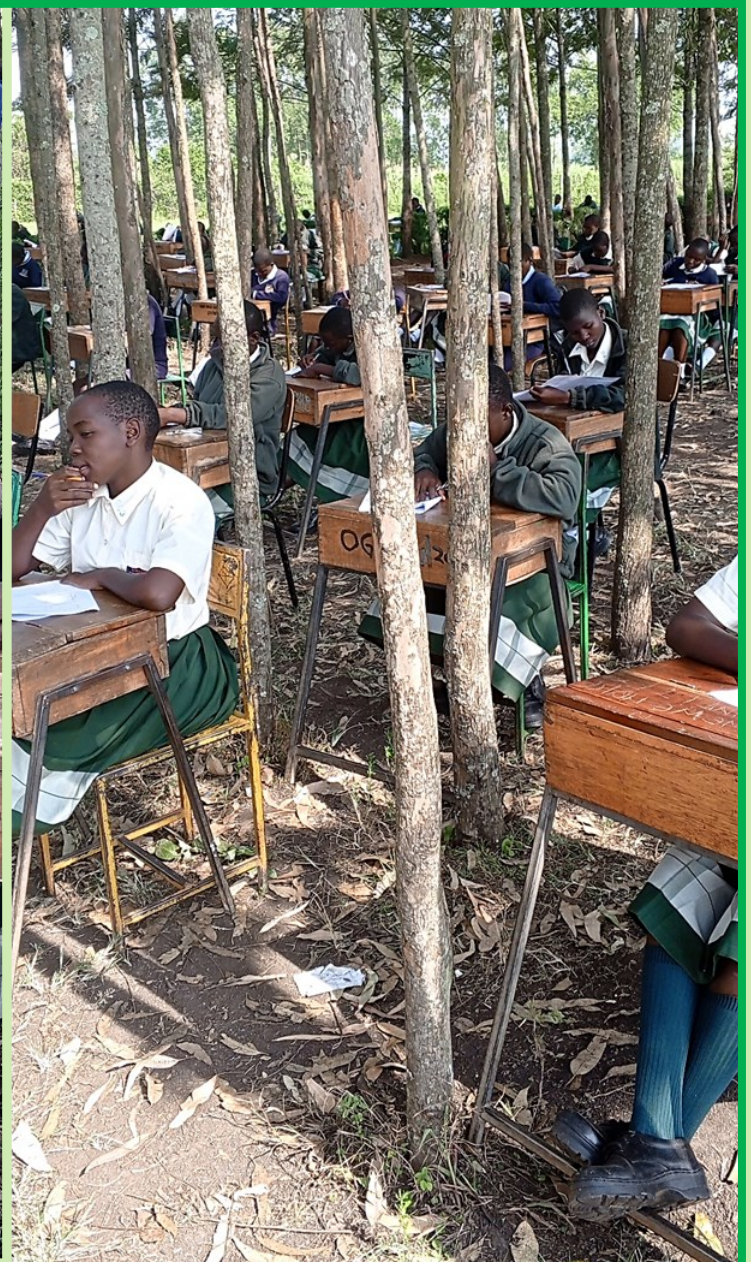
Our Mentor Mother, **Sophy Collins**, held a meeting on Gender Based Awareness on Wednesday 25th Sept 2024. The focus was on creating public awareness of gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy. It was organized by CWPFG, for its overall goal of enlightenment of the community on the benefits of girl's education, parental responsibility and reducing stigmatization of teenage mothers in the community.



Program concerning sensitization to issues of Gender based Violence organized by CWPFG.

A Bit of Local Life

Students here are taking exams in an open place, and other students are sitting exams in a forest. They are outdoors because the school does not have a large enough room for all the students to sit, as well as to keep them well separated for honesty.





History teacher taking girls through history lesson in class.



High school girls were highly motivated when they visited local university This gave them a positive attitude towards education.

Natalie Andre Woman Entrepreneurship Program

Involving grant/loans for small businesses



I am Caroline Akinyi Okoth. Gender-based violence was very rampant in this area, and this was attributed by the fact that our husbands never wanted to take responsibilities at home. This constantly brought fights into many households.

Since April, many women are now engaging in small business through the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program which gives loan grants so that the women are able to support themselves. The F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program helps them access contraceptives for free and get free sanitary towels from CWPFPG. These campaigns conducted by CWPFPG have generally reduced gender-based violence through awareness.

CWPFPG is a blessing to this entire community; we are requesting funds for continued support for the programs.



I am Carolyn Akinyi. I got married at the age of 14 years after completing my primary school, and I have been married for 10 years.

I joined CWPFPG last year and I am a beneficiary of the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship loan/grant. I have benefitted twice: in April and in August. Because I completed repaying the April loan, I qualified for the August loan/grant, and for a slightly higher amount.

I am happy that my small business is doing well and I am optimistic that my loan limit will increase so I can expand my business. I am proud to be a member of the CWPFPG group.



I am Eunice Adhiambo, beneficiary of the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program. I got the first loan grant on the 27th of April which was ksh 5000 (\$39) for my business. After paying back the 50% required, the amount I got as the second loan grant increased to ksh 8000 (\$62), This will enable me to expand my business.

Thanks for donors who are supporting this program. It is bringing transformative change amongst women and girls in this remote area.



Milka Onyango has been a widow for more than ten years. During all these years she has been struggling to raise her children and take them to school.

She manages a small business to survive, and Milka is grateful to CWPCFG; she has benefited from a Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship grant twice and the program has been wonderfully helpful.



I am Violet Edwin. I am currently 28 years old. I completed high school back in 2014, but since then I haven't gotten any job. I joined CWPCFG 3 years back and I am a beneficiary of both the loan grant and reproductive health services offered by CWPCFG. Since April this year, I have a changed life; from my small business, I am able to get the necessary basics for survival. Moreso, the sanitary towels provided for free and the contraceptives are of great importance to many women like me.

Thanks for CWPCFG and it is my hope you will continue providing for many people like me .

Most of these women are the bread winners in their families; some get less than \$1 per day to struggle with, through doing small business from the loan/grant from CWPFG.



These women are selling potatoes and ground nuts to get money.

These women are members of CWPFG; they are selling tomatoes and fish to earn a living





Veroline Akinyi is 32 years old. She says: “Life had been very hard on my side. I had actually lost hope in life and became too desperate; my husband died some 10 years ago and I was left with three children to raise. I had been struggling in different ways to survive including doing casual labor such weeding for people to earn a living but all this did not bring any hope in my life.

Just this year when CWPFG came to support women I was a beneficiary. I got my first grant and again by August I got the second grant of ksh 8000 (\$62).

This grant has positively impacted on my life; I am selling fish and as of now I am able to take care of my children.

Thanks a lot to CWPFG. I would just appeal for more help to CWPFG so that many women can get help, kindly spare a penny and donate to CWPFG. Your little generous donation is able to save lives.

The Deborah Ullian Kashdan Scholarship Program



Movinter, Nezline and Eurelia are all beneficiaries of the Deborah Ullian Kashdan Sponsorship Program in school.



I am Chanty Beryl, currently 19 years old. I come from a very poor background. My family could not support my education, so I stopped at first at Form Three. Then, through Odongo Kenas, I got a partial sponsorship from CWPFPG; under their education program, I did my final exams for high school and I got a grade of B minus

With the grade of B minus, I got admitted for my university education at Kisii University for a Bachelor of Education Arts. One picture shows me with my high school classmate Volenta Akinya; the other shows me at Kisii University.

I am appealing for those who are willing to support CWPFPG to give their generous donation to support many other girls from villages like mine.



I was still struggling to get enough money to complete the fees due this semester—I was short 20,000 KSH (about \$155), but when Kenas mentioned this to Natalie, she found the funds needed to secure this semester. Note that tuition here is 180,000 (about \$1,400) per semester—not cheap!

From Natalie: Recently, I sent the remaining \$155 which Chanty Beryll needed to pay her tuition for this semester. Kenas went to Kisii university to meet Chanty and pay her tuition; he said she is very grateful for my help. He sent two photos—one with her roommate (notice the sign “Kisii University) and one with him.





Vivian Akinyi is aspiring to do a Medicine course at Musinde Muliro University, but she says that during girls education they face many challenges which include lack of sanitary towels, inadequate tuition fee, early teenage pregnancy and cultural biases towards girls' education. She says that only education is an equalizer.

My Name is Truflin Okeyo, currently in four form starting to start my KCSE exams on 4th Nov 2024. I am hoping to get a good grade. My dream career of choice is to pursue Engineering at Kenyatta University next year.

Education changes life.



Contrast their lifestyle with that of these two young girls ...

...walking several kilometers to fetch water which is hard to get. Many of these girls come from poor families which forces them to walk barefooted .





Two young girls aged 14 years selling water to ensure they survive in the community. Through water vending, their parents can put food on the table; again, with the little they get, they can buy essentials such as sanitary towels for menstruation—and not miss any school days.



It is extremely dry, with no water nearby. Since the queue is long, young children are left to hold their parents' spot, while their parents go back home to do other chores. As they wait, they move the empty water collection cans forward.

Once their parents return and they get the water, children will carry small containers of water while their parents carry larger containers and/or push a wheelbarrow.

This makes life much harder for the girl child; empowering girls through education is the only way to help them have a better life.

Local Efforts to Improve Water Quality and Use

Community health workers are taken to a seminar as they prepare to carry out deworming of residents and spreading awareness of the need for safe drinking water and methods to secure it.





I am Faith Akinyi, currently I am in Form Three. Sincerely a lot of thanks and gratitude to all donors who are supporting CWPFG. Initially I used to miss 4 school days a month during my menses. Since April this year, through the F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program, I am getting enough sanitary towels for three months. During April, 100 girls benefited and during August the number went higher, to 150. This calls for more willing donors to support this program so that many girls like me can be supported.

Thanks to all of you.



I am Jane Akinyi, 26 years old. I am physically challenged. My husband is also physically challenged; we have 3 children. I could not afford to buy sanitary towels during my periods, so I used to cover myself with old clothes. This made me have infections every month.

Through F.W Reproductive Health and Sexual Education program, I am a beneficiary of free sanitary towels provision; we are being given these every four months. Thanks a lot for those who are supporting this program

On behalf of CWPFG I would wish to appeal to those who may wish to generously donate for this worthy charity to join hands.

It has been previously reported from marginalized regions and rural areas in Kenya that school going girls and many women have been using unhygienic materials such as torn pieces of cloth, mattress sponge, animal skin, old rags, leaves, cow dung or even digging a hole on the ground to sit on for the whole period as a means to manage their menstrual flow.

CWPFG under F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education is currently providing free sanitary towels for girls and women in this remote area in Kenya. To support this program you can donate through our GoFundMe page below 📌

<https://gofund.me/49e59866>



Local Initiatives, Support of Children through Sports and other Positive Community Efforts



Girls just need encouragement, this makes them believe they can succeed. Here is a soccer team of girls under 14 years, all ready to play.

Young girls who took part on handball games October 4; the talent search was supported by CWPPFG in conjunction with Othora primary school. A total of 15 girls teams participated. This is The Othora primary school girls team.



Girls participating in tree planting to help in environmental conservation and as a way to mitigate against climate change



Young girls showing talents in beauty contest, When given opportunity, young girls can move far.



Using clothes made of sacks, including her sandals she was crowned the best creative girl and this boost girls' self-confidence and esteem in the society.



Winning is a dream for everyone in life. Here, girls are celebrating after winning the trophy after being crowned to be the best in a competition. Let's join hands to give them an opportunity through education.



Young girls yearning for brighter future hoping, for a better education. CWPFPG is the only local charity for hopes for them.



Developing talent is one of CWPFPG mandates. These girls from Sony Primary are ready to play volleyball.