

# Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group

## Postings March 2024

The following pages are FaceBook postings during March 2024, the first of a series of compilations of these postings.

Promoting this group and what they represent started with a request by local residents **Geoffrey** and **Debbie Kashdan**. In the 1990's, Debbie Kashdan became friends with the family of **Odongo Kenas** when she was medical director of a clinic in rural Kenya. Impressed with them and concerned for their welfare, the Kashdans gave support over the years. Odongo Kenas is now a high school teacher in Kenya, determined to pass on their devotion to individual and community progress. He remained in that area, and now is in close contact with **Natalie Andre**, along with the leader of CWPFPG, **Vivian Awuor Odete**.

There are currently three components to CWPFPG:  
The **Deborah Ullian Kashdan Scholarship Program**;  
The **F. W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program**; and  
The **Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program**.

Check out their FaceBook page and website, both named "**Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group**" And check our **GoFund.Me** link as well: <https://gofund.me/49e59866>

### **When Girls Thrive, We All Thrive**

Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group (CWPFPG) wants to recognize the challenges that young girls face worldwide. Especially in hard-to-reach areas, girls have limited access to education, given the barriers of poverty, gender-related violence, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and cultural beliefs that educating a boy is of more value than educating a girl. At CWPFPG, we work to transcend those geographical, economic, and societal barriers in this remote village area. This is meant to empower young girls and women to achieve their greatest potential, enabling them to make positive decisions about their health with sexual reproductive education.

We recognize that our work not only uplifts girls but also their community; educating a girl and empowering a woman means greater economic prospects, reduced HIV risk and reduced inequality for future generations.

Find ways to get involved with CWPFPG's mission through volunteer opportunities and donations through GoFundMe and on our website and FaceBook page.

--**Odongo Kenas**



**ODONGO KENAS** was born in 1982 at a remote village in Nyatike sub county in Migori county. His father had 4 wives with a total of 26 children.

His mother was number three and had a total of 8 children.

He started schooling at Othora primary school, completing grade 8 exams in 1995. After passing his exams, he couldn't

proceed to high school immediately but had to stay at home for one full year.

He later joined secondary school in 1997 with the support of his American friend Debbie K. and in 2000 he sat for his high school exams.

From 2000 to 2004, Debbie sponsored his diploma course in medical laboratory sciences; he graduated and got a job at Ojele as a medical technologist.

In 2008 he was retrenched with many of his fellow workers. Later, in 2008, he joined Face Nyanza as a community lab technologist and in 2011 he decided to enroll for degrees in one of the universities in Uganda; Debbie assisted him and he graduated in 2014. In 2017 he left working as a medical laboratory technologist and joined Wiser girls which champions less fortunate girls in the society.

In 2019 he left Wiser and joined Oridi Girls to continue with his teaching career. He teaches Business Studies and Geography.

He says:

“I have been passionate for the plights of girl child since 1998 when I learnt bitter lessons because I missed joining Form 1 due to poverty.

“Were it not for Debbie’s assistance, I would have not made it to school--a lot of thanks to her.”



**Vivian Awuor Odete** was born in 1998. She started schooling at Rangenya Primary, and sat for grade 8 in 2013. Then she joined high school at Ogande Girls with the support of her mother, who deals in small scale trading activities.

She sat for KCSE in 2017 and later joined Kisumu Polytechnic for her diploma in Accounting which was completed in 2021.

Currently, she is attached to CWPPG and says, enthusiastically, “This is the home where I belong!”



**Dominic Okongo** has worked with CWPPG since 2021, as a Counselor. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education and a Certificate as a Primary School teacher. He also is certified in HIV/AIDS instruction.

He says “I am happy with the current activities carried on by the group, which is uplifting the standards of underprivileged girls in the society.”



I am **Sophy Collins**. I have been in CWPFPG for over 5 years now. My role is to mentor young girls and women on various areas. The positive impact of CWPFPG is great to society, and I am proud to be associated with CWPFPG.

I run mentorship programs in different areas, and this has boosted the morale of young girls. I teach women entrepreneurship. The challenge I have most is that these women do not have capital to start a business due to high rates of poverty in this area.



### Introducing some of our local students:

The young woman on the left is **Chanty Beryl**. She did her Kenya Certificate Of Secondary Education exams and scored a grade of B minus. She is waiting to join university but she is from an extremely poor family.

She is our beneficiary for partial tuition from CWPFPG (Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group).

The young woman on the right is **Volenta Akinyi**, currently in Form Four.



I am **Movinter Atieno**, currently in high school. I am thankful for CWPFG, for the good programs they have for us.

I am personally struggling a lot with education and I hope that one day through CWPFG I will be able to achieve my dream.



I am **Eurelia Atieno**. My dream and aspiration is to get a quality education.

As much as life gets tougher, I believe that one day through CWPFG I will get one to help me with tuition fee to complete my education.



I am **Letty**. I joined CWPFG while I was in class seven. Currently I am in high school.

The mentorship program given by CWPFG is great and I do personally appreciate it.

I wish we could get more items such as sanitary towels to help more girls.



I am **Nezline**.

I am happy about CWPFG.

They give good mentorship programs, and from small entrepreneurship programs for women, our mothers are able to give us food and support our education..

I am **Joyline Akinyi**. I would like to thank the CWPFG for giving me an opportunity to start my small business through the VSLA loaning scheme.

My life is now much better now than before.





I am **Eunice Ojowi**.

I have been a member of CWPFG for 8 years.

From our savings and loaning scheme, I got a little capital to start selling tomatoes. I am proud I can get some food to eat and take care of my family.



**Esther, Alice and Naomi** in an open-air market, selling different products from their small-scale businesses. They received small capital through the Village Savings and Loaning Scheme which is one of the activities of CWPFG.

They appreciate the role of the group in giving women and girls a chance to be involved in small business activities, and appeal to those who can fund this

entrepreneurship project so that many women and girls may get opportunity to engage in business.



Girls' mentorship program on how to reduce teenage pregnancy.

School girls participating in a one-day peer to peer mentorship program on ways to reduce teenage pregnancies, organized by CWPFPG.

Girls from two local girls schools attending a mentorship program organized by CWPFPG. Theme: Girl child education and its impact on poverty reduction.







I am **Millicent Awuor**, currently 21 years old.

I have been a beneficiary of reproductive health and sexual education. I use contraceptives as a family planning control measure.

We appeal for more support to enable more women and girls to access family planning services in our society.

I am **Anne Akinyi** (in red tee shirt below).

I have been a vegetable vendor for more than five years.

I am proud of CWPFG.

The biggest challenge is lack of adequate capital to enable me expand my business.





I am **Jenifer Akinyi** currently 52 years old.

I have been a member of CWPFG since 2010. Up to now, from our village loaning and saving scheme, I have engaged in small scale business.

Currently I am selling plastic, potatoes and vegetables, from which I derive my livelihood.

**Long live CWPFG!**

**Anne Opiyo and Diana Otieno** have been members of CWPFG since 2012. They say:

“We appreciate the role of this group for championing women and girls welfare in the society. Through CWPFG, we have been able to benefit from reproductive health care through the provision of contraceptives.”





Women members belonging to CWPFG, in their March 2024 monthly meeting where they do savings and loaning for small businesses.