

Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group

Facebook Postings

April, May and June 2024

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The following pages are Facebook postings during the second quarter of 2024, the second in 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 Ullian 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 rural Kenya, determined to pass on their devotion to individual and community progress. He remains in that area, and now is in close contact with **Natalie Andre**, along with the leader of CWPPFG, **Vivian Awuor Odete**.

There are currently three components to CWPPFG:

The **Deborah Ullian Kashdan Scholarship Program**;
The **F. W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program**;
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>



We are indebted to **Cathie Rockwood**, who alerted her friend F.W. to our endeavors. F.W. is a monthly donor and one of our three programs is named in her honor: **The F. W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program.**



We are also indebted to **Natalie Andre**, who took on the project on the American side, creating and maintaining an online presence, mainly through FaceBook, and establishing the GoFundMe outlet. **The Natalie Andre Woman Entrepreneurship Program** is named in her honor.

The impetus began decades ago with **Debbie Kashdan**, springing out of her desire to be helpful to individual Kenyans she met while



she was Medical Director in a clinic in rural Kenya. **The Deborah Ullian Kashdan Scholarship Program** is named in her honor. Her husband, **Geoffrey Kashdan**, connected Odongo Kenas with Natalie Andre in late 2023.

SOME HISTORY



Geoff says: "Kenas and I have been emailing each other for about 20 years. We discuss the political situation in both Kenya and the USA.

This is an admittedly dated photo (above) from when Debbie and I went to Kenya in 1998 to visit the clinic she ran."

Certificate of Registration of Self-Help Projects for Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group, August 2001

05088



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, NATIONAL HERITAGE AND SPORT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MIGORI DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
P.O. BOX 194, SUNA

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF SELF-HELP PROJECTS

MIG/DSS/CD/1 05088/2001 Date 8 / 8 / 2001

The Chairman,
CHILDREN AND WIDOWS PROTECTION AND FELLOWSHIP
GROUP (CWPPG) P O BOX 1 OTHOCH - RAKUOM

Project / Club

This is to certify that your project in the name of CHILDREN AND WIDOWS
PROTECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP (CWPPG)

has been registered under department registration No. 05088/2001

In all future correspondences in connection with this project / club, please always quote the number.

Signed M MAKOTSI
District Social Development Officer
Migori District (K)



Date 9 / 8 / 2001

Official Stamp



You may be wondering about the high school where Kenas teaches business. His high school has 345 students and ranks lowest in Kenya, admitting those who scored extremely low marks. That is why he joined the faculty—to help the students' progress. Last year, his Form 4 class had 26 girls; 14 of them went on to university for a degree program (4-7 years), while the rest entered diploma courses. Diploma courses usually last 3 years and specialize in medicine, business, engineering or social sciences.

Kenas is making a difference in his community! He is doing his part, and those reading this are helping because they are learning about this small, struggling corner of the world. Many of you are sharing our educational postings and a few of you are helping financially—very appreciated!

My point here is that our help, from America, isn't one sided. We are learning, while Kenas and Vivian are pulling their own weight (and then some), ensuring that the high school girls and local women can subsist and survive. —Natalie Andre

Note: GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/49e59866>

helps them and many others survive and stay in their communities



Vivian Awuor, Director of CWPFPG, was brought up in a poor family. As a child, she participated in CWPFPG activities, and they had a strong impact on her life and choices. Defying all odds, she managed to complete her high school education at Ogande Girls and proceeded to join Kisumu Polytechnic for a diploma in Accounting. She graduated in 2021 but has been struggling to acquire a job while remaining in her community. In the meantime, she has survived with small business opportunities, using her cell phone for individual residents' transactions, selling goods to individuals, etc.

Her commitment to CWPFPG has kept her there; she became Director in 2022. During her tenure, the group expanded its activities to include more women and girls.

Through its link with Natalie Andre, Debbie Kashdan, F. W. and other American friends who have joined, she has been enabling CWPFPG to succeed bit by bit.

She is thankful to all our donors and friends for their involvement.

Check our **FaceBook** link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/318348951231050>

Or, at FaceBook, go to
“Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group”

Homes in the area



To illustrate some of the economic life on the shores of Lake Victoria:

The photo below is of men and women pulling a net using a stick which is held at the back; they push backwards and the net is taken deep into the lake. It is pulled for more than 8 hours for it to reach the shore but at times it may come back with no catch.

Due to high levels of poverty, even women are not spared. They do this work which is too tedious and tiresome. They usually leave home very early and come back very late at times empty handed.



Check our **GoFund.Me** link: <https://gofund.me/49e59866>

These are group members selling in an open air market



Josephine Auma, a mother of five kids, is relying on selling sugarcane to survive.

Life in this remote area is a challenge, which is why through CWPFG many women are able to get a small 50/50 loan/grant which transforms their lives.

Let's join hands to help and uplift women economically.

Donate through GoFundMe.



A shop being managed by Lucy Kepher. She has been a widow for 3 years since her husband died. From the little grant and support she is getting from CWPFG, Lucy is currently doing her business and can support her children



Women waiting for Depovera injection after giving birth as a method of birth control



I am Eunice Akinyi a small vegetable vendor. I am a beneficiary of the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship funds, and through my business I have been able to feed my family. Thanks CWPFG.

I am appealing for more funds for the group to enable more women to start small scale business.

I am Lucy Achieng, currently 31 years old. Through small revolving funds from the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program, I am able to do small business; this has enabled me to be self reliant.

I do say thanks to our donors and friends of the group.

My appeal is for more funds to help change the lives of more women in rural areas .



Josephine Achieng is a small scale businesswoman who sells beans, fish, bananas, tomatoes, oranges and mandazis.

She has been in this business for more than 4 years, joining CWPFPG 4 years ago. CWPFPG leaders give many talks on entrepreneurship and most women in the group receive business ideas from their entrepreneurship program.

Thanks to recent funders of CWPFPG, she has received a small grant which will enable her to have an additional stock of goods for sale.

We look forward to raising more funds to help other women in this poverty-stricken area.



I am Sophia Nyamwanda. I am a cloth vendor, thanks to CWPFG. I am one of the beneficiaries of Women loan grants under the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship program.

I am Grace Adhiambo, I have been a fish trader for the last 5 years; out of this I have been earning a living. I do get a lot of empowerment through the entrepreneurship program by CWPFPG, including its grant fund, I am very grateful.





I am Mollyen Akinyi. I dropped out of school after grade 8 due to pregnancy. Since I was coming from a poor family, I couldn't rejoin school.

I decided to start selling second hand clothes and today I can testify that through the entrepreneurship program from CWPFG I can run my business. Above all, I am one of the loan grant beneficiaries from CWPFG; this will help me get more additional stock. This program is empowering women a lot.

It is my appeal for additional fund so that many women will benefit the same.

I am Faith Atieno, beneficiary of the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship loan grant. I am so happy for my business since it has made life much better for me and my family.

Thanks a lot CWPFG for this wonderful initiative.

I appeal for more willing friends to keep funding this program for more women to benefit.



11:42 AM

528 B/S G Vo LTE 4G 89



instagram.com/ci



54



Instagram

Log in

Open app



SEX FOR FISH CONTRIBUTES TO NEW HIV INFECTIONS AMONG LAKE VICTORIA FISHER FOLKS



8,246 likes

citizentvkenya Sex for fish along the beaches in Migori County is among factors leading to new HIV infections in the county.

Paul Obiero, coordinating fisher folk programme for CIHEB in Migori County said sex in exchange for fish is still witnessed along the beaches hence many fisher folks are still at risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.



There's more to see from **citizentvkenya**

Open app



Living along this lake region is tricky since the only economic activity is fishing. As a result of depletion in fish in Lake Victoria, fish becomes a blue gold hence women can only get fish when they give in for sex.

CWPFG is bringing an alternative where many women are sensitized to engage in small businesses for survival.

High rates of poverty are directly linked to high rates of HIV/AIDS witnessed in the area.

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groups/318348951231050](https://www.facebook.com/groups/318348951231050)

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I am Tiffany Helsen. I am 13 years old in grade 9 (form 1). I am in high school courtesy of CWPFPG. My education is sponsored by Children and Widows Protection and Fellowship Group, Many of my age mates dropped out of school and many opted for early marriage which is so sad due to lack of school fees.

There are many many girls who desire to further their education but cannot afford to proceed due to high poverty rates in this area. My appeal! Kindly let's support CWPFPG through donation to enable the group through girls education program to sponsor more girls to high school.

Linda Atieno in her rack, selling assorted items; she is one of the beneficiaries of the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program, thanks to CWPFPG.





Mary Akinyi is physically handicapped; she got a small loan grant from CWPFG which she is using to sell vegetables so that she can earn a living



Vivian Akinyi, a member of CWPFG who got a small loan grant on the 27th April 2024 to expand her shoe business, is doing well in business.

This is thanks to the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship program.

Thanks to all who have donated towards supporting this noble exercise.

Check our
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These are four girls who are members of CWPFG, This day they attended a peer to peer counseling session as they prepare to return to school the next day.

Peer to peer is a program where young girls give guidance and counseling amongst themselves.

It includes

- How to deal with peer pressure
- Adherence counseling for those who are on ARVs
- Ways of controlling teenage pregnancy
- Self Esteem.

The program is usually conducted when young girls are on a short vacation from school.

The CWPFMG members from Tulu village selling different goods at Ojwoje Open Air Market





Back to school, Movinter, Euralia, and Nezline. All are members who are partially supported by CWPFG through our sponsorship program.

Thanks to all our donors for your contribution towards supporting girls' education, the Deborah Kashdan Sponsorship Program.

We are appealing for more donors to support our education program, enabling us to support

Eunice Adhiambo, after receiving a small grant/loan on 27 April 2024, invested it in a mobile shop (one that moves among several markets, via motorcycle or bicycle).

She is doing very well and from the business she is currently taking care of 5 children.

Thanks to CWPFG for the program.





Mary Yimbo, on the right, is currently 60 years old. She has been conducting a tomato business to make ends meet, being widowed at the age of 50. She has stood against the cultural practice of wife inheritance and supported her family through this business.

She benefited from a small loan/grant from the Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program.

As much as we empower women economically, this helps women to fight against backward cultural practices such as wife inheritance.

Note from Natalie: I looked up “wife inheritance” and got the quoted definition below, which is followed by more online research:

"Wife inheritance, also known as widow inheritance, is a cultural practice in Kenya where a widow is inherited by her late husband's relatives. The inheritor is expected to feed, clothe, shelter, educate, and protect the widow and her children. In western Kenya, the community takes care of the widow and her children. This tradition is especially popular among groups that dominate western Kenya, which has the highest rate of HIV and AIDS in Kenya."

Because this didn't fully explain the term, I searched further. Below is the link to an article from 2003 with more details, including that a brother-in-law marries the widow. Apparently, this caused a lot of activism against the practice, which was made much more controversial due to the spread of AIDS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3275451.stm>



Evaline Akinyi is a 22 year old nurse who does locum work with CWPFG during our F.W. Representative Health and Sexual Education Program.

We appreciate her work very much, especially when giving women and girls Depo Provera injections.



I am Liian Akinyi, 18 years old, a mother of one child. I am using contraceptives that we are given for free by CWPFG, thanks to the F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program.

I am Meresa Akinyi, 24 years old. I have 4 children, with the youngest who is currently 4 months.

Thanks to CWPFG for its reproductive health program which is giving women contraceptives for free in this remote area. It is our hope that the program will continue for the benefit of many girls and more women.





I am Beatrice Akinyi. I left primary school and I was too ignorant about family planning. I joined CWPFG where we have received a lot of education on reproductive health and sexual education. So far I have 5 children; my last child is 1 year old and now I am getting contraceptives which is given for free every 3 months by CWPFG under the F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program.

I am personally glad for this program because getting Depo-Provera injections in this remote part is a big challenge.

I am Winny Atieno, a mother of two children. I got my firstborn while still in grade 11, then unfortunately after 2 years I got another baby. Due to the burden of having two children, I decided to use contraceptives which CWPFG is giving under the F.W. Reproductive Health and Sexual Education Program. I am glad now I can have a desired family which I can take care of.

I am appealing for more donors to support this program to help in controlling cases of teenage pregnancy.

Up to now I am not married and I depend on my mother for survival with my children.





Judith, Esther and Noela are all teenage mothers. None of them are married, so they are on their own. From the F.W. Reproductive Health Program they are currently getting contraceptives for free every three months.

On June 7th (2024), we had a parent consultative meeting with about 300 parents from the community.

The theme was: WAYS OF REDUCING TEENAGE PREGNANCY AMONGST GIRLS.

The program was sponsored courtesy of CWPFPG.

You can donate through <http://gofund.me/8b0ac9e0> This Go Fund Me helps CWPFPG help this community survive.





CWPFG under the Deborah Kashdan Scholarship Program is promoting girls' education through giving partial sponsorships to girls to get a basic education. These are some of the beneficiaries from the program.

High rates of absenteeism



Young girls in this remote area are burdened with core duties such as fetching firewood, walking long distances to bring water, and taking care of household chores. This absenteeism makes many girls drop out of school.

The two photos show a great contrast between a woman, 54 year old Juliana Awino, who is wealthy enough to have several donkeys to help her carry water from Lake Victoria, and another woman with three children who must carry water on their heads. What they have in common, however, is that they all must walk more than 5 km (3 miles) to fetch water from the Lake—and another 5 km back.

Water being needed for survival, families in this remote area of Kenya struggle to get this basic commodity. Many people here depend on dirty water from pools of water that have collected in holes.

Note that one problem is that school children commonly have no clean water for hand washing, which spreads disease throughout the community. And that's just one minor example.

We hope that, in the near future, clean water will be supplied but this requires infrastructure investment by government, aid agencies, or a considerable private donation.



Small scale agricultural activities do take place in this remote area. Here, men are tilling land using oxen to prepare land for cassava plantation.

Due to harsh climatic conditions, most families in this area can only depend on cassava growing, because it can withstand low rainfall with high temperature throughout the year.



Our major crop for food is cassava. Areas where cassava is grown are characterized as receiving low rainfall and famines are very common in these areas. It is also commonly found in areas which are experiencing high poverty rates. (not posted as of June 30)





This is an education day organised by a local school where parents, the stakeholders, are sensitised to the benefits of educating girls. The girls are singing on the stage.

Educating a girl is like educating the whole community.

Let's join hands to support girls' education, even more so from marginalized communities.



Some of CWPFPG members who couldn't hide joy after attending financial literacy seminar organised by CWPFPG under Natalie Andre Women Entrepreneurship Program to impact basic knowledge of entrepreneurship .



Elizabeth and Josephine, both members of CWPFG, received a small business grant. They own a tailoring shop where they make dresses for sale, to earn a living.

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High school girls playing a traditional dance which encourages more girls to go to school and avoid cultural practices which encourage early marriage amongst teenagers.