

AMITY

CGEF Alumnae Association - Newsletter- Issue No.4 - 9th September 2016

The CCL Alumnae Association has now “morphed” into the CGEF Alumnae Association with the exciting prospect of embracing modern IT skills through the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF) website, Facebook, What’s App, Twitter and our e-newsletter “**Amity**”. Help us grow our network of former CCLEF scholars and friends and send us your news. Here are some of the success stories of girls sponsored through the CCLEF, now CGEF:

“Your sponsorship meant a great deal because my dreams were no longer just dreams but a possibility. Your support also made me realise that having benefited from one act of kindness I can in turn extend such kindness in what I do and how I act”. **Kimberly**

Kimberly is from Guyana in South America. Her family live in a mountainous region close to the border with Brazil and her only chance of a secondary education was to become a boarder. Sponsorship not only covered her school fees but enabled her to buy “*important things like paper clips and a protractor*” plus a much needed new pair of boots – essential for her journey home in the wet season when the bus stopped 30 miles from her home village. She had to walk the rest of the way over rough terrain. Kimberly was a determined and gifted student with an aim to work in the educational field, an ambition she has achieved. After a few years teaching she is now the Education Officer for the wide-ranging district of Rupunini and is responsible for over 80 schools.



She keeps in touch through the Alumnae Association which is continuing to build up communication with girls and young women who have completed their sponsored schooling. They come from many backgrounds and had different challenges in achieving an education, but achieve they did, and the following are just a few more examples of their success.

Working in partnership with Madrinha Trust (MT), the following girls in Africa have received support from MT via the CGEF with their secondary education and have gone on to university, sponsored by MT, and are achieving success beyond their wildest dreams.

Nashipui comes from the Maasai community in **Tanzania** where girls may be “**married off**” at the age of 13 in return for a bride price of cattle, a sign of wealth to the Maasai. Her mother (one of three wives) took a considerable risk in taking her daughter to a centre seeking to educate and empower young Maasai women whilst respecting their traditions and culture. For this, her mother was beaten by her husband and he will now have nothing to do with Nashipui. However, Nashipui is determined to return to her tribe and bring about a change in attitude to girls’ education.



This determination has also been shown by other sponsored girls in Africa—In **Uganda Milly** is teaching in a rural school and **Josephine** is involved in health care (seen here on a visit to Brazil for a conference!). In **Kenya, Bentie** is working in the legal profession and put forward a number of girls for sponsorship. **Sara** is a project manager while **Nancy** is a part time nurse running a dispensing pharmacy. **Nomfundo** in **Swaziland** is another university “**high flyer**” studying for a BSc in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.



Another **Nancy**, again in Kenya, having refused to undergo female genital mutilation in her own village, campaigns for women's rights and the eradication of FGM. Nancy won the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Award. As a result she attended a session of the UN General Assembly and met and addressed the First Ladies of Africa, as well as Michelle Obama and Ban Ki Moon's wife! Nancy mentors girls in schools and has led a five-day march in Kenya with Fr Patrick Murunga to raise awareness and campaign for the eradication of FGM. Document

ary film-maker, Sara Nason, sought CGEF sponsorship for Nancy. Sara has championed Nancy and made a documentary film about her over the past 5 years. Check out www.CGEFund.org to view a short video "**Nancy : a one girl revolution**" and be inspired!

In **Rwanda, Claudine** is in her second year of a BSc in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences. In **South Africa: Thandi** is in her final year of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and intends to major in Finance and Investment. **Lebohlang** has completed her first year foundation course leading to a degree in Psychology and hopes to specialise in neuropsychology. She also tutors mathematics for grade elevens and twelves in her spare time! **Antoinette** is doing a degree in education and is teaching at her former school. Crossing continents **Vanessa** from South Africa went to study medicine in Guyana, however she is now back home at university studying public health. Whilst in **Zambia, Purity** is in her second year studying medicine and has consistently achieved high grades. **Malchit** in **Nigeria**, having gone to university in Lagos is now back home at university in Jos studying micro-biology. A big thank you to Madrinha Trust for mentoring and changing these girls' lives. It is hoped that **Nancy** will also be sponsored through university by Madrinha Trust.

Many of the girls funded in **Papua New Guinea** came from the Western Highland Province and were the first generation in their family to go to school. Despite the challenges and difficulties they faced, in this mountainous region a number have gone on to successful careers and will ensure their own children are educated. **Mispa** is a hospital doctor; **Jessica** is a policewoman; **Mary** found sponsorship to go to university and is working as an environmental scientist. **Bump** (seen here at her computer) is now married with a baby and in a highly paid job in a tuna fish company. Having graduated in 2009 with a BSc, she is now Head of the Laboratory with seven employees in her charge. She thanked the Education Fund for the great 6 years of school support opening the door for her to see the world today. However not all were so lucky.



Opuruta had hoped to complete her medical studies but had to withdraw from university when government support was reduced. She is now seeking other options and it is hoped she will be able to look forward to a career in health care.

The **Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF)** sponsors girls in over **30 Commonwealth countries** - in Africa, the Indian sub-continent, the Caribbean, the Pacific Islands and PNG.

In 2017 the CGEF celebrates its **50th Anniversary** of supporting girls' secondary education.

Where are these "girls" now? How did sponsorship impact on their life?

The CGEFAA would love to hear news of them. Please encourage former CGEF girls to join the AA.

If you wish to hear more news sign up to receive regular updates through our e-newsletter "Amity", or join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), the [CGEFund.org Alumnae](http://www.CGEFund.org) web page, [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com) or [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com).

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Jenny & Sheila

Joint Coordinators, CGEF Alumnae Association