

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008/9

The Commonwealth Countries League  
Education Fund



Registered Charity No. 1048908

A Secondary Education Sponsorship Scheme  
for Girls



## OUR MISSION

To sponsor girls of ability through secondary school where, without assistance, they would be unable or unlikely to continue

To give them a sense of their own value and worth

To enable them to act as ambassadors for female education within their own communities

Despite the advances achieved in many countries with the provision of free primary education, many challenges remain before secondary schooling can be made available to all. In countries struggling to meet increased health demands or coping with agricultural disaster following drought or floods, the provision of new schools, educational materials and teachers can only be achieved gradually.

In addition, there are the challenges confronting individual families and communities. Drought, poverty, death of parents, sickness, remoteness of location, cultural traditions, indifference and ignorance can all be barriers to gaining access to secondary schooling, especially for girls. HIV/AIDS has also had a devastating impact in many areas with the burden of care often falling on daughters who become increasingly vulnerable.

### **Women make up 50% of a community**

For over 40 years the CCLEF has provided a window of opportunity. Girls and countries change year to year but in 2008/9 the charity had over 350 girls on its books representing 25 Commonwealth countries and it knows that these girls have the potential to join others who have already achieved goals beyond their dreams.

Sponsorship is not an easy option or the only option, in the absence of compulsory secondary education in many developing countries, but it affords a chance to girls who would not have the opportunity to attend secondary schooling to do so. There are strict Terms and Conditions and support is on an annual basis. Renewal is dependent upon a girl working hard and achieving good results. Monies may be used for school and exam fees, uniform, books, transport and other necessary expenses but no money is sent to the girl or her family. Payment is made direct to school accounts or via a local community organisation registered within the country. The following pages tell very briefly the story of just a few of 'our girls'.

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As you will read in this Report the girls we sponsor are financially challenged. They need help to enable them to receive an education, but we now find the level of grant requested is increasing due to rising costs for transport, school meals and related expenses, so we in turn must raise more funds.

We are enormously grateful to have wonderful friends who join us each year at the Commonwealth Fair. In 2009 this will be held on Saturday 17th October in Kensington Town Hall, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Salamatu Tafida of Nigeria. Special thanks go to Eric Peake who, for many years, has administered The Grand Draw Raffle. In 2008 this raised the splendid sum of £8,000. Throughout the year, The Fair Committee open their residences and organise cultural events to promote the charity and fundraise. Individual members and friends also play their part, including those who take part in the London 10K run. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated. The Fund continues to benefit from the grant from 'Absolute Return for Kids' facilitated by the former Commonwealth Secretary General Sir Donald McKinnon and Lady Mackinnon which has enabled us to support a further 68 girls.

In November our Honorary Treasurer Diana Dollery stepped down after many years of service. Diana's contribution has been considerable and her continuing support included donations in lieu of gifts at her and Colin's Golden Wedding celebrations. In her place, the Board was delighted to welcome Judith Fisher. In January Dr Casmir Chanda took over as Administrative Secretary following the departure of Elaine Caetano. As a former Head Teacher in Zambia and educationalist Casmir brings a wealth of experience to the post.

Although we have only one member of staff in direct contact with the head teachers, girls and local organisations, those links are enhanced by members who visit schools when travelling. In particular I would like to thank June Lewis, Beatrice Kolade, Ester Kawoya and Lynette Richards-Lorde who met girls in The Gambia, Nigeria, Uganda and Jamaica respectively. In November some of us hope to meet previously sponsored girls in Trinidad & Tobago when we attend - at our own expense - the Commonwealth People's Forum prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. CCL members in Trinidad have kept in touch with "our girls" over many years, including those who ran a rape crisis centre and who assisted with Childline.  
(Jenny Groves, Chairman, Board of Trustees)

**CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL and SOUTH AMERICA:  
Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago,  
St Vincent and the Grenadines**



*Joselin*

Tuition at secondary level is state-funded in much of the region but in some countries enrolment levels may only be 75%. Sponsorship needs and educational fees vary considerably and even when tuition is funded, the cost of books, transport and other fees can cause great hardship. The sponsorship gives hope to a girl, as expressed by Joselin from **Belize** who wrote “...*thank you for the opportunity you have given me to keep on studying with this scholarship. I promise that I will always try my best to show you that you haven’t wasted your money nor your time with me*”.

Zena, on the other hand, is newly sponsored in **Grenada** and the letter expresses her confidence, hopes and aspirations: “...*I am very intelligent, smart, loving, helpful and very responsible. I love many things but the one thing I love most is reading. I always read in my spare time. It helps me to learn new words. I understand reading is very important to get any job. I joined the library so I can borrow books to read. When I grow up I want to be a teacher so that I can teach children to grow up with respect and dignity, so that they can have a very nice job and take good care of their families*”.

Whilst Zena’s aspirations express hope, Zika explains how the devastation of a hurricane brought misery to her family. She wrote “*I need this assistance because due to the passage of hurricane Ivan, which destroyed our house, my mum lost her job and is unable to fully support me for my basic school needs. I can assure you that the funds will go to good use. In future I would like to pursue a job in the medical field.*”



*Zika*

During the year a number of new girls were taken on in **Jamaica**. Although the performance in school for most girls in Jamaica is impressive, Sasha’s principal wrote that her performance had gone down because of the extremely difficult situation the family was facing. Sasha, however, is now very optimistic and wants to bring about change for herself and the community. She wrote: “*I am an excellent student from a volatile inner city community where individuals usually hold the belief that nothing good can come out of this community.*”



*Sasha*

*It is not the community that shapes me, but I am able to shape the community with this scholarship. I will be able to achieve success and assist in making my community a better one for the next generation.”*

Elsewhere in **St Vincent and the Grenadines** Shavorn told the Fund that she lost her mother when she was five years old. Secondary schooling had been a big challenge for her, but she works hard and wants to achieve her aspirations. She wrote: *“I live with my grandparents because my mother died and left me in their care. I am now in form 3 and I am working hard. My ambition is to be a dentist so that I can help people to care and fix their teeth and gums. I am very grateful to have the scholarship which bought supplies and other things which are important to my schooling...”*

### ASIA: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

The girls sponsored in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan often come from desperately poor backgrounds with parents working in stone quarries, as agricultural labourers or not working at all. Whilst girls can attend junior secondary school and many do well in the Basic Leaving Certificate Exam, most are unable to continue to the Higher Secondary School because of the fees they need to pay. Local community organisations have been able to identify a number of desperately needy girls who now have a chance to continue their studies.

From **Bangladesh** Tiasha wrote that she has a strong desire to contribute to her country. *“I wish to be a Doctor...I shall be able to take part in the social works of our country and also be able to serve my country in a better way. With the sponsorship, I shall be able to reach my goal.”* Other girls have aspirations of serving their country in various ways when they complete school. Khadiza wants to be a political leader; Salma’s ambition is to become an agricultural engineer; Swanna would like to pursue a career in computer engineering; Lipi wants to become a teacher and Tanzina dreams of becoming an engineer.



*Tiasha (right) receiving a letter of sponsorship from the Head teacher.*

Hope has been given to girls in **India**. One of the girls, Deepa, wrote this about her situation: *“I have two brothers. My father was a tailor, but he was sick and died on 17 March 2008. My elder brother is looking after the family by going for labour work. His income is not sufficient. My intention is to pass my exams; I want to have an education... I will achieve my goal to get a good job to help poor girls for their education”*.

The girls from **Pakistan** who have benefited from the Fund expressed gratitude for the scholarship from the previous year: Javaria, in the photograph receiving a letter of sponsorship, wrote: *“I would like to thank you for the scholarship. I assure you that I will do my best in the coming Board examination and will show the best results my school has ever seen. The scholarship has really helped me and my parents to continue my studies with great spirit”*.



Javaria

Momina also from Pakistan wrote: *“The scholarship reduced the financial burden on my parents’ shoulder. I would like to thank you for granting me your kind support through the scholarship for another year which is indeed a great gift for me”*.

Meanwhile, the Fund has continued to support six girls from **Sri Lanka**. One of those girls is Niranjala who lives in a rural area and her parents are unable to pay the school fees and other school requirements. When she received sponsorship in 2008, she wrote to the Fund: *“Thank you for helping me last year. I have joined a better school. I am trying to do my best in my studies. I will never forget the help you have given me”*.

Niranjala – Sri Lanka



Niranjala

## PACIFIC ISLANDS: Papua New Guinea and The Solomon Islands

The Fund has been sponsoring girls in different areas of **Papua New Guinea** for many years. The recipients of the sponsorship are very grateful for the support they have been receiving. One of the head teachers wrote, *“I convey the appreciations on behalf of the girls and their parents. The parents and guardians travelled a long way to the school to show appreciation because of the great support their girls benefit from the CCL Education Fund.”*

Another head teacher pointed out that *“most girls in Papua New Guinea leave school for various reasons. Girls are more likely to drop out of school than boys. The lack of supportive and enabling cultural, social, political and economic environment often forces many girls to leave school at an early age.”*

The situation described is not unique to Papua New Guinea, but exists in many other developing countries. However, the intervention from the Fund has enabled girls to continue schooling in Papua New Guinea. Tumun wrote, *“Thank you*



*Tumun*

*for the letter that was sent and for the sponsorship. We were happy and glad to hear that I was given sponsorship by the Board of Trustees. The good news spread around the community and most of my village people came to congratulate my parents and myself. I have come this far with the help of the Fund and I highly appreciate that”.*

The **Solomon Islands** have a large rural population spread over a number of Islands and education can be difficult to access, especially at secondary school level. Jane and Tracey are two girls sponsored in the Solomon Islands. They attend boarding school because they can gain a good secondary schooling and live in the school rather than commute long distances from home. Jane wrote at the beginning of 2009:

*“For the past four years, I have been sponsored by the CCL Education Fund. I am very grateful for your help. I have always done my best in my studies to earn this sponsorship each year. This is my last year in high school. Money is really hard to earn here in the Solomon Islands. In our society males are mostly supported and it’s really hard for girls to complete formal education. The school fees here are very high and it’s very hard for my family to find funds. Your help is appreciated by my family.”*

Jane (left) and Tracey (right) will complete secondary schooling this year and they look forward to a brighter future and university education.



*Jane*



*Tracey*

**AFRICA: Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Swaziland and Zambia**

Many families in Africa struggle to pay school fees for their children in secondary schools, especially for the girls who may drop out for various reasons. Once sponsorship is secured through the Fund, the girls tend to do well at school.



In **Cameroon**, a number of “our girls” will complete their secondary schooling in 2009 and hope to start their University course thereafter. Agatha wrote *“I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. I will also like to inform you that I passed the General Certificate of Education examination ordinary Level in eleven papers. And I am now in high school. I am doing five subjects and have passed to upper sixth and will write the General Certificate of Education Examination Advanced Level in 2009. I plan to study Computer Programming and Applications at the University...You are my only hope”*. *Agatha (left) when first sponsored. She has now grown into a confident student*

Meanwhile, Atta from the **Gambia** wrote at the beginning of 2009: *“I want to express my sincere gratitude for your enormous contribution towards my education. I have graduated from secondary school and now studying Architectural Draughtsmanship at the Gambia Technical Training Institute”*. Atta was sponsored for five years. In 2004, she nearly dropped out of school because she could not afford the school fees.



Atta



Ampicah

Although the performance of many of the girls in **Kenya** was adversely affected by violence following the elections of 2007, their determination made them improve within a short time. Ampicah (in photo) wrote *“I promise to work very hard as my ambition is to get marks that can enable me to be a lawyer to assist people in this community. I am sure at the end of my four years in secondary school, I will come out with better grades to enable me join one of the better universities here in Kenya”*.

The combination of hard work and CCLEF sponsorship certainly resulted in success for some of our disadvantaged girls. The Fund recently heard that whilst Vairusy will begin studying accountancy later in 2009, Janerose is already in her first year at Teachers Training College. Milka has now completed her accountancy course and Caroline has trained as a tailor and dressmaker. Two other girls, Metrine and Emah, are seeking funds to enter university.

In **Lesotho**, Mathaabe was offered sponsorship and her letter expresses the challenges she is facing. She has the ambition to do something about it: *“My parents struggle very much when it comes to paying school fees. I want to continue with my studies until I have achieved my goal in life. I want to become a Scientist one day and make a difference in the community. There are so many problems like HIV and AIDS, sanitation, pollution and scores of people keep dying because of diseases”*.



Rita

From **Nigeria**, Rita (right) wrote that she was very pleased that the response to her application was positive and says, *“I promise to remain hardworking and serious with my school work”*.



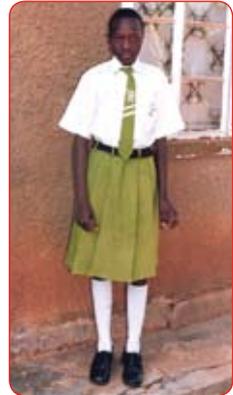
*Messiah*

Our girls are determined to work hard in school and many are committed to doing something to change their environment and community. Messiah in Malawi wrote in her application *“If you sponsor me I promise to work hard and achieve my goals.”*

The Fund continues to support girls in **Sierra Leone** and **Tanzania**. One of the girls, Ramatu wrote *“A big thank you for having thought of me. I was praying for an angel in form of a human being to come and help....For many years now I have really enjoyed the scholarship you have given me”*.

The head teacher from one of the schools in **Uganda** wrote: *“The girls are all in great health and happy with school. We are so grateful for the love and support you have given unto our school and students over the years. Please convey my heartfelt thanks to all the trustees and your entire staff. God bless you all*

Many girls have lost one or both parents. Esther was left in the care of her grandmother, but recently wrote *“My only grandmother died after a long time with cancer. The only one I am now remaining with is CCLEF and my school”*.



*Esther*



*Girls in Lesotho*

## THANK YOU

The Trustees of the Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund wish to express their gratitude to all those who support the work of educating girls. The work of the CCLEF could not happen without the support of many, including volunteers and members of the Commonwealth Diplomatic Corps. The Chairman, Jenny Groves has highlighted the debt the charity owes to High Commissions, CCL Members and Absolute Return for Kids.

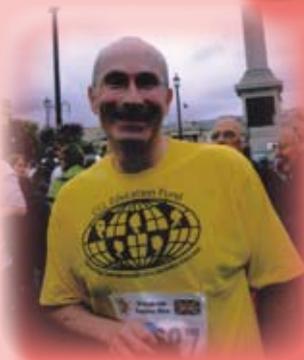
The Trustees are also grateful to all the individuals, trusts and organisations who continue to support the Fund's work financially. These include The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, The Canadian Federation of University Women, Salt Spring Club and others who wish to remain anonymous.

The 2008 Commonwealth Fair returned to Kensington Town Hall with a Gala Evening on the Friday including the "Miss Commonwealth" Pageant. The Fair was on the theme of "Where Global meets Local" We are enormously grateful to the Fair Chairwoman, Mrs Cecilia Muchemi of Kenya and her team for all their work and to Sui Chin McKeand who masterminded the coordination; and also to Mike Geoghegan for his generous donation. It was a very happy and successful occasion with the proceeds donated to the Fund. Events were held throughout the year to promote the charity and to raise monies. For many years the Fair has played an important role in raising funds for the work of the CCL Education Fund and the Trustees are grateful to the High Commissions and all those involved in organising, participating and supporting this unique Commonwealth event.

Considerable thanks also go to those who took part in the London 10K run and who helped coordinate the Fund's entry. This event is becoming an important part of the charity's fund-raising and with more runners we hope to increase our sponsorship income considerably.

Thank you to Richard Limburg of Vantis Group Limited for examining the accounts and to members of the Commonwealth Secretariat who have offered help and advice on so many occasions.

# RUNNING 4 GIRLS EDUCATION



## RUNNING 4 GIRLS EDUCATION



**COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES LEAGUE EDUCATION FUND  
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment income	2009	2008
Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Voluntary income: Grants and					
Donations	29,292	64,364	-	93,656	45,609
Commonwealth fair and sponsored activities	54,953	-	-	54,953	11,948
Investment income – interest	10,596	-	185	10,781	12,522
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>94,841</b>	<b>64,364</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>159,390</b>	<b>70,079</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Salaries and Administration costs	21,299	-	-	21,299	21,036
Fundraising costs including hire of hall	20,144	-	-	20,144	1,137
Charitable activities	12,387	61,971	185	74,543	48,619
Independent examiner’s fees	1,313	-	-	1,313	-
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>55,143</b>	<b>61,971</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>117,299</b>	<b>70,792</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>39,698</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,091</b>	<b>(713)</b>
<b>OTHER RECOGNIZED GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>					
Losses on investments	(37,182)	-	(981)	(38,163)	(30,929)
<b>Net movements in funds</b>	<b>2,516</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>(981)</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>(31,642)</b>
Total funds at 1 April 2008	249,547	22,607	4,428	276,582	308,224
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2009</b>	<b>252,063</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>3,447</b>	<b>280,510</b>	<b>276,582</b>

Income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

## BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2009

	Note	2009	2008
		£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Investments		159,050	197,213
Total fixed assets		<u>159,050</u>	<u>197,213</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors – second instalment of grant of £75,000 spread over 5 years		25,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand		97,773	79,369
Total current assets		<u>122,773</u>	<u>79,369</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		(1,313)	-
Net current assets		<u>121,460</u>	<u>74,242</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>280,510</u></b>	<b><u>276,582</u></b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Endowment funds		3,447	4,428
Unrestricted funds		252,063	249,547
Restricted income funds		25,000	22,607
<b>Total funds</b>		<b><u>280,510</u></b>	<b><u>276,582</u></b>

The charity retains sufficient funds in its reserves to ensure the completing of secondary schooling for all girls sponsored at any one time.

The above summary information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet has been extracted from the statutory accounts. An unqualified audit opinion was given on the full accounts, copies of which are available on request from CCLEF or Charity Commission website. The full accounts were approved by the Trustees on 23 June 2009 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

Independent Examiner's Statement – As independent examiner to the charity, I have reviewed the summarised accounts shown here and consider they are consistent with the full accounts on which I gave an unqualified opinion. Richard Limburg, FCA

Trustees: Jenny Groves (Chairman)  
Diana Dollery (Hon Treasurer) Retired November 2008  
Judith Fisher (Hon Treasurer) Appointed November 2008  
Ann Chivers CCL  
Jania Geoghegan CCL  
Leolynn Jones CCL  
Sheila Kennard CCL  
Ruth Whitehouse CCL  
Parveen Yusuf CCL

Observers: Louisa Service CCL President  
Majorie Rennie CCL Chair

Correspondent: Mavis Longhorn CCL

Administrative Secretary: Elaine Caetano up to December 2008  
Casmir Chanda from January 2009 (Part-time paid)

Principal Bankers: Barclays Bank, 210 High Street, Hounslow, TW3 1DL

Independent Examiner: Richard Limburg, Vantis Group Limited,  
66 Wigmore Street, London, W1U 2SB



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