



KSAA Member Profile: Steve Mwele

Born and raised in Nairobi Kenya, I attended Heshima road and Pumwani Boys for my primary and high school education respectively. Having come from humble beginnings, this course is very close to my heart. I was involved in various community service projects prior to moving to the States to pursue a degree in mechanical design and drawing.



Being a KSAA board member has given me a chance to give back to the community in a very special way. The gift of education that KSAA offers to our students is the best that one can ever offer. To most of them, KSAA is their only hope because of their limited resources due to poverty and the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS. We also encourage our students to give back some day to the community in this way KSAA hopes to initiate a



Kenya Society for Academic Advancement

Providing Educational Assistance to Needy and Underprivileged Kenyan Children

A Message from the KSAA Board Chairman

Happy New Year!

I would like to extend many thanks to all our regular members, honoree members and corporate donors who made the year 2010 a success for KSAA. I especially would like to thank our board members who not only contributed financially to KSAA, but also spent an enormous amount of time dedicated to KSAA and its affairs and in their continued efforts to share ideas on how to grow KSAA.

In short order, I will be stepping down as the chairman of KSAA. Getiria Onsongo will be stepping into that role. I have known Getiria for sometime now and I am confident that Getiria is well positioned to take KSAA to the next level. Getiria has the zeal and vision to lead KSAA. Please join me in thanking Getiria for taking up this challenge and offer our continued support in seeing him succeed as the next chairman.

During my tender as the chairman, we managed to grow the size of the board membership which in-turn led to increased donations. With the increased donations, KSAA was able to increase the number of scholarship recipients. I am also privileged to have been at the helm as we launched the KSAA website and increased the number of partner women groups in Kenya.

I am deeply honored and privileged to have been at the helm of KSAA for the year 2009/10 when we were able to sponsor a total of 12 students from 4 different provinces. One student successfully sat for the Kenya Council for Secondary Education (KCSE) examination and is awaiting results. Even though we are proud for having sponsored 12 kids, the goal of KSAA is to expand and grow the number of scholarship recipients.

Because of KSAA's long-term goals of increasing the number of sponsors and scholarship recipients, the organization went through internal restructuring to better be positioned to meet those goals.

chain of giving.

Watching Premier League soccer (Arsenal), NBA, NFL and spending time with my family are some of the things that keep me busy during my free time.

I am privileged and blessed to be part of KSAA.

During a day long conference held during the month of September last year, in addition to the current Executive committee which comprises of the Chairman, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer, additional Development, Finance, Communication and Information Technology committees were established. With these committees in place, KSAA is better positioned to coordinate objectives and see goals through fruition. The new structure gives members a better way of sharing goals and a venue to devote more time and efforts towards the accomplishment of KSAA'S short and long-term goals.

Here at KSAA, we take keen interest in monitoring closely the performance of scholarship recipients. Our goal is to insure that the recipients are successful in their academic endeavors. In the last calendar year, some of our KSAA board members were able to visit some of our scholarship recipients in Kenya and were able to get a first hand account of the progress that some of these students were making academically.

I would urge all our members and donors to keep the noble cause of educating the less fortunate and needy in Kenya at the front burner. There is a lot more that needs to be done in reaching the less fortunate in the Kenyan society. One critical area that KSAA needs to focus on is the area of growing the number of local women groups that we partner with in Kenya. KSAA needs to establish contacts with women groups from the Coast, Eastern, North Eastern and Western Provinces. In the next few years KSAA should have a footprint in all 8 Kenyan provinces.

Lastly, I would like to thank each and every one of you for having given me the opportunity to lead KSAA; it has been a privilege and honor. Let's accord the same support to the incoming chairman; Getiria Onsongo.

May 2011 bring continued success!

Raymond Mauya



Spotlight: KSAA on the Ground

In Kenya, women's groups and other community organizations

have become critical to the development and health of the community. These organizations live in and understand the needs of the community, and have a vested interest in building it. With this in mind, KSAA created partnerships with several such groups (currently in 6 provinces), and is continuing to grow and increase its partnerships throughout Kenya. The women's groups are our eyes and ears in the community - they help us to identify orphans and other needy high school students who would not be able to attend high school without the financial support of KSAA. They are our trusted volunteers on the ground – who help us monitor these students' academic performance and well being. With the help of the local groups, KSAA is able to plan and work with their teachers and other community members to find solutions that will change the future for these children, and their communities in general.

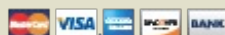
In early 2010, a fellow board member and I had an opportunity to visit with Wandegwa Women's Group, during one of their monthly meetings. Located in Central Province, the 200 member group supports its members and its community through education initiatives such as health & wellness, and through support initiatives including financial assistance and care for sick members and their families. Visiting with the Wandegwa group is something to look forward to. We typically spend the first portion of our meeting discussing any issues that our students may be facing. The second portion is spent in song and dance –a mighty celebration of our partnership and of the students whose lives we are changing through education. KSAA's child sponsorship program creates real, lasting change for children and their communities. Like all our affiliate groups, Wandegwa is happy to help KSAA in whichever way they can, and we look forward to many years of continued partnership.

By Patricia Mwangi

Pictured: Board members J. Makau and P. Mwangi visit with Wandegwa Women's Group

Support us!

Donate online using the Paypal button below.



Email Address: contact@ksaa-mn.org
KSAA Website: <http://www.ksaa-mn.org/>



If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

KSAA
P.O. Box 290031
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

