

# **AWA Charitable Trust (A.C.T.)**

**(established 1996)**

C/o J. Carmony - P.O. Box 16526-00620, Nairobi, Kenya

The AWA Charitable Trust (A.C.T.) was established in 1996 with a large private donation from an AWA Kenya member. Subsequently, another individual member has made several contributions. About 1998, to augment the trust's resources, AWA contributed proceeds from a fundraising golf tournament.

AWA Kenya's Constitution/By-laws do not allow it to support individual persons further it is restricted in the giving of some items and other areas. Therefore, the Trust was written in such a way as to allow more latitude and, in addition to Trustees identifying projects for contributions from the Trust, it could potentially also offer support on behalf of AWA Kenya, in these and other areas, when a particularly worthwhile cause was submitted to the Trustees by the AWA of Kenya's Board of Directors.

Some of the ways A.C.T. has directly contributed to the community or supported the AWA Kenya's projects are as follows:

- \* Organizing acquisition and delivery of school textbooks to informal schools in slum areas. At the time this was first done, all formal sector schools in Kenya required payment of school fees, uniforms, books, et cetera. Children in slum areas (there are several hundred thousand in Nairobi alone—very many of whom are HIV/AIDS orphans) are often marginalized, due to lack of funds. Therefore, unable to attend formal schools, the only schooling they received was courtesy of churches, missionaries and other good Samaritans who established informal schools; these were and still are funded by hard effort and donations.
- \* Educational scholarships (1-4 years) to help defray costs for talented but poor individual students.
- \* Support for a homeopathic mobile clinic treating HIV/AIDS patients in slum areas with natural remedies they can afford.
- \* Farm, tools and equipment for a rural women's self-help group.
- \* Water storage tanks for rural community based school and funds to help build a rural community medical clinic/dispensary.
- \* Computers and software to 2 Marie Stopes International Clinics (maternity clinics) and radio-sound equipment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Marie Stopes Clinic.
- \* Pots, pans and sewing machines to Kimlea Girls' Technical Training Centre. This centre teaches girls useful skills to help them find jobs as bakers, cooks, seamstresses, knitters, household help and ayahs (nannies). They are also given general education, instruction in nutrition, low water usage organic farming techniques and much more.
- \* Water tank and paint for a rescue centre for older orphaned girls. Centre provides safe housing, food and vocational training.
- \* Solar cookers for a rural orphanage
- \* 6 sewing machine replacing those stolen from a women's self help group, which creates jobs/income for 30 women.
- \* Support for a solar cooking project in Lokichoggio, Turkana district (far north Kenya), via one of our long time members, Nancy Crooks. This project assists the local community, which suffers a dearth of firewood/charcoal but possesses an abundance of sunshine, to feed themselves and the ever-increasing refugees from neighboring countries. It also provides a method of purifying drinking water and has created an "industry" for a group of women who now make and sell solar cookers in the area. This contribution augmented a grant receive from "Lift Up Africa", an NGO based in Seattle, WA. The project is also supported by the local Roman Catholic church congregation. The benefits of the project are many.

1<sup>st</sup> it aids the environment, no wood (thus saving forests for the daily degradation needed for cooking fuel) and little water are need for successful cooking.  
2<sup>nd</sup> it's affordable, purchase of one ready made home use solar "Cook-it" costs about Ksh 700/-;  
3<sup>rd</sup>, Employing self-help practices to empower women has helped a group of the local women establish their own business, making and selling (at a significant savings) solar "Cook-it" units to their community.  
4<sup>th</sup>, the local Turkana women will no longer have to trek 4-6 hours per day to the forest to find wood nor will they have to spend about Ksh 70, per day for charcoal, if they can't handle the trekking  
5<sup>th</sup>, the now easy access to purified water will significantly reduce health problems in the area.

The next part of the project will help a food relief program managed by the local Roman Catholic Church. Currently a church managed kitchen feeds 1,000 children (mostly refugees) daily. The foodstuff, a nutritious gruel donated by the World Food Programme, is presently cooked in huge pots over wood/charcoal fires. Once adequate funding is acquired, industrial-sized solar "Cook-it" units will be provided to assist the community.

If any AWA member would like to contribute further funds to this worthwhile project, Nancy Crooks can be contacted at: 0722-707799 or HHC@africaonline.co.ke

The basic tenets of the Trustees allow the spending of interest earned through investment of the trust corpus, thereby not diminishing the Trust corpus and maintaining the future continuing benefit to the community.

The Trustees continue to invest cautiously and spend judiciously. In recent years, interest rates have dropped significantly, compared to those at the inception of the Trust. Thus, as no fundraising has been done by AWA lately to further support the Trust, activity has been minimal, in order to build the funds available to donate. If AWA would again contribute a percentage of the proceeds from their various fundraising activities or hold an annual activity specifically to augment the trust's resources, A.C.T. would have more funds earning interest and thus be able to lend more support to AWA's potential request and the community, as or when needed.

This (unaudited) report was prepared by Jan Carmony and has been approved by the Trustees; it is complete, to the best of our knowledge, as of 30 Sep 07.

The A.C.T. Trustees are: Nancy D. Brown, a founding trustee, JoAnn P. Wood, a founding trustee, Janet C. Carmony, a founding trustee, and Deborah G. Sickmueller. Each of the four trustees is also former chairpersons of the AWA Kenya, each having served 2-terms in that position and multiple years on the AWA Board.