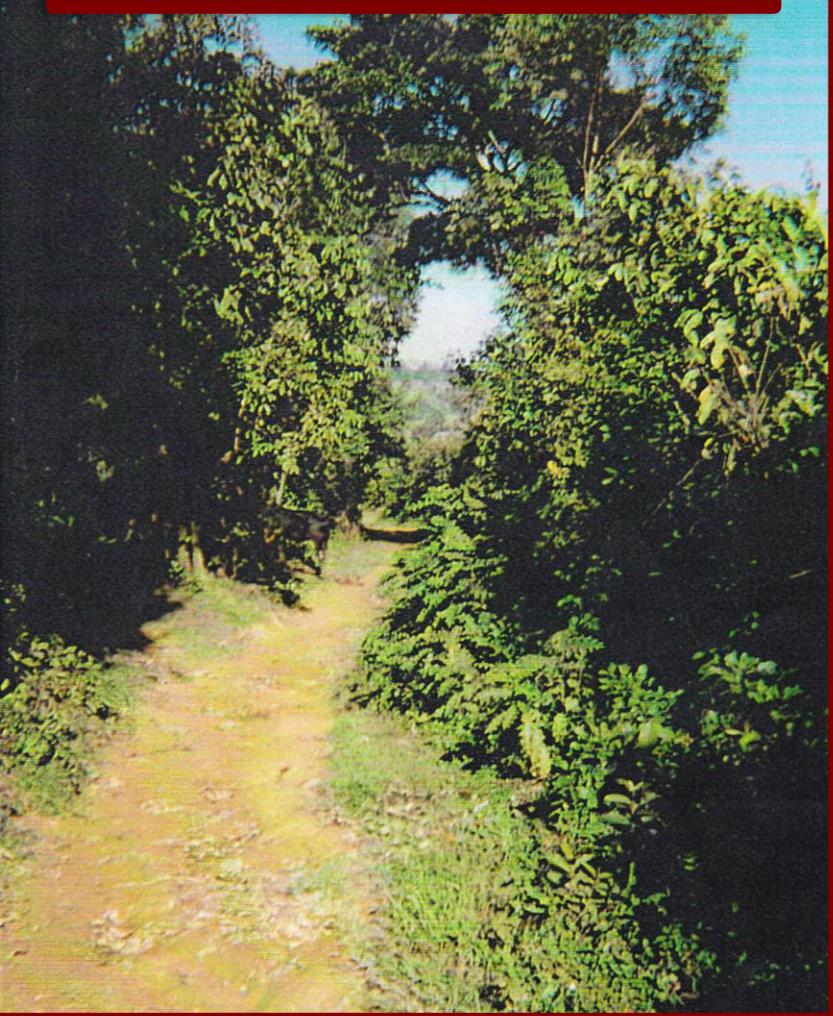


# THE PATH TO SHIKOKHO



2015 HISTORY

TO COMMEMORATE THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
CHEVY CHASE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE  
SHIKOKHO WOMEN'S GROUP  
SHIKOKHO COMMUNITY  
SHIKOKHO SECONDARY SCHOOL

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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This 25th Anniversary History was prepared by the top history students at Shikokho Secondary School, a Shikokho community member, and members of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Shikokho Task Force, to facilitate interest in and contact between partners with Shikokho. In the interest of privacy, we request that this history be provided to others, only to celebrate our work together. We regret any errors of commission or omission and request your help in correcting any mistakes. Comments and additions and/or corrections may be sent to the CCPC office in Washington, DC by mail, fax, or email. The address, fax number and email account are printed on the back cover of the history.

## **SHARE YOUR STORY**

Calling all CCPC visitors to Shikokho. Please share your favorite story from your time in Shikokho to be added to future revisions/updates of this history.

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## GLOSSARY

- **CBO – COMMUNITY BASED  
ORGANIZATION**
- **CCPC – CHEVY CHASE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
- **FSD – FOUNDATION FOR  
SUSTAINASBLE DEVELOPMENT**
- **MOH – Ministry of Health of  
the Government of Kenya**
- **SCDG – Shikokho Community  
Development Group (umbrella  
CBO for all of Shikokho's  
development committees)**
- **SMC – Shikokho Medical Clinic**
- **SPS – Shikokho Primary School**
- **SSR – Shitoli Solid Rock (Youth  
movement that founded orphan  
feeding and daycare in Shikokho)**
- **SSS – Shikokho Secondary  
School**
- **SWG – Shikokho Women's  
Group**
- **T.R.E.E.S. – Training for  
Reforestation and Environmental  
Education in Shikokho**
- **WMI – Women's Microfinance  
Initiative**
-  – Bean plant leaf indig-  
enous to Shikokho



*Drumming and dancing with primary school students*

## **CCPC & SHIKOKHO HISTORY**

### **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP**



*For we are partners, working together for God. —1st Corinthians 3:9*

**THE CCPC AND SHIKOKHO PARTNERSHIP** was established in 1989 after CCPC member Gretchen Hobbs Donaldson returned from her Master's in International Education field research there. Gretchen lived with the chairlady of the Shikokho Women's Group (SWG), Mary Lidonde, and her family and studied the role of women's groups in health and education in rural Kenya. She soon realized that she was the first outside researcher to live and work among the women of Shikokho. It was also apparent that SWG was determined and enthusiastic about leading their community forward in development. Most men had out-migrated to find cash employment, which did not exist in Shikokho outside the boundaries of the two village schools – Shikokho Primary School (SPS) and Shikokho Secondary

#### **WHY THE SWG WANTED A CLINIC WITH MATERNITY FACILITIES**

“One day a pregnant lady came to us and wanted to give birth. We put her on a wheelbarrow to take her to help. On the way, she was unable to continue so we stopped at a “*shamba*” (family farm) in Shirumba and she gave birth there. She had lots of problems and we had no blade to cut the umbilical cord with. So we took dry leaves of the maize to cut with. We feared that the baby might have tetanus, but the good Lord was with us and she is now a big girl. From then on, the women thought of building a clinic where they could have their babies safely.”

—Mary Lidonde, Chair,  
Shikokho Women's Group  
(SWG) in 1985

School (SSS). The women of Shikokho married into the village, where they were strangers to one another. Without any systems of support in the village of 100 families within a female farming system, they began to band together to improve the lives of their families, the village, and each other. At that time,

homes were made of mud and thatch, without running water and electricity.

### **BY 1981, SWG FORMS INTO A COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION (CBO)**

and is registered with the Ministry of Social Services. When the historic first ever United Nations International Women's Conference was held in Nairobi, a group of six SWG leaders attended the conference, which gave them a deepening enthusiasm and commitment to work together for the development of their community. With the training and insight they received during the Nairobi conference and follow up with Kenya's national women's support organization, **MAENDELEO YA WANAWAKE**, with whom they were included since 1977, SWG began meetings in the village to share ideas together back home. They started small with 26 members, pooling their time and efforts together to help each other in small ways. Since most of the women in the 1980s had 8 to 12 children and husbands working far away from the village, they began by assisting each other with planting and harvesting their crops, funeral costs and school fees for their children.

Shikokho is just north of Margoli, which was at the time identified by the United Nations as the most densely populated rural subsistence community in the world.

### **FOUNDING SWG MEMBERS ATTENDING THE FIRST 1985 UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

- Mary Lidonde, SWG Chairlady
- Agnes Ashihundu
- Robai Imbenzi
- Lydia Khasoha
- Florence Madegwa
- Jennifer Miheso

By the time, Gretchen arrived in Shikokho in 1988, they had definite ideas about what further they could do in the village. They decided Gretchen should help them organize their ideas into five project areas. This included a sewing project, chicken raising, tree planting, adult education, and particularly their interest in a clinic for the village. Gretchen also learned a lot ... about farming and raising chickens and how to listen deeply to their goals and challenges. They were all a good match together and moved forward quickly to complete the required processes and participatory research for each project. With Gretchen making contacts throughout the region, speakers and trainers came to the village, along with SWG visits to rural clinics and hospitals. From these visits, Dr. Stephen Wanje, founder of Fudumi Health Clinic and Demonstration Farm in Margoli, became an interested advisor, making visits to the clinic to advise and see patients from time

to time. Recalling a memorable day, Gretchen describes her four hours with the women leadership around Mary's dining table as they hashed out how they would fill in the numerous applications, bank account forms, and write their constitution/by-laws, required by the Ministry of Social Services. Everyone was so proud of what they had accomplished.



*1988 members of the Shikokho Women's Group*



*Finishing the founding documents for Shikokho Women's Group with Gretchen – 1988*



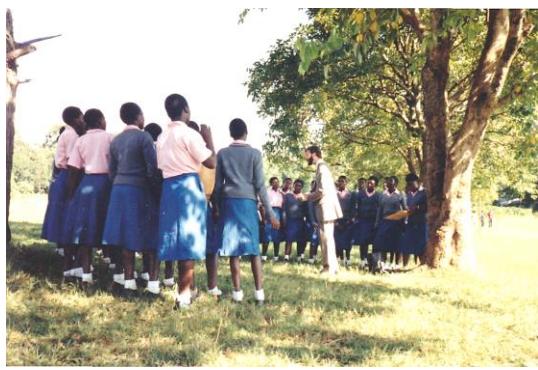
*TREES first training to learn about tree seeds and how to care for seedlings and transplantation*



*First tree planting with seeds*

Since Gretchen was also an educator, they immediately began an English literacy class because English was the language of commerce and social justice. Most of the women had not completed secondary education. Their finest hour occurred when all the classmates took turns writing their names on the blackboard painted on the church wall, and completed a letter to their husbands far away. Another education project that needed organizing was the SSS Library. Gretchen's American colleague, Andrew Miller (A.T.), was the principal at the school since 1980 sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and the Quakers. A.T. had acquired thousands of books, encyclopedias, dictionaries and maps from many local and international donors and institutions in a broad variety of genres and conditions. Now they needed to be Dewey Decimal sorted by Gretchen and three helpful student leaders: Reuben Aromba, Peter Khamusali, and Kepher Shikuku. Their bond was strong throughout the project and Kepher,

Reuben and Peter are still leaders in the Shikokho community. Kepher as the Shikokho Quaker Church pastor, Reuben the deputy principal at SPS, and Peter is our CCPC visit planner and Director of Kenya's office of the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD), sending interns to Shikokho at every opportunity. After the library was in order, Gretchen invited the two librarians from Kakamega Library to advise the SSS librarian and speak to an assembly of all SSS students on the importance of library resources and how to use and take care of them. Later, Gretchen coordinated two other organizations to send books; the World Bank Book Project and the International Book Project. Gretchen's final thesis was entitled *VISION: Village Initiative for Skills, Inquiry and Networking* - based on her time spent with SWG and the people of Shikokho in 1988.



*AT Miller coaching the Shikokho Secondary School Chorus at a competition in Kakamega*



*Gretchen, A.T. and chorus members waiting for President Moi to stop by for a song.*

#### **Shikokho IS NOT AN “AID PROJECT”**

*...our work there is built on personal relationships, time, talent and gifts between CCPC and Shikokho, all at the grass roots level...*

**SITUATED IN THE ROLLING HILLS OF THE LAND OF THE LUHYA GROUPING OF BANTU PEOPLES**, an hour's walk in from the nearest road, Shikokho shares the beauty of the Yala River with Mount Elgon, Kakamega Forest and the Nandi Escarpment in the distance, north of Lake Victoria. It also shares the generosity of four clans, whose clan boundaries meet at Shikokho's Secondary School entrance under the shade of the Musinziri tree (also SSS's logo). As the dense population rose, deforestation, soil erosion and poverty increased, causing a scarcity of land which drove the young and capable out of the area. Here's where CCPC came in, and over the past 25 years, Shikokho and CCPC have grown a partnership of fellowship

and love that includes ten CCPC Mission Team visits and a number of individual and family visits. Together they added electricity, a clinic, maternity wing and medical staff house, clean water to a number of taps, pipes and water towers around Shikokho, as well as the renovation of three of the eight springs there. Shikokho is in Kakamega County, Kenya's second most populous county (population 1 ½ million) after Nairobi. Kakamega town (population 100,000) is the county headquarters and a 20-mile drive from Shikokho. Three universities have branch campuses there, that of Kenyatta, Mt. Kenya, Nairobi in addition to Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.

### **FROM OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 1989**

with the start of construction for a clinic, CCPC's first contribution energized both CCPC and the people of Shikokho. At a Mission Committee meeting where Gretchen had been asked to share her work with Shikokho, and the five initial SWG projects, Mission Committee members (led by Carol Foreman, Andy Mott and Carol Miner) were most moved by the objective to provide health care for the people of Shikokho. Certainly a project that SWG could not do alone, the vote was unanimous and village volunteers accepted the challenge to provide the labor. The clinic leadership team in Shikokho was led by Isaac Lidonde, who in addition to

being a laboratory technician for 30 years in Nairobi and owning a microscope, was Mary's husband. Since they retired back in the village, Isaac became the "village doctor" as patients started arriving at their home. He saw them in the foyer, and in the evenings, he and Gretchen would use the book she brought, "*Where There is No Doctor*" to find information to assist the day's sick visitors. He and Mary soon provided a portion of their land to the SWG to fulfill the village's dream of health care for all. Over the next 5 years, small contributions from CCPC kept the building process moving slowly forward and clinic registrations were advanced with Kenyan medical and government advisors. The original plan included a small room for dental care, but that goal has yet to be realized.



*Mary with Gretchen in 1995*

**ISAAC LIDONDE** (1929-2009) was born long before the country gained independence. He joined the African Government School in Kakamega (now Kakamega High School) completing the Kenya Junior Secondary School exam in 1945. Isaac proceeded to the only medical college in Nairobi at that time, now called the Kenya Medical Training College. He also went abroad in 1961-62, sponsored by the Friends Church, and joined the University of Manchester, England where he did further hematology training and also received a certificate in theology. In 1976, he took the East African lab technicians course receiving a diploma as a Medical Science Laboratory Technician. Isaac worked for the government for two years and thereafter was employed in the then European Hospital between 1952-1978. At his retirement in 1984, he received a microscope and started utilizing his experience back in Shikokho treating those who were sick. Patients were seen in his home until 1995, when the clinic was officially opened with CCPC and the Ministry of Health (MOH), registered as a Diagnostic and Medical Community Clinic. Isaac served as the Chief Administrator of the clinic, laboratory technician and emeritus until his passing.

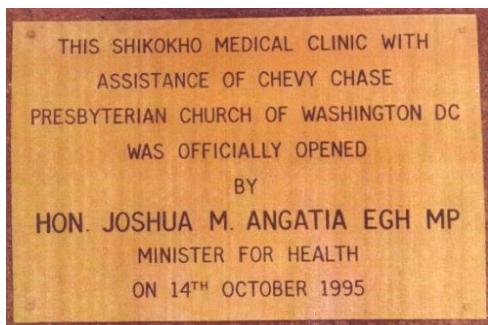


*Clinic founder, administrator and lab tech proudly displays vaccines in the first fridge donated by CCPC*

## 1995 THE FIRST CCPC MISSION TEAM VISITS SHIKOKHO

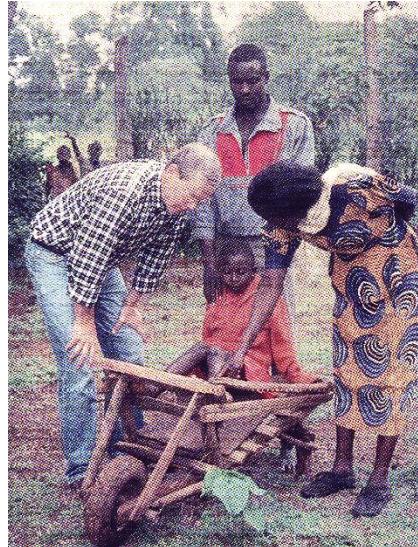
The clinic was scheduled to be officially opened with Kenya's Minister of Health, the Honorable Joshua Angatia, (a native to the area) and numerous national and local officials. The CCPC team got busy painting the clinic, making curtains, covering exam tables and assisting with procedures for intake and administration. Numerous trips to Kakamega for supplies kept the team and SWG on the move to finish preparing the clinic to open. The SWG now had 39 members and 12 were located in Nairobi to assist there. "The Canadians" (aka Robai and Jonathan Imbenzi's son who brings Canadian work groups to assist) had provided the secure front door of the clinic and secure windows required. CCPC's Dr. Roger Ruckman, Associate Pastor Paul Kress, and Gretchen led the team for three weeks of final preparation before the culminating "Harambee" (means pulling together) and opening ceremonies. Getting from DC to Nairobi with 30 boxes of medicines and educational supplies for the village is an experience not forgotten. As soon as the team got to Shikokho, patients arrived by wheelbarrow and back sacks, lining up and keeping Roger busy day and night. Roger shares a memorable midnight surgery performed by flashlight when an urgent patient arrived at our hosts,

Jennifer and Hezron Miheso's home, where the team was housed and fed by SWG members. A rush to the clinic with all hands on deck saw God's Shikokho grace smile on the small boy and relief for Roger and the child's family.



*Plaque at Shikokho Medical Clinic*

With concluding *harambee* fanfare and gratitude, the transferred title deed for the land was presented to SWG leadership and the Minister of Health announced that the Kenyan Ministry of Health would supply two nurses if CCPC would provide housing for them. He then recognized the Shikokho Medical Clinic (SMC) as a model for all Kenya: Kenya's first rural clinic established by three groups: SWG, the Kenyan government, and CCPC. Thus, CCPC began funding construction of the Nurses' Quarters and SMC became the model for future rural health endeavors in Kenya. Cheers were shouted throughout the village with song and dance, and fattened cows were carved for hundreds to be fed.



*First patient: a boy with a foot infection brought by his father in a wheelbarrow*



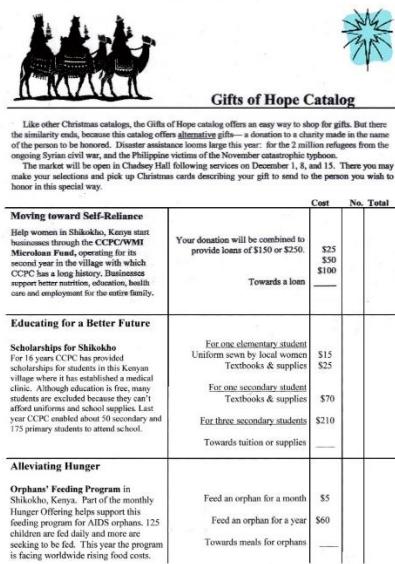
*Shikokho Medical Clinic*

Ginny Spevak, a member of the 1995 team focusing on primary education in Shikokho, managed to weigh and measure the height of each SPS student – a joyous and novel experience for all, since most of the children had never been measured. Upon her return to CCPC, Ginny started the CCPC Sewing Group and regularly sent baby blankets with future visitors to Shikokho, as well as, provided a special strength to CCPC's advocacy for educational support for the children of Shikokho. A plaque adorns the

entrance of two SPS classrooms in Ginny's memory completed by CCPC funding in 2011 (after her passing).



*Plaque at the SPS Classrooms dedicated to Ginny Spevak*



*Gifts of Hope Catalogue sample*

## **AN OUTGROWTH OF THE 1995**

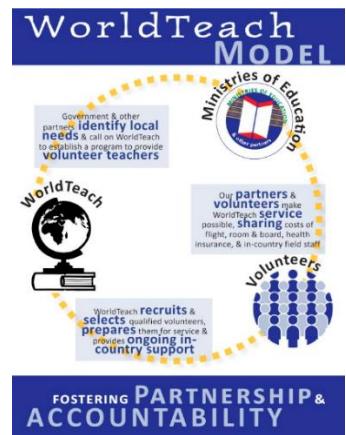
**MISSION** was the establishment of the annual CCPC SSS Scholarship Program. During the 1995 mission, several team members interviewed candidates identified by the SSS leadership and collected background

data on the first twelve recipients. This scholarship program has grown through the years to include uniforms for hundreds of SPS students, Form One (9th grade) classroom block construction, dining hall contribution, stipends for SPS volunteer teachers and about sixty SSS recipients annually. The scholarship program later became a founding item of the **Gifts of Hope Alternative Christmas Program** – coined “**the Gift of Education**” by CCPC member and former chair of the Mission Committee Dottie Boerner, who first created and continues to lead the program.

## **OTHER VOLUNTEERS TO SHIKOKHO**

Historically, A.T. Miller has kept a flow of volunteer teachers arriving in Shikokho from a variety of colleges where he has worked in the US, as well as annual SSS scholarship support from his family’s church - Grace Lutheran Church in Illinois. A.T. and Grace Lutheran, now also celebrate their **35TH ANNIVERSARY** with Shikokho and Shikokho Secondary School. A.T. personally coordinated, placing over 75 international volunteers, mostly in schools in Western Province during his time as principal, including Gretchen Donaldson and former CCPC member Ann Tutwiler. One of these volunteers from Harvard University help turn A.T.’s effort into the **STILL ACTIVE WORLDTEACH**

**ORGANIZATION.** He has continued to bring volunteers and student teachers from Davidson College, University of Pennsylvania, Union College, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and Cornell University.



*WorldTeach logo*

In addition to the CCPC teams visiting Shikokho every other year, other CCPC members and families have visited Shikokho to volunteer and work. These include: Phil English, Phil's daughter Naomi, Bonnie Norman and family, Rob Russo, Joe and Carolyn Anderson, Dr. Kathy Anzick and her daughter Eva Leventer, Claudia, and Laura Godfrey. The Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD), a San Francisco non-profit organization, sends interns and medical fellows as well through the leadership of Peter Khamusali since 2005. Shikokho relatives in Canada have also been a consistent partner for progress over the decades. By 2013, CCPC and **WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE (WMI)**

began to send interns to Shikokho. The first was Susannah Scanlan (Suzie), from Princeton University, who worked with WMI and the Orphan Feeding and Day Care Program as well as the clinic. All these volunteer insights and contributions to the partnership have been invaluable.

As interest from non-teaching student volunteers increased, A.T. and Gretchen would share the orientation tasks. The first to be interested in working with the SWG was **ASAKO YOSHII FROM DAVIDSON COLLEGE** in 1992. Asako's work with the women and clinic on water related health issues, led her to organize a KEFINCO (Kenya-Finland Company) successful water test and pursue her Japanese Embassy representatives in Nairobi to organize with the SWG and their Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for another borehole to be constructed in 1992. Her outreach to the US Population Service International (PSI) also first linked Shikokho to family planning programs and Kenya HIV/AIDS education campaigns. She continued adult education started by Gretchen, by conducting English, mathematics and typing classes. Asako also participated in a work camp in Akoviefe, Ghana with 30 volunteers from around the world through the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Council for International Educational Exchange

(CIEE), which was attached to her time in Shikokho.

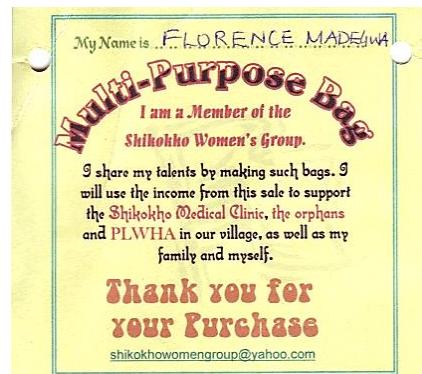
**KRISTIN ADAMS, A PRE-MED STUDENT FROM BOWDOIN COLLEGE** arrived in Shikokho in 1997 to assist SWG and Isaac in moving the clinic forward. They started the first mobile clinic and side by side, she and Isaac listened and learned from each other and clinic staff for three months. Upon her return to the US, Kristin's church, Saint Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, set up a fund specially designed to help the clinic pay for medicines and provide salaries for the clinic staff. After building and running the clinic with volunteer labor for eight years, this was a welcome relief for all assisting at the clinic. Three years later when the fund ended, CCPC began to assist with salaries there in 2001. Now an accredited MD, Anesthesiologist and Palliative Care Physician, Kristin resides in Asheville, NC with her husband (a computer engineer and data analyst) and two toddlers. They plan to return to Shikokho someday to work in the clinic and give back to the people of Shikokho, in memory of Isaac Lidonde, who changed her life and confirmed her interests in medicine.

**ANNE KHASIANI, SWG SECRETARY AND HEAD OF THE CRAFT MAKING** committee for SWG, was welcomed to CCPC in December 2000. Besides speaking at a variety of CCPC forums to update the church on Shikokho activities, she brought a CCPC van full of crafts

made by the SWG to sell to members for Christmas gifts. Proceeds went to the Maternity Wing construction project already under way. Anne also visited over thirty local craft businesses and landed contracts with 10,000 Villages, The Smithsonian Museum Shops, National Museum of Women in the Arts, et.al., for her beautiful beaded *Maasai* dolls and other beaded crafts. SWG's multipurpose bags (woven from plastic post office container cording) have also become very popular as their highest income-generating project for the women. Colorful and indestructible, they can now be found all over Shikokho and the surrounding area. Later both Anne and Peter Khamusali were nominated by Gretchen and awarded the CCPC Mission Discipleship Award for their increasing role in expanding liaison work between CCPC and Shikokho. Thereafter, Peter became CCPC's primary contact, liaison to our numerous projects, and travel guide for all our CCPC Mission work trips.



*Anne Khasiani selling crafts at CCPC's Chadsey Hall*



*SWG's favorite project: the best is making them all together on the clinic grounds*

## 2002 SSS TEXTBOOK REPLACEMENT PENTECOST OFFERING & "CCPC LIBRARY" BUILDING ERECTED BY SSS

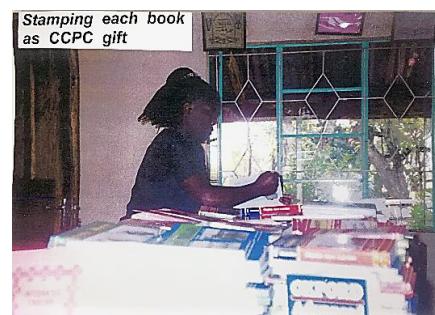
In 2001 the Kenyan government mandated a new curriculum and commissioned new inexpensive texts, but did not provide money for the schools to buy the books. It was up to parents and school to find the funds to buy the new texts. It was essential that

the students have full access to the new educational materials in order to do well on Kenyan comprehensive national exams.



*Replacement textbooks*

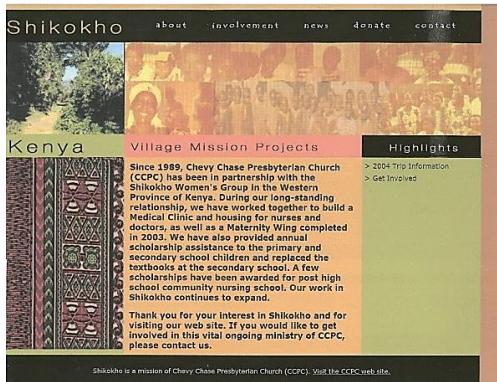
At Shikokho Secondary School only teachers had copies of the required textbooks, which they laboriously copied onto blackboards. In their turn, students devoted much time to copying the texts into their notebooks. In response to this need, the Mission Committee decided to dedicate all of the 2002 Pentecost Offering to the textbook project.



*CCPC scholarship recipient stamping each textbook with the imprint "A gift from Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC"*

When Shikokho Secondary School received the Pentecost collection, the overjoyed headmaster wrote "Hail to CCPC and Praise God!" and named the school library the "CCPC Shikokho Secondary School Library." He went on to say that, "With consignment of new books, the school's performance in academics is going to be transformed tremendously."

Through Dottie Boerner's leadership and coordination, CCPC replaced the textbooks to keep this SSS education strong. Now SSS students attend study hall and can check out a textbook to complete assignments.



*First Shikokho Website Design*

## **IN 2003, A SHIKOKHO DONOR PROVIDES A BEAUTIFUL WEBSITE!**

As our work in Shikokho grows so does interest in seeing Shikokho on the internet. Designed by an award winning graphic artist and funded by a FOS (Friends of Shikokho) donor, the first Shikokho site is added to CCPC's website. While CCPC's website ([www.chevychasepc.org](http://www.chevychasepc.org) - click on Missions, then Shikokho, Kenya), has transitioned away from

the original format, it can still be found archived by Paul Pruitt at: <http://tinyurl.com/shikokho>.



*A.T. handing over a birthing kit from CCPC to the SWG and Clinic staff*

## **BY JUNE 2004, ANOTHER MISSION TEAM PREPARES TO VISIT**

Shikokho for two weeks to assess CCPC's support for the clinic and schools. The Shikokho community was also prepared. SWG had led the way for individual development project teams to organize under a newly created CBO called the Shikokho Community Development Group (SCDG). There was a surge of energy and commitment in the village. Even the younger leaders were organized and wanted to stay in Shikokho to play a role in this progress. CCPC's team included Phil English, Linda English, Duke McCall, CCPC Assoc. Pastor Steve Robertson, Louise White, Gretchen Donaldson, A.T. Miller and Jim Shelhamer. Rather than bringing supplies from the US, the team now purchases them in nearby Kakamega from a qualified pharmacy supplier there. And now there was a "Solar Guest House" built by Robai and

Jonathan Imbenzi where we could even debrief and read and write into the night.

## 2004 SCDG INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COMMITTEES

1. SMC – Shikokho Medical Clinic
2. SWG – Shikokho Women’s Group
3. SSS – Shikokho Secondary School
4. SPS – Shikokho Primary School
5. TREES – Training for Reforestation and Environmental Education in Shikokho
6. Heifer
7. Security Patrol
8. Crop Planting/Storing for hard times
9. Village Tourism
10. Orphan Feeding and Day Care – SSR (Shitoli Solid Rock)
11. HIV / AIDS mobile clinic and VCT
12. Well Water & Piping, Renovating 8 Springs
13. Electricity
14. Poultry raising
15. Faith Based Group – 5 denominations

Things had changed substantially since CCPC’s first visit in 1995. HIV / AIDS was rampant in the village and another wave of crime, typical in impoverished communities, was gathering steam. Women

and children were walking ever farther for firewood and water. To address these issues the SCDG teams were ready to share experience and seek guidance and support from the CCPC team. Most of the development committee leaders had sought training already or wanted training to keep their projects moving forward. Since the new Chief of the village, Fred Shikokoti, was a SSS alumni, and headed up the Security team, he too was determined to lead and assist Shikokho during this important next development phase.



*Dr. Jim and Isaac Lidonde with clinic staff and CCPC banner during the official opening of the Maternity Wing (talented CCPC member Elizabeth Herndon has made banners for CCPC for decades)*

By the end of the CCPC farewell ceremonies, proposals from each development committee had been evaluated, government grants written, and a number of small monetary “gifts of hope” were awarded to the strongest plans. These gifts included equipment for the volunteer security patrol, used laptops for the computer room, seedlings for the TREES project, start up plans for the Shikokho

Orphan Feeding and Day Care Program, and the official opening of the maternity wing and medical staff house with the local Member of Parliament, Dr. Boniface Khalwale. That Christmas, the original orphan feeding program “Mary’s Place” found in the village in 2004, was added to CCPC’s Gifts of Hope program.

Back at CCPC, the Mission Committee supported Gretchen to form the 2004 Mission Team into the **SHIKOKHO TASK FORCE**. The Task Force then became a separate committee under the guidance of the Mission Committee. After Gretchen’s membership on the Mission Committee for fifteen years, she then passed the Shikokho chair to Phil English. Bonnie Norman succeeded Phil and Joe Anderson joined as co-chair. The Chair of Shikokho’s Task Force still reports to the Mission Committee and attends monthly meetings to report on our Shikokho activities. Dr. Jim Shelhamer continues that role as chair since March 2014.

## **2005 BECAME A YEAR OF ELECTRIFICATION AND EXPLORATION FOR SHIKOKHO AND THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (FSD)**

Gretchen's nomination of Peter Khamusali to become FSD's Kenya

## **FSD INTERNS AND THEIR WORK WITHIN THE SHIKOKHO COMMUNITY**

- Anil Bhagarva – Shikokho International Program Coordinator
- Shanna Branciforte – Maternity Wing shower and toilet
- Elan Emanuel – Shikokho International Program Coordinator
- Shanno Fenney – SSS Literature classes
- Dawn Flandermyer – Reproductive Health Education at SMC
- Max Gatz – Water, sanitation and 15 pit latrines with SSR
- James Gipple – Computer literacy classes at SPS
- Marie Herve – Nelly- Computer Lab and classes at SSS
- Shaun Johnson – Water Mapping of area water resources
- Heather Kowaski – Personal Hygiene and Sanitation at SMC
- Lillian Langford – Library at the SPS and outreach speaker
- Ned Morgan – Smokeless stoves at the SMC
- James Ulrich – Water projects and spring renovation

coordinator, while she was guiding them to establish intern programs there, led to Peter making Kakamega the main FSD headquarters in Kenya, with Mombasa the second main site. This also means that FSD is often able to match interns and medical fellows to Shikokho and the surrounding area. Since 2005, over 200 interns have worked in Kenya through FSD – of all ages - and about 40% of these interns have had medical backgrounds (i.e., neuro-surgery, pediatrics, et. al.) or interest and course work in the medical fields. FSD fellows have worked in the following five medical centers near Shikokho: St. Elizabeth's Hospital Mukumu, Iguhu Hospital, Shibwe Health Centre, Musoli Catholic Hospital and the Shikokho Medical Clinic (SMC). Each intern proposes a project to FSD to receive a \$500 grant. Both the clinic shower/toilet rooms and the SPS library were built through this FSD grant process.

Also in 2005, Manuel de la Rocha (from Spain) visited Shikokho while he was living in Kenya, at the suggestion of Phil English, met Peter Khamusali, and began an excellent campaign to assist with a number of projects. Manuel coordinated funds from FOAA (Foundation for Orphans of Aids in Africa) to purchase four heifers to provide milk for the SSR feeding program and construct each cow a shed. He also organized a grant from APROEDI ([www.aproedi.org](http://www.aproedi.org)), which stands for

Support for Educational and Children Projects. This Spanish NGO greatly supplemented the water project budget for the community. Another Spanish NGO, Energy without Borders, sent a specialist to the village providing technical expertise for several projects related to energy generation, as well as support for the electricity initiative through Manuel's efforts. Now almost the whole village has power!



*Pointing to the electrical wires with Pastor Art. Electricity service has now come to Shikokho!*

## **2005 ELECTRICITY ARRIVES AND THE MISSION TEAM VISIT WITH CCPC PASTOR ART SUNDSTROM**

In October 2005, a mission team of Rev. Arthur Sundstrom, Bill Hadden, Rita Hadden, Louise White, Anne Louise White (Louise's daughter) and Jim Shelhamer journeyed to

### **TIME, TALENT, AND DETERMINATION**

Through the years CCPC has noted that the leadership positions in our 13 development projects in Shikokho are coordinated by many of the same people. When we seriously discuss this issue with SCDG leaders, we are met with the reality of what we at CCPC call “time and talent”. In Shikokho we would add the descriptive “educated determination” to the equation of how and why individuals end up being selected or self-selecting themselves to guide and invest their entire lives towards the betterment of a community - of “their” community in Shikokho’s case. With now about 200 families in the village proper, this is considered natural leadership aptitude in Shikokho. These types of individuals are looked up to, sought out for mentor relationships and ultimately partnered with for durations of longer length than we might be accustomed to. Many of these leaders have secondary education, university degrees, post graduate certificates or graduates degrees while the general population of Shikokho may not have the opportunity or funds to reach those higher skill levels. It may be a God-directed, special quality that gives an individual the attributes to: always push for more progress and involvement, or push for the best outcomes, or for an alternative positive way forward, or not to give up. Realistically, we note that over 100 people actually carry out our CCPC partner projects with a huge variety of local skill and knowledge, with networks to 100 more for help, and so on. Their work enhances the lives of well over 5,000 in the area. In the case of the clinic, it serves a walking population of about 30,000. If we choose to share this understanding, let us continue to believe that they will continue to do their very best to help their community as they have shown us for decades since our collaboration began there in 1989. Let us continue to raise their confidence in what they know they want and can accomplish and develop in Shikokho.

the village to celebrate the running of electrical lines to the village. In addition to a celebration of electricity, which included a visit by the Member of Parliament, Dr. Boniface Khalwale, Art worked with Pastor Kepher Shikuku and Bill and Rita charted age, height and weight of primary school students. Louise worked with the SSR feeding program and Anne Louise taught music and dance.



*Doctor Jim relaxing at the clinic before seeing patients*

**2007** was another interesting year for Shikokho and CCPC’s partnership. Mary Lidonde’s passing in December of 2006, and the start of her husband Isaac’s decline in health, provided both reflection and vigor in our work together. Electricity had come to Shikokho, after two years of constant contact and encouragement by Shikokho Task Force Chair, Phil English and the Electricity Committee in the village, in partnership with the Kenyan government. Because of that effort, all villages to and from Shikokho also have electricity! Doctori

Jim, as he was now called by villagers and Asievera, (Gretchen's Luhya name meaning "joyful doer" given to her by Mary Lidonde during the 2004 CCPC visit), were sent to Shikokho in January 2007 to evaluate the transition the village was going through. They found a new SSS principal, Charles Khayira, sewing machines running on electricity in the back room, St. Elizabeth Hospital in Mukumu willing to provide ambulance service to SMC, volunteer Security Patrol keeping crime out of Shikokho and teaching nearby villages to start their own patrols, four heifers named for CCPC members thriving, TREES program (**T**raining for **R**eforestation and **E**nvironmental **E**ducation in **S**hikokho) leaders as master of ceremonies at all formal events with all special guests officially planting trees, SSR orphan feeding and day care numbers rising quickly and SSR developing strategies for necessary growth.

## **2008 COMMEMORATED CCPC'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY AND TWO DECADES OF PARTNER- SHIP WITH SHIKOKHO!**

The atmosphere was "electric"... to see light bulbs on at night was significant. You could even get "a shave and a haircut" at the lean-to by the church! In August 2008, Gretchen Donaldson, Joel Grant, Ellen Jacknain and Jim Shelhamer traveled to the village to celebrate the progress and to celebrate Isaac Lidonde for his service

to the clinic. The main focus of the week together was preparing for and receiving the ambulance from St. Elizabeth's Hospital Mukumu to lead the day of HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, VCT referrals and vaccinations. The joy and care throughout the day was felt by all in the busy clinic. Meetings with the new District Medical Officer at Iguhu Hospital set future ties in motion; Senior Assistant Chief Fred Shikokoti (SSS grad) takes his team on the road continuing to establish other volunteer village patrols nearby; the Water Committee continues to renovate Shikokho's springs and begins to drill a new well to replace the dry one; SSR now feeding over 125 children daily; Peter visits CCPC ... and the Shikokho Guest House now has electricity! Our fond farewells and retirement party for Isaac Lidonde included the traditional fatted calf!



*Sr. Assist. Chief Fred Shikokoti (far left) and Security Group officers marvel at the CCPC solar flashlight donation from Eton Corporation*



*Isaac receiving the traditional retirement gift from SWG, the fatted calf*



*Peter Khamusali visits CCPC: Phil hosts meetings and planning sessions on our way forward*

## **2009 WATER IS LIFE - THE YEAR TWO SPRINGS WERE RENOVATED AND CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY BORE HOLE COMPLETED WITH GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

With electricity stabilized in Shikokho, Phil English, chair of our Shikokho Task Force, turned our CCPC focus to guiding the effort for clean reliable water in Shikokho. The eight local springs were in disrepair and roof runoff capture could not cover the amounts of water needed for clinic operations, school cooking, cleaning, drinking, laboratory in the

## **REALITY CHECK ON PERSONAL POVERTY ERADICATION IN SHIKOKHO**

Throughout most discussions an underlying sense of worker overload is noted. Each committee has worked so hard to organize development activities for the betterment of “the community”. At the same time, “personal poverty eradication” has not been openly discussed or addressed as an avenue for family and/or individual fulfillment. How much can a person do and how long can an individual give to help others without having a chance to help their own families? At Shikokho’s level of poverty, this reality is in their eyes ... is in their faces ... is in their body language. Is there a project investment we might consider, that could change the fact that most Shikokho residents still live on less than \$2 per day? And then, in 2011, came WMI (Women’s Microfinance Initiative). Another of God’s gifts towards a solution to Shikokho’s condition...

SSS and clinic, and orphan feeding program. Historically the school students and parents brought water to SSS from the eight nearby springs, especially before Saturday cleaning day. SWG members also historically carried water to clinic construction sites. Carrying water meant walking

over a kilometer with a full jerry can on one's head - a huge feat culturally assigned to females. All efforts were never enough. Since two older bore-holes had dried up or become difficult to maintain, the forty-member water committee in Shikokho and CCPC concentrated their efforts. By October 2010, they had raised enough money locally and internationally to drill the bore hole and purchase storage tanks. The project was also funded partially by a CCPC member family and partially by a grant from the National Capital Presbytery (Mission Coordination Committee). A water tower for two mounted tanks was raised and the first water pump and public tap was installed in July 2011, all on the public grounds of the SPS, and convenient to all four clans in the area. The completed subline of pipes will cover 6 km, and families can apply for a water meter to receive piping to their homes.



*The Water Committee visits a renovated spring*



*After a Water Committee meeting with CCPC, a group photo in front of the first two elevated water tanks in Shikokho!*

**UPDATE:** The water committee in the village remains busy and trying to expand. Demand has now soared past supply capability. One future entrepreneurial idea for the water committee is to construct a water bottling business to sell Shikokho water throughout the region. At this time the Shikokho water is basically available to the population within the distance it can be transported in cans by wheelbarrow, bike or motorbike and through the pipes. When the idea comes to fruition, it could be called "Shikokho Springs" or "Simply Shikokho". All agree the taste of Shikokho water is better than all comparable areas.



*Celia Garrity teaches SSS girls, computer use*

## **2010 VISITS FOCUS ON COMPUTERS AND “CROCS FOR KENYA”**

Dr. Jim Shelhamer visited the village in February to work in, supply the clinic, and check on the progress of the new water well. He noted that most of the children in Shikokho Primary School are without shoes. Now a year round collection program to provide another gift of hope (Crocs) is sent with each Mission Team along with the year round used eyeglasses collection. In August of 2010, Bonnie Norman, Chair of the Shikokho Task Force, and her children Celia and Chris Garrity, traveled to the village to set up a computer lab in the Shikokho Secondary School. They were able to place six desktop computers in a secure, dedicated room to allow students to have exposure to basic computer use. Dr. Kathy Anzick from Grass Lake Medical Center in Michigan and her daughter Eva Leventer also visited in 2010. Dr. Kathy saw patients and focused on women’s issues. Their work enhanced clinic administration with health education classes and reinvigorated SWG’s bag making project. In March of 2012, Bonnie again visited Shikokho with Rob Russo to observe the first WMI loan repayment day

celebration, as well as, advise SSR feeding program growth strategies; identify motor malfunctions of the water project mechanisms; upgrade clinic accounting software use; and meet with all the other community development groups.



*Pastor Molly and Pastor Kepher exchanging hymnals in 2011... pastor to pastor ... they shared so many spiritual moments together ...*



*Like the mustard seed, Cameron and his new friend plant their seedling, to check again on a future trip when it has grown.  
<http://www.cherychasepc.org/ministries/mission/shikokho-kenya-mission/#>*

## **2011 JULY MISSION TRIP BRINGS WMI AND WELCOMES CCPC'S NEW PASTOR, MOLLY BLYTHE TEICHERT TO SHIKOKHO**

and officially opens two SPS classrooms built to commemorate CCPC member Ginny Spevak. Ginny was a member of the first Mission Team to visit Shikokho in 1995

and became a vital cheerleader of primary education support for Shikokho. Her untimely death in 2008, engendered support for a special acknowledgement for her in the village. Members of this group included Molly Teichert, Cameron Donaldson, Gretchen Donaldson, Laura Godfrey and Jim Shelhamer. Music for the commemoration was organized by Cameron (Gretchen's 13-year-old son) who brought fifty donated recorder song flutes and music books to teach interested SPS students to play. As the "featured entertainment," the flutes were a unique addition to the drumming and dancing students' routines, and Reuben Aromba (SPS Deputy Principal) played a solo! Cameron's daily afternoon activity was helping the nurses in the pharmacy and wherever needed in the clinic. Cameron looks forward to assisting with future youth trips to Shikokho. This trip also marked the first time that Crocs donated by members of CCP (50 pairs) were delivered to the children at the feeding program.



*Robyn Nietert, President of WMI in Kakamega, with WMI and KWFT leadership reviewing bank loan terms and conditions*



*Anna first sold vegies, then printed scarves, now she has a shop on land she purchased herself!*

**THE BIG NEWS** this trip was the establishment of the **WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE INITIATIVE (WMI)** in the village [www.wmionline.org](http://www.wmionline.org). WMI is a Bethesda, Maryland based non-profit. Through Phil's guidance of Shikokho committee members Bonnie Norman and Sally Kelly, the WMI program was established in Kenya. Once again, the SWG spearheaded further women's development in the region becoming WMI's first Kenya site. After the introduction of the program during the 2011 trip, WMI was off and running with the first 20 business loans for women's businesses in Shikokho. By 2014, Sally joyously announced "after two years, Shikokho WMI has started the process of transitioning 45 borrowers with successful businesses ("graduates") to bank loans at the Kenya Women Finance Trust Bank (KWFT) in Kakamega, and the bank officials came to Shikokho to set it all up including training!" As of

2015, there are now over 100 female owned businesses in the Shikokho region and eleven SWG members are currently active at the bank in Kakamega, which is the hallmark of the program - successful small local loans get to qualify to be transferred to the bank.



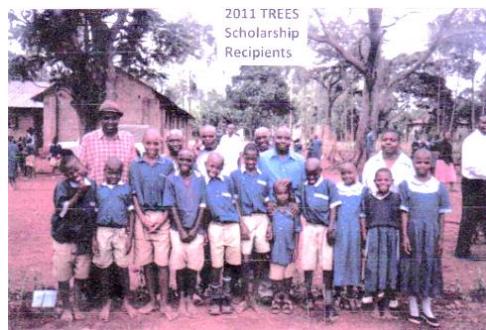
*Sally with the WMI leadership*

Also during the trip, CCPC welcomed a new nurse from the Ministry of Health to assist Dyphina (Sister in Charge and mid wife) and Millie (nurse aid) who have worked in the clinic for over a decade. Hezron Miheso, long time accountant for SWG and the clinic, was tapped to become the new clinic administrator - a position left vacant since Isaac Lidonde's passing in 2009. He and his wife Jennifer (one of the founders of SWG) also hosted the entire first CCPC delegation at their home in 1995. This trip, Jennifer was elected the first WMI Coordinator and currently manages Shikokho's WMI Hub activities (as a separate CBO named Chanuka) from their office in the clinic staff house. CCPC team member Laura Godfrey (teacher and

educational administrator from Colorado) met with SPS and SSS and was especially engaged with the Orphan Feeding and Day Care Program. Her initiatives and annual gift continue to highlight our CCPC support for the village orphans. Also during the visit, the village security patrol received an award and recognition as a national model. A visit to the computer center at the SSS shows advancement but without larger capital investment and a reliable internet connection, the computer center cannot fully develop. Government investment in school computerization has not reached the rural areas, so SSS and most villages must search for outside partnerships. To further manage water distribution to all the clans, the water committee continues to lay pipes throughout the area. TREES (Training for Reforestation and Environmental Education in Shikokho) announced their ingenious scholarship initiative to support education in Shikokho during this trip.

The “**TREES FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM**” plants seedlings for needy primary students who promise to take care of them until their maturity. At that time, the tall trees will be sold to provide funding for the students’ secondary education. Qualifying primary students assist the TREE nursery two days a month in irrigating, transplanting, and pruning other seedlings as well as their own tree. The **CCPC SHIKOKHO HISTORY PROJECT** was also kicked off during this trip. Tom Sulwe,

Chair of the History Department at SSS (and his student committee), Hezron Miheso and Gretchen volunteered to lead this effort to completion.



*The 2011 first cohort of SPS TREES Scholarship Recipients*

**"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in their field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."**

*—Matthew 13:31-32*

## INVENTORY OF PROJECTS

In December of 2011, Carolyn Johnson, Chair, of the Mission Committee and Joe Anderson, Co-Chair of the Shikokho Task Force, traveled to the village to collect detailed information on the function and effect of the main programs supported by CCPC in Shikokho. They interviewed families and businesses in the WMI program, assisted reporting at the clinic, and assessed the impact of the SSR feeding

program among other projects in the village. They even brought a projector for SSS education assemblies!

## 2013 MISSION TO SHIKOKHO

In January 2013, Elen Jacknain, Sally Kelly and Jim Shelhamer traveled to the village. Ellen worked with the SSR feeding program and organized the provision of 100 pairs of donated Crocs to the feeding program children with Jim. Sally was primarily involved in the Women's Microfinance Initiative and its continued growth in the region. Jim brought a new electrical centrifuge to the clinic, saw patients and restocked the pharmacy.

## CCPC'S INTERN TO SHIKOKHO,

Suzie Scanlan from Princeton University spent the summer in Shikokho assisting with WMI and the clinic. Joe Anderson went back to introduce her to the village leadership during initial meetings (photo below). Suzie's work resulted in her Senior Thesis, which studied the effect of the feeding program on student performance at the Shikokho Primary School.



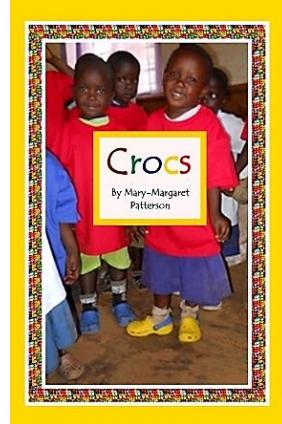
*(l to r) Hezron Miheso, Clinic Administrator; Suzie Gusingiru, SWG Chair; intern Suzie Scanlan, Joe, Peter and Edwin Napali, SSR Chair*

**2014 IS HIGHLIGHTED BY** the new children's book that tells the "Crocs for Kenya" story to benefit CCPC's Shikokho projects. For more information, visit:

<http://www.CrocsTheKidsBook.com>.

CCPC's "Crocs for Kenya" campaign launched three years ago, has inspired the children's book written by church member Mary-Margaret Patterson. CCPC families donate outgrown kids' shoes such as Crocs to be given to children without shoes in Shikokho. The just-published illustrated book is a "chapter book" designed for young readers and their families to relate to the lives and needs of children in the developing world. The story follows one pair of Crocs shoes from the church's donation pile to the feet of a boy in Shikokho, which leads to a surprising interaction. "Although the work is fiction, it is based on the actual distribution of shoes donated for Kenya in 2011 and 2013," Patterson says. Readers learn just how much a pair of outgrown rubbery shoes can mean to a child who has never before owned shoes of any kind. "I wrote this story so that children like ours living in American comfort and affluence could begin to understand not only the gulf between developing countries and life here in the 21st Century, but what individuals can do about it," she says. The 46-page paperback is illustrated with actual color photos taken by CCPC members and staff locally and on recent mission trips to Shikokho. It is available for purchase

during the Gifts of Hope Market days in Chadsey Hall, (and Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Crocs-Mary-Margaret-Patterson/dp/1500694312>)  
Great for Christmas and birthday gifts!



## **THE 2015 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE CCPC AND SHIKOKHO PARTNERSHIP BEGINS!**

Congratulations to Shikokho and CCPC! We have come a long way...

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SHIKOKHO IN 2015?**

In a word – **25TH ANNIVERSARY** ... Yes, we have reached such a benchmark in our CCPC Shikokho partnership! Unbelievable, who would have thought that a US church, a rural village women's group in Kenya, and the Kenyan Ministry of Health (MOH) would have continued Kenya's first trilateral relationship of its kind this long? Congratulations to us all! As we all now work to scale up the clinic with the MOH, the Shikokho model for rural clinics is in revival to become a

national model for medical standardization of its unique founding. During their mission trip in January 2015, CCPC's Gretchen Donaldson, Ellen Jacknain, and Dr. Jim Shelhamer, found the SWG enthusiastic to move forward with the MOH to standardize administration and services at the clinic, and the MOH committed to strengthening the partnership. With SWG's new Chair, Violet Muteshi (daughter-in-law of Robai and Jonathan Imbenzi), and 22 new youth members, they are consolidating their talents and plans for a bright future. Violet has been a member of the Nairobi SWG since before 1995 and met the first team to Shikokho there. The advent of electricity in 2005, supports necessary medical advances and related infrastructure. With over 100 women's businesses in the region through the **WOMEN'S MICRO-FINANCE INITIATIVE (WMI)**, established in 2011, most village development efforts contract with the local women's businesses to expand products and services in the area.



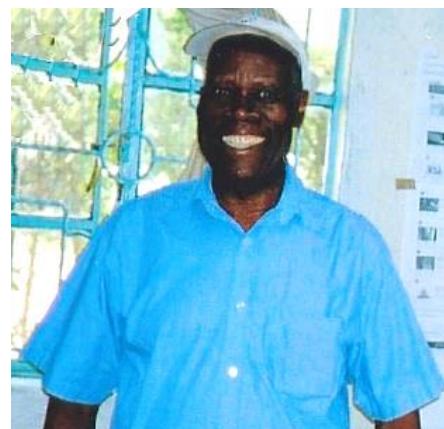
*... and Violet and Gretchen continued to listen and learn and guide the women's concerns together: debriefing, reassessing, and becoming friends ... SO MUCH TO DO SO LITTLE TIME TOGETHER ...*



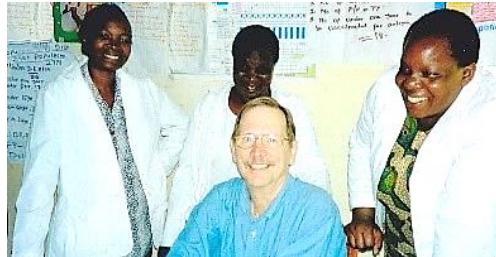
*Where we stay: From a local home, to a "solar guest house," to "electric guest house," to Violet and George's modern home for CCPC guests. Nothing could be sweeter than Shikokho's hospitality!*

## MISSION UPDATES

**CLINIC** The clinic was restocked with medicines and supplies purchased in Kakamega during the visit. While the team was there, visits to the Ministry of Health and area MOH clinics was started and will continue, to meet and share with related regional medical leaders and nurses. Clinic Administrator, Hezron Miheso has led the way for excellent transitional clinic services going forward.



*Clinic Administrator Hezron Miheso*



*(l to r) Susan Obed (lab tech), Dymphina Lokobe (Sister-in-Charge & mid wife), Doctor Jim (CCPC), Milly Namende (nurse aid)*



*Meeting with Dr. Godfrey Mutakha, Minister of Health, (standing 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) with six SWG representatives and six community representatives*

**SCHOOLS** Meetings were held with the principals of the primary and secondary schools to improve CCPC's process for awarding scholarships to deserving students, supplying school uniforms, and support of three volunteer SPS teachers. Secondary school CCPC scholarship students were interviewed to gain insight into their challenges and long-term plans. Big News – Shikokho Secondary School has a new principal, 30 boarding students and a bus available for all in the village to rent. SSS's greatest need? Lab renovation for SSS necessary for “practicals” (or labs) and final Kenya annual exams (chemistry, biology, physics). SPS's greatest need? Latrine renovation.



*l to r: SSS Leadership: Felix Lijayi, Secretary; Vitales Arunga, PTA Chairman; Josephat Shikonde, Principal; Tom Sulwe, Deputy Principal in front of the teachers housing bloc*



*A bus for SSS transportation and community group rental!*

**WATER** This group has been busy laying pipes throughout the region, as well as, strategically assessing supply and demand which varies monthly. Four local springs have been repaired and four more need to be repaired. Each spring has a sub-committee to care for it and report issues. The entire community is fully engaged in this effort both financially, and with volunteer labor for continued spring renovation and to bring running water to more homes in the village. Most of the main institutions are already being served.



*The Shikokho Water Committee*

**T.R.E.E.S.** stands for **T**raining for **R**eforestation and **E**nvironmental **E**ducation in **S**hikokho. This group plants trees for primary student telephone pole scholarships, produces new varieties of faster growing stronger trees, and runs a roadside mobile nursery. They continue to provide education programs at the schools regarding reforestation and fuel. Their project is now in three sites locally. Their original leadership of planting ceremonial trees at events in the village is spreading throughout the region.



*Tree and Tea seedlings for future planting*

**SHITOLI SOLID ROCK (SSR)** a busy outreach program led by local youth leaders, serves orphans in the area. SSR has three programs: feeding, day care, and medical care (provided by the clinic). The feeding program, which has over 140 registered primary school children, is funded through a portion of the monthly CCPC Hunger Offering and by donations through Gifts of Hope each Christmas. The day care program provides daily Pre-K instruction, snack and lunch to 50 children ages three to six. CCPC Crocs were distributed to 50 needy orphans this trip. This project has also become a model for nearby communities. Issues? Small outdated kitchen, the increasing numbers of children, and the rising cost of food.



*Finally, SSR has a roof over their heads for their classes and feeding generously provided by the Canadians*



*Celebrating 25 years together ... Hats off to Peter, Gretchen and Kepher*

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN SHIKOKHO

JULY 30, 2015

WITH CCPC MISSION MEMBERS

**JIM SHELHAMER AND GREG AND EMMA FUDGE**

In July, 2015, Greg Fudge, Emma Fudge and Jim Shelhamer traveled to work with the clinic staff, to assist with the feeding program and to participate in the 25th anniversary celebrations. Jim helped in the clinic. Emma and Greg distributed 100 pairs of "crocs" to the children in the day care and feeding program. They all reviewed the Shikokho Primary School needs. Emma also distributed soccer balls and Frisbees to the youth of the village. On July 30, they all participated in the community wide celebration of the partnership between the people of Shikokho and the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church.



Emma Fudge, at the Clinic gate, beside the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner



July, 2015 Mission Team, Jim Shelhamer, and Emma and Greg Fudge



Monument to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in front of the Clinic



Peter and Jim addressing the guests



SSS students join in with song and dance

## FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM FOUNDERS TEAM

*What the ebb and flow of development in Shikokho will never let us forget:*

### **ASIEVERA'S ANECDOTES** (Asievera means joyful doer) **AKA GRETCHEN'S GEMS**

The “**TREES**” committee actually began back in 1988, when I was first there. Since firewood is still the necessity for cooking in Shikokho, continuous tree planting is a must. I'll never forget what Florence, the committee co-chair said with such pride, “I've never had a reforestation training before”. As the environmental masters of ceremonies”, TREES members organize trees to be planted by all visitors at events with great fanfare. Few know that the revival of TREES in 2004 is based on my master's project in 1989 which grew out of SWGs original tree planting enthusiasm. Below are my favorite before and after photos of how it works: Mary Lidonde planting the first tree at the clinic in 2004 and what it looks like in 2015.

“**THE FLYING TERMITES**” – yes, they fly up out of the ground with just the right atmospheric pressure. Women grab them in their cloths and rush home to get them in a pot on the fire – a very nutritionally packed snack or addition to mealtime. Everywhere, children were on the ground hunched over a hole of the flying treats and putting them directly into their mouths alive! By the time I got home that day, Mary had a batch simmering on the fire. Excitement throughout the village for the rare treat was energizing for all the Lidonde family, and for me to try.

“**THE BRIDGE**” over the River Yala in Shikokho washed away decades ago. When I arrived in 1988, it was a dream of the village to get a replacement. The children walking to school from the other side of the bridge, swam across with their clothes in a neat bundle on their heads. When the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) promised to fix it, they rejoiced. But another decade later it was still not fixed. The SWG tasked me with finding out why. After a visit to the government Rural Access Road Program in Kakamega, staffed by Norad, the director and I found the bridge had been recorded “replacement completed” and added as finished to all maps – but the project money was not accounted for. It was finally built under village supervision, a year later.

“**SWG REVIVAL**” launched during the January 2015 CCPC visit is a tribute to our 25 years together. After the passing of Suzie Gusinjiru, SWG's long time chairlady, things fell apart. With a new chair and officers now in place, SWG has welcomed over 20 new youth members. Everyone is enthused about what their future holds for the clinic through a strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Health, and new beginnings for all their income generating projects and WMI. Current SWG projects include: Basket Making, Maize Trading, AirTime Trading, School Uniform Making, Table Banking, SWG Badge Making, Computer Training, and new ideas from youth members. A percentage of all proceeds will go to the clinic ... *If God brings you to it ... He will also get you through it.*



## PHIL'S FAVORITES: AKA PHIL ENGLISH'S MEMORIES

- 27 bags in Kenyatta airport; or is it 29?
- An old bus and too many hills.
- Peter: Buffalo, buffalo.
- A tight schedule derailed on the very first day.
- Suzy, leading the women's group in song and dance.
- Matumba, 8-4-4.
- First prize in dance for the primary school.
- Jambo. Habari. Asante Sana.
- Mary, her orphans and handicapped kids.
- A soccer ball made out of leaves.
- Lunches at 3:00 p.m.
- Prayers before dinner by the kitchen staff.
- After dinner meetings every night, all night.
- Secondary school latrines "in honor of A.T. Miller."
- Will Steve get the primary school latrines? Yes, he did!
- Gretchen's House.
- Phil teaching Form 1 secondary. They know who John Kerry is!
- Iyub, future star of Kenya TV.
- Pastor Kefa and electricity; wise beyond his years.
- Steve rushing off for the village Baraza.
- Baraza starting 2 hours late.
- Overwhelming gratitude. Long wish lists.
- Louise's boots: when is it going to rain?
- No rain until the big celebration on the last day.
- Showers from a pail.
- The Southern Cross. No light pollution in Shikokho.
- David.
- Mirembe. Busheri. Karina.
- Phil's schedule: we try again tomorrow!
- Duke: I feel like I'm on a World Bank mission.
- Planting our own trees.
- A homemade sign for TREES (Training for Reforestation and Environmental Education in Shikokho).
- Linda, skipping the maternity wing opening celebration to work on an AIDS proposal for Shikokho.
- Jim, skipping every meeting to be at the clinic.
- Gretchen, all choked up.
- Steve waiting to preach at 7:00 a.m.
- Steve, all choked up.
- Rude return to reality with Texans in Nakuru.
- Soon forgotten in the Garden of Eden that is Lake Nakuru.
- Linda: what bird is that, Richard?
- Steve boogying with the Maasai dancers.
- Maasai Mara: it just doesn't get any better! Or does it?
- Eight lions and lots of film. One cheetah and no more film...
- Everyone showering in Phil's room.
- We have become one!

## **MILA'S MUSINGS: AKA MILA AMBEHI** (Ambehi means one who is not as they appear) **AKA DR. ANDREW MILLER'S REMEMBRANCES**

**2010-2010-2010**

Soon after arriving at Shikokho in 1980, I spoke with some of the teachers as we thought about how we all might see each other in the future. In those days, it was common for Untrained Teachers (UTs) from the University (there was only one in Kenya at the time) to teach for a term or two during their breaks or the university closings. It was also true that international volunteers often came for about one year. With all the coming and going, we agreed that we needed a way to remember how to meet some time far in the future. We used the slogan “2010–2010–2010”. What it meant was that we were planning to meet on Kenyatta Day (the 20th of October, or 20/10) at twenty minutes past ten in the morning in the year 2010 at the statue of Jomo Kenyatta at the Kenyatta Conference Center in Nairobi. We thought that even though thirty years would be a long time, that was a physical landmark that would still be there! So everything about our future date combined in a simple slogan to remember.

We began reciting the slogan in 1980 to all of the students at various important occasions and reminding others as they joined Shikokho Secondary School as staff members, teachers, or students to remember 2010–2010–2010. It was then very amazing and rewarding to discover about thirty years later that over thirty people had remembered! I would have been very disappointed to end up alone at that statue after flying over from the US to see who would be there. Instead, a happy group assembled, and we gathered for pictures and remembrances, good stories, and fellowship at a hotel in Nairobi owned by a Shikokho old student. It is amazing to think that what at one time seemed so far in the future is now five years in the past! It is good to have lived to see the day and now have it as a memory.

### **SHIKOKHO SECONDARY SCHOOL'S FIRST BUILDING**

Late in 1980 we began plans for the secondary school compound, after the maize that was growing there for the primary school was harvested. That maize was important because local people had been suffering from the “*Nzala ya Kilo Kohe*” that year—a season of hunger. We measured the ground with Tito Masakhwi and Joram Khiranga for what is now the administration block, and looked into how to make “*cinva-ram*” blocks, which are composed of compressed mud mixed with cement. Perhaps many of you don’t know that under the plaster of that building, the blocks used to construct it are primarily made of mud that is not fired like bricks, but compressed with cement. However, I am getting ahead of myself.

First we dug the foundation. Many of the workers who constructed that building and carried the water to make the blocks were parents of students, including Tito and Joram, earning money to pay fees at the school. There was not a lot of money in the school at that time. After digging the foundation, we needed the rocks to make the foundation. One idea was that each student would bring one rock to school with them each morning and drop it into the foundation. At the time, the school had only 75 students altogether in forms I and II (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades). The first day, looking at that big hole with only 75 rocks in it was a bit discouraging, although I did not reveal my doubts. True to the *Harambee* spirit, over many days, weeks, and months, we came closer and closer to having an actual foundation of rocks on which to build. It was the students themselves who laid the foundation for Shikokho, in more ways than one!

## FIRST KENYA JUNIOR SECONDARY EXAM

Another way the foundation was laid that year was with the students sitting our very first exam, the Kenya Junior Secondary Exam for Form II (10<sup>th</sup> grade – KJSE) that was later stopped in 1981. When the results were announced for that first exam done at Shikokho Secondary, we discovered that we were the 2nd school in the entire province out of all schools who took the exam! This shocked the inspectors at the Ministry of Education offices in Kakamega, and so they sent an inspector to visit the school. That inspector walked right past the students learning in the old Cooperative Building and went as far as River Yala looking for something that resembled a secondary school that could be number two in Western Province. When he turned around and found us that afternoon, he was amazed. The tradition of academic excellence, also started by the students is the second element of the foundation of our first building.

## SHIKOKHO'S AWARD-WINNING MUSIC AND DANCE

The first time the choirs traveled to the national level in Nairobi, the students came by train. We had arranged to stay at a church compound in South B in Nairobi so that we could walk from the train station to there, and then from the compound to the Kenyatta Conference Center where the competitions were held. We did not have money to hire a vehicle, and we carefully planned the walk so that students would not have to be close to too much traffic. The plan was to use the fly-over bridge above the railroad to get to the conference center. What I had not anticipated was that many students were unfamiliar with stairs at that time. It is easy to climb stairs, but when we reached the other side, many students were very frightened about coming down, and had to turn around and come down backwards, almost crawling. Fortunately, we made it to the competition on time and received very high marks and many certificates. By the way, that first year when we went for the Provincial competition that was held in Kakamega, one student began to get off our vehicle in Khayega thinking that "This big place must be Kakamega!"

As a musician, I was very happy to discover that the place I had come in East Africa, Shikokho, was a place filled with music and talented singers, drummers, and dancers.

**DOCTARI'S DELIGHTS AKA DR. JIM SHELHAMER'S MESSAGE** – It is always a delight to see the children brought in on Vaccination Day, now every Friday. If one can point to one aspect of the clinic effort that may have a long standing effect, it would to me be the Vaccination Program.

## CCPC OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN SHIKOKHO SINCE 1989

### CURRENT PROJECTS - 4 MAIN AREAS

1. **HEALTH:** clinic, lab & maternity services, vaccination center, orphan feeding and daycare, HIV/AIDS mobile clinic & VCT, well water & pipes & repair of eight springs

2. **EDUCATION:** SSS, SPS, orphan pre-K classroom, adult education, secondary & community computer centers

3. **INCOME GENERATION:** sewing school uniforms, basket making & handicrafts, poultry raising, WMI, TREES and tea nursery, CROPS, village tourism, heifer project

4. **WELFARE:** electricity, security patrol, SWG, faith based partner projects with other villages

## **CONSTRUCTION AND LARGE PROJECT INVOLVEMENT:**

- Women's Microfinance Initiative (WMI) established in 2011. Shikokho has become the hub for over 100 successful businesses in the area
- Construction of Shikokho Medical Clinic (SMC) 1989-1995, Staff House (1998), Maternity Wing (2004) - all gained solar energy, and later electricity and running water
- CCPC Mission Trip to Shikokho to officially open the clinic with Kenyan Minister of Health - see commemorative plaque on outside entrance to clinic (1995)
- CCPC Youth prepare medical boxes for Mission group to take to Shikokho
- Medical supply purchases each visit to replenish clinic pharmacy and maternity birthing kit
- Purchase of solar panels in Nairobi for clinic operation during 1995 trip
- Construction of solar energy staff quarters 1996 – 1998 (the Kenyan government would supply two nurses if housing was provided for them)
- Construction of solar energy maternity wing 1999 - 2003
- 2002 CCPC Pentecost offering for Shikokho Secondary School textbook replacement (raised \$9,500), SSS completes CCPC Library on school compound to provide space for usage
- 2004 CCPC Mission Trip to officially open Maternity Wing and begin 13 additional projects, CCPC team takes medicines and educational supplies to village
- 2005 CCPC Mission Trip to renew projects

- 2006 CCPC assists in bringing electricity to Shikokho, transition from solar to electricity
- 2007 CCPC Mission Trip to renew projects, CCPC begins inclusion of Shikokho orphan feeding program in Hunger Offering each month, CCPC receives \$5,000 from Presbytery and anonymous gift for future well water construction project
- 2008 CCPC Mission Trip to celebrate retirement of clinic founder and lab tech, Isaac Lidonde, and renew district medical relationships and HIV/AIDS programs, CCPC team brought centrifuge & medicines to clinic, converted fridges to electricity
- 2009 well water construction and renovation of eight springs underway

## **GIFTS OF HOPE**

Annual Christmas Gifts of Hope Market sends scholarship contributions for SSS & SPS students and teachers, orphan feeding and day care, as well as occasional contributions for women's businesses of WMI, mosquito nets, and bicycles for transportation (Shikokho has become a well-known educational/medical/entrepreneurial center, as a result of this annual effort.

## **INDIVIDUAL & GROUP COLLABORATION**

- CCPC youth member takes donated song flutes and music books to Shikokho and organizes primary school music education
- CCPC members donate a projector for SSS classroom and assembly programs
- CCPC members host dinner fundraisers in their homes for WMI women's businesses in Shikokho

- CCPC family donates, installs and trains SSS teachers and students on four desktop computers and printer in SSS computer center
- CCPC member receives donated bike trailers, wind-up radios and solar flashlights to take to village
- CCPC member makes a liturgical stole for Pastor Molly to present to Pastor Kepher in Shikokho
- CCPC members donate cameras, laptop computers, electric microscope, lab coats & medicines
- Shikokho receives volunteers regularly through FSD – Foundation for Sustainable Development
- Shikokho villagers gave CCPC giraffe wall hanging – now hangs in CCPC conference room
- CCPC member Ginny Spevak's sewing group provides lap blankets for maternity wing at clinic
- CCPC member made 2 wall hangings representing CCPC women and SWG collaboration for the clinic and maternity wing – both hang in clinic waiting room
- SWG members gave painting of African women to women of CCPC – hangs in Chadsey Fellowship Hall
- CCPC members collect used eyeglasses year round for clinic eye care
- CCPC members collect used Crocs shoes year round for village orphans
- CCPC members donate used books for reading in clinic waiting room
- Several CCPC Women's Circles send gifts and scholarship contributions
- CCPC Hunger offering provides funds to support the orphan feeding program each month and earlier to establish a rabbit project for SSS animal husbandry club
- Several Pentecost offerings are shared with Shikokho Medical Clinic
- CCPC youth groups donate towards scholarships for Shikokho Secondary School (SSS) and Shikokho Primary School (SPS) students
- CCPC members sent contribution to purchase lab supplies and clinic cell phone
- Peter & Julie Combes Bible Class maintains clinic refrigerator - first solar generated and now electrified - (SMC becomes a registered vaccination center as a result of this fridge contribution and maintenance)
- CCPC Mission council sent contribution to repair Posho mill (corn grinding mill - used for staple daily dish called "ugali")
- CCPC member provides SWG with 20 copies of her edit of CEDPA's (Centre for Development and Population Activities) manual for "Women Leaders in Kenya: A Legacy for the Future"
- CCPC member regularly sent used manual sewing machines and manual typewriters to Shikokho before electricity
- Shikokho Women's Group (SWG) received contract to sew school uniforms for SPS & SSS students as a result of this sewing machine contribution
- CCPC contribution to cover salaries for 8 clinic staff (not covered by Kenyan government)
- CCPC member sent box of toothbrushes
- CCPC members purchase SWG crafts to raise money for Maternity Wing construction
- CCPC member donated artistic prints for maternity wing walls

- CCPC member made baptism gift for purchase of birthing kit for maternity wing
- CCPC member organized senior citizens to make blankets for clinic
- United Nations Association of the National Capital Area recognizes CCPC and SWG for outstanding contribution to health and human rights - certificate hangs in clinic
- CCPC hosts numerous visits by Andrew Miller; Anne Khasiani, SWG Secretary; and Peter Khamusali to receive updates on our work in Shikokho

### **CLINIC INPUTS:**

**One time:** Electric wall outlets and light fixtures added to all clinic rooms, including delivery room, sewing room. Sinks with reliable running water added to exam rooms

**From time to time:** Medicine, equipment, furniture as needed, supplies (linens, pillows, brooms, mops, buckets, trash cans, cleaning supplies, notebooks for records, poster board)

### **NOTE ON THE PASSING OF JONATHAN IMBENZI**

**As this history goes to print, we are saddened by the passing of Jonathan Imbenzi on May 30th, 2015. His leadership and hospitality throughout our partnership will always be remembered.**



*Gretchen with Jonathan and his two brothers (Musa and Isaac)*

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit the Shikokho display in CCPC's conference room and contact:

Chair Shikokho Task Force, Dr. Jim Shelhamer, [jshelhamer@cc.nih.gov](mailto:jshelhamer@cc.nih.gov) or Founder & Chair *Emeritus* Gretchen Donaldson, [gretchen.donaldson@comcast.net](mailto:gretchen.donaldson@comcast.net)

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## PHOTOS OF CCPC MISSION TEAMS 1995 - 2015



**October 1995:** Lib Brannon, Marjorie Cashion, Jan Conner, Gretchen Donaldson, John Donaldson, Julie Haifley, Polly Hawver, Paul Kress, Ellen Lee, Ellis Roberts, Dr. Roger Ruckman, Ginny Spevak and Fred Stork with clinic staff, SWG, and village leaders



**June 2004:** Gretchen Donaldson, Linda English, Phil English, Duke McCall, A.T. Miller, Assoc. Pastor Steve Robertson, Jim Shelhamer and Louise White with village leaders and staff



**October 2005:** Bill Hadden, Rita Hadden, Jim Shelhamer, Louise White, Pastor Art Sundstrom, and Anne Louise White (Louise White's daughter)



**August 2008:** Joel Grant, Ellen Jacknain, Gretchen Donaldson and Jim Shelhamer



**July 2011:** Gretchen Donaldson, Cameron Donaldson, Pastor Molly Blythe Teichert, Jim Shelhamer, and Laura Godfrey



**January 2013:** Ellen Jacknain, Jim Shelhamer, and Sally Kelly



**January 2015:** Gretchen Donaldson, Ellen Jacknain and Jim Shelhamer with SWG, Clinic staff and volunteer community health workers



**July 2015:** Jim Shelhamer, Greg Fudge, and Emma Fudge

# **THE A.T. MILLER FRIENDS SCHOOL SHIKOKHO HISTORY PROJECT**

**A HISTORY OF THE SECONDARY  
SCHOOL, THE COMMUNITY  
AROUND THE SCHOOL, DONORS  
AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**WRITTEN BY THE SHIKOKHO  
HISTORY TEAM 2011**

**BY:**

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MUKASIALI LINDAH  
VIKATSI CETRIC  
MUTUKA CAROLYNNE  
MUHANJI SAMMY  
ODANGA EPHRAHIM—CHAIR,  
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**WEKONGO SULWE TOM—  
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY AND DEPUTY  
PRINCIPAL**

**SPONSORED BY: WEKESA  
THOMAS—PRINCIPAL**

**A DEDICATION TO GOD THE  
ALMIGHTY AND ALL THE GOOD  
FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL**

**EDITION 2012  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

## **INTRODUCTION**

A.T. Miller Friends School Shikokho has undergone several phases since its inception. After being founded, it grew and developed with a lot of vigor to enviable heights. Then dark days set in and it looked like they were not willing to go. Like a sick human being, the school looked sickly.

The confidence of people and the enrollment hit low levels, the academic standards were not spared. And yet, don't we still need such depression? Today the school is experiencing a spell of relative peace (for good or not for good) It has therefore, become necessary for any future development to be guided hence, by a strategic plan.

The plan has both brief historical and geographical facts about the school. The success of those implementing the plan will depend on whether they are visionary.

Underlying all this work is the fact that the A.T. Miller Friends Secondary School Shikokho is a giant lying unnoticed, hence our guiding **VISION: TO CREATE A SHINING  
AND MODEL INSTITUTION OF  
LEARNING.**

## **ABOUT THE SHIKOKHO HISTORY PROJECT**

Under the leadership and guidance of Tom Sulwe, Chair of the Department of History and Deputy Principal at the Shikokho Secondary School, a team of top history students have conducted interviews with SSS, village, and regional leaders, as well as conducted in depth historical research. Hezron Miheso originally suggested the idea at a meeting with all the community leaders during the 2011 CCPC visit. Hezron represents Shikokho on the team and has provided the community history. A.T. Miller has edited the final document for accuracy. Gretchen Donaldson represents CCPC on the history team and has provided the CCPC Shikokho partnership history. Future CCPC member inspired projects not mentioned in this history include: a “Community Service Career Day” at SSS, bringing dental services to SMC and a fully equipped computer classroom to SSS. Background information booklets on the computerization and dental efforts can be found on the Shikokho display in the CCPC conference room. It is our hope that with visits from President Obama, President Clinton and Secretary of State Kerry this year, Kenya's history and struggles will be examined for a peaceful and positive way forward.



As an academic institution, our core business is the student, therefore, our MISSION is:

**TO MOLD A STUDENT WHO WILL ATTAIN AT LEAST A MINIMUM UNIVERSITY ENTRY AT THE END OF FOUR YEARS OF LEARNING.**

To realize this, we strictly and purposefully use our MOTTO:

**DISCIPLINED AND DETERMINED TO EXCEL**

## **HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL**

### **LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL**

The A.T. Miller Friends School Shikokho is a district (coed) day school for secondary students. It is located in Kakamega South in Western Province 18 kilometres southeast of Kakamega town, situated along the Malinya-Eregi-Chavakali road, and, specifically, it's only three kilometers from Malinya town, the Headquarters of a newly-created Kakamega South District.

### **FOUNDATION OF THE SCHOOL**

The A.T. Miller Friends School Shikokho was founded in 1979 by the community in collaboration with the Quaker church to provide secondary education for boys and girls from the community who could not afford fees in boarding schools.

Soon after, the missionary teacher, Glen Darbyshire, came in 1979-1980

and A.T. Miller 1980-1988. A.T. Miller is majorly responsible for the growth of the school.

Apart from sponsoring many students, he raised many children from the village academically. He also introduced the school to Grace Lutheran Church and Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church who up to now give scholarships to bright needy children.

The start of self-help groups such as the Shikokho Women Group, the Shikokho Medical Clinic, the school farm, a water borehole and an electricity project has uplifted the living standards of the community and hence strengthened access to education by children of the community.

Missionary teachers still come to school and have assisted in teaching, equipping the library, laboratory and other parts of the school. These teachers have assisted in many ways and include Klaas Van't Veld, David McSpadden, Charles Price, Stephen Stein, Katie Whitney, Carrie Faszholz, Malcolm and Susan Campbell, David and Suan Habel, Jeanne Ann Chapman, and Isaac Zones. Other notable contributors to the success of the school include Gretchen Donaldson. All these and previous as well as present heads have all made very important contributions.

The immediate environment is occupied by small-scale peasant farmers. A few plant tea and coffee as cash crops but on a small acreage that is uneconomical. Maize, beans and at times bananas are planted for subsistence purposes. Therefore, poverty is rampant in the immediate environment. Access to education is limited by the inability to pay fees.

Academically, Shikokho Secondary was prominent from the beginning, taking second position in Western Province the first time the Kenya Junior Secondary Examination (KJSE) was sat in 1980. Over many years, performance fluctuates but is generally above average. Notable years of excellence were 1993 and 1995 when they appeared on the national map among the district schools that performed well country-wide.

However, the school continued to perform well in the consequent years. In the year 2006, the school produced the top candidate who competed favorably in the nation.

In the year 2008, the school was noted to be the most improved school in discipline and academic excellence for which it received a trophy.

The school also recorded the highest number of university qualifiers in 2009 where the number rose to four, matching the highest number

achieved in the 1990s. In the same year the school dropped in national rank, though it competed favorably district wise, where it was recorded to be the best district school in the district. The school however slightly improved in 2011 when five students qualified for direct university courses. The school had two girls and three boys joining various universities and during 2012 the best grades were two A minuses. This shows the school has the potential to do much better.

Shikokho has students who have different talents when it comes to co-curricular activities such as soccer, athletics, drama, dance, music, hockey, volleyball, netball and scouting. Drama began to show up actively in the year 2008 when the late Mr. Justus Akhonya, Deputy Principal at that time, registered a remarkable improvement, where the school competed up to the provincial level. Throughout the 1980s, Shikokho had choirs and individual student musicians, along with dance performances winning trophies at the District, Provincial, and National levels. The school musicians regularly performed on important public occasions at stadiums and rallies. In 1990, one student even qualified for the university in music. Scouting also has a good record of merit as it went up to national level in the years 1985 and 2009. These were the

greatest achievements in co-curriculum activities.

On the other hand, soccer is not left behind. The school competes favorably up to the District level where it produces some of the best players. Most of the students, especially footballers who have passed through this school, have excelled well in the larger community. All these activities have made the school famous. For several years, the boy's hockey team was represented at the District and Provincial levels.

From a humble beginning of very few students, the school has grown into a population of over six hundred and twenty students. It was initially located at the local co-operative buildings. It has grown into a three streamed school, with our form ones being in four streams with a library, a laboratory, and a dining hall which had just been completed. Most of the work of infrastructural development was done by A.T. Miller at the time of his headship.

## **ROLE OF HARAMBEE**

### **INTRODUCTION TO HARAMBEE**

Harambee is a Kiswahili slogan, which means pulling together or working together. It is a call for hard work. People are expected to contribute voluntarily by way of

money, labour or material-towards development projects. *Harambee* later became a cost sharing strategy through which people supplemented government efforts in the development of the country.

### **ORIGIN OF HARAMBEE**

The word *Harambee* was popularized by the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the first President of our country, who made it the national motto in 1963. He aptly advanced it as unity in all causes of national integrity and human progress, through economic independence and the value of all contributions towards this end.

The origin of the principle is embedded in the African traditions and practices where community spirit and communal work were highly valued. This traditional sense of unity is what influenced Mzee Kenyatta to note in a statement included in sessional paper numbers. “Let all the people of our community and country roll up their sleeves in the spirit of self-help to create the true fruits of *uhuru* independence. This is what we mean by *harambee*.”

*Harambee* is founded on the spirit of mutual social responsibility and is indeed African socialism in practice. This spirit has provided the guiding principle for national development as it has acted as a mobilizing force

which chooses the people of Kenya together to achieve a common goal.

The *harambee* spirit embodies ideas of assistance, joint efforts, mutual social responsibility and community self-reliance. It has provided Kenyans with the drive for cooperation between individuals and communities. In fact, its application today has been realized in collective building of houses in the neighbourhood, harvesting, irrigation, building of schools, hospitals, churches and raising of funds for other social needs.

### **HARAMBEE IMPLIED FREEDOM AND HARD WORK - *UHURU NA KAZI***

Various *harambee* projects called upon people to contribute money, materials, labour or even ideas. For example, communities initiated *harambee* secondary schools while the Government supported such initiatives by posting qualified teachers to those schools inspired by the community development of self-help. This is what happened at Shikokho.

### **DEVELOPMENTS DUE TO HARAMBEE**

Due to unity, it brought about co-operation among the Shikokho community members before they settled down for a common project to start the school. This unity helped them to cooperate without suspecting each other. The

community members came together to start a school due to a number of reasons. First there was a need for the young generation at that time to get education. Second the community started the school due to competition with other communities. Finally, other schools were not easily accessed by children in the area.

The idea of establishing Shikokho Secondary School started around 1975. Due to harambee, a few classrooms were built which could accommodate a few students for the year 1979. When the number of students increased there was need for more classrooms to be constructed. The growth of the school was aided by the harambee spirit which was spread by politicians like Mr. J.J. Mugalla who was a Member of Parliament for Ikolomani Constituency and M.J.M. Shiamalla, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

These funds were used to construct more classrooms, a laboratory, latrines and a water supply. The construction of a dining hall twenty years later, which was recently completed, was as a result of this harambee spirit.

## **DONORS AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS**

The Shikokho Secondary School has many students and the majority of

them come from humble family backgrounds. Hence, most of the parents cannot raise the money required to run the school. Luckily enough the school receives money using different channels. One of them is through bursaries. The school has two main bursary donors, which are widely known. The two bursaries are Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church and Grace Lutheran Church in the US. Students who benefit from the bursaries are from the Ikolomani community.

The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church sponsors those students who are hardworking, disciplined and needy students, with special focus on the education of girls.

Grace Lutheran Church sponsors students based on merit from the primary position one and two in KCPE examinations and this has made the school to get bright students from primary schools.

The school also gets bursary funds from the government through the constituency development funds. The majority of students who are needy and hardworking benefit from this support. This is a great initiative where by some of the money paid relieves the parents and guardians of the burden of paying school fees.

Apart from the named bursaries we also have the Compassion International organization which spon-

sors children across the whole country. Their main aim is to relieve children from poverty. The Shikokho Secondary School also has those students who benefit from this sponsorship.

We also have those individuals who have their own bursaries that cater for other students in the school.

The prime example is Peter Khamusali who pays fees for some few students who are bright in academic excellence. Recently in 2010, we had an individual known as Eva Leventer who came to visit the school and she took her initiative to sponsor ten girls. This showed that she was concerned with girl child education. Dr. Peter Bukhala, the current Board of Governor chairman, also pays fees for the top students. He pays for the top boy and girl in the school.

The school has some partnerships that play a big role in developing the school, an example is Shikokho Women's Group.

### **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

The entire Shikokho community has participated extensively in a variety of development projects as a way of improving on their living standards, investing their money and promoting peace and unity among the people.

Among the projects they largely indulge in are:

- Heifer project
- Hen project
- Tree planting
- Pigs/sheep projects
- Water project

**HEIFER PROJECT** started existing in the mid-1980s. The people were influenced by A.T. Miller who introduced them to some community based projects in the area. The project was managed by the members of the organization who contributed capital for its existence. The organization did not get funding from other sources. The milk produced from the cattle kept was sold to the community at fair prices. The heifers produced were fed properly thereby increasing in good number. They used herbs in treating them when they got sick. The income produced was used to purchase animal feeds, drugs and money was distributed among members. It benefited the community with supply of milk.

**THE TREE PLANTING PROJECT** intensified strongly in the community since they took it as an easy project to manage and maintain. It was begun by two people who run the project for a half a year before others joining. This project did not require extensive capital but labour was the most resourceful input at the time.

Trees which were planted were cypress and eucalyptus. The seedlings were sold to other neighboring communities at a cheap price. Tree planting has created good environment in the area. Cypress trees were used in fencing the school, hence making a permanent fence.

The community has actively participated in **PIGS/SHEEP FARMING**. This was also formed by a small group of people and others joined them later. Registration fees were charged together with a membership fee. Pigs were not simple and easy to manage. This was the main source of capital to the organization. The pigs were obtained at the Mukumu Catholic Church where the project was done on large scale. They used the money collected to purchase the feed from the moment to cater for their pigs. They were kept until large enough to source high prices in the market. They attained weight of almost 200kg which brought a lot of income. The organization started depreciating due to poor leadership. They misused funds and the little money that remained was shared amongst the members.

**WATER PROJECT** was another project organized by the Shikokho community, Shikokho Secondary and primary schools, the church and the clinic. This issue of water has been affecting the people of Shikokho for a long period of time. People used to walk for a long

distance looking for water. This issue of a water project was majorly sponsored by the well-wishers from USA. The water has gradually benefited the community since now they can access it.

The Quaker church and Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church also formed a **DAY CARE PROJECT** with an aim of giving assistance to orphans who learn at Shikokho Primary School. The church contributions are the main factor for existence of this project. The Shitoli Solid Rock organization is the project leader and teachers identify the needy children whose parents died. This service provides lunch for the pupils encouraging the focus on education. This service also provides nursery education to young children waiting to be admitted to standard one.

Other popular activities are an organization of **GITAH DANCE** for entertainment of people in the functions they hold in Idakho communities. People are concerned with the hiring fee for entertainment.

The school also has **FOOTBALL CLUB**, for boys and girls, **VOLLEYBALL**, **DRAMA AND DANCE** for both boys and girls.

## **HISTORY OF THE QUAKER FRIENDS CHURCH**

The church was established as a result of missionaries from USA. The missionaries visited Kaimosi in early 1902. They had an idea of establishing a mission station at Kaimosi. This was to help spread gospel to Africans who by then were practicing traditional culture.

In 1902 several missionaries came to Kaimosi. Some of those who contributed to the establishing of the church at Kaimosi are as follows.

### **1. FORD**

His main work at Kaimosi was to spread the gospel. He was therefore a preacher. His preachings converted many Africans from their traditional ways to Christianity.

### **2. KELLUM**

He was the Head of education. Through his work he tried to access education for Africans. He did this by introducing formal education. Besides education Kellum also taught farming. He introduced new methods of farming and new crops. He also gave new ideas of building Shikokho Secondary School.

### **3. HOLLY**

He was specialized in technical skills. He therefore dealt with technical work while at Kaimosi. He taught

several skills such as masonry, carpentry, etc. However, depending on the interests of Africans and their way of understanding, Holly mostly concentrated on carpentry. He eventually built a workshop at Kaimosi near the River Igologoli.

### **4. BANDI**

Other than being a medical doctor, he also taught African graduates from the mission school who later became doctors. As a result, Bandi examined the African way of life and this prompted him to expand his medical work not only at Kaimosi but also outside Kaimosi. He therefore came up with an idea of building a hospital at Kaimosi and Lugulu. His plans succeeded and he managed to build the two hospitals, one at Kaimosi and the other one at Lugulu.

## **REASONS FOR THEIR COMING**

1. Mainly to spread the gospel to Africans. They felt better by having their mission station at Kaimosi.
2. To teach how to write and read. This triggered their plan of starting formal education and eradicating informal education. However not all Africans agreed to follow the formal education.
3. To teach technical skills to Africans who were not interested in learning formal education. These were taught

technical skills. This was to help them participate in something which could earn them a living.

4. Teach farming practices to Africans. Africans were taught several ways of farming such as large scale farming to increase food production which was by then a great threat to the Africans.

Missionaries at Kaimosi realized that Africans at the far end were not benefiting although they were eager to know more from them. They therefore decided to move from place to place as they spread the gospel and each and every thing they did in Kaimosi. In 1903 they decided to move to Lirhanda and John Lumwachi was the presiding clerk at Lirhanda. They settled at Lirhanda for one year and established a church. They were friendly to Africans and therefore converted many from their old way of culture to the western culture. As they moved from one mission station to a new place they feared that Africans left behind would turn back to their old way of life. They therefore decided to be leaving one missionary at each and every station they settled. On leaving Lirhanda they therefore left a missionary by the name Hole who was expected to struggle to retain the Africans at Lirhanda in Christianity. They then moved to Malava where they settled for one year. They eventually left Malava after having

built a church and converted some Africans to Christianity.

In 1904 they moved to Lugulu. By then Peter Wanyama was the presiding clerk. They converted many Africans who were around Lugulu and taught them western culture. They continued with their movement from place to place building more churches and converting many Africans.

In 1920 John Lumwachi who by then was at Lirhanda separated the Isukha and Idakho people. The Isukha people remained at Lirhanda with Hole and Idakho people were sent to Musingu. Through the help of the missionaries, they succeeded to build a church at Musingu. None of the missionaries was left to settle there. However, the missionaries visited the place occasionally to examine how Africans were prospering.

The same year 1920 a few people were sent from Musingu to go and start a village church at Shikokho. This group was led by Samuel Ashiundu. Those who came at Shikokho were called local Christians. Some of them are as follows:

1. Samuel Ashiundu - He was a presiding clerk at Shikokho village church
2. Joseph Napali - He was vice presiding clerk. He worked well with his senior Samuel Ashiundu

3. Elijah Shikhondi - He was the treasurer. Besides this he was also assigned to be in charge of the bell. This enabled them to keep time which was an important aspect.
4. Stephen Anyolo - He was the secretary. He was also a preacher. He was the one who other than preaching in the church went around to other Africans and trying to convert them into Christianity.
5. Saul Luhombo - He was a member and actively participated in church functions.
6. Jacob Mwinamo - He was a member. He also assisted in the smooth running of the services.

Beside the above named, we had other members who assisted in various occasions such as providing labour in case it was needed.

The Christians at Shikokho lived together by then. They usually worked together as a family. Their spirit of hardwork made them to build a mud house from where they conducted their service.

Christians used to stay together because.

1. They preached the word of God together.
2. They taught Africans how to keep time.

3. They taught them how to read, write and interpret the Bible.
4. They taught Africans how to conduct funerals in Christian ways.
5. They taught Africans to say yes if it is yes and no when it is no.
6. They taught them new ways of farming.

They started to build a mud church in Shikokho in the year 1920. Village meetings were also opened at Shikokho village Friends church.

In 1925, the Christians decided to start branching the Friends church into other villages. This was to reduce the fear of long and tiresome journeys for Africans who came from far places. They complained of walking for long distances from their places to Shikokho. They were now becoming tired and almost giving up to attend the services. Due to many complaints from Africans, Isaiah Shitsuni was sent to build a church at Iluya.

At Iluya by then, people were very few in the church. Most of the Africans around found it difficult to join the church. Therefore, this gave Isaiah a difficult task to perform. Therefore, Elijah Shikhomoli was sent to assist Isaiah Shitsuni at Iluya. The church at Iluya became famous as other Africans joined them.

In 1930 the Christians at Shikokho decided to have another branch at Shirumba village. They then sent Saul

Luhombo to start a Friends church at Shirumba. He therefore started by building a mud church at Shirumba.

In 1940, Aibu Adiva was given a task to go and build a church at Ibwali. This was to reduce the fear in Christians who came from far places. The Africans who travelled for long distances always complained of reaching the church late. Therefore, Christians from Shikokho decided to distribute people in different ways to build churches.

In 1945, David Anyolo was chosen to be the presiding clerk of Shikokho Friends church. He served for five years after which in 1950, Debla Lugushi replaced him. She also served for another five years and later, in 1960, Roda Baraza was chosen to serve in her position.

Roda Baraza served as a presiding clerk for quite a long period of about ten years. In 1970, Festo Lifwakhala was chosen to replace Roda Baraza.

In 1973, Thomas Lung'ahu who was by then the superintendent of Kaimosi was sent to open a monthly meeting at Shikokho.

In 1988 Festo Lifwakhala was sent to build a church at Mudondo village. He accepted the task and to convert the Africans at Mudondo to Christianity.

In 1990 Julieta Lumwagi was chosen to be the presiding clerk at Shikokho church. He served for ten years after which Musa Shitambasi replaced him as from 2000 to 2003 from then the church has undergone several developments until now when it is fully established.

### **OTHER EUROPEANS WHO CAME AS TEACHERS**

In 1979, Glen Dabyshire came as a teacher at Shikokho secondary. He served as a principal for nine months. He later left in 1980, leaving A.T. Miller in his position as principal.

A.T.'s developments in the school attracted many students who came to be admitted in the school. His effect in the school is being felt up to now through his occasional visits to the school. He also offers some bursaries to the school through several organizations. This has also added fame to the school. It has contributed to the attraction of many students from far places.

In 1988 Gretchen Donaldson came to Shikokho to work with the SWG. Later her church, CCPC, built a dispensary. She also brought in some doctors, who besides treating they were also teaching Africans how to treat patients.

## **HOW THE CHURCH RELATED TO THE SCHOOL**

The Friends church is the sponsor of the school.

The students of the school's Christian Union also use the church for their services.

The church has contributed much on the project of bringing water to the school. This had been a great threat to the smooth running of the school activities.

The church assists in guiding and counseling of our students. They enhance the provision of early education to young children before joining primary schools.

Through the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, donors from USA provide material things such as uniform clothes and shoes to poor families.

## **HOW THE CHURCH RELATES TO THE COMMUNITY**

The church has cooperated in solving the problem of scarcity of water in the community. This has been achieved through cooperation of the church members and the community.

The church has also contributed much in planting trees around the church compound. This has contributed to the attraction of

rainfall and also control of soil erosion.

The church has cooperated in training some Christians who eventually become pastors, such as pastor Kepher Shikuku who is currently serving at the church and is a graduate of the secondary school.

By now the church is well known through occasional participation in seminars and conferences outside their home ground.

## **THE CLANS SURROUNDING IDAKHO**

Shikokho belongs to the Idakho community consisting of many neighboring clans to the school. The Idakho people are a sub-community of the large Luyha tribe.

The Idakho land generally is strategically centrally positioned among neighboring sub groups since the people of Idakho feel close to and in touch with their neighbours. The group over time has expanded in terms of population increase due to a number of reasons. Despite the increased population Idakho is enjoying slightly larger parcels of land compared to other Luhya groups to the south, but much smaller plots when compared with those to the north and west.

The Idakho individuals have many times related with their neighbouring communities in many ways. They

share land boundaries with Isukha and Maragoli. They frequently intermarry with these two groups.

The road between the primary school and the secondary runs through the center of Idakho, as does the Malinya-Eregi Road passing by the secondary school. The crossing of the Iguhu-Isulu and Eregi-Malinya roads at the secondary school defines the center of Idakho. Many go for their shopping at one centred in Malinya.

Idakho people have developed their community through many projects that they have come out with.

They are the primary beneficiaries of Shikokho Secondary School and the clinic which are surrounded by the Musali, Bunasio, Bubuka, Bushimuli, and Muhali clans. The clinic has assisted many from the community and outside to reduce the rates of death in the area. Expectant mothers also seek medical checkups in the clinic. Nurses from the clinic have been in the front line in guiding and counseling our students. They also assist when there are emergency cases at school and outside the school by giving first aid etc.

Idakho people have not remained behind in crop farming. They do farming during the dry season at the River Yala and they sprinkle irrigate crops when rain is not there.

## THE POLITICAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF THE IDAKHO PEOPLE

They were divided into several families that were grouped together to form clans. Each clan was made up of several sub-clans with a common descent and usually living on the same ridge.

Each sub-clan was headed by a council of elders who were nominated by members of the community. The council of elders was nominated by the Idakho people and their chiefs and sub-chiefs.

### A) POLITICAL ORGANISATION

The family was a basic political unit, with a family made up of father, mother and children. The father was the head of the family.

Among the various clans in Idakho there existed a hierarchy of rulers. At the top was the assistant chief who heads the sub-location. Next is the village elder who maintains law and order in the community.

The Idakho are well organized in that they form age groups. Those who were circumcised in the same year form an age-set. They consider themselves a common group (of warriors in the past) after initiation.

## **B) SOCIAL ORGANISATION**

The people in Idakho are organized into clans where several families form one clan.

They practiced initiation which is circumcision. They circumcise only boys who today are at the age of about 10 years. A boy who is not circumcised is not respected and he cannot be allowed to participate in important community affairs.

They believe in the existence of God called *Nyasaye* or *Were Khakaba*. The early church developed when the Quakers used to worship together and share the word of God. They used to share meals.

People go to church on Sundays because as Christians they consider it to be a sacred day. Outside churches became involved in the community, particularly two organisations which are Grace Lutheran Church and Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church who up to now give scholarships to bright needy children. This connection was started by Professor Miller who came soon after the school started.

The community also has some specialists who are respected in the society. They include the drivers, rainmakers, healers and medicine men and divers that live next to river Yala.

They also have rituals that mark different stages of life e.g. birth and naming whereby if a baby boy is born there is great happiness. Marriage is also another rite where a man gets married to a woman and they become one flesh. Another rite is death where people mourn and slaughter an animal to join the dead going to the ancestors.

They also practice polygamy where a man marries more than one wife or inherits his relative's wife when the husband dies.

## **C) ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

They practice agriculture where they grow crops like maize, millet, sorghum, cassava and rear animals like cattle, goats, sheep, and poultry.

They also do hunting for meat using dogs. Animals to be hunted are squirrels and hares.

They also gather passion fruits and honey. Some practice fishing on river Yala or have fish ponds at home.

They also practice local crafts like basketry, pottery, iron smithing and weaving.

Idakho people also do mining along the shores of river Yala. They mine gold and sell it locally to business men who take it outside the villages for more money.



## SHARED SONG OF PARTNERSHIP

*"Let Us Sing"*: From 2004 Shikokho Service Program – *Siyahamba* / We are Marching (found in Lift Up hymnbook #56) A hymn sung often in Shikokho with and for our group. It is an original Zulu language South African hymn first recorded in 1980. It became synonymous with the struggle for ending apartheid in South Africa and a reminder of the freedom and progress, which God can give.  
<http://ingebo.org/spiritua/siyahamb.html>

*We are singing for the Lord is our light*

***Siyahamba ekukhanyen kwenkhos***

(sounds like: See yah hahm bah  
koo kah nigh en kwen kohs)

*We are marching, for the Lord is our light  
We are praying, for the Lord is our light.*

## YOUTH: A POEM FOR SHIKOKHO

*Author is Anonymous (in English and Kiluhya)*

### UNZITSUSHITSI MAKHUBA YAKA

Youth is not a time of life

*Bubukha shibuli limenya tawe*

It is a state of mind

*Ni liba liu mwoyo / makani*

Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years

*Khusakhula shikhuli khumenya mihika minyishi tawe*

People grow old only by deserting their ideals

*Khusakhula ni khwibala maparo*

Years wrinkle the skin

*Mihika chilinganga liselo*

But to give up enthusiasm

*Khwibala shinani*

Wrinkles the soul

*Khulinganga mwoyo*

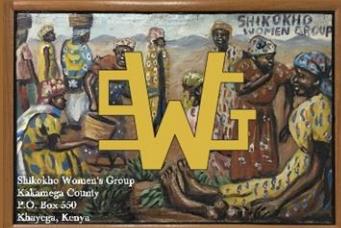
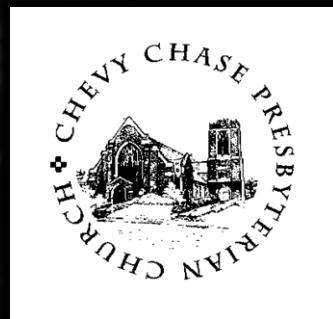
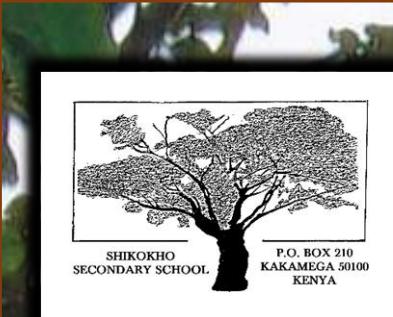
Whether sixteen or sixty

*Nuli miaka kumi na sita (16) noho makhami sita (60)*

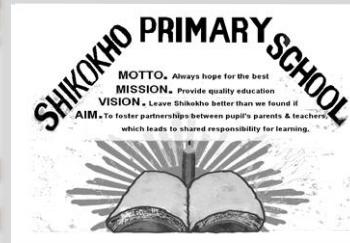
You are as young as your love.

*Ushili mubukha khuli uyanzı.*

*Path to Shikokho —when it rains it pours!*



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*Go to the people, live among them.  
Learn from them. Love them.  
Start with what they know,  
Build on what they have.  
But of the best leaders,  
When their task is accomplished,  
When their work is done,  
The people will remark,  
"We have done it ourselves."*

—Ancient Chinese Proverb by Lao Tsu

