



Advancing education in Kenya, one child at a time...

Goal of the Project:

provide secondary school scholarships to qualifying students from Mathare Valley Slum, Nairobi, Kenya.



Mathare Valley Slum:

Nairobi hosts some of the largest slums in Africa and in the world. Of the city's current population of 2.75 million people, almost 60% live in slums. These people are huddled into 5% of the total residential area of Nairobi, with as many as 500 people living on just one acre of land.

Mathare is the second largest slum in Kenya, with an estimated population of between 600,000 – 800,000; "where people eke out a living in life threatening conditions, where the most basic needs are not met for the majority, and where population growth rates are the highest in Africa. Their poverty is compounded by many factors such as domestic violence, crime, drugs and alcoholism, to name a few" (Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT).



Why:

While primary education is "free" in Kenya, secondary school is NOT; therefore, most students living in Mathare Slum cannot afford to go to high school. Once out of school, many of these children are forced to contribute to their family's income; very often, out of desperation and in order to survive, they become **victims of early marriage, child labour, crime, prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse and trafficking.**

Members of the Mathare community agree that the only way to stop this destructive cycle is by giving these kids a chance to go to a secondary boarding school, outside of Nairobi, in an environment more conducive to learning and away from the dangers of the slum.

How:

The Canada-Mathare Education Trust will hold an annual fundraising event in Toronto each February – prospective scholarship recipients will be selected by our Kenyan partners who are currently working in Mathare with schools there.



Inspiration for the **Canada-Mathare Education Trust** came from one of the founding member's experiences living and working in Nairobi, Kenya. It has been established to raise funds to create secondary school scholarships for students from Mathare slum. We are a Trust, governed by a Board of Trustees and an executive committee.

Canadian Charitable Number:
in process
For more information please visit:
www.cmetrust.org

