



**Canada
Mathare
Education
Trust**

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

Goals of the Project:

To advance education in Kenya by providing secondary school scholarships, with funds raised annually, to students from Mathare Valley Slum, Nairobi; and raise awareness in Canada about education and poverty in urban 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% (85 km²) of the total residential area of Nairobi, with as many as 120,000 people living on just one square kilometre 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).



Inspiration for the **Canada-Mathare Education Trust** came from one of our founding member's experiences living and working in Nairobi, Kenya. We are a volunteer-run, registered Canadian charity, governed by a Board of Trustees and an executive committee.

Canadian Charitable Number:
83906 0720 RR0001

For more information please visit:
www.CMETrust.org

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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 & alcohol abuse and trafficking.

Members of the Mathare community agree that the only way to stop this destructive cycle of poverty 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:

CMETrust undertakes various fundraising activities annually, including numerous events in Toronto, Ottawa and Kitchener-Waterloo. Prospective scholarship recipients are selected by our Kenyan Agents, founding partners who implement the project on the ground in Mathare.

