

Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada

info@kenyankidsfoundation.ca



Waterloo, ON (October 5, 2015)

Boston Marathon Champion will be "Running and Reading" in Waterloo

Kenyan elite marathon runner, Wesley Korir, who frequently trains in the Waterloo area, will be visiting Cederbrae school in Waterloo on Tuesday afternoon to help inspire students to get involved in both running and reading.

Wesley was born in the Cherangany region of Western Kenya where he and his family lived in a mud hut with a thatched roof. His family struggled to pay school fees and Wesley was only able to finish high school due to the generous financial support of others. He earned a track scholarship to attend university in the United States. After graduating from the University of Louisville, Wesley continued to run, entering his first marathon in 2008. Wesley went on to win the LA Marathon in 2009 and 2010, but is best known for winning the Boston Marathon in 2012. His personal best time of 2:06:15 was set in Chicago in 2012. In March 2013, Wesley won a seat as an independent MP in the Kenyan parliament. In addition to his parliamentary duties, he continues to compete as an elite marathon runner and will be competing in his seventh Chicago marathon this Sunday.



Wesley's wife, Tarah, grew up in Waterloo Region. She attended Elmira District Secondary School where she was a provincial (OFSAA) medallist in track and cross country. After winning the Canadian junior cross country championships she earned a track scholarship to the University of Louisville in Kentucky where she met Wesley. Tarah and Wesley were married in 2010 and now live in Kenya with their two young children. Tarah has learned to speak Swahili which has enabled her to closely connect with the Kenyan people. Tarah is passionate about reading as well as running. Her children's book called "Grandma and Gogo" explores simple cultural differences between Canada and Kenya while demonstrating an appreciation for both. All proceeds from sale of this book support Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada, a registered Canadian charity that she and Wesley co-founded in order to improve the lives of impoverished Kenyan families. The foundation's unique approach is captured in their vision statement which is: **"Empowered families, Thriving Communities"**.

In addition to her charitable work in Kenya, Tarah continues to run competitively. Earlier this year she earned a place in the top ten all-time Canadian female runners at half marathon by running an impressive time of 73:39 in Prague. On October 18, she will be making her marathon debut. One of her goals in running the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon is to raise \$10,000 to support young Kenyan athletes so that they can become future leaders in Kenya.

(see <http://www.kenyankidsfoundation.ca/tarah-runs>)

If you are interested in attending the Running and Reading event at Cederbrae school with Wesley and Tarah please contact:

Blair McKay, Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada

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or

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About Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada: www.kenyankidsfoundation.ca

Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada was formed in 2013 to improve the lives of impoverished Kenyan families. The foundation's approach is captured in their vision statement which is: “**Empowered families, Thriving Communities**”.

KKFC is in a unique position to make a real difference in the lives of impoverished people living in Kenya. The foundation connects directly with the people of Cherangany through Wesley and Tarah. As a **Registered Canadian Charity**, KKFC's objectives include the following activities:

- **advance education** by establishing classrooms and libraries, and providing books and educational materials for pre-school children
- **advance education** by providing scholarships to impoverished youth to attend school
- **advance education** by teaching modern agricultural and dairy farming practices to impoverished families
- **relieve poverty** by providing micro-loans to farming cooperatives for the purchase and installation of dairy farming and agricultural equipment and supplies, and improving access to clean water
- **promote health** by providing educational materials about basic health and hygiene