

## Endowment for What?

### Using Good Rural Program to Produce Great Rural Endowments

Friday, January 31 - 10:30 a.m. –12:15 p.m.

#### Session Leader

**Janet Topolsky**

Associate Director, Community Strategies Group, Aspen Institute

#### Peer Leaders/Storytellers

**Diane Harrop:** Board Member, Wyoming Community Foundation

**Monica Mutuku:** Director, Kenya Community Development Foundation

## Kenya Community Development Foundation

By Monica Mutuku

### SOUTH IMENTI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

#### Know Your Environment

South Imenti is a sub-district in rural Kenya with a population of about 250,000 people. Led by their member of parliament the people formed a development association to spearhead their development. The Association is implementing several projects – a Village Bank, a promotion of dairy goats and growing of Soya beans as a cash crop. The area also grows tea, coffee and horticultural crops.

They applied to KCDF for a capacity building grant and got a four year capacity building grant and got a four year capacity building commitment for a total of U\$ 46,820 from KCDF.

#### Specific Goal

In the early nineties they raised about U\$ 3,500 for bursaries/scholarships and distributed the money per location who then gave out one-off bursaries – end of story. The following year people did not want to contribute again.

#### Tactics and Targets

Enter KCDF and it is: Oh! So! A permanent fund. A sustainable bursary project, etc, etc. Come and tour the sub-district. We will organize leaders. We would like you to talk to them together with our patron (who is also our Member of Parliament).

- Education Officers and Head teachers
- Chiefs and village elders.
- Women Group leaders and Councilors

**TARGET:** To build a bursary (scholarship) fund. Each primary school child Ksh. 50 (or half a dollar) each secondary school child Ksh. 100 or just over a dollar. (In Kenya 50% of the population is under 16 years but not all are in school. Roughly 50,000 children could be in school in South Imenti but some may not afford)) Taking 35,000 children paying average Ksh. 75 will fetch Ksh. 2.6 million – target to be raised by the rural community 2.5 – 3 million. The South Imenti people resident in Nairobi will match shilling for a shilling the rural effort.

The endowment target. Ksh 8 million = U\$ 102,564.

## **Capacities**

- KCDF staff and South Imenti staff and leaders.
- Except for the capacity building grant (not linked directly to endowment building initially).
- Board approval for partnership.

## **Outcomes**

- Currently about Ksh. 500,000 raised. Activity was put on hold last year because of elections.
- A fundraising committee has been formed by the Nairobi group.
- It is expected that the success of this effort could lead into a major and broader community development endowment fund for the area and similar funds for surrounding areas (Have already met leaders of neighboring North Imenti)

## **Lessons:**

- Linkages between grant-making and endowment building.
- The power of “organized people” even when poor.