

# DONATE TO THE KISII BEEKEEPERS EMPOWERMENT FUND

*“Better to take up a challenge rather than to keep talking about it”*



The first four recipients of the revolving fund: seated; Printina Kemunto, Agnes Ngare. Standing: Yuvilansia Migosi, Francesca Moraa.

***The Audrey Tymchym Kisii Beekeepers Empowerment Memorial Revolving Fund*** is named for Audrey Tymchyn who passed of cancer in November 2012 and its initial funding was provided by her husband Kevin Tymchyn of Gallupville New York.

## **Who benefits from the revolving fund?**

Kisii farmers who have completed KiReeCo's Organic Farming Training and Intensive Beekeeping Training and have been certified as Langstroth Beekeepers qualify for a beehive through the revolving fund.

## **How does the fund work?**

The \$60.00 donation makes a full hive box for one beekeeping family. The donor gets a photo and basic history of the family. The Donor gets quarterly e-mail updates on the progress of the beekeeper and the hive. After about 10 months the beekeeper pays for their hive with the first harvest of honey. *Kisii Organics*, the business component of KiReeCo, extracts and markets the honey. Thereafter, *Kisii Organics* will continue to extract and market honey for the farmer and the farmer is now earning a fair trade income from the hive. All profits from the sale of honey after business expenses are returned to KiReeCo for their education programs. The initial \$60.00 donation is then reinvested to build another hive box for another trained beekeeping farmer.

## **How often does a donation for a bee hive actually revolve?**

A farmer can expect to have their first harvest of honey from 8-10 months from the time of receiving their hive. Thereafter honey harvests are 3-4 times a year. The donation will revolve indefinitely, benefitting many beekeeping families.

## **Do I get to know the family I will be donating to? What about as the donation revolves to the next family?**

KiReeCo fully documents the impact of the bee hive on all beekeeping families. It is our hope that a relationship develops and that greater understanding is built between the donor and the beekeeping families who will benefit from this program.

## **What happens to the honey that is harvested?**

All the honey from our farmers will be marketed by Kisii Organics as *Fair Trade, Farmer supporting, Organic honey*. We are projecting a U.S. market but there is already a very high demand for Kisii honey regionally and nationally.

## Who is KiReeCo and what do they do?

*Kisii Rural Education and Empowerment Coalition*, or KiReeCo, is a Kenyan certified Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) operating in the Kisii region serving poor rural families with organic farming training, environmental conservation training, family nutrition training, capacity building and small business training, and beekeeping training.

KiReeCo was founded in 2012 by Wilma Sofranko, of Mossyrock, Washington, out of a desire to empower Kisii farmers with information on organic farming and capacity building with a goal to alleviate poverty. It is an all-volunteer organization run by a dedicated Board of Directors. Wilma serves as Founding Director and senior advisor as well as teacher.



KiReeCo Board: Laban Bosire (Kisii Organics Business Director), Theresa Orina (Secretary, Partnership development, training translator), Job Ongere (Vice Chairperson, Ekegusii language advisor), Japheth Ombaba (Marketing advisor), Joseph Mauti (Community mobilizer, training translator), Gladys Kemunto (Womens' issues), John Mogendi (Chairperson). Not present Alice Ogato (Treasurer, Small business advisor).

## How do I become part of the program?

Details on donating through PAYPAL directly to KiReeCo's bank account in Kisii, Kenya will be available by 1 April, 2014. Contact us at [kireeco@gmail.com](mailto:kireeco@gmail.com)

**Visit us at [www.kireeco.wordpress.com](http://www.kireeco.wordpress.com)**

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