

Profile No. 3:

Local Kenyan deputy school principal

Donated microscope, hand-carried from America,
to benefit secondary science education in small village

Prepared by Jane Lee, HKA board member, August 2016



*Nyanchori Village, Southwestern Kenya, East Africa, July 21, 2016 – Meet **Nicholas Nyareki** (shown above), deputy principal (and teacher of biology and agriculture) at the four-year **St. Anatole Nyanchori Mixed Secondary School** in Nyanchori Village, Kenya, who accepted on behalf of his high school’s 220 local boys and girls in late July 2016 the gift of a large scientific stereo microscope for biological studies.*

Shown above, **Nyareki** pauses on a warm afternoon on the school grounds, following a three-hour water-related community focus group with representatives of the non-profit **Hopewell-Keroka Alliance** (HKA), based in Pennington, New Jersey (NJ), USA, held at Nyareki’s high school that morning (*please see accompanying overall water article for greater detail*). The gift presentation had occurred prior to that community meeting.

Also included for classroom use as part of the microscope gift was a small wooden box filled with 100 prepared biological-study glass slides, depicting, among other phenomena, the difference between plant and animal cells, the processes of mitosis and meiosis, and specific examples of anatomy, such as bees’ wings and mosquito legs.

This microscope – along with other assorted school supplies and educational materials in **20 large suitcases** meant as gifts for primary and secondary schools located primarily throughout the greater Keroka, Kenya, area – was hand-packed and -carried over, by plane, from west-central New Jersey to this rural mountainous tea-growing multi-village area in southwestern Kenya in East Africa.

Hand-hauling those suitcases had been four HKA New Jersey board members and about 25 students and chaperones from Pennington-based **Hopewell Valley Central High School**. HKA New Jersey has built ties and funded infrastructure improvements within the greater Keroka area via vigorous local fund raising in New Jersey over the past eight years.



For the biology classroom: As part of the gift presentation that morning, **Dr. Andy Jackson** (*shown above center*), HKA New Jersey co-founder and treasurer, sets up and demonstrates the donated microscope and slides – gifts from an anonymous American donor – inside the principal’s office at the Nyanchonori high school in late July 2016. Observing are the school’s deputy principal **Nyareki** (*left*) and **James Omanga** (*right*), chairman of HKA Keroka, HKA New Jersey’s sister organization in Kenya.

“This microscope is very nice, a very good gift, and we’re grateful you came to do this,” says Nyareki in accepting the gift on behalf of his school. “It’s important to learn biology. Most students (*at this school*) are negative about science. They have a negative attitude about chemistry and physics. Their performance is too low. This microscope will help our students learn and succeed.”

It’s difficult to teach science without the right equipment, says Nyareki, who has served as a teacher for the past 16 years and jointly as deputy principal for the past five years.

This microscope – although older, still perfectly suitable for high-school use – will supplement the high school’s existing stock of five microscopes, Nyareki says. While gratefully acknowledging the gift of this additional microscope, he says the school could use one or two more microscopes and other laboratory equipment and supplies.

Founded in 2008, **HKA New Jersey** is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization that works hand in hand with its sister organization **HKA Keroka**, based in Nyanchonori Village, the latter organization of which manages wide-ranging community-desired health, education and infrastructure-improvement projects on the ground in this corner of southwestern Kenya.

HKA New Jersey has raised about \$170,000 US total over the past eight years in support of these projects, including the community’s soon-to-flow first water borehole (*discussed during the community focus group at the Nyanchonori high school that morning*), rooftop water-collection systems, all-weather roads, and the construction of a tea-buying center to boost local commerce. Both HKA New Jersey and HKA Keroka are all-volunteer organizations, their board members each giving freely of personal time and talent. (*For more information or to donate funds or volunteer time, please see: www.hkalliance.org.*)