

# NANCY ELLEN CROOKS FOUNDATION

[www.thenecf.org](http://www.thenecf.org)

Nancy Ellen Crooks Foundation (NECF) is a charity committed to supporting and implementing self-sustaining projects that improve the lives of women and children. Nancy Ellen Crooks passed on in September 2009 and throughout her life in Kenya she was devoted to the betterment of children education and the lives of women. Nancy's husband and friends founded the Nancy Ellen Crooks Foundation in 2009. NECF relies solely on the generosity of our donors to realize its goals.

Below are summaries for three of our exciting programs.

## 1. LIGHTS FOR LEARNING

According to a World Bank report, published in 2010, only 16.1% of the Kenyan population has access to electricity. Less than 4% of rural Kenyan households are connected to the national grid. Over 90% of rural households depend primarily on fossil fuels for their lighting needs such as kerosene, candles and firewood. This is **expensive, unsustainable, dangerous** and **environmentally harmful**. Lighting should be safe, clean and affordable to all.

It is estimated that roughly 3 million children in rural Kenya try to complete their homework at night by light from the cooking fire or by a kerosene lantern. They are usually occupied with chores in the daylight hours after school. Their academic performance is largely undermined due to lack of proper and adequate lighting. It is these children we seek to help!

The NECF Lights for Learning Program enables school going children, in rural communities, to study in a safer and cleaner environment by providing affordable solar lanterns. **Since 2012, NECF has provided 4,656 Kenyan children with solar lights in 60 schools.**

## 2. NANCY CROOKS PLAYGROUNDS

Play is invaluable to a child's health and well-being, and is vital to every child's development. Playgrounds provide the space for children to relax, explore, learn, create, socialize and have fun. This develops a whole child: physically, emotionally, cognitively and socially.

*"Children have the right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities."*

In 2016, NECF will partner with supporters and school communities to help design, construct and maintain playgrounds for children in schools.

## 3. NANCY CROOKS GARDENS

Kenya has more than 30,000 schools, providing education for a very young population (over 50%, 15 yrs and under). Free primary education was introduced in 2003; school enrolments increased dramatically and over 10 years later many schools still struggle to ensure students receive adequate food and are well nourished. For many schools, critical issues are food, water and nutrition, related both to child health and to education.

In 2016, NECF will pilot the Nancy Crooks Gardens program to supplement school feeding programs by creating nutritional school gardens. Our aim is to educate children how to grow their own food organically, and feed themselves, fellow pupils and the school community.

***Improving the lives of women and children through opportunity and education***