

Kenyan School Sponsorship Programme

Information for sponsors in Europe



The Giraffe Project Charity

The Giraffe Project is a charitable company under UK charity law. It is administered by a group of Trustee-Directors based in the UK and Belgium, with representatives in Germany and the US also. The projects in Kenya are managed by our Kenyan Executive, administrators and local partners, in communication with the European team.

Tax Information for European taxpayers

Transnational Giving Europe (TGE)

Several European countries have bilateral agreements for giving to registered charities abroad.

Belgian taxpayers can get tax relief by making their donation through the KBF (King Baudouin Foundation/Fondation Roi Baudouin/ Koning Boudewijnstichting). KBF will send you an 'attestation fiscale' for submission with your annual tax form.

For **German tax payers** there is a similar system through Maecenata International.

Use of TGE costs us 5% of your gift in fees. We therefore ask you to add €1.58 for primary or €2.32 for secondary to cover this.

Swiss or Italian tax payers: See our website for details of a similar scheme.

Payment amounts:

Primary sponsorship

(fees, food, uniform, books and supplies, class outing and gift): **€30/month**

Secondary school sponsorship

(includes tuition, full board and pocket money): **€44/month**

Please make a standing order to one of our accounts, with the child's name and CODE in the communication

Belgium: "The Giraffe Project Belgium" BNP Paribas account number 001-4832075-96

From elsewhere in Europe use the BIC code: GEBABEBB; IBAN: BE65001483207596

Or for tax relief in Belgium:

King Baudouin Foundation account number 000-0000004-04 with the communication TGE: Giraffe Project. *Please don't forget to add 5%.*

For tax relief in Germany: Maecenata International e.V.

Account nr.: 13 38 53 5; Bank nr.: 700 303 00; Bank: Bankhaus Reuschel & Co., 80285 München

IBAN: DE58 7003 0300 0133 8535 00; BIC: REUCDEMMXXX.

Please add the communication TGE: Giraffe Project.

Or send a cheque payable to Maecenata International e.V./Giraffe Project

Herzogstr. 60, 80803 München

Please don't forget to add 5%.

Contact : If you have any questions or concerns about payment, please contact accounts@giraffeproject.org

Our website: You will find pictures and news about the schools on our website: www.giraffeproject.org

The Giraffe Project: UK registered charity 1149540. www.giraffeproject.org; email: admin@giraffeproject.org

In the UK: HSBC account 42240726, Sort code 40-24-17; Bic: MIDLGB2104S; IBAN: GB87MIDL40241742240726

The Giraffe Project Belgium: BNP Paribas account 001-4832075-96 Bic:GEBABEBB; IBAN:BE65001483207596

How your money is spent

PRIMARY: The sponsorship covers fees for attending school, including a hot meal at lunchtime, one school uniform a year, textbooks and school equipment, an annual medical check-up and the school outing. 10% is retained to pay our counsellor, who follows up each child, and our administrative staff in Kenya. Sometimes there is enough left over for a gift, usually shoes, clothes (gym kit, scout uniform ...) or a new school bag.

SECONDARY: Sponsorship *does not cover* the full costs of tuition, full board, books and equipment, and follow-up by our counsellor. In most cases we have to top up the sponsorship from our general funds. A small amount of pocket money (about €4 a month) is given in cash to the student for bus fares and personal items.

Your money will be transferred monthly to the *school* the child attends – never to the child or the family, except in the case of pocket money for secondary students. 100% of sponsorship money is used in Kenya for school fees and the costs surrounding the care of the child. Administration costs in Europe are not taken from sponsorship money. Schools send us receipts, updates on fee requirements and reports on the child's progress. Our representatives in Nairobi follow up all the children on the scheme to ensure their well-being.

COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY: Costs are generally much higher than one sponsorship can cover. Cases are treated individually, and you will be contacted with details.

Communication with the sponsored child

You will receive letters from the child you are sponsoring, and official school reports. The children love to receive letters from their sponsors, and guidelines for writing are given below. Please send your letters via us (use our mailing address above). We send them out to the schools regularly, get confirmation that they have arrived and have been distributed, and the teachers then encourage the students to write back.

Guidelines for being a sponsor.....

- **Letters:** If you wish to write, one letter a year is sufficient, but write more if you so wish. Please send letters to us, not directly to the schools. **Do not give your home address, email or other personal details**. You might receive unwanted letters asking for money or help.
- If your children write, please remind of the difference in lifestyle and standard of living, and help them to be sensitive to things their Kenyan friend will not have (ipod, playstation, new sportscar....)
- Enclose a **photograph** of yourself and the family from time to time. Choose a photo with a neutral background, so as not to give an appearance of tremendous wealth!
- **Gifts:** You can enclose stickers or similar small, flat gifts in with a letter, but nothing of value. *Do not send money*. If you wish you can send a **SMALL** package to us to be carried when somebody is travelling to Nairobi. Appropriate gifts include pens/pencils, pencil case, soft toy, bouncy ball, book, small game, necklace, brooch, perfume, hand cream, T-shirt, socks, hair band, wind-up watch.... depending on age and gender. Please keep your gift to less than 100 grams weight.
- **Birthdays and Christmas:** If you wish to send a card or gift please do so a month in advance for a birthday and by mid-October for Christmas. You may send a cash gift to children in **secondary school only**, via our usual bank accounts. Please email us if you do so. A suitable amount is 15 – 25 euros. We regret that we cannot handle cash gifts for primary school students.
- We **don't** recommend you write to the parents. That invites a request for more help, for example for another child.
- **Visits:** If you are visiting Nairobi you will be very welcome to visit the child and his/her school. Let us know your plans well in advance and we will make arrangements for you to be met and taken to meet him or her.

Children and Schooling in Kenya

The school year in Kenya begins in January and ends at the end of November. Children enter the first year of primary school (Standard 1) at age 6. The language of instruction is mainly English, which is the children's second or third language, and classes are also given in Kiswahili, the other official language in Kenya. There are 8 years of primary education; Standard 1 to Standard 8, at the end of which the children take exams in order to gain their KCPE, or Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education, marked out of 500. Their KCPE grades will determine which secondary school they can get into, with the best schools requiring the highest grades (over 400/500).

4 years of secondary education culminate in exams in 7 or 8 subjects for the KCSE, or Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education. Passes in an appropriate range of subjects enable a student to continue for a further 1-4 years in a college of higher education. Those achieving A grades in the KCSE can proceed to university.

In 2003 Kenya's president declared free primary education for all. 1.6 million additional children enrolled in schools, resulting in serious overcrowding, often with 80 - 120 children in a classroom with 1 teacher. In Nairobi's slums, vast numbers of children do not attend school. This is primarily because the slums are "informal settlements" which means they are not officially recognised and enjoy no government services whatsoever. Kibera, the largest slum with at least a million inhabitants, is served by just 5 vastly over crowded primary schools on its outskirts. This leaves the burden of education to private initiatives, which get no funding. In reality even government schooling is not completely free. Parents may have to provide a uniform, text books, a desk and basic supplies.

Pre-primary education (ages 3 – 6) and secondary education are not free for anybody. €40-€80 (£30-£65) a month is typical at a secondary boarding school in Nairobi. Day schools are cheaper, but it is very difficult to study, living in the slums. For comparison, a labourer might earn €2-3 (£2) for a day's work, and a primary teacher's salary is €180 (£150) a month. Unemployment amongst the 18-35 age group is officially 60%, though in the slums virtually nobody has regular employment. 65% of Kenya's population lives below the official "poverty line" of a dollar a day. A student who runs into arrears with school fees is sent home to get the money owed. Some teenagers work as labourers or housemaids until they have sufficient funds before they dare to reappear at school. Others beg or drop out of school.

In Nairobi, wealth and poverty live side by side. Nobody knows how many people live in the slums, but estimates range from 2 – 3 million and still growing, as hopefuls from the countryside arrive in the city to look for employment. Repeated instances of serious drought in parts of the country mean that thousands in the more arid parts of Kenya have lost their livestock and crops. Under these circumstances food prices become subject to soaring inflation, which is also fuelled by the present phase of rapid development of infrastructure in and near the city.

Some families move from their rural homes to the city slums specifically to find education for their children. They scrape a living doing casual work and running small businesses such as hairdressing, carpentry, or buying foodstuffs, timber or clothing and reselling them from market stalls and kiosks in the streets of the slums. During the post-election violence of December 2007 and January 2008, many of these businesses were looted and burned, and livelihoods destroyed. But Kenyans are hard-working and resilient, and they also have strong family ties. The high unemployment and large numbers of orphaned children mean that the average working Kenyan supports 10 dependents.

Living conditions in the slums are extremely basic. Families of 8 or 10 live in crowded one-roomed homes made of mud, wood and cardboard, with roofs and sometimes walls of corrugated metal sheets. More recently concrete apartment blocks have been constructed in Mathare and Korogocho slums, but like the mud homes they have no running water or sanitation, and a family will typically rent a single room. They cook over wood or charcoal fires in their homes or in the streets, surrounded by rubbish and sewage. When a parent finds work for the day, there is food to eat, but with prices of basic commodities such as rice, maize, beans and cooking oil rising all the time, their children know what it means to go to bed hungry.

Officially 8% of Kenyans are HIV-positive, though those in the slums often do not know it until they fall ill with AIDS. Some agencies estimate the figure to be as high as 20%. Basic forms of anti-retroviral medication are available, sometimes at little or no cost, but the good nutrition and clean water essential for a patient to tolerate ARV treatment are often unaffordable to families living in the slums. TB is the number one killer of AIDS victims in Africa. Many children are orphaned in childhood or adolescence, which usually puts a halt to their education and often leaves them begging for shelter and food from relatives or well-wishers.