

General information for sponsors

How your money is spent

PRIMARY: your sponsorship covers school fees, a hot meal at lunchtime (sometimes breakfast as well), a new school uniform and shoes each year, text books, school equipment, an annual medical check-up and the yearly school outing.

SECONDARY: sponsorship covers all tuition costs, accommodation and food, matron, security guards, stationery, educational and sporting trips and a yearly medical check-up. A small amount of pocket money (about €4 a month) is given in cash to the student for bus fares and personal items. Secondary costs are high so the support of a secondary student is often shared between 2 sponsors each giving a proportion of the sponsorship based on what they can afford. Each sponsor is treated the same by the student and each receives letters and reports from the student.

Your money is transferred monthly to the school 'your' child attends, never to the child or the family, except in the case of pocket money for secondary students. All your sponsorship money is used in Kenya for school fees and the costs surrounding the care of the child. 90% goes directly to the education of the sponsored children and the remaining 10% is retained to pay 'transfer bank charges', support our Kenyan sponsorship coordinator and to cover the cost of mailing student's letters and reports to Europe. Unlike most other sponsorship charities all European administration costs, marketing, fundraising etc. are met from specific fundraising events and not taken from the 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 being regularly visiting the schools (approximately once/week in term time for the primary schools and The Giraffe Education Centre secondary school) and keeping in regular contact with the assigned 'Support teacher' in each of our schools.

COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY:

Costs vary wildly depending on where the student studies, individual course fees, length of course and whether accommodation or bus fares are needed. The amount of support needed therefore has to be assessed on an individual basis and you will be contacted regarding 'your' student. Costs of expensive courses, for example, nursing can be shared between 2 or more sponsors to provide full sponsorship.

Moving between the 3 Giraffe Programmes

Due to high mobility in the slums we cannot guarantee that your sponsored student child will stay with us throughout his or her primary schooling. However, most parents value the sponsorship highly and do everything they can to keep their child in the programme. At the end of their primary education the student will need to apply to our Secondary Programme and will be reassessed on their level of need. Circumstances change and a family who was struggling when we took their child into the programme may now be more prosperous. For example, a father has got a better paid job, older siblings now old enough to



work, mother remarried etc. If the family is now in the position to afford secondary schools fees they should be allowed to do so enabling us to take another deprived student into our Secondary Programme.

Entry into our Secondary Programme is extremely competitive with many more applicants than spaces available. Students from our Primary Programme get priority and then other applicants are interviewed for the remaining spaces. Acceptance is based on; level of deprivation in the student's family, lack of family members (usually orphans) risk of abuse both mental and physical, academic record and motivation.

Entry to our College Programme is only open to graduates of the Secondary Programme. Students are again assessed on level of need, motivation and attitude, academic record and suitability of course. Approximately 70% of our secondary graduates will receive at least one year of academic or vocational training.

Communication with 'your' sponsored child

You will receive letters and official school reports three times/year from the child you are sponsoring. We will also take a photograph (or a short video) of your sponsored child during our annual summer trip.

The children love to receive letters from their sponsors, and guidelines for writing them are given below. We can take letters and small gifts out with us on our summer trip and you will be advised by email just before we go as to where you can send them. This is the main opportunity to get these to your sponsored child as there is usually a team going with sufficient luggage space to carry them. We also try to get letters out to students again at Christmas but this can depend on whether we can find someone who is able to carry them. You may also send money as a Christmas gift, however to be fair to all our students (some who never receive a letter or gift from their sponsor) this money is pooled and then gifts bought for all the students in the programme. Money can be sent to individual college students as a Christmas gift. Again, you will be notified by email nearer the time. During our summer trip we try and take a photograph of your child receiving their gift and the teachers encourage the student to write you a thank you letter.

Guidelines for being a sponsor

Letters: all communication must go through the charity to protect your personal details and enable us to monitor communication going in both directions. Please do not send letters directly to the school or contact your student on social media, even if they send a 'friend request' having tracked you down. This is to protect your identity and prevent you receiving unwanted requests for help from family members. We also ask you not to give your email address, or other personal information, which could enable a student or their family to find you. Students are told the name of their correspondent, a brief description (older man, lady, child, family etc.), country they live in and, if permission given, the age and sex of the child they are corresponding with.

If your children write, please remind them of the difference in lifestyle and standard of living, and help them to be sensitive to things their Kenyan friend will not have (computer, smart phone, new car etc.). Students are very excited when they receive a photo of their sponsor. However, please choose one with a neutral background or you on holiday, family pets etc., nothing to give the appearance of tremendous wealth!

Gifts: please keep these small, light (less than 100g) and preferably flat for easy transporting. A5 size maximum and nothing of value. Suitable gifts, depending on age and gender, can be;

Small game (which doesn't need batteries)

T-shirt or socks,

Books –Kenya is a conservative country so no witches or unmarried mothers please!

Stickers

Felt tips/pencils

Writing paper and matching envelopes

Football magazines (not girls' magazines unless they are for very young children)

Hair ties

Small craft set – for example, to make paper aeroplanes but nothing which requires scissors, glue or paint unless these are included.

Skipping rope, small kite, beanbag

Small soft toy or doll

Necklace

Perfume/hand cream

Wind-up watch

Small solar light

Visits: if you are visiting Nairobi you will be very welcome to meet your sponsored student at their school. Let us know your plans well in advance and we will make the arrangements for you to be met and taken to the school (the slums are too dangerous for you to go without an escort). To comply with our Child Protection Policy adults over the age of 18 will need to obtain a police check before the visit.

Team Trip: we usually take a small team out during July for 2-3 weeks. This visit is open to families, couples and individuals. Children under the age of 17 need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Students between 17 and 19 wanting to come without a parent or guardian will need to provide references and be subject to an interview to assess their suitability for the experience. All participants will receive information and training before the visit, so they know what to expect and can be reassured that the trip is for them. For more information about our annual trips please contact admin@giraffeproject.org.