



UK Registered Charity n° 1116675

Kenyan School Sponsorship Programme

Information for sponsors outside the UK and Euro zone

The Giraffe Project Trust

Thank you for offering to support a child on the Giraffe Project sponsorship scheme. The Giraffe Project is a charitable trust under UK charity law. The trust is administered by a group of Trustees based in the UK and Belgium, with representatives in Germany and the US also. The projects in Kenya are managed by our Kenyan Executive, an Administrator and local partners, in communication with the European team.

How to make a payment to the Giraffe Project

Current sponsorship rates are \$37 per month for a primary school child and \$55 for a student in secondary boarding school. You can pay in one of the following ways:

1. Secure on-line credit card giving:

Go to

www.giraffeproject.org/support/donate.php and click on the link.

This is a secure service of the Charities Aid Foundation in the UK. Note you may be asked to pay in Sterling.

2. Bank transfer from your bank to our Belgian account:

Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis

Branch address:

Rue Leon Jourez,
1420 Braine l'Alleud
Belgium

Account "The Giraffe Project Belgium" 001-4832075-96

BIC (SWIFT) code: GEBABEBB

IBAN*: BE65001483207596 *International Bank Account Number

3. Bank transfer from your bank to our UK account:

"The Giraffe Project" HSBC High Wycombe Branch

Account number 42240726, sort code: 40-24-17

Bic: MIDLGB2104S, IBAN: GB87MIDL40241742240726

4. Cheque to our US representative, Betsy. You can contact her at betsy@giraffeproject.org. Please copy us at sponsors@giraffeproject.org.

Contact and mailing addresses

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us at sponsors@giraffeproject.org, or

The Giraffe Project Belgium

21, Rue de Lillois,
1421 Ophain,
Belgium

The Giraffe Project

2nd floor suite
Turkey Court, Turkey Mill
Ashford Road, Maidstone
Kent, ME14 5PP

Our website

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

How your money is spent

PRIMARY: The basic sponsorship covers fees for attending school, including a hot meal at lunchtime. School uniforms, textbooks, notebooks and pencils are not included in the school fees, but are covered by the full sponsorship.

SECONDARY: Sponsorship covers tuition and full board. In most cases this leaves enough for a small amount of pocket money (about \$5 a month) to be given in cash to the student for bus fares and personal items, and a little to be held for books and contingencies such as glasses or doctors' visits.

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 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.

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 car....)
- 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 parcel 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, broach, 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:** If you wish to send a birthday card please do so a month in advance. Birthday gifts are by no means expected, but it is possible to arrange for our representative in Kenya to take the child shopping to spend birthday money sent by sponsors. Simply transfer money to the Giraffe Project account and send us an email with the details. In this way children are bought useful items such as shoes, clothes, uniform, school supplies and textbooks. Secondary school children are given the money in cash.
- 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 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 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. Finally many children are needed to work to help support the family, or simply to fetch water and care for younger siblings.

Pre-primary education (ages 3 – 6) and secondary education are not free for anybody. €30-€40 (£30) a month is a typical fee at a secondary school in Nairobi. In comparison, a labourer might earn €2-3 or about £2 for a day's work, and a primary teacher's salary is €180 (£150) a month. Unemployment is officially 40%, 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 enough that 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. Drought during 2005 – 2006 meant that thousands in the north of Kenya lost their livestock and crops, and then torrential rain washed their seed away. Rains in many parts of the country failed again in 2008 and 2009. Food is short and subject to soaring inflation. 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, these 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 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.