



Chikumbuso EDUCATION Sponsorship

FAQ

Why an Educational Sponsorship and how does it work?

The Chikumbuso Community School is a school for orphans whose family members cannot afford the fees for public education. It covers the education program from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The profits from the sales of plastic handbags produced by the Widows of Chikumbuso as well as financial contributions from private individuals in the United States, Zambian businesses and other private sources enable the school to provide good education and to serve one meal a day to over 250 students.

The Chikumbuso community continues to educate the orphans who have graduated from fifth grade. This year we are starting a sixth grade at Chikumbuso , due to popular demand, so these children along with the children in 7th-12th grade will need sponsors.

The sponsorship costs helps to pay for one pair of new shoes, notebooks, pencils and pen, a mathematical set, an umbrella and a health scheme card (which gives him access to basic treatment at the local clinics) every year. In tenth grade a bicycle from World Bicycle Relief is also purchased as this school is located much further from the children's home.

Can we choose the child we sponsor?

If you happen to visit Chikumbuso, you may get attached to a child you had a special experience with, in this case, unless the child is already sponsored, we will certainly connect you to this child. If not, we will propose to you a few children to pick from. These children will have been selected according to their particular needs, as we try to prioritize the kids who are the most deprived.

What information will I receive from the orphan I sponsor; can we communicate with him, or even send him gifts? Does the child know we are sponsoring him?

As soon as the sponsorship starts the child is informed of the great news. We tell him the information we have on his sponsor, therefore feel free to send pictures or any other information in order to explain who you are and where you come from

All correspondence from the sponsors can easily be delivered to the child as he reaches school, this may include packages. dolls, games, ribbons, hair things, lip gloss, backpacks, sweatshirts, school fun stuff... etc. The children love getting gifts. As you can imagine, packages are a big hit. It is very rare for these children to get spoiled, so they love receiving packages. The children will write letters in return.

Our address in Zambia is the following:

Chikumbuso Women and Orphans Project

Post.net box 231

P/Bag E10

Ng'ombe, Lusaka, Zambia

How much does it cost to sponsor a child's education?

The yearly contribution to sponsor a child's education is 250 US dollars per year, (amount which can be paid per month as well – 22 US dollars).

How is the sponsorship money spent? What percentage of my donation goes to the child and what goes to overhead?

Less than two percent of the total amount is used to pay a few administrative costs and the salary of one widow at Chikumbuso who supervises all sponsorship matters and takes care of the school supply distribution every term. She also administrates as much as possible the correspondence between the kids and their sponsors.

EDUCATION Sponsorship	Annual Cost	USD	%
Shoes	ZMK 100.000	\$22	9%
Health scheme cards	ZMK 19.500	\$4	2%
notebooks: 24 (8 per term)	ZMK 76.800	\$17	7%
pencils: 6 (2 per term)	ZMK 6.000	\$1	1%
pens: 12 (4 per term)	ZMK 7.680	\$2	1%
mathematical sets	ZMK 20.000	\$4	2%
Ruler	ZMK 900	\$0	0%
Umbrella	ZMK 15.000	\$3	1%
Average School fees (grade 7-12)	ZMK 906.500	\$201	78%
Administrative costs	ZMK 10.000	\$2	1%
Total Expenses	ZMK 1.162.380	\$258	100%

Will this cost rise as the child grows up?

If the cost of sponsorship has to rise an announcement will be made to the donors. The choice will then reside with the donors to carry on paying their existing rate, or adapt to the new costs to help us maintain the same level of quality sponsorship.

I want to sponsor a child, what should I do?

1. Write to chikumbusoproject@yahoo.com and stipulate your wish to sponsor a child's Education.
2. If it is important to you, you may specify the age and gender of the child.
3. We will contact you with the picture and bio of the child you will sponsor.
4. If you are in agreement you can send your check in immediately to the following address:

Friends of Chikumbuso

350B Cossaduck Hill Rd

North Stonington, CT 06359.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Chikumbuso and the name of the child written in the memo.

Are contributions to Chikumbuso tax deductible?

In the United States, yes. Now that we are a 501c3 organization, you can make out your check to:

Friends of Chikumbuso, 350B Cossaduck Hill Rd, North Stonington, CT 06359.

We would love to send you a tax receipt for your donation as soon as we receive it.

What is their community and school like? What is their living situation?

Chikumbuso resides in the middle of a high density area called Ng'ombe with approximately 10000 people. Most of those living in Ng'ombe are struggling to get by in life, doing what they can to care for their families. Many families have taken in other family members children in an effort to alleviate the burden of orphans on society due to the AIDS pandemic. Chikumbuso center is a haven for those who belong at the center. We offer a safe place to spend the day, have lunch, and find a community of friends.

What access do the children have to health and dental care? Do they have immunizations?

Most all of the children in Ng'ombe attend the under five clinics where they are given free immunizations (BCG, Tuberculosis, Polio, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Hib, Hepatitis B & Measles and Vitamin A Supplements) and their health and weights are checked.

Chikumbuso makes every effort to get local clinics to come by and test the children for the HIV virus, eye tests, and dental checkups.

Does sponsoring a child create bad feelings among other children who do not yet have sponsors? What about siblings?

Sponsoring a child brings help not only to that specific child but also to the rest of his family since it helps reducing the costs of education which his relatives usually cannot afford. In fact, due to this aspect, we try to spread the sponsorships as much as possible to make sure different families in the school can benefit from this system. It is then a rare case that we have two children of the same family sponsored (unless this particular request is made by the sponsor or, the number of siblings in this specific family clearly goes over the average number of kids per family).

As far as the other non sponsored kids are concerned, the Chikumbuso Community tries its best to pay for the school fees of every child who graduated from our community school and who remains without sponsor. Therefore, bad feelings between the children are close to nonexistent, and we encourage the sponsors to get in touch regularly with their sponsored child, if they so wish.