



ACE AFRICA SECONDARY SCHOOL BURSARY PROGRAMME - 2011

Information Memorandum

ACE Africa works in Kenya and Tanzania to better the lives of impoverished communities affected by HIV/AIDS, by training them to be able to provide lasting support and care to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and people living with AIDS among them. ACE Africa works in areas which are remote and rural, where 40% of adults are showing the signs and symptoms of HIV/AIDS, 60% of the population live on less than \$1 a day, 1 in 3 households are infected with HIV and every household is affected by it in some way. Here, 1 in 5 children has been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and children as young as 8 years old, or elderly grandparents, are forced to act as head of the household, caring for the sick and struggling to support younger siblings.

In these areas there is widespread shame and misunderstanding about AIDS and high levels of malnutrition, poverty, and at-risk children. ACE Africa takes a holistic approach tackling all of these issues, addressing immediate household needs such as nutrition, shelter and basic health, and longer term needs including training and education for children and families, opportunities to generate income and fostering increased linkages between communities, local service providers and government to ensure local people are able to tackle their problems themselves.

Seven years since inception, ACE Africa is having a tangible positive impact on community health, attitudes to HIV and vulnerable children, access to locally-produced nutritious food and community ability and willingness to protect vulnerable children. Today ACE Africa is recognized as the leading NGO in Western Kenya for OVC programming and is the local identified partner for the international research project with Duke University, Positive Outcomes for Orphans. ACE Africa works with over 60 local and international partners, including local government and other NGOs. In 2009, on a budget of around £600,000, ACE Africa worked with 3000 local volunteers to provide food, shelter, healthcare, education and protection for close to 200,000 children and people affected by HIV/AIDS

ACE Africa is funded by international trusts and foundations including Comic Relief, USAID and the Sainsbury family trusts, as well as a number of companies and many individuals in the UK and overseas.

The Secondary School Bursary Programme



Primary education in Kenya is free and 95% of Primary school children in the Bungoma district manage to attend. However, Secondary education is fee paying and unavailable to the majority due lack of money. ACE Africa recognises that the greatest opportunity for children is through furthering their education and has set up a bursary programme for Secondary education for orphans and particularly vulnerable children in the Bungoma and Siaya districts where we work.

ACE selects children who are the most vulnerable in society, who have no hope of further education and are destitute. This may be because they have been orphaned or left in highly vulnerable circumstances through HIV/AIDS or because their parents, though alive, are HIV

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positive and in financial distress. They are in their final year of Primary education and despite their circumstances have a record of high academic performance both throughout their Primary education and in their final national examinations. The criteria for selection is rigorous and selection is made working closely with the Ministry of Education, Social Services, schools, counsellors and community members in order to identify those in the most need. The Secondary School Bursary gives these children the opportunity to change their lives. It gives them security, a bed to sleep in, and the opportunity to make friends, eat three square meals a day and have a future. Given the academic potential of the children selected, we hope that their schooling will have a lasting and fruitful impact on them as individuals, on their siblings and on the communities in which they live.

To date 41 bursary holders have finished school. 15 have gained university entry level results of whom 5 have started their degree courses. Over 20 can apply for other levels of tertiary education. Most have done community work in their "gap" year and have taught or are still teaching at primary school. The funding of tertiary education is difficult and the students and ACE Africa are wrestling with this problem.

Another 42 students leave secondary school this year.

Child Selection:

The process for identifying a child and commitment from sponsors is as follows:

October – Identification and short list of children fitting the ACE criteria.

November – Children sit their national examinations.

November/December/January - New sponsors are recruited for the programme.

December or as soon as committed if later - Fee payment by new Sponsors

January – Examination results are released and the selection finalised. Children are matched with sponsors.

February - Sponsors are informed.



Gender: Sponsors may elect to support either a boy or a girl. ACE has a policy to provide bursaries to an equal number of boys and girls.

The school year in Kenya runs from January to December. Payment of fees to schools is subject to proof of enrolment and attendance at the secondary school. In practice ACE plays an active part in ensuring that the children get to their schools in time and with all that they need.

Sponsors' Commitment & Payment:

Sponsors are expected to commit to four full years of their identified child's education. The annual fee is £380 paid each year in advance, by bank cheque, bank transfer or standing order, which with Gift Aid from the Government will produce £475. Those not eligible for Gift Aid will be required to pay £475 per annum. This fee includes the contribution to the Alumni Fund described below. A standing order is the preferred method of payment to reduce our administrative costs.

The receipt of Gift Aid or an additional fee in its place is essential to cover the costs of running the programme, including counselling and caring for the children and their households. The total

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fee covers boarding and tuition, food, books and materials, regular counselling of the child and support for its household as well as administrative costs for ACE staff and their monitoring visits to the child, school functions and to the households. ACE Africa believes that the community should take some responsibility for the children selected and requests that other expenses such as travel and basic needs be covered by the community where they live, the teachers from their Primary school and/or from the Ministry of Education. This contribution is assured prior to the agreement of a bursary.

Sponsors are requested to pay the annual fee of £380 (or £475 if Gift Aid is not available) by the end of December 2010 to cover the first year of schooling, and in December 2011, 2012 and 2013 for the following three academic years.

Arrangement of Sponsorship:

ACE Africa UK arranges financial relationships with sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a child please contact:

Priscilla White, Manager Bursary Programme
27 Hawley Square,
Margate, Kent CT9 1PQ

Email: priscilla@pawwhite.co.uk

Telephone: 01843 291835

If you agree to be a sponsor **Elizabeth Nasambu** - Technical Manager, Counselling and Education Services, Bungoma, will write to you early in 2011 to confirm the name and details of the child assigned to you, with a photograph, and details of the school to which the child will go. ACE Africa ensures that the child gets to school with the necessary clothes and personal needs.



Corresponding with your child:

Elizabeth Nasambu supervises communication between the child and sponsor and is responsible for the pastoral care of the child. Reports and a letter from your child will be forwarded three times a year. You are strongly encouraged to correspond with your child, generally and to comment and give encouragement regarding academic progress. When corresponding with your child please bear in mind that the child lives in a rural area and in extreme poverty, with one parent at most.

Towards the end of the four years we ask you to indicate whether you would be interested in helping fund the tertiary education of your sponsored child. This is a complicated issue and will depend on the choices available, level of marks obtained in the final KCSE exams and the possibility of access to local sources of funds. The need may be large or only a contribution to living expenses.

All correspondence with children must go through the ACE Africa Office at the following address:

Elizabeth Nasambu, ACE Africa, P O Box 1185, Bungoma 50200, KENYA.

Elizabeth can also be reached on +254 (0) 55 30118 or e-mail: achupa@ace-africa.net.



The Alumni Programme

Graduation of your child from Secondary School

Each year, several ACE students will graduate from the programme and it falls upon us to consider their next steps. It is ACE Africa's view that the continuation of some post-secondary education support is a worthy and necessary investment, to ensure that the years of schooling are put to good use. As the majority of the bursary students come from totally impoverished circumstances where obtaining even basic needs is a problem, it is not surprising that bursary programme school leavers generally need further assistance for career development, training and higher education.

We have therefore launched an Alumni Programme and Alumni Fund. The results achieved by school leavers vary from an ordinary pass to exceptional performance. The choices facing each of these young people vary accordingly, also influenced by the availability to each of them of funding from local sources. Tertiary education and vocational training is expensive and ACE Africa does not feel justified in attempting to fund higher education. However the aim of the Alumni Programme is to ensure that all bursary holders find the best way to become valuable members of the communities in which they live. ACE is particularly keen to encourage students to 'give back' to their local communities by giving them experience during the "gap" year after leaving school and before any higher education would commence. In 2010 41 leavers have all been engaged in community work experience, many of them with ACE Africa and some teaching at local schools. Recently five started university courses.



Kennedy Wanyonyi sat his final examination in 2008. In 2009 he worked as a volunteer teacher at South End Academy, a primary school supported by ACE Africa. He started at Kenyatta University in August 2010, reading Education.

The Alumni Programme has the following aims:

1. To provide advice & career guidance to all bursary holders before & after leaving school.
2. To provide each leaver with training in the rights of the child.
4. To provide a short course in computer skills during this gap year.
3. To provide community service experience to them at ACE Africa offices and community centres during the "gap" year after leaving school and before any higher education would commence, aimed at instilling in them a spirit of service to their communities.
5. To help outstanding performers to secure funding for higher education from among local sources, their school sponsor, and in exceptional cases the Alumni Fund.

The annual sponsorship fee (detailed above) includes a £50 per year contribution to the Alumni

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Fund, which will amount to a total contribution of £200 over 4 years. Those eligible to make a Gift Aid declaration will pay £40 per annum and a total of £160. The Alumni Fund is a general fund for support of the needs of school leavers and is not specific to any of them. Each young adult's need for support after school can not be predicted. The fund will be used wherever needs are found and well justified.



Alumni with ACE counsellor Wilberforce Simiyu available, level of marks obtained in the final KCSE exams and the possibility of access to local sources of funds. The need may be large or only a contribution to living expenses.

The progress of each individual student will continue to be reported to you once he or she has left school unless you wish otherwise, and you will have the opportunity to contribute further to any educational opportunities if you wish. ACE Africa hopes that the students achieving the highest grades will be eligible for and have a good chance of securing government grants and loans for higher education. Towards the end of the four years we ask sponsors to indicate whether you would be interested in helping fund the tertiary education of your sponsored child. This is a complicated issue and will depend on the choices

November 2010