



Welcome to the Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) Sponsorship Program! We are thrilled to receive your support, and hope that you will consider a long-term commitment to one of our incredible students as she grows in her education.

The Impact of Your Support

You have chosen to sponsor a special girl. At the Kibera School for Girls (KSG) and the Mathare School for Girls (MSG), we strategically target both the brightest and the most at-risk girls—helping to nurture the next generation of leaders who will be engines of social change.

Educating the most vulnerable means that many of our students are orphans, HIV-positive, or have suffered abuse. Many KSG and MSG parents lack formal employment and face extreme challenges to providing full care to their children. For most of our students, the two meals they receive each day at school are their only meals. Sponsorship provides so much more than the cost of a superior education; your support provides for a child’s nutritional, medical and basic material needs.

Support Options

Full sponsorship: \$100/month, \$1,200/year
 Co-sponsorship: \$50/month, \$600/year

Here’s what your sponsorship payment covers (rounded down for a simple amount):

One-Year Sponsorship of One Student	
Personnel	Amount
Teacher (portion of salary)	\$180
Assistant teacher (portion of salary)	\$88
School social worker (portion of salary)	\$100
Employee benefits (portion of benefits)	\$20
Other Direct Costs	
Curriculum materials	\$150
Student healthcare	\$80
School supplies	\$95
School meals program (2 meals per day)	\$138
Classroom furniture and furnishings	\$75
Classroom maintenance	\$15
Teacher training	\$84
School uniforms	\$75
Field trip program (5 trips per year)	\$50
Parent support/economic programs	\$100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,250

Benefits of Sponsorship

- A photo and brief biography of your student
- Bi-annual updates on your student, including:
 - A personal letter from your student
 - A progress report
 - Other notes, pictures, drawings, etc.
- Monthly e-newsletter about the Kibera School for Girls and the Mathare School for Girls
- The gift of giving—you have made a profound difference in the life of a child

Writing Letters

Students love to learn about their sponsors! Our girls immensely enjoy reading letters and receiving photos of you and your family. It is important to recognize that mail to Kenya is extremely slow and unreliable. Letters can take a long time to arrive and occasionally are lost in the mail. Please be patient and understanding of this reality.

Due to uncertainty surrounding the system of receiving packages in Kibera, we ask that you refrain from sending packages for the time being. We are in the process of figuring out a more secure and reliable system and will hopefully allow sponsors to send packages again soon.

In the meantime, letters are more than welcome! Letters are read by the students (for our youngest students, they are read out loud by the teachers) and kept in the students' files at school. Please send letters to:

The Kibera School for Girls
PO Box 8303-00200
Nairobi, Kenya

General rules of letter writing:

- The girls' favorite letters include information about you! Photos are particularly exciting.
- Letters should be positive and encouraging. It is wonderful to encourage your student to continue to study hard and congratulate her on her achievements!
- Please do not promise to visit the schools if you do not have concrete plans. The students take these offers very seriously.
- Please never offer to bring your student to America.
- Please do not send an individual gift with your letter. Stickers or something similarly shareable by a class of 20 students/grade of 40 students is appropriate. (See page 3 for ideas on what to send!)

Visiting the School

Students love visitors! If you are planning a trip to Nairobi, please feel free to visit the school

and meet your sponsored student. We ask that you contact the sponsorship coordinator at least one month in advance of your visit.

General rules of visiting:

- Again, please do not bring individual gifts. You are welcome to bring gifts for the entire class or the entire school. We are always in need of art supplies and sports supplies, but check in with the Sponsorship and Site Visit Coordinator about current needs.
 - You are welcome to take photos around the school and with the students, but please be respectful while taking pictures around Kibera and Mathare.
 - Please do not take your student out of class.
 - Please do not go to a student's home, even if she offers to take you.
 - Please never offer to bring your student, or other students, back to America.
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Sponsorship Billing

There are two easy methods of payment:

- **Online payment via StayClassy** (preferred)
 - *Monthly:* You may set up automatic monthly payments for \$100 or \$50, depending on whether you are a sole or co-sponsor. These payments will not end unless you take action. *If there is an error with your card, you will receive an email from *StayClassy* with information on how to update your billing information. Please update this information as soon as possible or reach out to the Sponsorship Coordinator.
 - *Annually:* You may choose to pay an annual lump sum payment for the full amount of sponsorship. At year's end, you will receive a notification from the Sponsorship Coordinator regarding sponsorship renewal.
- **Check.** You may make your sponsorship payment via check on a monthly or annual (preferred) basis. Please send checks to:

Shining Hope for Communities
175 Varick Street 6th Floor
New York, NY 10014

Needs in Classroom

This is a list of items that teachers have said they need in their classrooms. For now, we ask that sponsors refrain from sending packages to Kibera until we can better assure that we receive them, but this is a good wish-list for packages in the future when that system gets worked out.

1. Flash cards (for different subjects)
2. Index cards
3. Pencils
4. Erasers
5. Sharpeners
6. Snap cubes (ie. Mathlink cubes)
7. Puzzles
8. Pens
9. Rulers
10. Masking tape
11. Geometrical sets (ie. Shape manipulatives)
12. Crayons
13. Markers
14. Cameras
15. Notebooks
16. Glitter
17. Sticky notes
18. Paints/brushes
19. Construction paper
20. Motivational stickers
21. Glue sticks
22. Buttons
23. Chalk
24. Blackboard erasers
25. Toothpaste
26. Toothbrushes
27. Colored pencils
28. Beads
29. Pipe cleaners
30. Children's books about Kenya (see Amazon Wish List, "Books about Kenya":
http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/3RS5VPFOJPRZ0/ref=topnav_lists_2)

Questions?

We hope this provides an informative introduction to the sponsorship program. If you have any questions or comments, you can email the Sponsorship Coordinator at morgan@shofco.org or give us a call at (860) 218-9854.

If your contact information changes, please advise us so that we can stay in touch. Thank you for your incredible support!