

TOUCH AFRICA CHILDREN EDUCATION PROJECT



Touch Africa Children Education Project (TACEP) is a Kenya based non profit, non political and non-religious project that has been established to address poverty, particularly the lack of education, family support and economic opportunity with young school age children. TACEP has been established and registered under the Kenya Government's Ministry of Gender, Sports Culture & Social Services on October 30, 2008.¹

The Ministry of Gender, Sports Culture & Social Services is involved as a leading stakeholder working towards the development of a better youth, gender, cultural and social agenda. TACEP and the Ministry of Gender, Sports Culture & Social Services are working jointly to develop project proposals that are beneficial to gender, youth, culture and social policy for rural Kenya community cultural centers, with the objective of opening up and exposing the communities to development. These proposals are centered on preserving local traditions while building capacity and social mapping of rural Kenyan communities.

TACEP has established itself in a rural small community, Kaloleni, 2 hours north of Mombasa, Kenya. This is one area of Kenya that has a high number of orphaned children. These orphaned children are mostly excommunicated from their communities due to death of their parents from AIDS, or the financial inability of their parents to look after them. In this part of the country, the average wage is less than 60 Kenya shillings a day (less than \$1 US/day). Like many developed countries, Kenya has no social safety net to care for those unable to provide for themselves, so the children are left without care, forced to face the a cultural stigma associated with their situation, alienated from their community, and exposed to other social issues without the support of others to care for them.

MISSION

TACEP mission is to help these disadvantaged school age children to achieve their educational goals, and set them on a path to future economic stability.

VISION

Changing the lives with knowledge and support.

OBJECTIVES

1. Sensitization of the community for the need to support and reach out to vulnerable and needy children in the community;
2. To help in improving of the general welfare of the children in terms of education, food, shelter, health and clothing; and,
3. To act as an alternative source towards data sampling by surveying children's issues in the community.

¹ Registration Number SS/KFI/LR/SHG/KAL-D/101/2008.

PRIME ACTIVITIES OF TACEP

- Paying school fees for the disadvantaged children (Nursery and Primary);
- Purchasing school stationary supply for the disadvantaged children ;
- Purchasing school uniforms for disadvantaged children ;
- Providing funding for school lunches for the disadvantaged children; and
- Providing for the disadvantaged children's medical needs.

ELEMENTS THAT LEAD TO TACEP IMPLEMENTATION

- Eastwind Community Church, located in Boise, Idaho, United States, and TACEP have partnered to work towards eradicating poverty and enlarging education as well as development in Kenya's Kaloleni area.
- The main focus of the Eastwind community church's engagement is to help communities realize their dream and support people to realize a better future.
- TACEP is working towards improving living standards in marginalized communities by working with other local Kenya run organizations (Touch Africa International) and community members through the formation of community information centers and projects such as hospital and school and community cultural centers.
- In the Kaloleni area, the poverty level is high and is increasing daily. Many families are unable to provide the basic amenities for themselves or their families.
- As with other areas of Kenya, the rate of disease, including HIV, is very high. Many of the school age children are either affected directly or indirectly by parents/guardian who are sick or are unable to obtain the most basic medical needs for themselves or their family members.
- As a social responsibility organization, TACEP believes that an important aspect is to lead by example, to demonstrate good social values and morals that can inspire others, to engage and to empower involvement all local sectors of the community at the grass root level.
- Education in Kenya is subsidized but many parents cannot afford the subsidized rates. When families cannot afford the education fees, many young students drop out from school to help support their families. School class sizes in Kenya are very large (60 or more students to a class) which results in little interaction between the teacher and the student.
- Polygamy is still practiced and legal in Kenya, which sometimes results in many children fathered by one person. In an economic environment that provides limited working opportunities, the fathers can often not provide for the children that they sire. Many of the children succumb to disease due to poor health and inadequate nutrition. With many

children fathered by one person it impossible for children to get full attention from their fathers, even if those fathers have material resources to support them. Their mothers usually do not have a job or work in subsistence agriculture on very small farms not earning enough to fulfill their family's basic needs for food, shelter, health care and education. Many children in this community have no role model (father or mother) to look up to.

FUNDING SOURCES

- Touch Africa International – a Kenyan run volunteer organization that is staffed by local people ;
- Donor support – well wishers;
- Kenya Government;
- Individuals; or
- In kind donation.

FEES

To sponsor a school age child with TACEP, it costs only \$40 US (3,000 Kenya shillings) per school term (4 months). Eighty (80%) percent of the cost to sponsor a school age child goes directly to benefit the child. School fees account for 30 percent, school uniforms account for 23 percent, school stationary supplies account for 17 percent, health care accounts for 10 percent while administration costs account for 20 percent of the total sponsorship costs.

SCHOOL FEES

In Kenya, the schools are not funded 100 percent by the government. Each child that attends school must pay a portion of the overall school costs. For children of poor families, as many are in the Kaloleni area, these costs are very prohibitive and are out of the reach of many families. These families have a difficult time providing the very basic necessities of life (adequate food and shelter). In such cases, education is an unaffordable luxury.

Each child that attends school must pay \$12 US (900 Kenya shillings) for each term. TACEP pays the school fees on behalf of the sponsored children.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

In Kenya, all children attending school must wear school uniforms each day. Each school has a different school uniform. The cost for these uniforms range from very expensive (mainly private schools) to inexpensive (public schools in poorer areas). Each school child sponsored by TACEP will receive at least one set of a school uniform each year. One set of a school uniform in the Kaloleni area costs about \$9.00 US (700 Kenya shillings).

STATIONARY

Most of the government public primary schools are funded to provide only exercise books and basic text books. This does not include other basic stationary supplies like geometry sets, pens, pencils, easers, and pencil sharpeners. TACEP will supply the basic stationary supplies as mentioned above to each sponsored child for once school term, at least.

Like any parent would do, TACEP encourages students to work hard in school. As an incentive for good performance, TACEP provides an end of term reward. Stationary supplies and end of term rewards costs about \$7.00 US (500 Kenya shillings) per term for every child.

HEALTH

Every child sponsored within the TACEP will receive a monthly medical check-up. For those children who cannot afford additional required treatments, TACEP will cover those costs. Medical costs for each child are about \$ 4.00 US (300 Kenya shillings) for each school term.

ADMINISTRATION

TACEP is focused providing the great amount of benefit for the children.

To run a program like TACEP, \$8.00 US (600 Kenya shillings) goes to cover all administrative costs of this program. The administration costs will the modest local-rate wage of a field worker, transport cost for the field worker to visit the schools and monitoring the well being of the children, home support for the sponsored children, office rent and modest supplies for TACEP organization, and costs to cover electricity usage.

Doesn't every child in the world deserve the best no matter where they live?

CHILDREN THAT ARE BENEFITING FROM TACEP SPONSORSHIP

There are about 150 children that TACEP has currently selected to be part of this program. Here are a few children that will greatly benefit from TACEP.



This young lady is Mey Kazungu who was born at Walea, Kaloleni, Kenya, in 1998 into a loving family with a mother, father, two brothers, and one sister. In 2006, her family suffered the greatest loss with both of her parents dying after a long battle with AIDS. As her brother and sisters had little support Mey moved in with her extended family, two uncles

and her grandmother. While Mey's extended family makes every effort to care for her, they have insufficient financial resources for her to attend school without sponsorship.

Every day Mey thinks of her parents and when she does, she misses them greatly. She cries each time she thinks of her parents. Each day, Mey walks three kilometres, one way, to her school.

Mey's dream is to work as a teacher helping others better they life through education.



This is Emmanuel Hanjari with TACEP field officer Chrispus Charo. Emmanuel was born on April 23, 2005, at the Sea Breeze Medical Clinic next to the Malindi District Hospital, Malindi, Kenya. Emmanuel had a very rough life from the first day he was born. When Emmanuel was born, his mother wanted to kill him. His mother's reasons were that she got pregnant by accident, she was still in college and she was not ready to take care of a child. His mother abandoned Emmanuel at the clinic crying on

the bed.

One of the nurses at the clinic was touched by Emmanuel and took care of him. She found it difficult to look after him due to her work schedule so she had her 80 year old mother took care of him. After a year of looking after Emmanuel, the nurse who originally took Emmanuel in left him with her elderly mother while she continued her studies in Saudi Arabia.

Emmanuel's dream is to become a doctor to help others.



This smiling young lady is Mwanaisha Kitsao who is 9 years old. She lost her parents shortly after birth from AIDS. Mwanaisha is HIV positive, with the disease having been passed on to her from her mother while she was being breast feed. Mwanaisha is living with her grandmother and uncle who find it very difficult to care for her. Her uncle does not have a job and has a large family to support. Mwanaisha

has been looking for some basic support from various organizations but was not able to find any. Mwanaisha is currently obtaining some treatment at St Luke's Hospital clinic in Kaloleni. TACEP is currently sponsoring Mwanaisha.

Despite Mwanaisha health, she is always smiling and is doing well in class.



This is Binti Salim who was born in 2001 at Bamburi in the Mombasa district, Kenya. At a young age, Binti's parents divorced. This divorce was very difficult as the parents were fighting over who Binti should live with. Binti decided to live with her father in her home where she was comfortable. This was a difficult decision for the mother to accept. One day when the mother was visiting her, she reportedly tried to poison Binti's lunch. Fortunate for Binti, she had eaten lunch at a friend's house. Binti's mother was very upset at Binti for eating at a friend's place. The poisoned food from Binti's lunch was eaten by accident by the

family chickens which die immediately. After the death of the chickens, everyone became aware of the mother's plan for Binti.

The father remarried but her new stepmother did not accept Binti and refused to have her live with them. An aunt of Binti's heard of her situation and took her in to live with her at Kaloleni, Kenya. While Binti's aunt provides what she can, her ability to provide for the needs of a child is very limited.

Binti is a very bright young lady who has been in the first position for her last two school exams. Binti dream is to become a nurse to help others.



Every child deserves a chance to attend school and develop their capacity for future life opportunities, no matter how basic the school is. This is a typical rural school room in Kenya. Most rural school rooms have bare cement or mud floors and walls. There are little to no learning aids provided (such as maps, text books or work books) and the schools have no computers. A rural classroom has no electricity or lights. Higher

grade classrooms have tables and benches for the students to use for learning while the lower grade classrooms (Kindergarten) usually have mats on the floor for use by the students.

The children listed above have found support under the TACEP and are benefiting significantly.

TACEP welcomes any type of donation, from reading materials, clothes, shoes to financial assistance. If you wish to make a lifetime of change in the life of a young, needy child, and to make the world a better, safer and more caring place for these children who have so little,, please sponsor a child for a cost of \$40 USD per 4 month school term. This will provide the required support (food, clothing and school supplies) to keep a child in school for a school term (4 months). For more information please visit

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=177306176003>.

Children are the future for any society. Please help to bring a smile and happiness to the children's faces. So little can mean so much to a child.

