



-CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROJECT-

Founded 2012

Better Family Foundation's (BFF) Child Sponsorship Project is under the umbrella of our Direct Financial Support Program. It has a vision to...

“Connect local and foreign donors together with financially disenfranchised families in order to provide monetary support by directly providing funding for school.”

At this time it is a pilot project operating under the Direct Financial Support Program that aims to help approximately 5-10 students. It is thought to remain a pilot project for approximately one year until BFF is able to develop strong relationships between local families and international (or local) donors and adjust the program in response to any unexpected issues. The members of BFF feel this is the most responsible approach to developing an effective project.

Child Sponsorship Project Praxis

What Will the Project Do?

While there are many methods to provide monetary support for financially stressed families, this project aims to provide direct assistance to marginalized families and children by providing funding for children's schooling. BFF will act as the intermediary between donors and children in need by managing in-coming donations for those families. BFF will solicit funding in order to pay for 5-10 children's tuition fees, books and uniforms for one year. In order to combat mismanagement BFF will pay all these costs directly while issuing reports and receipts back to the donors and families to assure transparency and to foster a trusting environment. BFF will also utilize its internet capabilities and offer donors and families a more direct relationship as a means to bridge the physical and cultural gaps that may exist—this is contingent both parties agree. Should both the donor and family agree, BFF will organize time for e-mail updates with photographs/short videos and also utilize Skype to connect donors and families if possible.

Target Population

In the Fundong area there are an overwhelming amount of children and families in need of financial support and at this time the need *far* surpasses the abilities of BFF. This makes finding families and children who can use financial support too easy. But it is the goal of BFF to help those children who are most at risk—finding these children amidst such need can be troubling. In order to find these children most at risk BFF has developed a few criteria which will act as approximate guidelines in order to help further narrow down our search. BFF will prioritize the following children who are:

- Children who are orphans.
- Children with only one living parent.
- Children of ethnic minorities who live in a community comprised of a different ethnicity than their own—ie. Mboro children living within predominantly Kom communities.
- Children who show an aptitude toward their education but do not have financial support to attend.

In order to identify these children BFF will employ a screening process. First, we will work with institutions within the community—school administrators, religious institutions, governmental agencies—in order to identify those financially struggling children who possess great potential. These institutions will select those students they identify as most vulnerable and 'nominate' them to our organization. From here BFF will review these children's circumstances and follow up with house visits to further assess their situation.



Other Project Logistics and Considerations

BFF recognizes that this is a pilot project—therefore we expect to encounter and adjust the unforeseen issues that arise. Below are some of the considerations we will take into account while conducting this project.

Expectations

So that all participating children and families understand the rules and expectations of our program we will draft an Agreement and Expectations Contract which the children and families will sign. Taking into account many adults here are illiterate we will explain this document at length to them and answer any questions—if need be we will verbally translate it into Pidgin English or Kom.

Transparency

Transparency is one of BFF's paramount concerns. We truly believe we are merely custodians of our donor's contributions; therefore to build trust and assure transparency we will provide timely reports and updates on the projects progress along with any related receipts to any purchases. This also applies to those families that we serve.

Best Use of Funding

Seeing our funding is so precious we will do *everything* in our powers to assure none is wasted. So, in order to do this we will be implementing a book exchange program amongst those children that we help. Within the Agreement and Expectations Contract those participating families will agree to not to lose, ruin or sell any books given to the children so that we may recycle them. We will also work with local tailors and try to develop partnerships in order to lower the cost of their fabric and sewing services so that uniforms will be at the most competitive prices available.