



HELPING UGANDA SCHOOLS STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME CRITERIA AND APPLICATIONS (REVISED APRIL 2018)

BACKGROUND

The HUGS sponsorship programme began in 2013. Since that time we have paid the school fees of many children at both primary and secondary level and also paid the fees of young people to attend college and university.

HUGS has limited funding for this programme and has to target money to do the greatest good. Our decisions are made-

- (1) To give children and young people with academic ability the chance to succeed to a high academic level to enter the professions and to obtain employment which will be useful to their country.
- (2) Humanitarian need - children who without the help of this programme would not receive any education.
- (3) To obtain the greatest value for money. (With this in mind we will not be supporting any additional students in Rwanda).

We intend to sponsor the maximum of 65 students at any one time.

AIMS OF SPONSORSHIP

To enable children and young people to receive a good education at Primary, Secondary and further education including University level.

HUGS will give priority to supporting the children who attend the schools we have built/funded, the schools we support, and our other projects in Uganda. When we are deciding which children to support to secondary level and University level it will be those children/young people already known to HUGS ie. those who attend * : St. Zoe's school, The Good Shepherd School, Lira Girls School, The Little Shepherd school, and our other projects - namely, The Lira Babies Home and Organisation of Parents with Disabled Children (OPDC) in Jinja.

When deciding who will be accepted on the programme we will be as fair as possible and we will not favour any relative of any worker or Trusted Representative at any of our schools/projects. We will do our utmost to avoid nepotism.

HUGS will endeavour not to exceed the maximum of twenty-two thousand pounds per year on the sponsorship programme.

(With regard to the Lira Babies home - HUGS makes a yearly donation (outside this programme) to help with nursery costs).

Children in Primary education (P1-7)

We will sponsor up to 30 children at any one time.

We will pay for the school fees only, to a maximum of £150 per year.

Our aim is to pay for the school fees for children to attend one of our schools (as above) * or in the case of Jinja, to attend a local school. Children receiving this sponsorship will be 'proposed' by a 'Trusted Representative' who knows their story and can vouch they meet our explicit criteria. We will aim to spread the sponsorship proportionately and across our organisations and aim for an appropriate balance of children of both genders. Children with a special need will of course be included in this programme.

There will be children in our schools already who meet this criteria and there will be children in the surrounding village who meet this criteria. These are the children who will be considered.

In Jinja (where we do not have a school) we will consider children, as they are brought to our attention, by the Trusted Representative.

Sponsorship Criteria - to include:

- Children who have the potential for excellence.
- Children who are orphans with no relative with the financial means to support them.
- Children whose parents are alive but in poverty.
- Children whose parents have long term illness or disability.
- Children who have a disability including sensory and cognitive disability.
- Children must show satisfactory progress from one year to the next to maintain their sponsorship.
- If a child has a special need we would like to know they are making progress, but we are aware that consideration may need to be made to take account of this.

Once accepted on the programme we will continue to pay the school fees at Primary Level unless there is a change in circumstances, including the child's performance and interest.

Children in Secondary education (S1-4 and S4-5)

We will sponsor up to 20 children at any one time

We will pay the school fees only, to a maximum of £250 per year

Our aim in sponsoring young people through Secondary education is to support the most talented young people to reach their full potential for the long-term benefit of Uganda. Once accepted on our programme we will continue to pay the school fees unless the student does not perform well. We will not pay for a student to retake a year (only in very exceptional circumstances i.e. illness).

Those children who have a special need will be considered on a case by case basis.

At the end of Senior 4, only students with a First Class pass of their O levels will be considered for sponsorship for Senior 5 and 6 (A level years)

Sponsorship Criteria - to include

- Children who passed at First Grade at Primary School and who also meet one of the criteria listed below-
- Orphaned with no relative with financial means to support them.
- Children whose parents are alive but in poverty.
- Children whose parents have long term illness or disability.
- Children must show satisfactory progress from one year to the next to maintain their sponsorship. They must progress from one year to the next.
- Children who a special need will be given different consideration.

Higher/Further Education -including University

HUGS will sponsor up to 15 students at any one time

We will pay £750 per year (there may be exceptions when the course is more expensive. The maximum will be £1,000).

Our aim in sponsoring young people through higher education is to support the most talented young people to reach their full potential for the long-term benefit of Uganda. They should have scored at least 12 points in their A levels. (grade A is 6 points, B is 5 points etc) Those accepted for this programme will be students from our schools or projects as our first priority. Preference will be given to applications from students for further education, who give an undertaking to remain in Uganda post completion of their studies.

We endeavor to sponsor students from the following disciplines

Health Care: including doctors, nurses and related paramedical professionals, Social Workers and Teachers.

Also, applications for the following courses would be considered -

Engineering, Construction and Agriculture.

Sponsorships for vocational programmes inclusive of young people with a special need. (Sponsorship for other disciplines will be assessed on an individual basis including those for a talent in sport or show exceptional talent in another area).

Where there is competition for places we will make our decisions based on the criteria.

HUGS will pay the course fees. Additional expenses must be met by the student. The student must pass previous year exams before the following year's funding is given.

HUGS will not pay for a student to retake a year, (only in very exception circumstances ie serious illness).

HUGS will endeavour to meet the commitment to each student throughout their course. However, because we are a charity this will be dependent on a year to year basis on the Donor money we receive.

The role of Trusted Representative

Trusted Representatives are an essential component of the sponsorship scheme.

HUGS thanks the dedicated staff member who act as Trusted Representatives. It is an important role and good communication between HUGS and our schools/projects makes the sponsorship scheme efficient and successful.

Managing students can be difficult as we do not personally know the students. We are reliant on the assessment skills of our Trusted Representatives to:

- make sure chosen students meet our criteria
- monitor the student throughout the programme.
- Ensure the student writes their annual personal statement and forwards exam results
- Make us aware of student difficulties which could affect their education
- Ensure that we receive fully completed Renewal Applications and academic results in plenty of time for us to process them before term starts.

We depend on sponsorship forms being completed on time so we can make sure fees are paid on time. We also understand that there may be difficulties, and if we are made aware of these, we can help. Each school or project will be linked to a Trustee from HUGS and their role will be to communicate with the Trusted Representative and make sure all forms are received and make a decision whether sponsorship should continue and inform the Chairman of HUGS so fees can be paid.

Our funding is limited and we endeavour to do our best with the resources available. We know we are working in partnership with you to encourage all accepted on this programme to make a success of the opportunity offered.

We welcome any feedback to improve and strengthen this scholarship programme and we will continue to review this paper and amend when necessary.

Chairman and Trustees April 2018