



Bloom Where Planted

African Children's Charitable Foundation

Resources Kit

Student Sponsorship & Foundation Information

Mission Statement

To enhance the lives of children and further education in African countries by providing books, improved learning environments, school lunches and scholarships. By educating girls and boys, we hope to help them 'Bloom where they are planted' — to prosper and be good citizens in their own countries, promoting peace and goodwill in the world.

The *Rose Tree Cottage* African children's foundation **Bloom Where Planted** has now been established which enables us all to be of even more assistance to the dear children in "our School" near Lake Naivasha, Kenya, who have been affected by the recent problems in Kenya. To date, over \$30,000 has been donated as well as many books and other supplies. And, we know we can achieve so much more in the future. On visits to Kenya, and "our school", the children look forward to entertaining us as much as we look forward to seeing their smiles and the progress we've made with their learning environment and their welfare through our **Bloom Where Planted** Foundation.



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Bloom Where Planted

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From Bloom Where Planted's President

Mary McNeill Fry Writes:

Dear Friends: Today, one hears a great many sound bytes such as 'Give back' and 'Pay forward'; and, there is a lot of talk about 'eco-tourism'. We believe in all of that and are involved in this role in many ways.

In England, we are members of various organizations and charities that we believe contribute to the well being of children, animals and the environment in order to 'give back' to the country we love to visit.

But, it is Africa where we put most of our efforts and resources. From our first Safari, when we fell in love with the Masai children who walked a mile from their menyatta, carrying their little stools to sit under a thorn tree and learn their lessons. We handed out the supplies we brought — pencils, crayons and paper — all so basic, yet so loved by these little ones!

Bloom where Planted in Kenya: Whilst on one of our *Rose Tree Cottage* Safaris in September 2003, we visited a Primary School with a delivery of books and pencils — there were over 300 children in the courtyard to greet us — we were treated like royalty! The dancing, singing and smiles of the children won our hearts.

It was decided that the first thing to be done with our contribution was to fill the potholes in the classrooms. Our dear friend Tony Church, who lives near the school, kindly, took on the job.

Today, all classrooms have a fine cement floors; the rooms have been plastered and painted white; there is now a library with books about Africa, America, England (including Beatrix Potter books, of course!) and other parts of the world; the roof and exterior of the building have been painted; all rooms have new desks; they now have a playing field, complete with goal posts, uniforms and balls; there is a veranda around the school to keep the dirt out of the classrooms, especially in the rainy season; new loos, wash basins and shower rooms; metal doors and windows (where there were none), and, a garden to teach them about eco-farming.

On Safari, we always visit the school and members of our groups have contributed books, pencils, posters and funds. The children love to entertain us during our visits and show us their progress — the physical changes in the school as well as their academics! They now rank 5th out of 52 schools in the region! The student's pride in their school and themselves has increased proportionate to the attention we've paid to them and their surroundings, which is so rewarding for us.

There is much more to be done: Electricity; computers; uniforms; scholarships, school lunches, etc., etc. The need is great and our task goes on!

Through our visits, the children are learning that the wildlife of Africa is of great importance in a basic way... that the animals bring tourists and the tourists bring money, giving them a better life.

This is a first step to the realization of their responsibility (and ours) to their environment and our planet. They must learn how to protect the endangered and know the importance of observing the sociology of these fascinating creatures if they are to maintain their fragile co-existence.

It is our desire to improve the learning environment for these children as a 'thank you' for sharing the beauty and spirit of their country with us.

Bloom where Planted in Rwanda: In 1997, H.M. King Kigeli of Rwanda visited *Rose Tree Cottage* on a mission to raise awareness and funds for the 250,000 orphans of the Rwandan Genocide. Edmund then accompanied His Majesty to England for the same purpose.

Fast-forward to 2007: I fulfilled a desire I had as a child to visit this African country — although, not as a missionary as originally planned. Even so, I was able to help in a small way!

Following our days in the beautiful Rwandan mountains tracking the amazing Gorillas, we spent our last night in the city of Kigali. There, I was able to connect with a remarkable orphan organisation, headed by two young men who themselves are 'Orphan heads of household'. As friends, they recognised the need for others in their situation (young people who are now adult or approaching adulthood, responsible for younger siblings and now, perhaps, their own children). They have started a centre where they can teach others the life skills needed to carry on. In addition to showing these young people working skills (market farming, crafts, etc.), household management, basic nutrition and health, etc., they have organised a dance troupe to continue their tribal customs as well.

Now, some of our fund raising efforts are being channeled to this worthy group of young adults and children. These two inspirational young men are working so incredibly hard to provide for hundreds of others like themselves. They feel it is the way they can give thanks to God for their survival. To that, one can only say "Amen!"

Mary McNeill Fry



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Sponsorship - What is Expected

Commitments on Both Sides

The Basics

- A four-year commitment
- The schools chosen could range between \$350 - 675 per year.
- The first year, there is an additional cost for their uniforms, supplies, trunk for belongings, sleepwear, linens, etc. — from \$125-285 (girls require more than boys).
- Also, we will inquire of each school how much they charge a student for educational field trips and will include that in the costs (those who cannot afford to pay for field trips are left behind (I was witness to that this year and feel the stigma is too great as well as losing out on the value of the trip). On occasion, you may choose to provide special tutoring.

What is suggested that a sponsor can contribute:

- Encouraging letters to the child. We ask that you write to your student as often as you can, but especially after term results to encourage them to work to achieve more in the next term.
- A gift at Christmas and/or find out when their birthday is and send a card or little gift. Books are a wonderful thing, as it is not something they would usually own. Also, they love to see family photographs to have a better idea of who is sponsoring them — they take the action very personally and love to think of a sponsor as a 'parent'.
- Money – But do not send cash without discussing it with us first.
- You may communicate with them through Bloom Where Planted or on your own — as you wish, but all payments of fees, etc. must come through 'Bloom'.

- Some sponsors have chosen to start a college fund. Their college education will also cost MUCH less than in the U.S. — (approx. \$1000 - \$1500 a year at this time), but will be completely unattainable for that child. If you feel they are doing well in school and you want to give them even more hope, this is a way to do it... the fund should be held in your local bank, or ours here, under the name of the child and yourself, to be returned to you if the child does not choose or is not able to attend college or university.

Requirements of the Student:

- They are requested to provide their scores at the end of each term to the Head Master at Longonot who then passes them on to us. They also are asked to write letters to their sponsor at that time to update.
- Pictures are provided as well.
- They are instructed NOT to ask for monetary gifts. If they have pressing needs, they are to notify us and we will discuss it with you.
- They are told that all 'gifts' carry responsibility and that their responsibility for the gift of education is to work hard at their studies, to lead a full academic and extra-curricular life in their school in order to make the most of their time there.

With 45 students, there are 45 different stories. Most have only one parent, some are orphaned (Dick, shown here for instance). All need assistance and love. Committing to their education is a sign that someone cares about their life, their hopes, their dreams. What could possibly be more important than that?

For further information, please contact:

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www.bloomwhereplanted.org



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Declaration of Intent

Student Sponsorship

I /We would like to sponsor a Kenyan child in Secondary (High) School

Name/Names of Sponsor/(s)		Main Contact/Group Address	
Main Contact Name:			
Other Names:			
Main Contact Telephone:		Main Contact E-Mail:	
Preferences:			
Girl (s)	Interests/Goals desired:	School Year beginning:	My/Our Annual \$ Budget:
Boy (s)		January	
		ENTER YEAR	

Bloom Where Planted will attempt to match student/students with you/your family. Before assigned a particular student/students, we will discuss their scores, letters and photographs as well as the possible schools with you in order to fit a child (or children) to your expectations and budget.

Three schools in the area take the top girls and boys in the class — those are the more expensive schools (approx. \$600-650 annually). Those schools are: Naivasha High School (top 2); Archbishop Ndingi Secondary School for Boys and Saint Francis School for Girls. Other schools range between \$300 and \$500 per year. Please advise your budget requirements (see above) as well: \$ per annum.

Please return this form to:

Signed:

<i>Declaration Dated:</i>

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Volunteer Application Form

Student Camp Week

I / We would like to be considered for your Camp Teaching Week

Name/Names of Applicants	Main Contact/Group Address	
Main Contact Name:		
Other Names:		
	Main Contact E-Mail:	
Main Contact Telephone:	Subjects:	Skills:
I would like to offer and share, strictly as a Camp Week Volunteer, my knowledge and/or skills in these subjects/activities as an extension of your next Safari & Teach Program/Itinerary.		

I understand that by signing and returning this form to **Bloom Where Planted ("BWP")** I and **BWP** are, at this time, under no obligations what-so-ever and that the only purpose of this application at this time is to enable **BWP** to register my interest in their *Safari and Teach Program* for the purpose of contacting me and for providing me with further information. This signed Application Form also acts as and gives my consent, but only should I decide to participate in **BWP's** Safari and Teach Program, for **BWP** to make any/all enquiries and/or background checks that they and any other relevant Authority/Authorities associated with **BWP's** *Safari & Teach Program* deem necessary to confirm and assure them that I am of good character and to confirm my suitability to be included in an overseas (African) visit/program (teaching or non-teaching activity) that will necessitate close contact with children.

Please return this form to:

Signed:

<i>Application Dated:</i>

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