

Sponsor a Scholar through CSMF

We hear you are thinking of sponsoring a scholar through CSMF, this is overwhelmingly exciting! Your commitment will be life changing to a child from this economically deprived, rural area of Kenya where the dominant industry is subsistence farming. You will sponsor them through Secondary School and University after which the sky is the limit on what they can achieve.

Let me tell you a little bit about how a CSMF Scholarship works:

We select students from Mutunyi Primary School which is a state-run primary school with an average of 650 students. This is the local primary school for Mutunyi village which lies roughly 10 miles from Isiolo in Northern Kenya. The school is free to the local community, it is hugely under-resourced in terms of number of teachers, classrooms, books and facilities. Parents who send their children to Mutunyi only do so if they cannot afford the, sometimes minimal, fees of the better and higher achieving primary schools in the nearby towns.

The CSMF scholarship is academic and, based on past experience, we select our scholars on the following criteria:

- Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) grade of >330 (we set a minimum grade at 330 for several reasons: it is a realistic target; scores above this grade give students access to the best state secondary schools; and from our experience are more likely to excel at school and get in to good courses at public universities.)
- Minimum of 3 years at Mutunyi without re-sitting Class 8 (final year). (This is to prevent students from other better performing schools, moving to Mutunyi for the final year to take advantage of the scholarship.)
- Good character reference from headmaster, class tutor and the Lewa Education programme
- As long as they fulfil the above criteria the boy and girl with the top KCPE grades are selected

So on to Secondary and Tertiary education in Kenya – please see Appendix 1 for detailed report on the Kenyan education system as it applies to CSMF scholars.

Our aim is to send CSMF scholars to the best county schools and, if possible, national schools in Kenya. This gives them the best opportunity to get into a public university which we believe gives students an amazing opportunity to excel and pull themselves and their family out of poverty. Please visit our website <http://www.csmf.co.uk/school-scholars> to view the current and past CSMF scholars and read their stories.

We will keep in touch with you throughout the duration of their scholarship. During secondary school this will be in the form of school reports 2-3 times a year alongside letters and photos from the students. During university you will be able to contact the scholars more easily as they will then be allowed phones and have email so you can contact them directly! This will be alongside their university reports. We hope that you will be able to go and visit Mutunyi and meet the scholar you support directly.

Cost

Secondary school - the cost of secondary school varies depending on which school and on average costs £900/year for 4 years.

Tertiary education - the cost of tertiary education has risen over the last few years and for our current scholars is now on average £2500/year for 4 years.

Optional extra – there is a gap between end of school in November and the start of University in September. We encourage all of our student to go back to Mutunyi school and teach during this period. For this we give them a small maintenance pay/salary which comes to about £500.

Our scholarships are administered by the Lewa Education Programme

<https://www.lewa.org/impact/education/bursaries/> (Francisca featured in the video at the bottom of the page is a CSMF scholar).

This means that the total potential cost of a CSMF scholarship is £13,600 over 9 years. However, the cost for you is much lower at £7,480! As explained below:

- CSMF is a UK registered charity therefore any donation from a UK tax payer will be liable for 25% Gift Aid for the charity. This means that for example if the cost of the scholarship was £900 in year one you would need to make a donation of £720 to CSMF.
- If you are a higher rate UK tax payer you can also claim back the cost of giving charity against tax. You donate £720 - we claim Gift Aid to make your donation £900. You pay 40% tax so you can personally claim back £180 (£900 x 20%): <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid>
- As a result, the real cost of a £13,600 scholarship to you after Gift Aid and tax rebate is **£7,480** (you donate £10,200 we claim Gift Aid to make your donation £13,600. If you pay 40% tax, you can personally claim back 20% £2,720 (£1200 x 20%) overall cost of the scholarship is £7,480).

Poorly performing students

On our current statistics (which we are hoping to improve by raising our required KCPE grades to gain a scholarship) 30% of our students have not got the grades to go to a public university. This leaves them with various options such as vocational training or technical college for which the courses are typically shorter and cheaper. CSMF selects students for these courses on a case by case basis and some students' scholarships are ended at this point.

If this was to occur to a student you have sponsored, we would do this in consultation with you. If it was decided to stop the scholarship at that point, we would love you to continue to give the money as promised, but we would use it to support other children in the CSMF scholarship programme, or alternatively, you could sponsor a new student.

Commitment

So finally, we need a commitment from you that you will support a student for the duration of their scholarship through secondary school and university. There is a form to sign which will be attached.

Appendix 1

I have made my own summary of how the education system works for your information.

Primary School

Primary School in Kenya has 2 main tiers, State-run Primary Schools (such as Mutunyi) and Private Primary Schools (which are usually although not always, boarding schools). The state-run Primary Schools are almost universally considered low quality, underfunded and poorly resourced. This means that the mean Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) grades (the exam sat by all from year 8 students in Kenya who are graduating from Primary School) achieved in general from state

Primary Schools are significantly lower than private Primary Schools. On discussion with Faith and the LEP (Lewa education program) team all parents of means would not choose to send their children to state run Primary Schools. This was shown by the fact that all staff at LEP, the majority of staff at Mutunyi School, and any professional or high earning farmers in Mutunyi would send their children to private Primary Schools.

So, as you will see below on scholar selection, by virtue of the fact that parents have had no choice but to place their children at Mutunyi, means that they do not have the resources to send their children to Secondary School.

To prevent wealthy parents placing their children at Mutunyi for a final year (having previously been at private primary) to take advantage of any scholarship that has been offered, Lewa have a policy that to be eligible for a scholarship, the student must have been studying in that school for a minimum of 3 years.

Secondary School

With regards to Secondary School there are broadly 3 tiers of state-run High school in Kenya. Entry to these schools is entirely based on KCPE grades with higher grades enabling entry in to better Secondary Schools (Grades are what is important NOT ability to pay).

1. Local day High Schools: these are cheap more affordable for parents (although children from Mutunyi would have to travel long distances due to poor availability of schools in the local area increasing the cost). However, they are really low-quality schools with only 1-2% of a typical year group achieving the grades to go to a public university.
2. County High Schools: These are boarding High Schools usually based in the main towns or cities in a county. This is where the majority of CSMF scholars go. There is still variability in quality of these schools with the students who achieve high KCPE grades going to the best county schools with higher grade boundaries. These schools would cost £600-900/ year depending on which school. However roughly 40-50% of an average year group would gain access to a public university, with higher percentages in the top county schools.
3. National High Schools: these are the best state run High Schools in Kenya and the grade boundaries required for entry are very high. CSMF have had 3 scholars who have achieved the grades required and gone to one of these schools. These are of universally high quality and take a more holistic view of education. Over 90% of students graduating from these schools would achieve entry in to public university and would be likely to do better courses at the best public universities in the country.

Tertiary education

The scholarships that CSMF give are purely academic, therefore I believe the goal for all CSMF scholars should be to go to a public university. Entry to a public university is based on the students Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) with in general a grade of B or above will gain a student access (Higher grades are needed for more prestigious courses). The cost of a public university in Kenya has escalated significantly since CSMF started 10yrs ago. This is in small part due to an increase in university fees but mainly due to an increase in the cost of living in Kenya meaning that the cost of accommodation, food and transport has increased. University now cost between £2000-2500/year

Other options for students who don't achieve public universities include

- Technical or vocational training courses which are typically cheaper and shorter duration than university
- To stop funding further education and allow students to make their own way or go back to their families after High School

- To fund courses at private university - CSMF has avoided this option in the past as it is very expensive and the education it provides is not as good as at public universities

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