



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

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"During our recent visit to Sakila this last month I was able visit with Form Six students who are currently studying in preparation for their national exams due to take place in May. As some were sitting and some standing by a stairwell I approached them with simple but purposeful questions. "Why are you pursuing education?" Without hesitation the clear leader of the group stepped up with confidence and said, "We want to be different from how we grew up. We want to change the world." The first answer was understandable and plausible, but the second seemed a bit general or perhaps over-reaching, or so I thought. My follow-up question was whether they knew what they wanted to study at the university level. Their interests ranged from those who wanted to be doctors, pharmacists, politicians or lawyers. Some wanted to pursue urban development or aeronautical engineering.

For my final question I asked what had they done to ensure that they'd reach their goals. This is where it got a little interesting. The leader simply said, "We are ready for the national exam." With a bold and confident look, that could not be taught, the leader asked me, "What would you be willing to give us if we passed with Division I grades?" That would be equivalent to acing the exams so I told them to name their prize. A short while later they approached me and said they had discussed it and they felt that \$100 per student who received Division I would be adequate. A little high, I thought, but I agreed.

True to their promise, last week in a scheduled national mock examination, 11 of the 18 students aced the exams receiving Division I scores! Six received Div II, and one received Div III, all of which would be highly adequate to qualify for university! Praise the Lord! Then it dawned on me that I might be looking for a side job soon. Does anyone know someone who's hiring?! :)

These young people are impressively determined and I'm excited for what God is doing through this school and the impact it already has had in Tanzania. Please pray for them as they prepare for the real exams next month. Thank you for all you do to make it possible." ~ Godwin Selembo

What do we do with the money you faithfully send? Your donations are recorded and your intentions noted. The funds are then held in an interest-bearing account awaiting disbursement. Once per month, we wire the necessary funds to cover the school's operating budget for that month. Also included is what we call our "duka" list. Sponsors can choose to bless the family of their child by sending an extra amount each month or just occasionally throughout the year to supplement the child's family with food. Our stateside help is all-volunteer and office expenses are covered with funds specifically donated for that purpose. In Tanzania, you are getting an excellent value for your giving. The costs for educating a child in Tanzania are much less than here in the states. Teachers' monthly salaries, for example, range from about \$200 to \$450. Children are taught using just the basics such as pencils, pens and paper. In our schools, they are fed beans with corn or rice and greens grown on school property. We can add meat from the school's own small goatherd. (Public school children are not afforded the luxury of food and school supplies being provided for them.)

Why is it taking so long for my child to finish school?

Basic education in TZ takes a minimum of 14 years. And, based on need, our teachers can choose to let a student repeat classes, thus giving a better opportunity for them to succeed.

What happens when children unexpectedly leave?

Some will leave without completing their education in our program, and we may or may not know why. That's when we contact you to see if you will take a different child. That's the hardest task we have because you have often become attached to him/her as if they were family. You have had a photo on your fridge and you've prayed for your child daily... by name! We pray that you will understand that God cares about each child and your prayers have not gone unheard. So, if you receive a call asking if you are willing to love a *different* child, we pray that you will open your heart to another little face with the same love. God's love never divides. It multiplies! Many blessings to you!

The Sakila Sponsorship Program is a U.S. Federally recognized 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Sakila Sponsorship Program (S.S.P.) or pay securely using your credit or debit card by going to www.sakilasponsorship.org and clicking on the 'CONTACT INFO & DONATIONS' button.