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Sponsor Handbook

Secondary School

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Welcome to the EFAC Community!



We are so excited and grateful to have you join us in our efforts to support bright Kenyan students, who would otherwise end their education at 8th grade, on their academic journey. Throughout their 8 years as EFAC Scholars, they will be empowered with the education and skills needed to chase their dreams and achieve economic and career success.

Your commitment to a student's academic scholarship is life-changing for the student and will create ripple effects in the student's family, school, and community. We hope your relationship with an EFAC Scholar proves to be a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

This handbook is filled with all of the information you need to guide you as a Sponsor, engaging in a cultural exchange with an EFAC Scholar and learning about the impact of your investment as you continue your involvement in EFAC's programs.

With sincere thanks,

Kayla Lawson

Kayla Lawson
Sponsor Program Manager

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CONTACT INFO & QUICKLINKS

Email:
sponsors@efac.org

EFAC Sponsor Resource Hub:
https://www.efac.org/sponsor-resources

Social Media:

Academic Scholarship Sponsor Program

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About Education For All Children



EFAC was founded in 2008 by Prof. Leah Marangu, Kenyan leader in education and Vice-Chancellor of Africa Nazarene University (ret.), and Nancy & Rod Van Sciver of Rye, New Hampshire. The goal was to establish a program that addressed the pervasive gap in global education. The result, nearly 15 years later, is a unique education-to-employment program that provides a path out of poverty for bright young Kenyans. The EFAC team consists of dedicated staff, trustees, and advisors in both Kenya and the U.S.

The core of EFAC's model is a commitment to underwrite the tuition and necessary supplies for students to attend a rigorous boarding high school in Kenya and continue on to post-secondary school. Critical to the success of EFAC Scholars is the programming that goes "beyond scholarship": providing mentoring, leadership training, service learning opportunities, and career-readiness throughout the 8-year program. EFAC provides Scholars with an education and empowers them with the tools they need to transform their lives.

EFAC Sponsors Are Changemakers!

Your sponsorship dollars are invested directly in a student's education. By providing the foundation of an academic scholarship, an EFAC Scholar is able to enter into a community of support and learning that nurtures their development through young adulthood. It is our hope that EFAC Scholars and sponsors develop enduring relationships of cultural exchange and encouragement with the common bond that education enriches lives across the globe.

How the Academic Scholarship Sponsor Program Works

Sponsors typically underwrite the tuition, fees, books, uniforms, basic hygiene supplies and transportation for an EFAC Scholar. As Scholars are selected to join EFAC, they are matched with committed participants in the Sponsor Program through a one-to-one model. Sponsorships are a 4-year commitment, which can be renewed for another 4 years as the Scholar enters post-secondary school. EFAC Scholars and sponsors maintain letter-writing correspondence 3 times a year throughout high school and email/text correspondence throughout post-secondary (and often times, beyond!).



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How EFAC Scholars Are Chosen

EFAC Scholars are selected based on academic merit, financial need and demonstrated qualities of leadership and resiliency.

Applications are reviewed each year between September-December. First round candidates are selected for in-person interviews. The second round is determined based on the results of the KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education), which is typically published in December. EFAC staff determines the final selection and makes offers for students to begin Form 1 (9th grade) in January.

About EFAC Partner Schools & Student Life

EFAC Partner Schools

The secondary schools that EFAC Scholars attend ("partner schools") are critical to the success of the program. Partner schools rank in the top 10% of Kenya's secondary schools and provide a rigorous academic and extracurricular experience for EFAC Scholars. The EFAC program team in Kenya works closely with these schools to form a strong relationship with the principal, as well as a designated contact teacher, who is the critical link between Scholars and EFAC staff.

Student Life at Kenyan Boarding Schools

All EFAC partner schools are boarding schools, located across the country. Students typically take 11-12 classes in Forms 1 and 2 and then focus on 8 classes in Forms 3 and 4. EFAC Scholars are actively engaged in their school communities and participate in student groups, sports and activities. It is important to note that the grading system in Kenya is incredibly rigorous and scores are often deflated to motivate students.

Typical Daily Schedule

5am	Wake up & Morning Devotions
6am	Breakfast & Cleaning Duties
7am-1pm	Classes
1pm-2pm	Lunch
2pm-4pm	Classes
4pm	Field games
6pm	Dinner
7pm-9pm	Study Time
10pm	Lights Out



After completing four years of high school, students sit for the KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education), a rigorous national exam that takes over a month to complete. The exam covers material from all four years of high school. Students are tested in Mathematics, English, Kiswahili, Chemistry, and four electives. The results of the KCSE dictates whether a student will attend a university degree program (4 years) or a college diploma program (2-3 years), as well as what they will study.

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EFAC's Program Goes 'Beyond Scholarship'

The 8-year EFAC program is called the "Wezesha Journey". Wezesha means "empower" in Kiswahili and is meant to signify the empowerment of EFAC Scholars as they reach for personal and professional success through EFAC's program. With this goal in mind, we know that offering academic support is not enough. We engage a whole-child approach, supporting students in their academic, social and pre-professional development throughout high school, college and into their careers. Our investment is both deep and long as the ultimate goal is the empowerment of EFAC Scholars to gain employment after post-secondary graduation, creating a path out of poverty that transforms their own lives, and positively impacts their families, communities and country.

EFAC Workshops

EFAC Workshops are held annually to guide Scholars through the transition to the next stage in their education and along their Wezesha Journey.

- Induction: For EFAC Scholars beginning their journey, before they begin boarding school
- Bridge-to-Success: For EFAC Scholars each year, attended by Form
- Bridge-to-College: For EFAC Scholars who've completed Form 4 as they prepare to attend college
- Bridge-to-Employment: For EFAC Scholars in post-secondary school
- Wezesha Workshop: For EFAC Scholars who have completed post-secondary school and are preparing to enter the workforce.



Mentorship & Community

EFAC Scholars have access to the EFAC program staff in Kenya, including mental health professionals and EFAC contact teachers at their schools. EFAC also establishes peer mentoring groups at each school, in which students can support each other as individuals and EFAC scholars. This is especially helpful for the younger students to have older peers in their immediate circle of support. Students receive training on peer mentoring as they progress through the program.

Career Development

Throughout their time as students, EFAC Scholars have regular access to progressively relevant training, skill-building and mentorship opportunities to strengthen their candidacy as they ultimately prepare to enter the workforce. Scholars also have access to the Career Resource Center at EFAC's office in Nairobi to support their job searches after graudation.

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Getting to Know EFAC Scholars

Connecting with EFAC Scholars is a mutually rewarding experience. Life in Kenya, and especially for EFAC Scholars, is very different than many have experienced in the U.S. Sponsors are asked to be aware of cultural sensitivities and avoid topics that could make students uncomfortable.

What is an EFAC Scholar's home life like?

The majority of EFAC Scholars are from homes without electricity and running water, clothing is often second hand, and they have very likely experienced hunger and may have begged on the streets. They often know loss - likely of a parent - through death or abandonment. They do not expect to continue their education beyond 8th grade without an intervention program like EFAC.



Despite this adversity, EFAC Scholars are amazingly resilient and eagerly look to the EFAC community for caring support, empathy and encouragement.

Are EFAC Scholars very religious?

80% of Kenyans are Christian and approximately 10% are Muslim. Kenyans are very spiritual, but do not push their faith. The letters you receive from EFAC Scholars may include religious references, often "blessings". These are a courtesy in Kenyan culture. If you are uncomfortable reciprocating, please express warmth and care in an alternative way that shows you consider their well-being very important. Some examples:

"Sending you love" • "I think about you often"
"With warmth and affection" • "You are in my thoughts"







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Correspondence with EFAC Scholars

A significant part of the Academic Scholarship Sponsor Program is letter writing exchanges between EFAC Scholars and sponsors. Writing regularly, expressing interest in their lives, sharing your interests and family activities, and sending encouragement means so much to students!

Things to keep in mind when writing:

- Students love to hear about you and your families, but remember that they come from very poor areas, so sending pictures of a big house or fabulous trip may be hard to grasp.
- EFAC Scholars, like most people, respond to positive reinforcement. Students report that having someone who believes in them is a big incentive to work hard and do well in school.

How and when do I write my letter?

Writing a simple one-page letter is ideal. You are welcome to include a photo or two in your letters, but please keep in mind that letters are printed in black & white at the schools in Kenya.

- **E-mail your letter as a Word doc or PDF to sponsors@educationforallchildren.org**
- **Please name the file with the student's form, EFAC ID #, school, and full name (ie, "Form 2 2431 Alliance Girls Rose Wanjiku.doc")**

Together, the U.S. and Kenyan offices manage the letter correspondence between Scholars and sponsors. Correspondence is exchanged 3 times a year (once per term). Sponsors receive letters via email from the EFAC office. We will give you advance notice and deadlines for returning your letters to the EFAC office.

Other letter ideas include:

- Describe your family, where you live, interests, activities, pets, etc.
- Explain special holidays and family customs
- Talk about milestone events, such as weddings, graduations, new jobs, etc.
- Talk about your profession or education, as they love learning about careers
- Share your hobbies and interests: reading, hiking, painting, singing, etc.
- Let them know you are thinking of them and wishing them success
- Ask questions about their lives
- Ask about their classes and what they enjoy learning about at school
- Ask about their hobbies, sports, and activities
- Ask about their friends and family
- Invite them to write back and tell you about their hopes and dreams

****Please avoid controversial topics, such as politically or socially charged comments.*

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Correspondence FAQs

May I share my personal contact information?
Please do not include your home address, phone number or email in your letters to high school students.

Can I email students directly?
EFAC students and sponsors do not communicate directly during high school. Once scholars move to post-secondary school, you may connect directly. Communication through email, WhatsApp or social media are most common.

How should Group Sponsors participate?
Group Sponsors have the choice to write letters together or individually. However, students will only write one letter in return so they do not have to write multiple letters each term.

Can I send a small gift to the student?
Sponsors should not send gifts or money to students for several reasons:

- Schools work hard to make sure that anything that is gifted to a student can be shared by everyone.
- Most students have few personal possessions, so when one student receives a gift, jealousy can create tension in the school community.
- Packages sent to Kenya often do not arrive, or if they do, there are often customs fees that students cannot afford.

What if students ask for money?
Students are instructed not to ask sponsors for money or gifts. Please let us know if you receive such a request and we will follow up with the program staff in Kenya to determine if the student is experiencing any problems and how EFAC can provide support.

When to contact EFAC:

- We do not read all letters, so if you sense a problem, please reach out so we can liaise with the team in Kenya.
- If you would like to provide additional support for students in lieu of gifts or money, please contact us.

Your contact: Sponsor Program Manager, Kayla Lawson, klawson@efac.org.



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Getting Involved with EFAC



How can I help spread the word about EFAC?

Being a Sponsor supports the very foundation of EFAC's mission. Your generosity and commitment speaks volumes about the importance you place on the power of education and your confidence in the work EFAC is doing. Networking is the most effective way to share with others the transformative power of giving education.

EFAC Events:

Host a house party or fun gathering to let your circle know about EFAC! The EFAC Team can help with planning, invitations, and student guests (usually joining by Zoom). Or meet us on the green at the Annual Golf Classic!

EFAC Student Ambassador Program:

Encourage high schoolers to join the Student Ambassador. Students typically raise funds, interact with EFAC Scholars through letter writing, and participate in awareness-building activities in their communities.
See more details here: efac.org/SAP



Facebook Fundraisers:

Choose EFAC for your cause on a Facebook Fundraiser to mark a special occasion!

Peer-to-Peer Fundraisers:

Have a race or other challenge coming up? Create a fundraiser on our GiveLively platform and customize it to your story and event!



Thank you for joining EFAC's community of changemakers! As we strive to meet our mission, your support is an essential piece of the puzzle and we welcome you to reach out and get involved in whatever ways enrich your life, knowing that in turn you are changing the life of someone else.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please contact Kayla Lawson, Sponsor Program Manager: sponsors@efac.org