

DREAM SPONSORS, INC.



**Making Dreams Come True...
For African Orphans and At-risk Youth**

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What is Dream Sponsors, Inc.?

Dream Sponsors, Inc. is committed to creating networks of support through meaningful sponsorships designed to assist orphan youth in Africa with the emotional, financial and logical means to transform their dreams into reality.

Through its collaborative relationships with other organizations in the United States and Kenya, Africa, Dream Sponsors, Inc.:

- Provides emotional and financial support of specific youth and professional adults who assist youth by identifying individual needs, determining future dreams and goals and by designing a plan for sponsorship
- Matches sponsors, who are willing to share their resources with youth in need, while creating opportunities for social, economic and academic advancement
- Conducts fundraising activities in the United States and abroad for the purpose of developing programs and sponsorships
- Provides ongoing progress reports highlighting youth achievements to the entity engaged in the sponsor relationship
- Supports mentoring of orphan and at-risk youth and professionals assisting them through online resources
- Engages in cultural exchange opportunities between youth and professionals from Kenya and the various regions of the United States
- Builds collaborative partnerships with other non-profits, corporations and organizations, which have similar missions, to develop new projects and to expand support for identified African youth
- Coordinates Service Exchange Programs for teams of professionals from United States to travel to Africa and volunteer time and services assisting with identified needs. Support includes consultation services, direct services, training and other volunteer services
- Assures collection of qualitative and quantitative data to demonstrate goal attainment and satisfy funding requirements



Why Kenya, Africa?

The Dream Sponsor Story....

Dream Sponsors, Inc., has chosen to help the children of Kenya for many reasons, including the enormous needs of, and urgency for, the millions of children orphaned by AIDS and other illnesses. Further, the organization founder, Carla B. Neumann, mentors a Kenyan professional who develops youth projects and currently serves as caretaker for five orphan youth in Kenya. The founder has toured various regions of Kenya and other African countries and has witnessed firsthand the plight of the children. After two years of online communication, she visited her mentee and was inspired by the life stories of a group of orphan youth, her mentee, and the Headmaster of Madaraka Primary School in Kenya. She decided to begin this official sponsorship program. While recruiting board members, her journey led her to meet Fiston Kahindo, a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo now living in the USA. Kahindo was orphaned at age 8, fled his country on foot, and survived the harsh conditions of a refugee camp in Kenya for six years. He now studies at a private South Florida university after receiving educational sponsorships and hopes to make a difference in the lives of youth in Africa. We believe these established relationships between professionals in Kenya and the United States provide a trustworthy and credible pathway to making dreams come true for Kenyan youth.

Who are the orphans?

In Kenya, an orphan is defined as child under the age of 18, who has lost one or both parents as a result of death. It is estimated that 11% of all children under 15 are orphans (2003), compared with 9% in 1998. Up to 6 million Kenyan children require special care and protection — 40% of the country's total child population.

The Devastating Impact of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a major contributor to the plight of children in Kenya. The number of orphans is expected to rise to more than 2 million by 2010, with HIV/AIDS contributing up to 60% of the total number of orphans. These children have limited access to psychosocial and economic support, making them the most vulnerable of Kenyan society.

In Kenya, it is rare to find anyone whose life has not been touched by HIV/AIDS in some way. It is a matter of whether one is "infected" or "affected" by this disease.

"Infected":

Children who are born to HIV-infected mothers risk infection during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding. Approximately 13,300 children were born with HIV in 2002. Older children are also vulnerable to HIV infection. A staggering 18% of young women are infected with HIV within two years of becoming sexually active. Of the 900,000 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, 78,000 between the ages of birth to 14 are HIV infected.

"Affected":

Of the estimated 1.78 million orphans, about half are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. This is expected to increase to 2.3 million by 2010. Children who lose their parents to HIV/AIDS suffer psychological stress, profound grief and trauma. In addition, parental illness and death often rob children of economic resources to survive, as well as parental love, care and protection.

Children are vulnerable long before their parents die. Girls, in particular, assume caring responsibilities for ailing parents and parenting responsibilities for their siblings. Agricultural productivity is also negatively affected by HIV/AIDS because of the high death rate of the adult workers. Therefore the food supply is increasingly threatened, which adversely affects the nutritional status of children.

Poverty and loss of the family unit expose children to exploitation and abuse. Children from affected families are more likely to drop out of school. Escalating survival crime and social disorganization are also a result of the increased number of orphans.



Did You Know?.....

- 20% of the Kenyan population is 6 years and younger; and 48% of the population is below 15. More than 53% of Kenyans live in absolute poverty, which means that 8.6 million live below the poverty line. The poverty line is the equivalent of \$1.00 USD per day.
- 30% of children under 5 are physically stunted. Infant mortality is 77 per 1000 live births, and under 5 mortality is 115 per 1000 live births. Only 57% of children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months are fully vaccinated, and malaria kills 26,000 children every year.
- Only 58% of children under 15 live with both parents; 11% do not live with either of their parents (and are considered as "fostered").
- There are 7.2 million children in primary school. Of these, 1.2 million children (17%) of currently enrolled children are orphans; drop out rates in primary school are 5.4%.
- Nationally 1.3 million children (ages 5 to 17) were engaged in child labor in 1998/99; most in commercial and subsistence agriculture, fishing and domestic services. The majority of working children are between the ages of 10 and 14, with the highest proportions found in the Coast, Eastern and Rift Valley Provinces (19-19.8%).

The Dream Sponsor Board of Directors

Carla B. Neumann, MS, LMFT
Fiston Kahindo
Beth Eyestone, MS, LMHC
Thomas Neumann
Kelli Kuzniar, MS, LCSW
Ruby Hernandez Sambolin

Founder and President
Treasurer
Secretary
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Statistical data provided from The National Policy on Orphans & Vulnerable Children from the Office of the Vice President & Ministry of Home Affairs in Kenya



There are many ways you can help make dreams come true for orphans and at-risk youth in Kenya. Dream Sponsors offers a variety of Dream Sponsor packages that you may choose from.

Please choose any of our Annual Dream Sponsor Packages and/or become a Volunteer.

One Child's Dream: \$100 Monthly \$1,000 Annually

Covers the cost to provide food, clothing, mosquito nets, school supplies and other basic needs to one child for one year.

One Adult Dream Leader: \$50 Monthly \$600 Annually

Stipend for Kenya-based volunteers covering the cost of communication fees and local transportation fees involved in home/school visits and delivery of basic needs to sponsored orphans.

College Sponsorship: \$1,000 Annually

Provides financial support for one youth or adult who commits to advance his/her education in a profession to benefit orphan or at-risk youth.

Special Dream Sponsor Projects:

Provide support for ongoing special projects that Dream Sponsors participates in such as the Grief and Loss Project Initiative now in planning stages.

Memberships: Standard \$100 Bronze \$500 Silver \$1,000 Gold \$2,500 Platinum \$5,000

A set contribution providing support for overall mission of Dream Sponsors, Inc. Assists with printing costs, fundraising campaigns, communication fees, and miscellaneous needs of individual orphans, etc.

DREAM VOLUNTEERS:

Provide volunteer services for fundraising events, special mailings and youth progress updates. Those desiring to participate on coordinated service collaborations to the region are also able to volunteer in a direct service capacity for their chosen profession.

Mosquito Nets: \$10 Each

School Lunch Program: \$200 Annually (Program for one identified orphan attending school.)

We strive to provide 100% of our donations for direct support of the identified orphans. Because we work with volunteers in the USA and Kenya, our operational expenses are minimal. Our expenses include printing, communication fees, required governmental application fees, insurance fees and stipends to reimburse our Kenyan volunteers for fees involved in their local travel for home/school visits and delivering basic need supplies. USA based board member volunteers raise their own funds to travel to Kenya to meet the sponsored children, ensuring that they are receiving the appropriate items through the support provided.

As a donor you will receive periodic news bulletins listing project accomplishments and formal acknowledgement of your contribution, although the amount will remain confidential. Donors who provide sponsorship to an identified youth or adult will be provided that individual's dream sponsor application, ongoing progress reports, and information on major life events affecting them. Dream Sponsors is committed to facilitating a more personal connection between the sponsor and the identified youth/adult so you may see the benefits of your contribution.

Donor/Volunteer Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Company: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

**Please make all checks payable to:
Dream Sponsors, Inc.
12773 West Forest Hill Blvd., Ste. 1205
Wellington, Florida 33414**

Dream Sponsors, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

“The Long Journey from Home”

One Courageous Orphan’s Story



Meet Fiston M. Kahindo, originally, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fiston left his country when he was just eight years old after both of his parents died unexpectedly. It was in 1992 that his father, Dr. Paul Kahindo, a talented physician, died a suspicious death from poisoning, shortly after voicing political related views. Just one week later his dear mother, Tamari, unable to withstand the shock, suffered a heart attack and died. The emptiness of the house immediately engulfed young Fiston. Each morning, he tried to go to his parents’ bedroom to let them know he was awake, but the room was consistently silent. This marked the beginning of his life as an orphan.

His brother, 12 years his senior, soon started to question the government in the press, asking many challenging questions concerning his father’s suspicious death. This mistake resulted in an assassination attempt on his brother’s life, just three weeks after his father’s death. Fortunately, Fiston’s brother escaped assassination, returned for Fiston and both fled to the forest to hide. For more than three weeks they trudged together through thick brush, countless river crossings, while surviving on wild nuts and grasses. The young child’s legs swelled until he could no longer walk, forcing his older brother to carry him. Their weak bodies endured constant rain with no shelter, and no dry clothes to warm them.

After more than three weeks of intense walking and surviving the harsh conditions of the journey, the brothers finally sought permanent refuge in Kenya. The United Nations Agency responsible for their protection, the UNHCR, sent them to Walda Refugee Camp, located in the northwest region of Kenya. Suddenly, after fleeing a mountainous, arid climate, Fiston found himself in the middle of a dry, hot desert, where the average temperature was in excess of 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Worse yet, there was a lack of sufficient food, water and medical supplies. The young boy witnessed the agonizing deaths of many people each day, due to the severe lack of basic survival needs.

After nine months, they were transferred to a nearby refugee camp, called Kakuma. It was there that things started to turn around for Fiston and his brother. Because of his motivation to succeed and dedication to his studies, he received a scholarship to finish his elementary and middle school education in a local Kenyan school. After outstanding academic performance, AREP Foundation, a non-governmental organization granted him a scholarship to attend a high school in Matuu, a small city about 100 miles from the capital city of Nairobi. His brother moved from the refugee camp to Nairobi, in order to help support Fiston in pursuing his education.

Living in the slums of Nairobi as a refugee was not easy for Fiston or his brother. While he spent most of his time at school, he often visited the city of Nairobi during breaks. On the tough city streets, he and other orphans were routinely harassed and threatened by the police, a common practice there. Upon completing his sophomore year of high school, through the gift of sponsorship, Fiston was extremely blessed to receive a scholarship to Holderness School in New Hampshire. He joined Holderness School as a junior, where he graduated in May 2003. He describes his obtaining a scholarship at Holderness School as just “another long story” but attributes this to “the grace of God”.

After excelling at Holderness School, he graduated and received another scholarship to Lynn University, where he is currently a senior majoring in both International Business and International Relations. He is also the very first international student to serve as President of the Student Government Association. He cites this experience as a shining light in the darkness. Because of someone who cared enough to sponsor Fiston, he believes that attending school has provided hope, strength, and opportunities that he never dreamed possible. Fiston Kahindo now serves as Treasurer of the Board of Dream Sponsors, Inc., with the mission of helping other orphans find sponsors to help make their dreams come true.