



TOP BANANA CHILD SPONSORSHIP

We were going to call this scheme ‘Sponsor a Child’ because that is a commonly accepted phrase, but felt that it did not describe the scheme most accurately. We are here on the ground and have seen the detrimental effects of singling out particular children for sponsorship with our own eyes. Tshesebe is a poor village. People don’t have money. If you were to sponsor a particular child, the chances are that that child would be far better off than a non-orphaned or non-vulnerable child, which almost puts an orphaned / vulnerable child at an advantage. You may think that this is the right thing to do, however being on the ground we assure you that an even distribution of funds is of far greater benefit.

To use a metaphorical example, we may want to give 100 kids the opportunity to play soccer. 60 kids have soccer kit, 40 don’t. Rather than providing full kit to 10 “sponsored” children, we want to provide basic kit for all 40. This means that orphaned and vulnerable children are not singled out and therefore stigmatised, it gives all the children the same chance – in this case, to play soccer, and encourages all children to interact as equals.

This is not only our opinion, but also that of Social Services and other professionals involved in orphan care. Stories of children wishing they were orphaned in order to benefit from an affluent sponsor are not uncommon. Our concept is to sponsor THE children, rather than a particular child.

What do I receive from TOP Banana in exchange for sponsoring the children?

We will not send a photo of a particular child that you are sponsoring, but will instead send updates and photos of the many children benefiting from your sponsorship.

We believe it is equally important for you to receive feedback about us as it is for us to receive your donation. We will send a quarterly newsletter along with correspondence approximately twice yearly from the children, for example, drawings or pictures from part of a current project they are working on. In addition, you will have access to our online diary, which is updated monthly.



How much does it cost to sponsor the children at TOP Banana?

How much you donate each month is entirely up to you. There is no such thing as an 'average' child – every child has different needs. To give you some idea of how far your money can go in Botswana, here are some cost examples:

£10.00 per month gives a child 3 nutritious meals per day

£25.00 per month feeds a child AND sends a child to school – covering school fees, stationery, school uniforms, school trips, etc.

£50.00 per month feeds, schools AND clothes a child – paying for shoes, clothing, as well as essential items such as toiletries and bedding

Where does my money go?

TOP Banana is a small organisation with few bureaucratic overheads. Because of this, you can be sure your money goes directly to those that need it most – our children. Your money primarily pays for the children involved in TOP Banana to be fed, in some cases clothed and schooled but in every case listened to, respected, loved and most importantly with the help of our trained carers, given a childhood and the best stepping stones to help them to become a responsible adult.

Is it better for me to sponsor the children or just give a one off donation?

While we are extremely grateful for all donations, sponsorship is really the backbone of TOP Banana, allowing us to plan and budget each month with a clear vision for the months ahead.



How do I start sponsorship with TOP Banana?

For people living outside of the UK or New Zealand, child sponsorship must be paid via credit card. If you live outside these areas, or wish to donate via credit card, simply email us at infotopbanana@yahoo.co.uk and we will send you a credit card form to fill in and email back to us. Your credit card will then be debited monthly with the amount you specify.

How often can I pay my sponsorship?

This is really up to you, however we would prefer you to make your contributions monthly as this helps us to plan and budget each month. We have divided months up into the 1st and 15th and ask that your donation be on one of these dates every month.

Can I visit the centre or send gifts?

Yes. We offer volunteer positions throughout the year. ALL of our volunteers are rigorously screened and police checked to ensure they leave only a positive imprint on the children and local community. We are happy to receive donations of gifts such as colouring pens, paper, sports equipment, musical instruments, etc. Please contact us via email if you would like more information on this.

On behalf of the children that will benefit from your support

.....THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!