



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 per month gives a child 3 nutritious meals per day

£25 per month feeds a child AND sends a child to school – covering school fees, stationery, school uniforms, school trips, etc.

£50 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 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.



How do I start sponsorship with TOP Banana?

TOP Banana is a UK Registered Charity, No1112597 and Barclays Bank in Leicester looks after all our banking needs. To begin sponsoring, please complete these 3 simple steps:

1. Firstly print this document. You need to set up a standing order with your bank by simply completing the Standing Order form attached and taking it into your bank.

****Alternatively, you can set up your monthly payments to us online – our details are:**

Account Name: TOP Banana

Account Number: 80 96 28 56
Sort Code: 20-49-08

Ref to appear on our statement: *This is made up of the first 3 letters of your surname along with your date of birth. Eg: Susan Jones born 01 Dec 1976 would be JON011276*

2. Please also complete the GiftAid form, which will enable us to claim 28% over and above your donation from the UK government and post it to the address on the form.
3. Finally, please drop us an email to infotopbanana@yahoo.co.uk to let us know you have completed these steps and are a new child sponsor. *This is important as it ensures you receive updates and correspondence from TOP Banana.*

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!!



Standing Order form for a monthly donation to TOP Banana

This form allows you to set up a regular monthly donation to TOP Banana through your Bank. *All we ask is that you check the first payment is made correctly.*

Dear Bank:(Your Bank Name)

PLEASE PAY,

Bank: Barclays Bank
Branch: Oadby, Leicester
Beneficiary Name: Tshesebe Orphan Project
Sort code: 20-49-08
Account No: 80 96 28 56

AMOUNT.

The sum of: £.....

Amount in words:

COMMENCING.

Frequency: Monthly

Date of first payment: *01st or *15th day of(Insert Month)

*(Delete which is NOT applicable)

Last Payment: Until further notice

Our reference number: (See below)

Our reference number will appear on our bank statement and will be used to identify your donations. It is made up of the first three letters of your surname and your date of birth.

Eg: Susan Jones born on 1st Dec 1976 would be JON011276

DEBIT.

Name of Account: (Your Name)

Sort Code: - -

Account Number

UK Charity No: 1112597

IMPORTANT ON COMPLETION PLEASE TAKE THIS FORM TO YOUR BANK.



GIFT AID FOR TOP BANANA

The UK government has kindly set up Gift Aid which means that if you complete and return the following form to us, TOP Banana can claim an extra 28% over and above any donation you make, so that, for example £10 becomes £12.80.

Your Details:

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TitleForename(s)Surname

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode

I want TOP Banana to treat;

*the enclosed donation of £ as a Gift Aid donation

*the donation(s) of £which I made on/...../..... as (a) Gift Aid donation(s)

*all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations

*all donations I have made for the six years prior to this year, (but no earlier than 6/4/2000) **and** all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

* (Delete those NOT applicable)

Signed **Dated**/...../.....

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).

UK Charity No: 1112597

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

TOP BANANA, 4 CHESTNUT AVENUE, OADBY, LEICESTER, LE2 5JG