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## **A REPORT ON BURSERY FOR FORTY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Tsogolo la Ana organization is a registered local non-governmental organization which was established in 2005. Its mission is to work with orphans and vulnerable children towards promoting their rights and improving the livelihood of their families. One of its programs is education.

Through assistance from partners, Open Hearts Germany, Tsogolo La Organisation has implemented an education bursary to 10 pupils every year starting from form one to form four in the schools of Namadidi and Muhasuwa CDSS in Chiradzulu district since 2008. 50 students have so far benefited from this project. The bursary starts with a pupil at form one through form four. The full education bursary is given to the pupils in forms of: School fees, Full school uniform (including school shoes), exercise books and writing materials, School bags and examination fees for those sitting for examinations in forms two and four.

### **2. BENEFICIARIES**

The beneficiaries in the 2011/2012 academic year is as listed below:

1	Ellen Miswali	female	4
2	Chisomo Mwekera (replacement of Ellina Samson)	female	4
3	Finess Njewa (replacement of Ester Munta)	female	4
4	Shadrack Chilomo	male	4
5	Zinkhambani Botomani	male	4
6	Thokozani Kaleya	female	4
7	Chrissie Chirombo	female	4
8	Regina Salijeni	female	4

9	Gracious Nasiyaya	male	4
10	Stephano Kanagwa	male	4
11	Mercy Vincent	female	3
12	Angella Chitsulo	female	3
13	Chiyanjano Seyani	female	3
14	Francis Limbani	male	3
15	Tamandani Mwanyali	male	3
16	Mathews Khobiri	male	3
17	Hope Samu	male	3
18	Enock Mariko	male	3
19	Amosi Afati	male	3
20	Arbert Banda	male	3
21	Thokozani Walima	female	2
22	Joyce Banda	female	2
23	Fellina Mpulula	female	2
24	Adaine Bwanali	female	2
25	Dalex Seyani	male	2
26	Patrick Nkhamula	male	2
27	Joseph Gerrald	male	2
28	Harry Kondwani	male	2
29	Francis George	male	2
30	Lemos Paulo	male	2
31	Calista William	Female	1
32	Chrissy Matias	Female	1
33	Tinenenji Dines	Female	1
34	Nelyce Thawani	Female	1
35	Andasiki Malango	Male	1
36	Chikondi Elias	Male	1
37	Evance Maulana	Male	1
38	John Zeno	Male	1
39	John Mapira	Male	1
40	Stanford Kalumo	Male	1

The school year has three terms. In this academic year, first term was from 26th September 2011 to 9th December 2011, second term from 6th January 2012 to 23rd March 2012 and third term from 16th April 2012 to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

### **3. ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR**

#### **1. School visits:**

The purpose of these visits is:

- To select orphans in form one eligible for the bursary. This is done at the beginning of the first term of the school year. The orphan pupils are given an aptitude test so that the best ten among the needy are considered for the bursary. There is no gender discrimination.
- To orient the pupils on the purpose of the bursary and encourage them to be focused and work hard in school.
- Discuss with teachers about procedures of our bursary e.g. our expectations in terms of timelines with regards to school reports and us the guardians of the pupils on bursary.
- Meetings with school committees, Community based organizations involved with orphan care and the guardians of the selected pupils to make them understand the basis and modality of this bursary.

## **2. Home visits:**

These are done once a year. It is important to understand the environment in which the beneficiary comes from. Most of them come from child headed households; some live with very old grandparents some with distant relations. The area surrounding these schools is remote rural community with poor grass thatched houses. Visiting their homes makes them have a feeling of belonging and encourages them to take their studies seriously and work hard in class.

## **3. Payment of school fees:**

At the beginning of every school term, school fees is supposed to be paid. In our case, the fees is paid once it is received from the donors. Examination fees for those sitting for exams in forms two and four is paid at the beginning of the second term. The schools submit the examination fees to the Malawi National Examinations board and the board has its own deadlines as it administers examinations for all schools in Malawi.

## **4. Collection of school reports:**

School reports are very important as we need to know the performance of the beneficiaries and see where we can assist. The reports are sent to the donors after every school term as they are also an interested party. School reports are thereafter scanned and sent to the donors, Open Hearts Germany.

## **5. Uniform and Writing material:**

The uniform is given to the pupils in form of skirts and blouses for girls, trousers and shirts for boys. They are also given school shoes, schoolbags for carrying books, exercise books and writing materials, mathematical instruments and scientific calculators.

#### 6. **Library:**

TAO also has a moving library. Tuition Instructional books were bought by the organization. As each pupil cannot be provided with their own text books for use, the books are kept at the schools to be used by the pupils. They are in the custody of the teachers during the school terms. At the end of each school term, TAO staff takes an inventory of the books and they are passed on to the next school term.

### **SOCIAL SKILLS**

At the beginning of the education project, TAO was faced with a problem of school drop outs due to pregnancies. A proposal was made to the donor to organize a camp where social skills would be imparted to the pupils and reduce the dropout rate. In March 2012, a camp was organized for both boys and girls where they learned various skills including meeting role models, HIV and AIDS preventative measures among many.

### **TERTIARY EDUCATION:**

It is not possible for each pupil to be selected to University. Community Day Secondary Schools from which our pupils are, accords a very small opportunity for form four school leavers to have an opportunity to go to University. In the last school year, six out of ten pupils were successful in attaining a full Malawi School Certificate. The points they obtained were not good enough to accord them a place at the University. As the purpose of the bursary is to make an impact on the lives of orphans and vulnerable children, it would not do the pupils any service to let them just stay in the village. It is from this background that TAO asked the donors if they can consider paying for skills training courses for these pupils. Application letters by the pupils themselves have been sent to Open Hearts Germany and we hope they will consider favorably.

### **CHALLENGES**

The project has not operated without challenges. In the year 2011/2012 some of the challenges we have met are:

1. Escalated costs of materials due to the devaluation of our currency, the Kwacha.
2. Delay in releasing school reports by the head teachers of the schools.

3. Poor class performance by some pupils.
4. High cost of vehicle hiring.
5. High office administration costs
6. The computer at the office is very old. It keeps on breaking down and the cost of repairing is very high. This also makes us delay sending reports to our partners.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

TAO would like to acknowledge the following for their support during the 2011/ 2012 school year and for the support to the education project as a whole:

1. Professor Kornelia and all members of Open Hearts Germany.
2. Members of NAMASO, a Community Based Organisation assisting the orphans and vulnerable children in the area.
3. Head teachers and Staff of Namadidi and Muhasuwa CDSS and the entire school committees.
4. Guardians and caretakers of the children.
5. Chiradzulu district Assembly in particular the Educator



Lucy Maunde - THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR