

The Maisha Project

Child Sponsorship Policies

UNITED STATES SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Sponsorship

Failure to comply with the following child sponsorship policies, can result in termination of child sponsorship and/or future partnership with Maisha Project. All individuals wishing to sponsor a child should coordinate sponsorship through Maisha Project USA, opposed to Maisha Orphans and Widows in Kenya or individual children. Maisha Project USA can determine if a specific child is enrolled and/or eligible for the sponsorship program. Maisha Project USA reserves the right to cancel child sponsorship if any of the following sponsorship policies are not followed.

Maisha Project's sponsorship commitments are as follows:

Primary (Nursery - 8th grade) - \$35/mo or \$420/year

Secondary (9th grade - 12th grade) - \$65/mo or \$780/year

Continuing Education - \$95/mo or \$1140/year

Above are Maisha Project's non-negotiable tuition rates should you commit to sponsor a student. Refer to our co-sponsoring policy below for more details concerning the partnership of donors to support a student's education.

Communication

For the privacy and safety of all individuals, personal information should not be shared with children or their family. For the purposes of this Sponsorship Policy, personal information is outlined as:

- Phone number
- Address
- Email address
- Social media page

This will protect sponsors from tangible and/or intangible requests in the future. Proper channels of communication will be directed through Maisha Project USA, as described in this Sponsorship Policy. Maisha Project USA is not liable for any consequence that occurs, if failure to comply with communication privacy policy. In the event a student contacts you for personal needs, please redirect them to make their requests through the local Kenyan office, Maisha Orphans and

Widows. It is also asked that one notifies Maisha Project USA of said contact by the student.

In addition, child education and career goals are to the discretion of child guardians and Maisha Project USA and Maisha Orphans and Widows team. Sponsors are encouraged to support children in their pursuit of education, but are asked to not instruct children on education and career goals.

Social Media

For the purposes of this Sponsorship Policy, social media is categorized as personal information and is prohibited from being shared with any student enrolled in Elementary or Secondary school. Communication via social media is prohibited, regardless of party who initiates said communication. Individuals are asked to never assist Elementary or Secondary students in creating social media pages. Students enrolled in the Maisha program are aware that social media is allowed once graduated from 12th grade.

Letters

All letters should be sent to Maisha Project USA office during specified dates. Maisha Project USA reserves the right to review all letters for personal or sensitive information prior to sending them to Kenya. Inappropriate content includes, but not limited to; promises of any kind, suggesting that your child visit the US, inquires about health or school performance. Maisha Project USA reserves the right to not forward any letter to child deemed to contain inappropriate content.

Gifts

Gifts to your sponsored child and the child's family is allowed and a way that can assist in empowerment and sustainability. If an individual is interested in helping someone through a financial or material gift beyond their monthly sponsorship fee, they are required to organize this gift through Maisha Project USA office. Maisha Project USA will collaborate with donor to determine the needs of child. Maisha Project USA has ultimate decision to what is an appropriate gift. The gift will be applied according to the needs of the child and/or the benefit of the organization as a whole to serve the children. It is a priority of the organization to purchase the gift in the Kisumu community Maisha Project USA serves.

Maisha Project USA has a specific electronics policy; the gifting of phones, ipads, television, or computers is strictly prohibited for Elementary and Secondary students. If wanting to gift an electronic to Post-Secondary student, please adhere to the above gift giving policy.

Visits

Visits to meet a sponsored student are encouraged, and the meeting can be a rewarding experience for both parties. To coordinate a site visit, please contact the Maisha Project USA office to make arrangements. Child safety and protection remains a top priority. Prior to visiting a sponsored student, Maisha Orphans and Widows, or an affiliated community an application form, release form, and background check will be required.

Co-Sponsoring

In sponsoring a child you assist in supporting them through financial means that are combined with the generosity of others. Together, all sponsors help to ensure positive futures for the children within Legacy of Hope. Elementary children will not be co-sponsored, but due to the increased financial needs of children entering Secondary and Post-Secondary school, many of these children will require co-sponsorship to support their education.

If one of the parties engaged in a co-sponsoring agreement decides to stop his or her sponsorship, the other member of that agreement will be contacted to see if they alone can meet the full sponsorship rate. If that rate cannot be met, and a second co-sponsor cannot be found, Maisha Project USA will work with the active party to match him or her to a student they are able to fully sponsor.

Lapsed Sponsorship Payment

In the event that monthly/annual sponsorship donation is missed. Maisha Project USA will initially try contacting donor via telephone, followed by an email, and letter sent to address on file. If in 60 days there has been no communication regarding lapsed payment, Maisha Project USA will cancel current sponsorship. If one wishes to restart the donation, Maisha Project USA will make every effort to pair with original sponsored student, if requested. Sponsorship is a voluntary, ongoing contribution. Maisha Project USA realizes that sponsorship is not always feasible.

If a sponsor decides to pause his or her sponsorship for whatever reason, that sponsor has 60 days to resume sponsorship before Maisha Project USA contacts that sponsor to either resume or cancel his or her sponsorship agreement.

Clothing and Uniforms

Clothing and school uniforms are recognized as a gift and should be organized through Maisha Project USA Office. Please adhere to our gift giving policy when interested in purchasing clothing or school uniforms.

Gift Quality

Maisha Project USA identifies gifts as respectful and kind gestures. Due to this belief, we ask that used items are not gifted to the children.

Cultural Humility

All American individuals should be sensitive and understanding of the different culture and lifestyle of individuals in Kenya. This cultural humility should be exhibited in all forms of communication. Due to the difference in cultures, there can be cultural barriers in the form of miscommunication. The Maisha Project USA office will assist by reviewing letters, discerning child needs, and providing explanation.

Termination of Sponsorship

Sponsors will be notified within 60 days if student is no longer in the Maisha Legacy of Hope Program. There is a range of reasons why a student may no longer be eligible for sponsorship, not limited to the following:

- Student has graduated from school.
- Student has become self-sufficient.
- Family has moved outside the community.
- A health condition
- Enrollment into Maisha's Empowerment Program

Maisha Project USA will offer alternative offers for the sponsor, which could include continuing to support the student while they begin the next phase of their life, or sponsoring another student in the Legacy of Hope Program.

Confidentiality

The following topics of information regarding students within Maisha Project USA and their family members is confidential and shall not be shared with other individuals or on any form of social media:

- Health
- School performance
- School attendance
- Behavioral issues
- Socio-economic status

Sponsors maintain the right to be informed of their child and their child's well-being. Maisha Project will work with local school administration to provide student performance to sponsors, however there could be circumstances when report cards will not be readily available.

Maisha Project USA is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and empowering experience for all students affiliated with the Child Sponsorship Program. Please contact the Maisha Project USA with any questions regarding the Child Sponsorship Policy. Maisha Project is immensely grateful for all of our sponsors. The gift of education will assist in fulfilling our mission to transform lives and empower communities by providing a lasting solution to address poverty, hunger, disease, and under-education.