

ABOUT

Associazione Cuore d'Africa Onlus (Heart of Africa Association) is responsible for giving assistance to needy children in Machakos, Kenya, through sponsorships and the construction of a hostel that can accommodate them.

Sponsorships help fund school fees for children of primary and secondary schools. The amount that adoptive parents pay is also used to buy clothes and school supplies and covers medical expenses. The commitment required is medium to long term, depending on the age of the child to be sponsored. Each year there are direct contacts between Italy and Africa: sponsors receive photos of all children and constantly updated news on their school performance and their health.

A particular kind of sponsorship is the support for 10 girls at the cutting and sewing vocational school "Calosci nel 2000" in Makueni. This school accepts 50 girls and Heart of Africa is committed to finance 10 of them every year. With the required amount sponsors can pay school fees and, once the girls have completed their course, it is possible to help them start-up their own activity. In this case the commitment is a short term one, because the course only lasts for two years.

As part of the sponsorships we aim to provide for the education of children, but we also want to provide substantial economic aid to their families. For this reason we always try to sponsor more brothers, in order to lighten the economic burden of the family and avoid expulsion from the studies of some guys who prefer to start producing income to help their family budget. In the same vein we check the most urgent needs of the various families, to intervene by providing, where necessary, with the purchase of materials for home repairs or building.

This policy allows us to intervene promptly in the real needs of each family and is a valuable and long-lasting aid, which can make a difference for many people, providing access to a better future for coming generations

The hostel is part of a larger project called "Village of Hope – Children's Home," and involves the construction of two separate buildings (male and female dorms) that can accommodate the orphans of the area or the children who are victims of family abuse. It is also planned the construction of buildings for ancillary services and the reservation of part of the land for crops. The primary objective is to offer refuge to particularly disadvantaged children in order to allow them an easier access to education. In the long term, we also hope that the whole structure has the ability to self-finance (in whole or in part) with the proceeds from sales of what is grown in its own gardens.

We periodically send to Kenya a container filled with aids of various kinds (toys, educational materials and stationery, clothing, computers, bicycles, etc..), intended specifically for sponsored children or in general for those who may need something.

In order to best reach our goals, we work with "Heart Of Children Foundation", a non-governmental organization based in Machakos, of which our President is the Treasurer. This foundation works in our own social environment and that's why we have chosen it as our partner. We always ask Heart of Children Foundation to support for the finding of children to be sponsored and for the distribution of aids among the local community.

The peculiarity of our association is the absence of costs for administration and performance of work. The contribution of our members, in fact, is not limited to monetary donations: we have many volunteers who dedicate their spare time to perform those activities they generally perform as private, and decide to give their services completely free of charge to Cuore d'Africa. The collaborations are of various kinds: legal and fiscal assistance, spreading news in the media and social forum, printing materials, kitchen and waiter services for charity dinners, and more.

Our mission is to allocate all proceeds of our fundraising with people who really need it. For this reason we seek to directly and actively involve our members and we work closely with the Heart of Children Foundation. These choices allow us to have no additional costs and intermediaries, which will inevitably lead to release of the money raised.

