

DENISE FOUNDATION CHILD SPONSORSHIP AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Denise Foundation Uganda is a nonprofit making organization founded by one of the former world vision sponsored child. It was as a result of the loss of his beloved sponsor Ms. Denise Robertson who took the lead of fundraising for his education, building of better shelter and became the mother and guardian Angel during the early days and tough times when they had no someone taking care after they lost both of their parents due to HIV/AIDS.

The Foundation is currently operating in the District of Rakai where the HIV/AIDS scourge greatly affected the children and their families, these communities in the District are living below the poverty line, most of them live below a dollar per day. Abject Poverty, poor shelter, illiteracy, early marriage for the girl child, school dropout, food insecurity, poor sanitation are the outstanding characteristics and true description of these communities.

With the above, Denise foundation is coming out to slowly begin to manage the above effects of poverty and among others, we are currently focused on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVCs) by making sure that they are in school and they enjoy learning by providing all what is required to stay in school through DFU education and sponsorship arm.

VISION

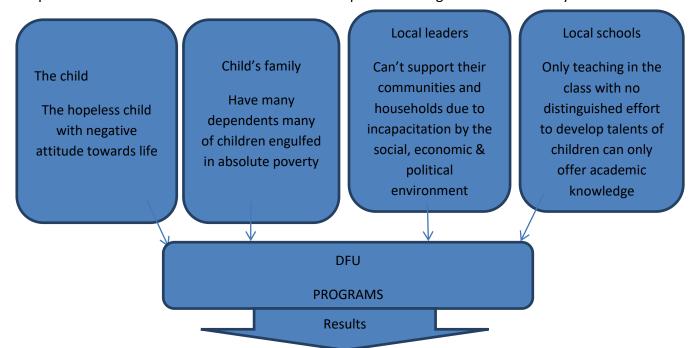
We envision a world in which education positively contributes to each person's ability to reach her or his potential in acting for society's good

MISSION

We aspire to prepare leaders of tomorrow with the knowledge, skills and personality to contribute to a better society and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Our approach

Our programs target the children and their significant others that's; those people that play the great role in their lives. In the end we're able to cause a change in attitude and encourage participation of all stake holders in our effort to cause positive change in the community.



Transforming communities

The child:

Changed attitude of the child; has a vision and an aim for all that he/she does. The child is not ready to follow bad examples in the community and willingly attend good school, has access to very good medical care.

Childs family:

Changed attitude of guardians who are now able to support the children to discover their strength and weakness in order to best exploit them. Families don't look children as only source of labour but with the perspective that they are the leaders of tomorrow. The family has enough food supply and an appropriate income source.

Local leaders:

Local leaders are part and partial of community development programs and are able to support individual families in child upbringing. Community leaders can be modeled on aspects of their daily community life.

Local schools

School focus on both delivering academic contents and helping children develop their talents. Schools are able to advise parents and guardians on the weakens of and strengths of the children. Schools can be able to create a good learning environment.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world (Nelson Mandela). It is a human right with immense power to transform and on its foundation rests the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development (Kofi Annan). We envision all children in our programs as leaders of tomorrow who will be able to provide solutions to dynamic challenges of the world and make reality the thoughts of Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan.

For this to happen, these children must be equipped with among other things "Quality Education" and our educational interventions are at four levels;

The child

We have developed a sponsorship program where we ensure children access quality education. We seek for various people and organisations to partner with us by sponsoring at least one child. For those that are interested, we allow the donor to pick a specific child that they would like to support and develop a deep relationship. Some people choose to remain general donors but specify that their donation is towards education, this money is used to support orphans that do not have sponsors.

The family

We sensitise guardians about the importance of education to children under their care and reject child labour but to look at children as future leaders. In some cases, we help guardians discover other alternatives that can substitute child labour so that the child can have enough time for school.

The community

We work with community leaders in the process of implementing our programs in their respective communities, including institutions and religious leaders. This ensures sustainability and builds a sense of ownership by all people in the community irrespective of their background.

The schools

We have programs in the schools aiming at encouraging children to stay in school. We realize that children love sports and therefore organize and support short sports tournament to pull children together and the DFU staff talk to them. We also train teachers on how to create a good learning environment which will encourage children to stay in school.

The sponsorship program

As you may already noticed, education is one of our core programs. Funds are always hard to come by and therefore, dearly make the best use of any funds that we get. While we have made great efforts to find market for the crafts made by guardians to be able to get money to support their children in school, we have a sponsorship program besides.

Our sponsorship program is very special and different from any other you may know, we appreciate the fact that there is great need but also understand that resources are very scarce. We make a commitment with potential donor or sponsor that the child who will benefit be the best according to our selection criteria. We also ensure that the child we're selecting is very hard working and the guardians are very supportive. This why sponsoring a child does not mean taking away your responsibility as a guardian. We in fact ask the guardians to be more accountable and responsible to ensure that resources invested in your child do not go to waste. We also make a commitment with the donor that any child they sponsor will get the best education in the community basing on the amount of funding. This is why some children are able to go to boarding schools while others cannot, it is also the reason why we ask some children to change schools immediately they get sponsors.

From the above, DFU staff members follow the below criteria while choosing children for sponsorship;

- The target beneficiaries of this program are orphans and vulnerable children who are very hardworking, disciplined and whose guardians are making great efforts to support them.
- The minimum age is five years and it is expected that the child is progressing well in primary one at that age.
- The registered child should be a resident in the program area
- The child should be from a needy/ vulnerable family
- The development facilitator should hold a meeting with the teachers in schools to identify the needy children and signed by the head teacher.
- The development facilitator will then carryout a needs assessment activity at the child's home
- The maximum of two children will be registered from one family
- There should be evidence of average consistent good academic performance
- Evidence of family acceptance to abide by DFU sponsorship guidelines and avail themselves in participation of sponsorship activities.
- There will be evident communicate expectations of the child as well as our involvement
- An awareness meeting with the child and family on how DFU sponsorship works

Obligations of DFU

- Payment of school fees for the sponsored children
- Providing scholastic materials for the selected beneficiaries only
- Providing personal requirements for children with special cases
- Offering career development
- Leadership and character development

• Medical attention for sponsored children

Obligations of the child

- Ensuring school attendance and good performance plus presenting their report cards at DFU offices
- It is a must that every child attends centre days as scheduled in a month (this may change from time to time). The children should also bring their class books on every centre day
- It is also a requirement for children to participate in any other organizational activities if called upon
- It is a must for sponsored children to write letters to sponsors
- Ensure proper discipline and proper dress code always

Obligations of a parent/guardian

- Though DFU provides such benefits to the child, the parent/guardian is argued to take good care
 of his/her own child while with him/her
- Helping and guiding the child to make informed decisions always
- Ensure that the child attends centre days and fully participate in DFU activities if called upon
- Ensure that the child goes to school every day and if found that the child is not at school, then the parent/guardian will be held accountable.
- Monitor the education and performance of the child at school
- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that the parent is clean and ensure hygiene at home at all times
- The parent/guardian is supposed to meet the child's costs where necessary
- The parent/guardian should ensure that the child is well guided and disciplined and failure may result into the organisation dropping the child.
- Ensure that children are taken for medical and dental attention and are healthy at all times
- To actively participate in organiational activities whenever needed and to always keep time
- Ensuring proper feeding of the children

Bleaching anything detailed here will lead to automatic disqualification of the child from the sponsorship program. Therefore, signing this document implies your acceptance of whatever detailed herein.

Witnessed by

1.	Guardian/parent's name	signature & date	contact
2.	Name of the child	signature & da	te

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4. Recommended by signature & designation	3. Name of local leader	signature & date	contact
	4. Recommended by	signature & desi	gnation

NOTE: Signing this document is not a guarantee that the child has already attained sponsorship but a first step to the process and this procedure can only progress after this document is completely signed.