

2020



RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL MBAGATHI

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RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL MBAGATHI, NAIROBI

AUGUST 2020

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Overview of Why Us - YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED

We are building and running a school for poor families, where their children are offered access to a holistic creative education in a nurturing environment. Many of these families cannot provide for their children's basic needs. While education is a process that takes many years, when we see happy, healthy and creative children in their finishing years at school; we know we are achieving our goal.

We welcome funding and donations in kind for our various humanitarian projects. We are reaching out to our children's family who are adversely affected by Covid-19 pandemic. We are giving food donations to help alleviate hunger and hardships. We are also preparing to host and educate them post Covid. We will therefore be very happy to receive donations to help them when they are out of school and with their families but especially when they are with us in school.

This action support our school's mission of nurturing underprivileged children – providing a safe and caring environment, healthy meals and allow for the continuance and development of the education.

Please write for more information to Judith Brown.

Email: enquiries@steinerschoolmbagathi.co.ke

Your support is highly appreciated.

**To learn more about Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi please visit our website at:
www.steinerschoolmbagathi.co.ke**

THANK YOU

ABOUT US - RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL MBAGATHI, KENYA

The Rudolf Steiner School, an initiative for the less fortunate in society, is situated on the Maasai Plains south of the National Park of Nairobi. It has slowly developed since its inception in 1989, and presently has 350 children. The school continues to grow, with the vast majority of our children coming from disadvantaged homes, where parents and guardians, if present, struggle to get a daily meal and to meet the needs of their families.

Our Steiner Curriculum, also referred to as *“Head, Heart and Hand”* Education, strives to bring out a child’s potential at all levels. This develops all aspects in a child, or educates the whole child in initiative, confidence, artistic and practical skills, as well as a good academic standard. Due to its uniqueness, we have many parents interested in the Waldorf education. Some of them are self-sponsored, but the majority of the families require sponsorship for their children. A large number of the children come from the neighbouring Ongata Rongai settlement and its environs, with a number coming from far beyond.

The school has four kindergarten groups from ages 3 to 6, Classes 1 to 8 and a Class 9 as the exam year for those joining Kenyan Secondary Schools. We are keen and emphasis on a clean, green environment, and we have a small farm where we grow our own organic vegetables, and rear cows for milk.

We have large boarding facilities that accommodate 120 children who come from difficult home situations, and they are able to live in a peaceful and protected learning environment.

We presently have an enthusiastic group of capable Kenyan teachers. During the holidays, our teachers attend the Steiner School in-house teacher training modules, and on successful completion and assessment, receive their Waldorf diploma. This course is run at the school, and supports the teacher’s government training.

STATUS REVIEW

Since the 15th of March, the Mbagathi Rudolf Steiner School in Nairobi, Kenya has been closed to children and teaching. Now for over 5 months our 350 children have been home due to the extensive COVID-19 lock-down nationwide by the Kenyan Government. At the time of writing, there is an indication that schools will start in January 2020.

Our children currently find themselves living in disadvantaged situations with compromised conditions that are mostly unhygienic without water, electricity and health care infrastructure. Our school is a safe haven and almost a rescue center for these children. The many months they spend in school ensure that they are less exposed to hard living circumstances at their homes.

The fear of the spread of COVID-19 increases difficulties as parents and guardians have lost jobs and business. This is an addition to the ever-present fear of violence, crime, abuse and hunger. The children and families are really in need and in a desperate situation. For many, many families the loss of work since lock-down, curfew and travel restrictions has meant the step into extreme poverty, hunger and consequently increased suffering. The worrying explosive rise in unemployment and living below the poverty line can be witnessed.

The majority of our parents and guardians are unable to pay any school fees, and the school is run as a private school without any state aid. The school has developed to accommodate a full primary school up to class 9 with class sizes of 30 – 34 children, in addition to a large Kindergarten with 90 children in 4 groups – all in a community of 350 children, 20 teachers and a non-teaching staff of 27 people who work in the kitchen, farm, school bus, cleaning etc. The school also has a large boarding department with 120 children, most of whom have extremely difficult home backgrounds.

Our present concern is the children returning to school after lockdown coming from their difficult living conditions, the children will need special support. This application seeks funds to secure that the school is able to open safely so that the children can settle down quickly and continue with their education, to return to a space of freedom where they are not met with the poverty which they constantly face at home.

It is of utmost importance that the school can provide the most vulnerable children with the ability to secure good hygiene, nutritious food, personal items and support for mental health in order ensure maximum care and to lower the risk of infection with COVID-19. Because of the whole uncertainty of the situation we would channel the funds to the greatest area of concern as identified.

With an understanding of the current situation, the school cannot rely on school fees and sponsorships to service its operational budget in 2021. The families will have barely anything to offer in form of school fees. The needy families reporting back will need all the support that they can get after almost a year of suffering. Our school society will need a lot of support so that from our friends and partners. We appeal for your contribution to help needy children in Kenya through this application.

APPEAL STATEMENT

We are always in awe of what a willing heart and a generous spirit can do. It can move mountains and make the impossible possible within a short period of time. However, education is a lifelong process that happens daily and for the past 30 years of the school's existence, we have seen the fruits of quality education.

We help our children understand that it is not their current circumstances that define them, but their vision of their desired future. Most of them have seen the school grow year by year and by their own observation know that true transformation comes through unity, willingness, positive attitude and above all LOVE for humanity.

Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi Nairobi *is* because *you are*. The government of Kenya has laid down some guidelines for schools re-opening in 2021 to help curb the covid-19 pandemic. In order to be compliant and maintain high health standards we need to upgrade some facilities. We appeal for your help in form of funds for this post-covid project which focuses in the following four target areas:

➤ **Sanitation Project**

- 8 additional taps at the dining hall entrance.
- Basic Hygiene supplies: soap, towels, sanitizer, face masks and thermometers among others.

➤ **Meals**

- Immune boosting foods such as fruits and vegetables.
- Balanced diet.

➤ **Personal Care Items**

- Clothes including uniform and shoes.
- Beddings.
- Toiletries: soap, toothpaste, sanitary towels, shoe polish, body oil and tissue papers among others.
- Books and stationeries.

➤ **Mental Healthcare for children**

- Group counseling
- Individual counseling

ALLOCATION CRITERIA – HOW SUPPORT GOES TO THE MOST NEEDY

This help is only offered to the very needy. During our admission process we make sure that only deserving poor families in our society are considered for admission in boarding as well as in day school. A 'need assessment' is conducted by the sponsorship committee. This means that your donation goes to helping the children and by extension families that live below the poverty line.

The admission process begins by parents/Guardians visiting the school and requesting for sponsorship in writing. The Sponsorship Committee carries out a home visit, where they observe the child's home environment and status (destitute/orphan), (if an orphan they need to provide a death Certificate), the parents or guardians' status (able/disable), the type of house they live in and their lifestyle.

Interviews are also carried out to get information regarding their daily or monthly income, monthly rent if living in a rental house, regular expenses of the family e.g. bills, fees and if the basic needs are met. The Sponsorship Committee also assesses the general well-being of the child, and an assessment form is completed.

The Sponsorship Committee comprises members of the school's management and parents. After the home visit, they review and deliberate the information collected, and this determines qualification for sponsorship. If qualified, the child is admitted into the school.

A photo file with the child's photograph and background story is created, and this is shared with potential sponsors or partner in a bid to secure sponsorship for them.

However, when donations come in, the office, teachers and parents in the boarding still carry out an assessment to identify the most needy cases. The three departments report on their observation and help is presented. Those that need clothes to stay in the boarding get them, those that need books and learning materials are identified by teachers and the office confirms the need by perusing documentation with family background information.

Like it is mostly the case, the need is first identified before funds are raised. In this case the funds for the two target areas namely sanitation project and meals project will generally benefit the poor as 80% of our children population come from poor backgrounds. This percentage may increase given the deteriorating financial circumstances. The personal care items and mental health care funds will be directed to the most desperate cases as the school staff members are in constant direct contact with our children's family even during this covid-19 period.

APPEAL TARGET AREAS

SANITATION PROJECT

As per World Health Organization guidelines, all 350 children must wash their hands several times during the day. Therefore, there is an urgent need to organize several hand washing stations around the school. Small water tanks with taps will be placed at the entrance of the school so all children can wash their hands when they arrive at the school. Classrooms and the dining area will need easy access to running water.

There is a need to increase the current 4 water taps to 12 taps at the entrance to the dining hall, with a proper distance to secure adequate social distancing during meal times. This requires structural changes at the dining area. The school will also need to increase the intervals of cleaning classrooms, dining areas, washrooms and boarding facilities – again a basic need in the fight against the virus.

The school is in general in need of basic supplies to increase the hygiene among the children. The basic supply needs are: soap, towels, sanitizer etc. Moreover, all children, teachers and staff will need to wear masks while they are in school. Thermometers will also be needed, this is an excellent and fast way to assess the health of the child, in order to react fast to the known symptoms of COVID-19.

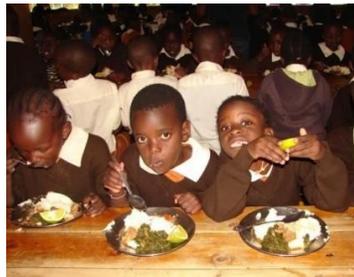


The two existing hand-washing station at the dining hall entrance

MEALS APPEAL

Meals need to be highly nutritious for the children when coming back from months away from school. Most of our children only eat two –three meals a day while in school. Now that schools have been closed for a prolonged period, we predict numerous nutritional health problems among the children. Most of them may be going for days without a meal and when they eat the portion is small and therefore not enough to fill and satisfy them. Upon re-opening in January, the school will need to ensure the highest quality food to ensure children are strong and flourishing which is the best way to restore good health.

Despite the financial struggle involved in offering these meals we strive on with hope that individuals and organizations will step in to our aid. We are currently trying to provide food for the very needy families at home. Some of the funds in this application may go towards this noble cause.



Children eating in the dining hall

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS PROJECT

This is one of the biggest challenges, children come back with the clothes they are wearing, therefore there needs to be the possibility to help when and where required. This help can be clothes, uniform, shoes, pencils, books and even bedding etc. This makes life possible and the children feel supported in their learning.

A donation to this project means that there will be shopping for personal items such as toiletries for boarding students who come to school without any necessities due to poverty. It means that no child will walk around with torn shirts or shoes. No child will have low self-esteem issues thanks to you.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROJECT

Group counselling is extremely important during this period and after schools re-open. This protects the children and helps them understand the difficulties they are going through. This is an area that takes time to identify individuals who have been through prolonged suffering. They can be desperate to open up and speak about their experiences. This is possible through counselling sessions.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, these project funds will help in school re-opening preparedness. When children come back we shall be ready to offer the required support system for them. We shall offer a “shoulder to lean on” and in this way fulfil our mission of bringing forth an independent being who is able of themselves. Our children come from families living under extremely difficult financial circumstances and therefore may not be able to contribute towards raising any amount of school fees in 2021. It is therefore correct to say they are the ones that totally benefit from these funds through this application. Our school is run on donations and sponsorships, and we are working towards self-sustainability in the future.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi Nairobi Kenya community thinks fondly of you. You supplied to our community need and we are at a better level in terms of development. Your investment will help needy children access quality education with as few challenges as possible. We package these challenges with love, come to you our friends and partners; you unfold them with even much more love and understanding and send them back to us as valuable gifts/donations. We treasure you and we want you to know you are a very special people and therefore we say thank you!!!!

We sincerely extend our heartfelt appreciation for your donations. Thanks to you the school remains a centre of hope through quality education of underprivileged children in our society.

Our wishes for you and your loved ones are that of prosperity, good health and peace of mind. You are most definitely making the world a better place in this part of the world. Thank you for your continued support. You are welcome anytime to visit us in Nairobi Kenya.

With love,
Rudolf Steiner School Community

The Proposed Budget is as follows:

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL, MBAGATHI PROPOSED BUDGET

| | | Total |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 Access to good sanitation | | |
| Hand wash stations extensions (dining area) | 150,000 | |
| Small tanks with taps | 75,000 | |
| Cleaner | 90,000 | |
| Masks for children (Reuseable) | 40,000 | |
| Sanitizers (20 litre Cans) | 52,000 | |
| Disinfectant (20 litre Cans) | 10,400 | |
| Liquid soap (20 litre can) | 56,700 | |
| Rubber gloves (Heavy Duty) | 6,000 | |
| Basins/buckets (boarding and classrooms) | 24,000 | |
| Bathing soap | 15,000 | |
| Cloths and scrubbers (assorted) | 10,000 | |
| Rubber slippers (boarding children) | 18,000 | |
| Paper Towels (24*2 pkts) | 9,800 | |
| Hand towels | 15,000 | |
| Dustbins (Pedal) | 26,400 | |
| Digital Infrared Thermometers | 72,000 | |
| First aid materials | 60,000 | |
| Medical treatment - hospital | 50,000 | |
| | | 780,300 |
| 2 Food | | |
| Food extras for the children for three months | 350,000 | 350,000 |
| 3 Personal items | | |
| Personal hygiene | 90,000 | |
| Uniform and shoes | 120,000 | |
| Clothes | 30,000 | |
| School bags | 20,000 | |
| Pencils, exercise books, books etc. | 100,000 | |
| Transport to and from school | 30,000 | |
| Bedding | 25,000 | |
| | | 415,000 |
| 4 Mental Health | | |
| Counsellor - group sessions | 60,000 | |
| Counsellor - individual sessions | 100,000 | |
| | | 160,000 |
| Total | | <u>1,705,300</u> |