

First Presbyterian Church's Bahati Scholarship Program

Our church's Bahati Scholarship Program was the result of a two-year planning process between FPC and Bahati Martyrs Church of the Nairobi Central Presbytery in Kenya. The idea of providing scholarships for homeless young men to attend secondary school was agreed upon in 2007, and sponsors were solicited from our congregation for the academic year beginning in January 2008. Sixty street boys, housed in a government shelter, received scholarships that first year and were placed in various residential school environments, giving them a chance to receive an education and escape the dangers of street life. Over the last 14 years, we have provided funding for 249 students, adding girls to the program in 2010.

The program is administered by the Nairobi Central Presbytery with a social worker who works with the students and their schools. The annual scholarship of \$840 covers the costs of tuition, fees, housing, uniforms and transportation, plus a portion of the social worker's salary which is funded by FPC. Scholarship sponsors are encouraged to communicate with the students via email, and many sponsors have developed touching relationships with the students they sponsor. Having visited with the Presbytery leadership and staff and having met the students on several occasions, we are confident that our funds are managed responsibly and that the students benefit greatly not only from the opportunity to receive an education, but also for the nurturing relationships they develop with the social worker, Presbytery leaders and each other.

Many of the students have attended classes to receive technical skills following completion of secondary school, and over 20 of them have gone on to receive university degrees, including one who completed medical school, another who has become an accountant and one who is a musician. In addition, some of the students are active in the local churches, and others have come to know Christ as a result of this program. God is definitely at work in the lives of these young people!

As the program has grown and developed, the students accepted into the program have come not only from the homeless shelters where former street children live but also from destitute, but very deserving, families from churches within the Presbytery, many of whom live in the slums of this poor area of Nairobi. Their personal stories are heart-breaking for us to hear, and we are convinced that this scholarship program provides a truly "life-saving" opportunity for these young people to become responsible members of their communities. Plans for the future include opportunities for the Presbytery leaders to develop a mentoring program and a process for helping these young people find employment when they exit the program.

Your contribution to this Global Outreach Ministry of FPC will touch you and a student in East Africa in surprising ways. Please join us in providing a life-saving education to a deserving young boy or girl in Nairobi, Kenya!

For more information, please contact Jack or Mary-Stuart Alderman at jackalderman@mac.com/msalderman@me.com or Jeff Myers at jmyrs12@yahoo.com.

First Presbyterian Church Hilton Head Island, SC Bahati Scholarship Program Kenya Partnership with Nairobi Central Presbytery

2022 BAHATI SCHOLARSHIP COMMITMENT

Sponsor Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

- _____ \$840 Full Scholarship
_____ \$420 Partial Scholarship*
_____ \$210 Partial Scholarship*

* Is there another sponsor with whom you want to be paired?

_____ General Donation for Scholarship Program: \$ _____

Payment Schedule:

Payments can be made online on the FPC website or by check. If paying online, select Mission, and note "Bahati Scholarship" from the designation drop down menu. If paying by check, make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church, and note "Bahati Scholarship" on the memo line. All payments are considered tax-deductible gifts to FPC and will be reflected on your FPC giving statements.

Would you like to receive a payment reminder:

____ Yes ____ No

For committee use:

Student Name: _____

Student e-mail: _____

Grade/Form: _____

Payment(s) received:

Date: _____ Amt: _____ Check #: _____

Date: _____ Amt: _____ Check #: _____

Date: _____ Amt: _____ Check #: _____

2022 Bahati Scholarship support covers school tuition, uniforms and school fees, personal items, transportation to and from school each term and for mid-term breaks, salary for a social worker who manages the program, and a general fund for medical expenses, special meals, shoes, special needs, etc.

Supporters can choose to sponsor a specific student for \$840 per year or be paired with another sponsor(s) and pay \$420 or \$210 per year as a partial sponsor. Sponsors are encouraged to communicate with the student via e-mail and periodic mailings. Those who want to support the program but don't want to be in relationship with a specific student can make a donation to the program and be assured that the funds are used to provide resources for things like holiday meals, medical care, shoes, uniforms, etc. as needed for the students.

Dramatic changes have been noted in the students' behavior and commitment to their studies. They clearly benefit from the involvement, receiving both hope and opportunity for a better life from the education and affirmation they receive as a "Bahati Scholar."