

Welcome to the Website of Nakurun lapset ry. (Association of Nakuru Children, registered NGO)

Our activities

We have been working for over sixteen years now to find godchildren for Finnish sponsors in Nakuru, Rift-Valley Province, Kenya. In 1997 the sponsors founded an association called *Nakurun lapset ry, Children of Nakuru*, which was officially registered in Finland. We have now about 200 members, and our activities are constantly being expanded. We sponsor a children's home, where about a hundred children are being taken care of. We also help street children in the area. The children's home is maintained by a local charitable society, *the Child Welfare Society of Kenya*. Our association tries to find sponsors for children in Nakuru, organises events where information is given on the situation of children in developing countries, charts the need for help, makes different appeals and proposals, gives statements and offers students and voluntary workers opportunities to work at the children's home.

Help A Needy Child –project

Nakurun lapset ry started a project *Help A Needy Child* in spring 1998. The project is receiving financial support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Department for International Development Co-operation till the end of the year 2004. The aim of the project is to help Aids orphans and street children, who represent an increasingly difficult problem in Nakuru. To achieve this, the number of beds in the children's home has been increased from 40 to 100. Our most recent plan is to help our local partners to set up a vocational centre which would offer on-the-spot training opportunities for older children.

Work training and volunteer work

Nakurun lapset ry has also taken on the student trainees in the fields of health and social affairs to the children's home and Nakuru District Hospital. By the summer 2001 there had been altogether 20 volunteers and trainees in Nakuru. Work training and volunteer work is still available. Finnish trainees can get housing benefit and grants for studying abroad. Unemployed volunteers are entitled to unemployment benefit. For further information, please, contact the Chairperson Kirsi Martonen.

How to become a sponsor?

Sponsors are the basis of our association. The project, *Help A Needy Child*, brings a lot of children to the children's home. Sponsors are needed in order to assist financially the children's education. As a sponsor you will get a grateful godchild, whose letters, photos and greetings will be sent to you. Naturally the sponsors themselves can correspond with the children. Our association arranges regular sponsor meetings too.

The annual fee is 252 - 330 € per child depending on the age and school level of the child. This amount should be sent to our association either as full payment or alternatively in several instalments. Also different kinds of associations, organisations and, for example, school classes may support a needy Kenyan child.

For further information about the sponsorships, please, contact the enrolment person Heljä Vänskä.

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