



SPONSORING A STUDENT AT THE GAP SCHOOL

Thank you for considering the sponsorship of a student attending the Get Ahead Project (GAP) School. This package contains general information about the program. Presently, the school fees for children awaiting permanent sponsorship are being subsidized by our Bridging Fund. This Fund was established in 2004 by Dr. Wendy Dobson, a Leacock Foundation Board Member, and provides short term support for children at risk of being withdrawn from the GAP school for economic reasons.

A number of positive and significant changes have taken place at the school since our initial involvement in 2002, which are documented in this Report for Donors. Our funding has enabled the school to triple its enrolment. More than 1,200 students now attend the GAP school on two campuses in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Tuition is the best gift you can give to a disadvantaged child living in South Africa, especially since state support of the public school system in South Africa is stretched, and this developing nation grapples with high adult unemployment and the AIDS crisis.

GAP Principals, Mr. Peter Bosman and Ms. Vicki duPreez and their staff oversee this program locally, and it is their hope that students from the least advantaged backgrounds have access to the best opportunities possible, with a GAP School education:

“The most heart-rending part of our job is to witness a distressed, tearful parent/guardian who needs to remove their child from the school because they cannot afford the fees! It is an incredible relief to be able to ‘turn their faces’ to ‘a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel’ - to be able to reassure them that there is hope and that some good, generous person may be prepared to sponsor the child. I thank you and your sponsors again for this gracious gift of education to our disadvantaged learners. We are fully aware of the sacrifices, time and effort, but know that you will reap the rewards!!”

We encourage you to carefully review our website, and contact us if you have any questions whatsoever. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Frequently Asked Questions about our Sponsorship Program

How are GAP students selected for sponsorship? We do not advertise for children to be sponsored, rather, they are presented to us by the school administrators, familiar with the child and his or her family’s circumstances and financial need. These situations are often delicate. Students are only presented to us for sponsorship when they are at serious risk of being withdrawn from school.

How much do we know about the students presented for sponsorship? Detailed information about each child’s background and circumstances are gathered and shared with potential sponsors. They, and their situations, are well known to the GAP School administrators. Sometimes, but not always, students presented to us lack support networks at home, or are academically weak. It is important to note here that they are presented for sponsorship not only because they need financial support, but because a GAP education may be their best opportunity to overcome challenging circumstances and succeed in life.

How many children are presently sponsored at the GAP School? Our program has grown from one sponsor to a total of thirty-four sponsors since 2003. We are laying the foundation for what we hope will become a long-term commitment to the neediest students attending GAP.

Where do our sponsors come from? Our supporters come from all walks of life and learn about the sponsorship program in a variety of ways- through their school’s involvement with the Triangle of Hope Program, as a traveler to Africa through their school’s global outreach program, as volunteer

exchange teacher or by knowing another sponsor. One common thread unites our supporters: they believe in the power of education to transform the lives of society's neediest children.

How are sponsors selected and matched with the students? We ask our sponsors to consider the following questions, which help us assess what sort of sponsorship will work for them and their family:

- How many years would you like your support of a sponsored child to last? Short term or long term?
- Do you have a preference for a certain age and/or gender of child?
- Are you comfortable sponsoring a child with special needs or who is academically weak?
- Are you comfortable sponsoring a child who may need to repeat a grade?

What does a GAP sponsorship cost?

Kindergarten Tuition: 4,700 Rand..... (approximately C\$585)
Grade 1-7 Tuition: 5,050 Rand (approximately C\$622)
Grade 8-9 Tuition: 5,350 Rand (approximately C\$665)
Grade 10-12 Tuition: 5,660 Rand..... (approximately C\$700)

Students also require these supports annually:

Uniform: 1,000 Rand..... (approximately C\$125)
Transportation: 2,000 Rand (approximately C\$250)
Books: 250 Rand (Grades 7 and up)..... (approximately C\$30)
(*Calculated at Oct. 7, 2008 conversion rate of 1 Rand = 0.123273 CAD)

When is my sponsorship donation due? The South African academic school year is based on the annual calendar: school starts in January and ends in early December. While we can accept your donation anytime during the year, we prefer to receive the full sponsorship by June at the latest.

How is the money sent to Africa? The Leacock Foundation collects sponsorship fees. We arrange for a direct flow through of these funds to the GAP School, via wire transfer to the MacCallums Trust, a trust fund held by MacCallums Inc., our law firm located in Cape Town, South Africa.

Which grades does the GAP school cover?

Kindergarten to Grade 12. The GAP College, serving the needs of students in Grade 10, 11, and 12, open last January, providing GAP students with the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma.

How many years will my sponsorship last? Theoretically, your commitment to your sponsored child could last until he or she matriculates from the GAP school in Grade 12.

What if I need to discontinue my sponsorship? If circumstances dictate that a sponsor can no longer support a GAP student, the Leacock Foundation will provide for that student's costs until another sponsor can be assigned, via our Bridging Fund. We will secure another sponsor for that child.

What happens if my sponsored child leaves the GAP School? This does occur from time to time. We cannot accept responsibility for the education expenses of students who transfer to another school, and hope that you will consider transferring your sponsorship to another needy child attending GAP.

What is the Bridging Fund? This Fund was established in 2004 by Dr. Wendy Dobson, a Leacock Foundation Board Member, and provides short term support for children at risk of being withdrawn from the GAP school for economic reasons. The Fund grew again in 2008 when Crescent School teacher, Jamie MacRae, raised additional funds via his ride in the Tour D'Afrique.

Notes about Tuition expenses: The GAP school is eligible for South African government subsidies, but this support is often delayed and/or sporadic. Tuition costs fluctuate slightly from year to year as a result, so you can expect the fees to be different from year to year, but not dramatically (costs increase about 4-5% per year.) The value of the Canadian dollar, against the Rand affects the cost slightly as

well. It should be noted that credits accruing in a student's account are periodically applied against balances owed by sponsors.

Why are transportation, uniform and book costs included in sponsorship? Due to the limited financial circumstances of sponsored children, there are few resources from which these students may draw upon for their necessities. We strongly recommend that these costs be fully covered by a sponsor.

How much of my sponsorship donation is allocated to Leacock's administrative expenses? None. We ask sponsors to cover the full cost of their child's sponsorship only. The net sum is transferred to the GAP school on your behalf and an administrative surcharge is not added to the cost.

Can I contact my sponsored child? Letter writing between students and sponsors is encouraged and supported by the Leacock Foundation and the GAP School. We have access to eager and willing couriers, as educators and school groups travel to Africa once or twice during the year. We also rely on traditional mail service to exchange correspondence.

Can I send gifts to my sponsored child? We do not advise sending large expensive gifts, but flat packages containing warm hats and mittens, small gifts, books or other school materials are always welcome by the students and their families.

What kind of reports about my sponsored child can I expect to receive? As a sponsor, you can expect to receive letters, report cards and updates on your student's progress at least twice a year. If you have specific questions or concerns about your sponsored children, we would be happy to forward your questions on to the GAP School, or put you directly in touch with the school administration via e-mail.

How much information about me and my family is given to the sponsored child? We give only your name to the administration at the Get Ahead Project School. Any other information that you choose to share with the family is up to you.

Who oversees Leacock's sponsorship program? Our Executive Director and a Sponsorship Committee oversee the program from Canada and the GAP Principals oversee the program in Africa.

What about post-secondary education for my sponsored child? This is presently outside the scope of our program. You may choose what form of communication and contact you will maintain directly with your sponsored child after they leave the GAP School.

What if I want to support this program but cannot afford a full sponsorship? You can make a donation to our Bridging Fund at any time in any denomination, knowing that it will help a child stay to stay in school.

Is my sponsorship donation tax receiptable? Your donation is 100% tax receiptable, any way you choose. Select whichever option is most convenient for you!

I'm ready to Sponsor a child. What are the next steps? Please fill out and submit the form on the next page, then mail, fax or e-mail it to our office so that we can create a suitable match.



Sponsorship Application Form: Please fax this form to (416) 489-9398 or mail it to 2433 Yonge Street, Upper Level, Toronto ON M4P 2E7 or e-mail it to info@leacockfoundation.org. Please note that your personal information is confidential and collected for Leacock Foundation internal use only.

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| Yes! I am interested in: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Sponsor | | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to the Bridging Fund |
| I prefer to sponsor a: | | I can sponsor a child: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boy | | <input type="checkbox"/> with learning challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> girl | | <input type="checkbox"/> presently achieving academically |
| <input type="checkbox"/> it does not matter | | <input type="checkbox"/> it does not matter |
| I would like to cover off these costs: | | I can sponsor a child: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tuition | | <input type="checkbox"/> in kindergarten-Grade 2 (for 13 years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2-7 (for 5-10 years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> books | | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 8-12 (for 1-4 years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> uniform | | |
| Sponsor Name(s): | | |
| Note: if you are 18 years old or younger, please provide the full name and e-mail and daytime phone numbers of your parents | | |
| Sponsor Address: | | |
| City: | Prov: | Postal Code: |
| Home Phone #: | | Cell Phone #: |
| Work or Daytime#: | | Other #: |
| Preferred E-Mail: | | |
| Names and ages of the other members in your household to be included in our correspondence: | | |
| Tell us how you learned about our program: | | |