

Sponsorship Frequently Asked Questions



Nurturing Minds, Inc.
PO Box 600617
Newtonville, MA 02460

nurturingmindsinafrica.org

Our Mission:

To educate Tanzanian girls who are poor, marginalized and at-risk of becoming involved in exploitative forms of child labor.



Nurturing Minds, Inc. is a US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN # 20-8870624. All donations to Nurturing Minds from the USA are tax-deductible, and will receive an official tax acknowledgement.

How much of my donation goes directly to the school?

\$.92 of every dollar donated goes directly to SEGA. Girls School.

How do I correspond with my student?

- *Emails or handwritten letters can be sent to students.*
 - *Emails should be sent to sega.sponsorship@gmail.com. Please include the student's name in the address line. Students will respond to emails with a handwritten letter to allow them to practice their writing skills.*
 - *Letters can be mailed directly to your student at SEGA:*

(Student First and Last Name)
SEGA Girls School
PO Box 273
Morogoro, Tanzania

- *A typical letter (a #10 envelope with 1 sheet of 8.5x11" paper) weighs 1.3oz and will require \$1.98 in **international stamps***
- *Student letters can also be sent through your U.S. sponsorship coordinator who will then forward the letter on to SEGA.*

Will my student have stamps to write back?

Yes, the school provides postage for the girls as needed.

What should I write in my letter to my student?

You initial letters should share information about your life. Where you live, hobbies you enjoy, your family structure. Please refer to yourself as an overseas friend rather than sponsor, as the word sponsor has a different connotation in Africa. You can also ask your student questions about her life. In your correspondence with your student please be sensitive when discussing issues related to money or material possessions.

Can I communicate with my student via email, or Skype?

The computer lab is complete and we now allow sponsors to email students. Students will respond with a handwritten letter. SEGA does not allow Skyping with students at this time because the internet is not always reliable and the school does not have policies in place for the girls to use Skype.

Can I send my student a gift?

To help avoid ill feelings among the students we request that you send only those gifts that can be shared by all students (i.e. books, art supplies) We recommend that any packages be sent through a visitor going to SEGA. Please notify info@nurturingmindsinafrica.org and we can coordinate sending your gift with someone who is scheduled to visit SEGA. Packages can be sent in the mail to SEGA but we have found that the deliveries are not always reliable. Often packages do not arrive at SEGA because they are too attractive to thieves.

What happens if my student cannot remain at SEGA?

If your student can no longer remain at SEGA because of academic or behavioral issues, you will be notified of her dismissal and provided with an explanation of the circumstances. You will then be matched with a new student.

What do the students do after graduation?

After graduation, the girls remain at SEGA approximately six months waiting for the results of their exam and working with SEGA teachers to obtain skills to help prepare them for life when they leave SEGA. They attend computer skills class, English classes and work with the SEGA career counselor to identify future education or career opportunities after leaving SEGA.

What if I am sponsoring a student who graduates?

If you are sponsoring a student who is graduating you will be asked if you would like to be matched with a new student for sponsorship, or if you would like to donate to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund.

Can I continue to correspond with my student after she graduates and leaves SEGA?

Yes. We encourage all girls to create an email account for future communications with the school and sponsors. Please understand that some students may not have Internet access on a consistent basis after graduation. Your student or sponsorship coordinator can provide you with this email address.