



Friends of Samanyika Community – Our First year

Hello Friends and Supporters,

As we start 2023 full of new goals and commitments, I would like to thank all of you who were kind enough to take a leap of faith in supporting the Friends of Samanyika Community Initiative in 2022. Your generous contributions raised \$440, which were transferred directly to the Samanyika School account!

Our first year was also a period of learning and adjusting. We faced challenges of organizing to communicate effectively with the school to get the selection process going.

As you will recall, the objective is to support children most in need and fund the school fees for these children every year as far as we can go, ideally up to 12th Grade /form 4, depending on the availability of funding. In 2022, the cost per child per term was \$14 and \$28.00 for 2 terms. This initiative started after the first term and therefore covered the remaining 2 terms of the year 2022.

We supported 10 children who are in need in various ways. The children remain motivated to attend school despite the challenges they and their families face. They are resilient, some are top of the class while others started first grade, no matter how late. Challenges faced by families include, financial limitations, with no job opportunities, single mothers who have additional responsibilities of caring for elderly and sick parents, while some parents themselves are suffering from chronic illnesses and social challenges such as substance abuse and abandonment by their spouses. These challenges are magnified in rural communities and there are no safety nets.

Below, is a table that includes the students' profiles. Only initials are used to protect the children's identities. Your support is not just helping children pursue their education, you are helping to alleviate their families' financial challenges and inspiring hope for the teachers and the community!

We cannot thank you enough!





Funds disbursement and student Profile

Funds Raised March 2022

Funds Raised	Student	Age	Grade	Paid	
\$440 March 2022	NM	7	1	\$28	
	CT	9	2	\$28	
	AC	8	3	\$28	
	JM	11	2	\$28	
	QN	9	2	\$28	
	KT	7	1	\$28	
	PS	12	6	\$28	
	AM	8	2	\$28	
	RC	10	4	\$28	
	CB	11	5	\$28	
Total Disbursement				\$280	
Balance b/f to 2023				\$160	
Fees 2023				\$600	10 kids at \$20 per term
Top up to b/f				\$440	After deducting balance c/f from 2022
Total including 10% for supplies				\$660	\$600 annual fees + \$60 (10%) for supplies = \$660

In their words

Your support has helped the Samanyika community in so many defining ways. Here is a sampling of responses and reflections on the impact of your generosity:

What the children are saying:

One young child has offered, "Now we don't get to miss classes because of fees! We are really grateful nekurangirwa kwakadai."

What the headmaster and teachers are saying:

The staff at Samanyika primary say it is now easy to purchase books for the school as well as to ensure that administration work flows smoothly. They encouraged the donors not to tire and promised to do their best to produce the best students.

What the parents/community is saying:

During the SDC meeting where parents meet and discuss scholastic concerns, the parents and guardians of the beneficiaries requested to meet the team behind this fund so that they could thank them in person and express their gratitude. They are encouraging these children to work extra hard and produce good grades. The SDC committee members and counsellors of the village are also excited and grateful about this initiative.

Acknowledgements and what we learned

It was a slow process solidifying the initiative and selecting the appropriate children, partly because Headmaster Hondo sadly passed away very suddenly. He was critically instrumental in getting this program off the ground. He was so excited about the future of this project and what it means to the community. May he rest in eternal peace.

Selection process

We had to make sure that we verified that the students identified are indeed the most in need. This meant talking to the parents and having several follow up questions with Teacher Nyabadza, who replaced Headmaster Hondo as the coordinator from the school. Understandably, the school needed sometime to identify a new coordinator to replace the late headmaster Hondo. We were happy to finally have Teacher Charles Nyabadza join the team. We therefore extend our gratitude to Mr Nyabadza and Mrs. Juliet Makondora- Mateta for being our feet on the ground, making sure there was transparency in the selection process so that the children most in need receive the support this project aims to provide.

Allocation of funds

The decision from the start was to support the 10 selected kids through to 12th Grade/form 4 depending on availability of funds. The funds raised were transferred directly to the school in one tranche. The balance of the funds is carried forward into 2023 to cover the fees for the 10 children for term 1. Based on the information from the school, some of the funds were used to cover the cost of supplementary supplies as they often lack teaching materials and supplies. To ensure proper accounting, from 2023, 10 % of the funds raised will be allocated to the purchase of supplies to alleviate the challenges the school faces with acquisition of basic school materials.

The Future

The fees for 2023 is now \$20 per child per term which means \$60 annually per child. We hope that by regularly sharing stories about the children of Samanyika, you will be inspired to continue this journey of support and encourage others to join us. Our aim is to finance the children most in need so that they may continue going to school. Gifting an Education Gifts the World. Together we can be true Friends of Samanyika Children and give them an opportunity to participate in shaping our community at large.

We wish everyone single person who is part of the Friends of Samanyika Community – as well as future supporters – a joyful and prosperous 2023!

Please support us by visiting
<https://friendsofsamanyika.com/donate/>

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