



KENYA

Hilde Back Education Fund



The Hilde Back Education Fund (HBEF) is a Kenyan charitable organisation that assists bright children from poor families to access secondary education, by providing education scholarships and other opportunities. Without education, low-paying jobs are the only option in Kenya, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. For girls, it is an even harsher reality of arranged marriages and having their own children within two to four years of graduating primary school.

HBEF breaks this cycle by giving children the opportunity to stay in school and the chance to attend university to expand their academic accomplishments. They can give back to their families and communities by supporting and leading. They can follow their dreams of one day being neurosurgeons, economists, engineers...

Established in 2001, HBEF's focus is the promotion of education as a fundamental human right. The Fund seeks to give support to needy children with great potential through award of academic scholarships, irrespective of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

HBEF runs four major programs: sponsorship for secondary school; pupil and teacher support at primary level; leadership training and psychological support for beneficiaries; and material support that includes school uniforms, stationery, toiletries, bedding etc, required during the children's stay in school.

HBEF was founded by United Nations human rights specialist Chris Mburu. Chris's life as a disadvantaged Kenyan child from a rural family was drastically changed by an anonymous donation from a woman in Sweden, whose \$15 a month paid for his education. After excelling at school and then going on to graduate with a Harvard Law degree, Chris tracked down the woman who had made it possible - Hilde Back - and started the Fund in her name.

HBEF helps children like Chris get the education they need to break the poverty cycle. It brings hope to the children, their families, and their communities that there can be a better future. To date, the fund has supported 350 beneficiaries enrolled in schools across Kenya - all inspired by the small donation of one individual.

Since partnering with Purple Cake Day in 2013, HBEF has been able to significantly increase the number of full 4yr secondary school scholarships it funds as well as providing additional support to its leadership and mentoring programme for pupils.

The inspirational HBEF story is told in the award winning, film 'A Small Act', featured on the Purple Cake Day website. Community and school screenings of this film can be organised to raise funds for Purple Cake Day.



For further information on HBEF visit their website www.hildebackeducationfund.com

