



PRESS RELEASE

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Bright new future for AIDS orphans thanks to Oxford charity

A group of children in Kenya who have been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic will be able to complete their secondary education thanks to the financial support of the Oxford-based charity Teach a Child – Africa' (TaC). Twenty-two young people will have their school fees and basic needs funded by TaC, guaranteeing them a decent education that will help them to break the cycle of poverty.

Eleven girls and 11 boys – all from Kenya's Nyanza province, which borders Lake Victoria – will now receive a secondary education. The children were chosen based on their needs and on whom the organisation thought would benefit the most from a full education. These students will now follow in the footsteps of Mary and Nancy, who started school in 2007 and were the first two orphaned children to receive support from TaC.

One of the girls who will be sponsored is Jane. Speaking about what TaC's support means to her and her future, she said: "If I work hard and my dreams come true I may become a doctor and help other orphans like me. I thank God [for this support from TaC] because my grandmother was too old to teach me."

Across Africa, the HIV and AIDS pandemic has overwhelmed the traditional support systems provided by the extended family. Secondary education must be paid for in Kenya and due to extreme poverty and the devastating effects of HIV on family life and communities, many children miss out on an education. In their

struggle against poverty, children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse. However, thanks to the generosity of TaC's supporters, 22 children will now receive a secondary education.

TaC is committed to helping children who have lost their parents and/or guardians to AIDS so that they have the chance to fulfil their dreams for a better future. One of the teachers working with some of the TaC sponsored children said: "The girls are very enthusiastic about their education. They are working [so] hard and if they continue with the same trend, they will pass with flying colours".

TaC wants to support more children living in poverty and who have been orphaned by AIDS and is appealing for donations so that it can continue to provide support to children like Jane and send more children to school in 2009. For more information or to make a donation visit www.tac-africa.org.

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Notes to Editors

1. For more information or to arrange an interview with TaC founder and Executive Director, Pamela O'honde, please contact:

Carron Basu Ray, Media and Communications Adviser, on 07904 517 914 or email cbasuray@tac-africa.org

2. More than 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. There are more than one million children aged between 0 and 17 years who have been orphaned by AIDS in Kenya (source: UNAIDS website).
3. Secondary education lasts for four years in Kenya and costs approximately £1,000 per child (£250 per year).
4. TaC supports children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation.
5. TaC's Registered Charity No. is 1120796