Supporting the Student Sponsorship Program at the St. Mark School will give you the opportunity to connect with and follow the progress of a St. Mark student. You can have first-hand experience of how your contribution is making a difference for students like Zubeda, who would otherwise be unable to go to school due to extreme poverty.

Meet Zubeda

"My name is I need to succeed with my education so I can fight poverty and my family can live a sustainable life," says, a 13-year-old student at St. Mark School, in rural Uganda. Zubeda in the photo, is the third of 7 siblings in a family that is trapped in poverty. Neither of her parents went to school and they have spent almost everything they own trying to give their children an education.

"I wish all our children could go to school but we don't have the money," says Zubedah's mother Nalongo Bukenya, who has 10 children under the age of 18.

Zubeda is a gifted scholar dedicated to becoming an a lawyer and helping her family.
How the Student Sponsorship Program Works

Your donations to the Student Sponsorship Program will be used directly to supply:

1. EDUCATION RESOURCES
   Help our students to think critically, be curious, be creative and have a thirst for knowledge so that they may eventually become leaders in their community.

2. MAINTAIN OUR SCHOOL
   Keep our model school running well into the future. We need help to add more classrooms, fix plumbing, fix drainage.

3. FOOD & NUTRITION
   You can invest in the brains of our students by providing meals. Anemia, high blood pressure and diet related illness are endemic in Uganda, Please help us provide our students with a nutritious, balanced diet and encourage good eating habits for long and health life so we are able to.

4. UNIFORM, HEALTH & WELFARE.
   Help us provide lifesaving programs and ensure our students are physically and mentally able to take full advantage of their free education. Your gift will allow us to keep a close eye on children at risk, providing annual medical checks, emergency care for the students and full school uniform.

You will supply Uniforms, Books and Educational Materials, Medical Examinations, Recreation Equipment, Teachers Salaries.

Our team led by communications staff will match you with a St. Mark School student.
There are two levels of sponsorship:

1. **Scholarship Sponsor**
   - $300 Annually or $25 a month
   - You will receive:
     - Student bio and photo
     - Academic update twice a year
     - The opportunity to correspond with your student, with at least 2 letters from your student annually.

2. **Foundation Sponsor**
   - $2,400 Annually or $200 per month
   - You will receive:
     - Quarterly report about overall organization and school performance.
     - Annual report for overall organization and school.
   - At this level, you will be a sponsor to the school’s overall operations and growth.

**How Can I Sponsor A Student?**

Click [HERE](#) to donate to our Student Sponsorship Program or for more information, visit our [Contact page](#).

**Mail Your Student Support Program**
**Correspondence Letters Directly to St. Mark Junior School.**

In an effort to streamline the delivery of your correspondence letters to your sponsored student, you can mail the letters directly to St.Mark Junior School. Please be aware that a typical letter (a #10 envelope with 1 sheet of 8.5×11” paper) weighs 1.3oz and will require $1.98 in international stamps.

**Mailing address:**
[Students First Name] [Students Last Name]
St.Mark Junior School
PO Box 5301
Kampala, Uganda, East Africa.
Email your Correspondence to St. Mark Junior School.

In an effort to streamline sponsor correspondence, We have set up an email address specifically for sponsors to send an email to their sponsored student. We are excited to be able to offer this new option as part of the growing student sponsorship program. Here is how the new email system will work:

- Write an email to your sponsored student. Be sure to include her full name as the subject of the email. Also, include your full name as a signature on the email.
- Send the email to stmark@besofoundation.org
- Our communications staff will deliver your message to your student.
- Because the students work with teachers and volunteers to draft their letters, they will respond to your e-mail via handwritten letter as usual.

Do you want to keep the personal connection of a handwritten letter? No Worries! You can still send letters via the mail to St. Mark Junior School directly.

About St. Mark Junior School:

St. Mark School is a project of BESO Foundation BESO a grass root non-profit that works to Sustainably improve the lives of children and their families in rural Uganda through access to quality education, health services and economic empowerment.

In 2010, a child called Mark Mubiru of 6 years was knocked to death by a local taxi motorcycle while taking a long walk of 5 miles to the nearest school from this community, Wanteete. At that school, 100+ students are crammed into one room. Driven by this injustice, Aaron- BESO founder joined with 80 mothers from his village and successfully received a microgrant of $1,600 to start the first school in his community. They enlisted him, a son of the village, as a good example because he was fortunate to get a good education and start a grassroots organization, BESO Foundation. Together with the mothers, BESO worked to start a school for Mark and other children like him. The school opened in 2011 with 100 students, 2 teachers, with temporary shelter with only a roof as classrooms and on quarter piece of land.

In Kayunga district, 52% of Uganda’s population is under the age of 15 and 67.6% of children who enroll in primary school drop out before reaching grade seven, the teacher student ratio is 1:80 in most government schools.

Vital info about St. Mark.

- Students’ enrolment as at year 2016 is 514 students; 299 are girls and 215 are boys.
- Students are provided with free new uniforms, 2 nutritious meals at school and free quality education.
- The School is composed of three major sections
  1. The Kindergarten/Nursery section which has 169 students with age range bracket of 3-9 years.
  2. The lower section from Primary/grade one to Primary/grade four, which has 227 students with age, range of 6-14 years.
  3. The upper section from Primary/grade five to Primary/grade seven, which has 118 students with age range 6-14 years.

“Developing the next generation of leaders of Uganda”