



Rafiki Thabo Advocate role

Introduction

Thank you for expressing an interest in becoming a Rafiki Thabo Advocate - we really appreciate your support! This is a brand new scheme for us: in this note we set out what is involved in being an Advocate for us but please feel free to suggest other ways you could support us, and please do provide feedback on how the role is for you once you've started so we can refine and improve the scheme.

The Advocate role

We invite specific individuals, who we feel would be particularly suitable for the role, to become Advocates for Rafiki Thabo. We see our Advocates as part of our extended team and really appreciate their time and effort to help us raise awareness of our work, champion it, amplify our voice, and hopefully fundraise for us. By joining our team, your input will make a direct and valuable contribution to the communities, schools and individuals we support in Kenya, Lesotho and Uganda.

We are keen for our Advocates to decide the best way of supporting our work, depending on your particular areas of interest and skills. A list of the kind of ways you might get involved is provided below but please do share any other ideas you may have of how you could support us as an Advocate:

- Sharing and engaging with our posts on social media;
- Creating social media content for us on themes relevant to our work;
- Writing and sharing blogs (or vlogs!) about our work, or themes related to it;
- Building relationships and links with churches, schools, community groups, businesses and individuals for the purposes of fundraising and raising awareness about our work;
- Delivering talks about our work, e.g. to local groups, schools, churches etc;
- Take on sponsored challenges for us, helps to raise awareness and funds;
- Planning and running fundraising events to raise vital funds to support our work;
- Telling people in your network about our work and our impact, inspiring them to support us;
- Encouraging people to sign up to regular giving to Rafiki Thabo – any amount, it all helps and the predictability of income helps us to plan;
- Helping to plan and/ or helping out at fundraising events run by Rafiki Thabo Foundation, e.g. joining an event committee to help plan the event, and helping out at the event itself; and
- Encouraging others in your network to attend fundraising events, take part in sponsored challenges for Rafiki Thabo etc.

We will provide you with any support you need in order to carry out the role effectively. For example, we have fundraising packs which are downloadable from our website (general, schools and companies), can provide copies of short films for you to use for talks, can provide you with up to date information and statistics about our work and its impact etc. We will also reimburse you for any reasonable expenses you incur when undertaking the Advocate role, e.g. travel expenses, printing costs etc., although would appreciate you alerting us to these expenses before they are incurred. Your key contact for the role will be

Janne Pilbeam, our Partnerships and Events Manager. Janne will be on hand to guide and support you, and review our relationship on an annual basis.

We hope being a Rafiki Thabo advocate is something you will enjoy, grow increasingly passionate about and be proud to communicate within your network and beyond. In collaboration with you, we will add your profile, including your photo and a quote as to why you support us in this way, to our website. This profile will outline your connection to Rafiki Thabo, how you came to be an advocate and why, how you are supporting us, what you have achieved for us and what this means for our work. We hope others will be inspired by your charitable commitment to follow suit and consider joining us as well.

Background to Rafiki Thabo Foundation

As you are already aware, Rafiki Thabo Foundation is a UK-registered charity (charity number 1193124) that supports education projects in Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho. We support individuals and their communities in those countries through education that embraces their differing abilities. Our vision is that young people, including those living with disabilities, will be empowered through education to enable them to reach their full potential and initiate positive change in their communities. We do this by enabling access to education, working through trusted partners and local committees made up of community leaders known personally to the trustees.

Through our scholarship programme, we provide grants to promising students to enable them to continue their education at secondary, polytechnic, college and university levels where otherwise they would be unable to afford the fees. We are currently supporting around 300 scholars, of which more than 40 are living with a disability. All students supported by Rafiki Thabo have already qualified for their further education by their own merits. We simply provide financial assistance to enable them to access the education they are qualified to have.

We also run a school meals programme called 'Eat Well to Learn' at our partner secondary school in rural Uganda, through which we provide a hot meal every day to at least 70 of the poorest students at the school. In addition, we support the infrastructural development of a partner secondary school in each of our focus communities in order to provide a better learning environment for the children at those schools. We work with school management to identify key development needs and then fundraise to meet those needs. Recent projects include the extension and refurbishment of dormitories at our partner schools in Uganda and Kenya, the construction of teachers' accommodation in Uganda, and the construction of a new classroom at our partner school in Lesotho, enabling the school to offer an additional two years of education to children in the local area.

We also work through partners in Kenya to enable children living with disabilities to overcome barriers to them accessing education and thriving in their studies. Our partners are Dadashi Special Children's Centre and the Autism Society of Kenya. We work with those partners to find ways of expanding and improving their service provision to children with disabilities. Recent projects include the training of parents and caregivers of children with autism in providing therapy, the establishment of a training centre for mothers of children with disabilities, and the provision of assistive devices to children with disabilities.

Further information about our work can be found at: www.rafiki-foundation.org.uk.