



**THE SCHOOL FUND**



# The Challenge

Over 115 million students globally are not in school; approximately 71 million are high-school aged.

In most countries, secondary school is not free, and for students from the poorest families, the cost of tuition, uniforms and other supplies makes pursuing an education seem impossible. The School Fund allows donors to collectively cover education fees.



# About The School Fund

One-hundred percent of online donations to students go directly to covering their school fees.



**The School Fund** is a nonprofit online educational funding platform that connects passionate donors globally to ensure that all children—no matter where they live—have the opportunity to attend school.





# Impact



Through The School Fund, **3,510 unique funders** have contributed **over \$350,000** to support educational scholarships for **1,095 students**.





# Focus on Secondary Education



Per United Nations recommendation, many countries like Kenya have abolished *primary* school fees. Nations that have abolished primary school fees have seen an explosion in primary school attendance—but this has not led to transition rates to secondary school.

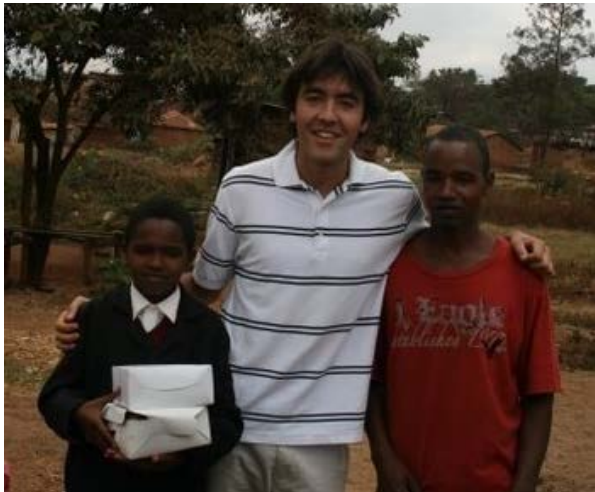
**After primary school, for want of as little as \$150 per year, students are forced to drop out.** The School Fund exists to bridge that financial gap for high achieving students who want to continue learning—and we make it possible for ordinary individuals the world over to chip in (and donate **as little as \$5**) toward meeting these needs.



# Our Story

In 2007, The School Fund's founder, Matt Severson, graduated high school and traveled to Tanzania where he met John Medo, a bright young boy who had passed secondary school qualifying exams, but whose family couldn't afford his \$150 school fees.

Matt covered John's school fees himself, but upon returning home to the U.S., realized there must be tens of thousands of other John Medos in the world. In fact, there were millions. Matt founded The School Fund in 2009, and in 2012, The School Fund was awarded the **Clinton Global Initiative University Outstanding Commitment Award**. Today, **over 1,000 students**, including John Medo, have received educational support from The School Fund.







# Why We Support Education



In low-income countries, only **37%** of adolescents complete lower secondary education, and the rate is as low as **14%** for the lowest income.

For each additional year of secondary school, an individual's wages increase by **15-25%**.

Girls with eight years of education are **four times less likely to be married as children**.

If a mother has five years of education, her children are **40% more likely to live** past the age of 5.



# Our Global Reach

The School Fund works with **15 field partners** that address educational inequality with existing ties to communities in **13 countries**.



We support students in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, India, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines, Somaliland, Mozambique, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Nepal, and Panama.





**Elizabeth Texeira,  
Executive Director**

Liz has spent her professional life working in education domestically and abroad, and recently graduated from Harvard with a Master's Degree in International Education Policy. She founded her own company in the girls empowerment space, is a Teach for America alum, and has worked as an Emergency Medical Technician and Education Specialist throughout Northern Africa and the Middle East.

At The School Fund, Liz works to engage diverse audiences, donors, and partners to increase awareness about this important work.



**Michael Childress,  
Director of  
Programs**

Michael is an educator and researcher with experience serving marginalized populations around the world. He earned a master's degree in International Education Policy from Harvard University. He has supported research projects with UNICEF, UNHCR and Save the Children.

At The School Fund, Michael is responsible for managing relationships with a global network of field partners.



# Our Team



## **Matt Severson, President & Founder**

Matt first travelled to Tanzania as a high school student in the summer of 2007. There, he met John Medo, a young man who opened Matt's eyes to the true power of education. Funding John's first year of secondary school marked the The School Fund's beginning. Since then, Matt has transformed that simple action—a person helping a student pay for school—into a project that is granting others the opportunity to support and befriend students in another part of the world.

Today, in addition to his work with The School Fund, Matt also works on the new business development team at Google.



# Testimonials



"In every developing country with a per capita income of \$2 a day or less, each year of schooling adds 10% to earning capacity for life. This is really profoundly important... The School Fund works with local NGOs in Africa to identify students who need funding... It's a very good project."

**Former President,  
Bill Clinton**

"We live in a world where more young people than ever before are enslaved. We must battle ignorance, discrimination and poverty. Education is our finest weapon, in a peaceful war, to save young lives. The powerful educational opportunities offered by The School Fund are incredible."

**Kathy Ireland**



"Ideas are stronger and products are better when diverse minds collaborate together. I believe that all of us, especially girls and under-represented minorities, will need to team up to solve today's most pressing problems. The School Fund is doing great work to ensure that children all around the world get an education and activate their talents."

**US Chief Technology Officer,  
Megan Smith**





# Press & Partners

## Featured in

FAST COMPANY

The  
Economist

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR

THE  
HUFFINGTON  
POST

Palo  
Alto  
Weekly

Disney  
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