

## **Frequently Asked Questions concerning the sponsorship programme.**

### **Why is the sponsorship offered in cooperation with Creating Smiles e.V.?**

The MCRC is a charity which is registered in Ethiopia, but has no organisation or bank accounts of its own in Europe.

Creating Smiles e.V. is a charitable German organisation based in Hamburg which has financially supported the MCRC itself as a sponsor since 2010 and meets the necessary requirements to conduct the sponsorship programme. In particular this includes the recognition of the charitable status by the responsible German tax authorities.

Donations made within the EU (Euro zone) can therefore be collected easily by Creating Smiles e.V. through the SEPA-direct debit scheme. The organisation then forwards the money to the MCRC in Ethiopia.

As a non-profit organisation, Creating Smiles e.V. can also issue an annual donation receipt .

Furthermore, we would of course like to keep our sponsors informed about the current developments. This is difficult to do directly from Ethiopia, as the staff on site have limited capacity and place their focus on working with the women and children.

Working with volunteers from Germany enables us to offer this programme despite these hurdles.

It is much easier for a Germany-based organisation to administrate processes and to comply with the necessary regulations concerning data protection, for example.

### **How old are the sponsored children?**

Basically, the MCRC supports children of all age groups until they finish school. Young adults who choose to study after leaving school can also be sponsored until they graduate from college or university.

As a sponsor, you can support small children and school children on their path to a self-determined future. MCRC students can be supported through an educational sponsorship.

If you are interested in sponsoring an older student, please contact us personally so we can offer you a suitable individual sponsorship. This way you can influence the duration of the sponsorship accordingly.

### **Does 100% of my donation reach the sponsored child?**

100% of your sponsorship donation reaches the MCRC in Ethiopia. As all supporters in Germany are volunteers, there are no costs for administration or marketing.

However, to ensure the equal treatment of all the children in MCRC, the money is used collectively. This means that no child which is supported by the MCRC should have a financial advantage compared with others if he/she has a sponsor. Your support makes a significant contribution to your sponsored child receiving school education as well as continuous support during his/ her development.

**How can I be sure that my donation reaches the MCRC?**

Creating smiles e.V. has financially supported the MCRC since 2010. This long-standing trusting partnership makes such a sponsorship programme possible. In addition, Creating smiles e.V. is checked regularly by a German auditing company to guarantee that all appropriated donations reach the local on-site project.

**Do local checks also take place concerning how MCRC finances are handled ?**

Yes, MCRC's finances are checked annually by an auditing company and every three years by the Ethiopian government.

All sponsors and charities, such as Creating Smiles e.V., are requested by the auditor to declare the yearly transferred donation sums, in order to compare them with the local declarations.

**What does a sponsorship cost and what are the payment methods?**

A sponsorship costs 245 Euros per year, an educational sponsorship 135 Euros per year ((You can increase this amount voluntarily. Simply enter the desired annual amount on the application form).

Further details and information can be found on the website.

The money is deducted from your bank account by the SEPA-direct debit scheme. If you are a resident outside the EU (Eurozone), please contact us personally to arrange an individual payment method.

For the first year (short year) , a payment will be charged based on the remaining full months.

**How can I contact Creating Smiles e.V. and enter the sponsorship scheme?**

To contact us, please send an email to : [patenschaften-mcrc@creatingsmiles.de](mailto:patenschaften-mcrc@creatingsmiles.de)

We will then get in touch with you as soon as possible.

The application form for a sponsorship can be downloaded from the MRCR or Creating Smiles Websites and sent as a scan per email or by post.

**Can I contact the sponsored child?**

You can contact us personally, if you are interested in staying in regular contact with your sponsored child. To protect the child's welfare and avoid disappointment, we will gladly inform you about options and answer any queries you may have.

Generally, it is possible to arrange an appointment to visit the Centre in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia through the MCRC staff on site and meet the sponsored child personally.

**When does the sponsorship end?**

In general, the sponsorship terminates at the end of the year in which the child has reached his/her school qualification.

In some cases the sponsorship can end beforehand, if the child is cancelled from the program due to different reasons. School attendance is a requirement for receiving the sponsorship; should the sponsored child drop out of school permanently, the sponsorship also ends.

In the case of scholarship termination, you will be contacted and receive an alternative sponsorship suggestion.

**Can I end a sponsorship earlier than intended?**

Although the donations play an important role in planning the support measures for the children and youths, you are of course free to end the sponsorship at any time. It is necessary to inform us in writing, an email is sufficient.