



Pens For Kids is an idea fostered by a visionary humanitarian, Claus Hjornet. After visiting Kenya and Tanzania, Claus couldn't remain indifferent and decided to help the children. The goal of Pens for Kids is to get pens to kids in Africa to assist them with getting an education. To raise standards of living, make informed decisions, and have a greater freedom of choice requires education.

In 2008 Linda Schaffer, another frequent safari tourist in Kenya, decided to expand the project in an effort to increase the support of donors and thus reach more children, and created Pens For Kids International based in California - United States.

By Christmas 2009, Malcolm O'Brien, secured a very important donation and early 2010 inaugurated Pens For Kids in the UK.

I, Fatima Moreira, am a lawyer. I was born in Angola and lived there for the first 8 years of my life, and remain passionate about the children of Africa and the world. I shared the idea with Angela Carvalho, a friend and computer professional. Being generous is a hobby for Angela, and she soon offered her cooperation. The two of us started supporting Pens For Kids financially, and with the encouragement and advice of our friend Claus we launched this project in Portugal. The first step was to spread the word among friends and family and start collecting pens. The next steps will be to promote public collections and develop partnerships with individuals or institutions that ensure a continuous flow of donations, and our dream – making a website.

In so-called developed countries it is an almost unknown fact, that in Africa and many other developing countries, education is not a privilege guaranteed by law – nor is it free. Quite on the contrary, in poor families the kids are often obligated to help earning money to sustain the family, and school fees are often insurmountable hurdles on the

kids' way to an education. Even in countries where education is free, school uniforms are often big obstacles for an education, and since material and human resources on a national level are often insufficient to back up government policies, poor families must often pay for books and other school supplies or even help paying for the teachers' salaries.

However, the only way to break the vicious circle of poverty is education, and Pens For Kids was formed to remove one of the obstacles for kids from poor families: the lack of school supplies.

Pens for Kids consists of legally independent local projects in Denmark, USA, UK, Portugal, Australia and Canada, who all collect basic school supplies like pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners and rulers from family, friends, colleagues and corporations and send them to friends and contacts in development countries.

Pens for Kids accept new and gently used school supplies – with or without company logos or other forms of advertising - and send them to contacts, individuals or charity organisations, in Africa or development countries like Mexico or, most recently, Haiti.

Pens For Kids is based on a triptych consisting of our friends and donors, us, the promoters, and the ambassadors in the countries of destination. Our ambassadors are well reputed and personal friends chosen to receive and distribute the collected materials in schools or institutions that assist children.

Pens for Kids Portugal is a humanitarian organization, nongovernmental, nonpolitical, nonpartisan, non religious and totally based on voluntary work. Since we are not registered as a legal company or organisation, we are unable to accept donations of money. We have no office and no employees, and all work is done by our volunteers who also cover the shipping costs of donations received out of our own pockets.

Although we work closely with Pens For Kids, in Denmark, USA, UK, Australia and now Canada, it is our hope to establish our own contacts, preferably Portuguese-speaking in Africa and Timor, to assist us in this task.

More information about the project and its promoters can be found in cyberspace, on:
www.pensforkids.dk ; www.pensforkids.com ; <http://www.pensforkids.co.uk> ;
www.pensforkids.mono.net (in Danish); www.123hjemmeside.dk/pensforkids (Danish /
English) or www.pensforkids.dk (in English)

You can even find us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pens-for-Kids/13994755929>

... and join our group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=35096068322>

Thank you for your attention.

With best wishes

Fátima Moreira