



World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

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To: National Scout Organisations

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The Scout Universal Fund – Supporting Scout Projects in Africa

The Scout Universal Fund or U-Fund was established in 1963 to provide a means for all members of the Scout Movement to help scouts in developing countries in their development activities. It was designed "to help scouts to help others". Contributions were distributed as grants to support a wide range of community projects undertaken by scouts in such areas as: health and sanitation, environment and habitat, food production, literacy and many more. Grants were also given to cater for emergency needs such as those arising from natural disasters and also to encourage the growth of Scouting.

Following a proposal by the Africa Regional Office, and which was accepted by the U-Fund Monitoring Group of the World Scout Committee in July 2002, the Scout Universal Fund will for the next three years be dedicated to supporting scout projects in the Africa Scout Region.

The challenges facing the African continent are numerous and its capacity to respond to these problems is hampered by scarce resources. Scouting does not exist in isolation; it is closely tied to the community and reflects the strengths or weaknesses of that society. Scouts themselves not only share the fortunes and the hardships of their local environments but they are also challenged to take an active role in helping to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and community. Scouts in Africa are at the centre of efforts to seek solutions to Africa's many problems. They are bringing real improvement to their respective communities – from carrying out immunisation, providing clean water, working with street children to conflict resolution and HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns.

This work has been possible through personal commitment by the scouts and through support from scouts elsewhere in the world. But much more needs to be done considering that some of the problems like the HIV/AIDS scourge have ballooned to shocking proportions. More assistance is required by African scouts to enable them to respond accordingly.

The U-Fund has been identified as an appropriate vehicle for mobilising support for scout projects in the Africa Region. The idea is to target a large number of donors, each giving a modest amount of money but whose aggregate will be significant. Donations are sought from Scout Associations/Organisations, Scout groups, and individual Scouts and leaders. Promotion of the U-Fund is being done under the banner "Helping Scouts make a difference in Africa" and money from the Fund will be allocated to Scout Associations in Africa undertaking projects in the areas of:

- HIV/AIDS
- Peace Education
- Reaching out to Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances

This is to inform all Scout Associations of the new development and to request them to spread the word to their Scout groups, leaders and individual Scouts so as to rally support for the re-launched U-Fund for Africa.

To make a donation to the U-Fund, send a cheque or bank transfer to the World Scout Bureau's "U" Fund account in Geneva:

World Scout Bureau "U" Fund
Account No. 85 612 RO 00 01 (Special Funds)
Banque Lombard Odier & Cie
P.O. Box 5215
1211 - Geneva 11
Switzerland
Swift Code: LOCYCHGG

More information is available on:

Website: www.scout.org/africa
E-mail: afrcscout@africa.scout.org

Yours sincerely,



Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General