

# Chapter 5:

## Engaging Communities and Local Organizations in Travelers' Philanthropy

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### How to Manage Interaction with Community Projects

By Jane Crouch  
Responsible Travel Manager, Intrepid Travel

A travelers' philanthropy program can bring both needed support to a community and provide benefits for the travel company and the traveler. It may present some great opportunities for engaging and educating company staff and travelers about a country's issues and challenges, and positive solutions. At a minimum, there can be marketing upsides when a company describes the projects it is supporting in its brochure and on its website. More broadly, when a travelers' philanthropy program is done well it can have profound impacts on all the participants. Travelers' visits to and experience with community projects can have the power to engage, inspire, educate, and motivate them to understand issues and inequities that they would not otherwise be exposed to. As a result, travelers may be moved to support the project, or become an advocate for the cause, which enriches their whole travel experience.

A meaningful project visit may also inspire travelers to consider how they could live more sustainably and thoughtfully, and encourage them to more carefully consider their purchasing decisions. For example, a visit to an orangutan sanctuary in Borneo motivated some travelers to try to avoid purchasing products containing palm oil because they learned that palm oil plantations result in deforestation and loss of habitat which impact orangutan survival. Similarly, when travelers observe people learning the skills needed to make high quality handicrafts they understand the importance of purchasing 'fair trade' products instead of buying mass-produced items. In essence, travelers' philanthropy, and project visits in particular, can help travelers to "think globally, and act locally."



Sepilok orangutans, Borneo.  
Credit: Dale Neil. Photo courtesy of Intrepid Travel.

Project visits can lead to greater and more informed giving to causes, because poverty and deprivation now have real faces. Previously a traveler may have read about the issues with a degree of detachment because the victims were distant and unidentifiable. Visits may raise consciousness and motivate travelers to reach out and share their greater wealth and opportunity with those who are less fortunate. Seeing an effective local organization in action,

the traveler is given hope, empowerment, and practical evidence that contributions can truly make a difference.

- **How can Companies inform Travelers about their Travelers' Philanthropy Projects?**

- In company brochures
- Their website, possibly with links to the partner organization or project's web-site.
- Newsletters - preferably electronic to reduce paper waste and ensure immediacy.
- An information sheet, flyer or pamphlet sent in advance of their trip or provided upon arrival, or detailed in the trip dossier or notes which are provided upon booking.
- Blogs - regular updates from staff, volunteers, or visitors at the project.
- As part of a company's Responsible Travel or Sustainability reporting. Note that philanthropic support should be one component of a company's sustainability reporting, and not held up as a dominant activity. Statements that imply "The company gives to charity so they must be OK" can provoke cynicism and raise questions about the ethics of how the company operates and cares for its stakeholders and communities.
- Featuring projects on travelers' philanthropy websites. For example:  
Travelers' Philanthropy: <http://www.travelersphilanthropy.org/index.html>  
Travel Pledge: <http://travelpledge.org/>

- **How Should Project Visits be Handled?**

Visiting a travelers' philanthropy project should be a positive experience for all parties. But to make it so requires both planning and sensitivity to the needs and capacity of the community where the project is located. There should be a local employee or representative present to welcome visitors and describe their work (possibly with the guide or group leader translating). There should be some activity in progress or some displays representing their work. It is important to offer an alternative activity or location for travelers who do not want to participate in the site visit.



Visit to The Aloia Foundation, Dili, Timor-Leste.  
Credit: Jane Crouch

The visit should not feel 'voyeuristic' or uncomfortable for either the visitors or the locals. Some projects by their nature are not appropriate to visit. These may include:

- A clinic - patients dealing with reproductive health, family planning, victims of violence, HIV/AIDS or other serious health issues naturally want privacy.
- A school when classes are underway - unless pre-arranged.
- A project related to disease management - human or animal, where visitors may introduce germs or spread germs after their visit.
- An orphanage or other institution involved in child welfare – unless pre-arranged and well-managed (please note further points below under 'Important considerations for caring for children')

Timing and frequency of visits must be negotiated and pre-arranged to avoid disrupting the recipient organization's key activities and to allow for coordinated, well-staffed presentations.

An organization may, for example, only have the capacity to host a visit from travelers once a fortnight, or even less frequently.

- **Should Host Projects receive Remuneration for receiving Visitors?**

Unless a tour company or particular visitors are making very large donations, it is certainly fair for the company to cover the cost of staff time and resources (brochures, refreshments, etc.) that the local program or project used to prepare for the visit. This compensation might be a fixed amount per head – say, \$10 per person -- or a lump sum per group visit. This should be negotiated beforehand between the project's leader and the company representative. Unless a travel company is raising large sums of money for an organization's work, the company should pay all costs associated with a project visit that is part of an itinerary and contributes to the travelers' holiday experience.

- **Important Considerations for Caring for Children**

Additional considerations must be addressed for visits to child welfare projects. Recent attention to popular media personalities who have adopted children from poor countries has caused an increasing number of travelers wanting to visit orphanages and similar institutions in hopes of helping the children in some way or to simply 'put a smile' on their faces.

Despite traveler demand, such visits must always be pre-arranged and the tour company should conscientiously consider the following precautions:

- Short term visitation to such organizations can be disruptive and exploitive of the children, without producing any beneficial outcomes. An orphanage is a child's home, a place that should be safe and should respect his/her right to privacy and dignity. Regular tour group visits may turn their home into a zoo-like experience.
- Visits can arouse pity in travelers who want to help in some way, leading to inappropriate 'band-aid' type assistance or handouts (of candy, pens, clothing), rather than sustained and truly beneficial support.
- The institution and the travel company must be prepared to tell travelers the best ways to help the children.
- Appropriate supervision and oversight of children can only be provided through planned visits. We must be aware there is a risk of introducing children to adults who may have sexual or other exploitation in mind.
- Brief visits by foreigners can encourage a culture of dependency and teach children that smiling and looking cute will bring them or their organization gifts and money.
- Short-term volunteer postings are generally not advised where children are involved, especially vulnerable groups such as orphans and children with disabilities. Children need stability. There can be negative emotional and psychological effects with rotating short term care and interaction.



Mongolian girl, Lotus Children's Center, Mongolia. Credit: Intrepid Travel

- Volunteers who work with children need either to be monitored at all times or have had background or reference checks completed before they begin work. It may be difficult to arrange for this degree of oversight, especially in remote locations.
- Local staff may not be aware of the risks, but tour companies must be. Although most visitors are well meaning and driven by a desire to help, the cumulative effect of brief visits by many foreigners can be detrimental to the children's long-term interests.

- **Sensitivity when Visiting Projects in Remote or Ethnic Minority Communities**

Extra sensitivity and planning are important when visiting projects in remote or ethnic minority communities:

- Members of the community should be directly involved in the development and operation of projects and project visits. They should actively participate in day-to-day management and decision-making around the visits and not just be passive employees.
- Local people should be given the opportunity to present their work or their project in their own way to visitors. This could be through talks, village walks, hands-on demonstrations, or other activities. The group leader or guide may need to act as a translator.



Home village weaving cooperative, Timor-Leste.  
Credit: Jane Crouch

- Activities should provide opportunities for meaningful interaction between the travelers and local people.
- Local men and women should be given equal opportunity to be actively involved.
- The guide or group leader should brief the group on what to expect and on appropriate behavior before they arrive in the community. This includes advising the visitors about suitable dress, taking photos, and respecting privacy.

- **When Travelers feel a Call to Action....**

Travelers are often seeking ways to make a difference in the world. Sometimes they are just waiting to be asked or shown how. Offer this information at what feels like the right time before, during, or after a visit. Experience will soon help you to determine when is most appropriate. Options include:

- Opportunities to purchase goods or services at the project, during the visit;
- A mechanism for travelers to make a monetary donation to the project during their visit;
- Instructions given to the travelers during the visit on how to make a donation later;
- Follow up communication emailed or sent by regular mail to request support after the trip is over;
- Directions on how the traveler can organize a fund-raising activity to benefit the project after returning home.

Explain to travelers how their donation will be used, with some practical and tangible examples. For example, \$25 will fund one cataract operation and restore a persons' sight; \$10 will pay for one school desk, made by the local carpenter; \$50 will buy enough reading materials to supply an entire school class.

It may be preferable for a tour company to offer a system by which travelers can make secure donations after the project visit, rather than having travelers leave small amounts at the project. These on-the-spot donations can be frittered away on day-to-day needs, rather than accumulated towards a bigger goal. Companies may wish to offer an incentive to travelers to donate via their travelers' philanthropy program. For example, The Intrepid Foundation, the travelers' philanthropy initiative of the small-group adventure operator, Intrepid Travel, matches travelers' donations dollar for dollar -- up to AU\$5,000 per donor and a total of AU\$400,000 for all donations received in each financial year (at time of print).

- **Conclusion**

Travel companies make a difference in the world, and especially in the places they visit, by engaging staff and clients in travelers' philanthropy activities. Philanthropy can enrich the lives of travelers, company employees, and company owners while fostering more support for communities in great need. Aim high, but be realistic and avoid committing beyond your personal or corporate capacity. And always keep this one rule in mind - do what is in the best long-term interests of the beneficiary communities.

# Survey of Recipient Organizations in Arusha, Tanzania

By Jessie Davie  
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- **Introduction**

Whether they are high-end tourists or backpackers, many travelers who are visiting northern Tanzania today, specifically the Arusha Region, are engaging in philanthropic activities that compliment their travels. Arusha serves as the jumping off point to Tanzania's famed northern game circuit including the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Mt. Kilimanjaro, among other world class attractions. Many tour operators based in Arusha are promoting certain community projects or organizations by arranging for tourist visits to project sites, providing visitors with information, and collecting donations. Some travel companies have begun specializing in placing travelers with an interest in volunteering at specific projects. In addition, some nonprofit organizations directly promote traveler involvement by welcoming tourists to their sites, providing volunteer opportunities, and using their websites to educate and attract travelers. In total, these efforts by tour companies and travelers to assist local organizations in addressing some of northern Tanzania's pressing social and conservation needs constitute a robust example of travelers' philanthropy.



Tourists sharing lunch with students, Arusha, Tanzania.  
Credit: The School of St. Jude

The case study by Johanna Wolff ("Survey of Tour Operators in Arusha, Tanzania" in Chapter 4) based on surveys with 27 tour operators, demonstrates that many tourism businesses in the Arusha area have travelers' philanthropy programs. However, the importance of these programs and their impact on the recipient organizations was not clear. Therefore, in early 2010 the Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) commissioned this study to assess the actual benefits generated by travelers' philanthropy in Arusha and to assess how visitors' donations could be utilized most effectively. Eleven organizations were surveyed, all of which are working with tour companies to receive donations, material goods, and/or volunteers. These included schools and other learning centers, orphanages, and human and land rights organizations.

All the organizations surveyed view this financial assistance as positive and vital to the running of their organizations. In addition, some organizations rely on tourists to become volunteers or to bring needed materials and supplies from their home countries to a project site. This survey provides, for the first time, information about the range and level of gifts received from philanthropically-oriented travelers to northern Tanzania and, how travelers get involved in supporting local organizations and causes. It suggests that certain types of donations more effectively support the work of local organizations' work, while other types are less useful. Taken together, the results of this study offer important guidance for organizations accepting travelers' philanthropy.

- **What's Being Donated and its Importance**

The surveys found that local organizations become recipients of travelers' philanthropy in a number of ways. Regardless of how the connection is made, as the relationship between a tourism business and a local organization is being developed, the organization should, ideally, indicate what types of donations they most need. For a variety of reasons, survey respondents indicated that they had not been clear about their organization's needs. Those surveyed said that in some instances, the tour companies or travelers simply inform the organization of the type of donation they will make. In this case, it is usually a financial contribution that is collected by a tour company and then given to the organization. For example, a respondent from one organization explained, "When clients book with the [tour] company, they are usually asked to make a voluntary financial contribution or bring educational materials."



In some cases, the organizations themselves make specific "asks" to travelers -- an amount of money, type of goods, or kind of volunteer project. Especially in cases of volunteers, the organization and the individual or company work together to determine that the proposed project suits both the volunteers' skills or the needs of the organization. As one respondent explained, "Volunteers are allowed to contribute ideas [to our organization] and decide how they want to help or use their donated money." Another organization said, "[Our volunteers] teach at the school, design curriculum, provide technical support, whatever is needed at the time and is something they would like to do."

Although there is no fixed method for determining the type of contributions an organization will accept, those interviewed indicated that the more control the organization has over incoming support, the better. In fact, three organizations have actually developed guidelines to direct travelers' philanthropy—e.g. what kinds of goods will be accepted, how much money a visitor must contribute on site, and rules regarding volunteer activities. In general, philanthropy comes in the form of money, goods and materials, or volunteer time. Below are some recommendations for each type of donation.

- **Money**

All those surveyed – 100% -- said that financial support from travelers is either "extremely important" or "important" to their organization. Three of the organizations were either founded or co-founded by safari companies as a mechanism to channel guests' gifts to good local projects. These three continue to rely on significant annual financial support from the founding companies and their guests.

Many of the beneficiary organizations said that because they are constantly struggling to meet their budgets, cash donations are seen as the most valuable type of gift. As one respondent explained, "If you have money you can buy what you need." Another stated, "Funding is best, as we can source materials here. Funds are needed for the building projects, teachers' salaries, and secondary school fees, etc." Although all the organizations surveyed receive funding from

sources beyond tourism, in many cases, travelers' contributions lead to additional or ongoing donations, either from the same traveler or from the traveler's personal network of family, friends, and colleagues. This increases local organizations' interest in working with tour operators to set up travelers' philanthropy initiatives. Those surveyed also noted that travelers are more willing to contribute if they have confidence in the tour operator and know that the operator has a long-standing relationship with a particular organization.

- **Goods and Materials**

While all the eleven organizations surveyed accept material goods, six said that donated goods and materials “are not important to their operations.” Almost all goods and materials needed by these organizations can be purchased locally. As one respondent stated, “Everything we need [for our organization] we can purchase locally, provided we have the funds to do so.” Buying materials locally has the added benefit of supporting the local economy and employment. Another interviewee noted, “There are rare cases when the provision of material support is more practical than simply providing financial resources.”

Several said that they find it very helpful when travelers ask what kinds of items would be useful to the organization. They listed computer materials as among the useful items. One organization has developed a “wish list” to help travelers in bringing donated goods and materials that will be genuinely useful. (See below the “What Can I Send?” list from the School of St. Jude) As the respondent explained, “Randomly donated cheap and inappropriate goods just become landfill or clutter up much-needed storage space. Also, unsolicited items from overseas can cost the charity unanticipated expenses in the form of import duties and other taxes, handling and shipping charges, etc.”

Two respondents said that goods and materials were “extremely important,” but in both cases these supplies were being donated by volunteers who knew what kind of materials were useful. For example, one of those surveyed said that it is useful if volunteers donate their labor as well as construction materials needed to repair classrooms.



The clear message from this portion of the survey is that travelers should not donate goods or materials unless the recipient organization has specifically requested the items. Tour companies and travelers should inquire in advance about current needs and ask if the organization has created a “wish list.”

- **Volunteers**

Respondents for six of the eleven organizations surveyed said that volunteer support is “important” or “extremely important.” Each organization has a different method of recruiting and engaging volunteers. Some tour operators organize volunteer activities for their clients, while some travelers use a volunteer placement agency and some of the local organizations recruit volunteers themselves. Volunteers come from range of countries — the U.S. being the most common — and the length of stay ranges anywhere from one week to two years. None of the

participants said they charge volunteer fees, although some did specifically mention that they expect volunteers to cover their own expenses. Most respondents said that volunteers typically donate funds or material goods after they have completed their service.

Two of the organizations surveyed said that they rely heavily on volunteers. One explained, “There would be no English, math, or computer teachers without volunteers.” Others find volunteer support important when it is aligned with the organization’s needs. For example, one respondent explained, “Support from highly skilled, qualified, and experienced experts in finance, strategic planning, marketing, IT, and education is vital.” However, while acknowledging the benefits, one organization cautioned, “Volunteer support can sometimes be burdensome for the organization. The organization must use financial, human, and time resources to adequately host volunteers.”

Several organizations noted that volunteers bring an added benefit that goes beyond their direct assistance. As one put it, “Teaming up volunteers with Tanzanian staff often fosters shared learning experiences. For the volunteers, they have a chance to learn about local culture and livelihoods, and most importantly, to challenge their existing misconceptions and prejudices.



For the Tanzanian staff, they gain exposure to different ways of approaching problems, conducting activities, and managing programs.”

Survey participants noted a range of other benefits. Volunteers tend to donate funds, materials, and goods before or during their volunteer experience. By dedicating their time and energy to a project, volunteers gain a sense of ownership and commitment to their organization. After they finish as volunteers, they are likely to continue to make donations and assist the organization. As one respondent explained, “One volunteer now donates \$100 every month to us, because she valued her experience so much.”

- **How do Travelers Learn about Local Organizations?**

There are many ways for travelers to learn about civic organizations and projects in northern Tanzania. Tour operators often build information about local organizations, including site visits, into their tours. Some organizations have websites that promote their work and invite travelers to visit their projects. Increasingly, travel guides such as *Lonely Planet* (which was specifically mentioned by one recipient) list local organizations, thereby helping to draw tourist attention to them. In addition, travelers who have visited in the past tend to share their experiences and stories with future travelers, thus spreading the word about these organizations’ work.

- **Importance of Site Visits**

Survey respondents rated site visits as the most effective method of introducing travelers to their project or organization. One respondent explained, “Their gift at the time of their visit is important, but the most valuable thing is when they go home and spread awareness, raise funds [for our organization], and continue to contribute regularly themselves.” Those interviewed

confirmed that visiting the project, understanding the issues, and seeing first-hand the organization's work is a powerful experience for many travelers and it often leads to a long-term relationship with an organization.

The majority of the organizations surveyed said that financial donations increase after a site visit. Some organizations find these visits so worthwhile that they have employed additional staff to arrange and organize them. As one explained: "Our school now employs several extra staff members to ensure visitors receive worthwhile experiences and tour companies receive good service from us. But this is worth it. All visitors are welcome, provided that they have little or no impact on the daily schedule and education of our students. We recognize the importance of spreading knowledge about our school."

However, some organizations complained that they receive either too few or too many visits from travelers. One respondent said that because of the organization is in a remote location, it has trouble attracting travelers for onsite visits and this hurts its ability to raise contributions. Another more centrally located organization, Rift Valley Children's Village, found the number of visitors became too overwhelming so it has now developed a set of guidelines to help streamline visits and make them more worthwhile for the organization in terms of income and staff time. (See Rift Valley Children's Village (RVCV) Visitor Policy) As the person interviewed explained, "The number of people asking to visit has grown to a point where it is becoming unmanageable and potentially detrimental to our work." Respondents explained that visitors must be sensitive to the project's overall goals and that their visits should not get in the way of the day-to-day functioning of the project.

Overall, those interviewed said that traveler visits to local projects are incredibly meaningful and have long-lasting benefits for both the visitor and host organizations. As a general rule, it is incumbent on travelers and tour companies to ensure that their site visits are conducted in a respectful way and abides by any guidelines created by the sponsoring organization.

- **Conclusion**

As travelers' philanthropy continues to grow in northern Tanzania, it is important to understand the value and benefits that local organizations say they can derive from this type of development assistance. Those surveyed made clear that not all types of support are beneficial. They stressed that the host organization needs to specify the types of financial, material, and volunteer donations are most useful. In turn, tourism businesses and travelers who are truly interested in engaging in effective and meaningful philanthropic activities should strive to provide the appropriate kind of support to local organizations.

**The Survey Participants:** Our thanks to all those who participated in this survey!

Organization Name	What they do	Type of Philanthropy			Who Contributes	
		Money	Volunteers	Materials & Goods	Travelers	Companies
Learning Space	Nursery and early education	Yes (although few donations)	Sometimes	Yes	NA	Yes
Ujamaa Community Resource Trust	Social justice advocacy and sustainable natural resource management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Faraja Young Women's Development Unit	Vocational Training for disadvantaged women	Yes (mostly from volunteers)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Tumaini for Africa's Children Center	Orphanage and kindergarten	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pastoralist Women's Council	Women's empowerment through education and micro-finance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sauti Moja	Community HIV/AIDS Program; Early Child Development Program; Gender Advocacy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (mostly from volunteers)	NA
Amani Children's Center	A home and education for homeless and orphaned children	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rift Valley Children's Village	Orphanage and school	Yes	Yes (only one)	Yes	Yes	Yes
The Arusha Children's Trust	Support the education of underprivileged children and young adults	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
The School of St. Jude's	Providing early education to secondary to underprivileged children	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Olasiti Orphan Center	Orphanage and community center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## The School of St. Jude: What Can I Send?



### Answer:

To eliminate any possible anxiety that could surround the arrival of a parcel, we ask you to choose things that are appropriate for school or a few small things that can be shared with siblings, class mates or neighbors.<sup>1</sup>

Here are some ideas we recommend:

### For boys and girls:

Re clothing: Families can get good, second hand clothing very cheaply in the markets in town, so instead we recommend quality dark blue or black socks; quality underwear; long raincoat (the rain is very heavy during the wet season); waterproof labels with student's full name for clothing (particularly for boarding students); a waterproof school backpack; a cloth library bag; blue or black pens; quality coloring pencils (e.g. Crayola, Staedtler or Faber-Castell); erasers; rulers; sharpeners; pencil-case; dictionary (e.g. Nicholas Awde: Swahili-English, English-Swahili Practical Dictionary - Hippocrene); books (see last page). And lastly our students absolutely love receiving stickers and photos of their sponsor's family, or a map!

### For girls:

A skipping rope, inexpensive jewelry (e.g. from a \$2-shop), tennis balls, or small simple toys. Clothing: If you do decide to send skirts or dresses, be aware that East African culture is conservative therefore, sleeveless, body-hugging clothes and mini-skirts are not appropriate.

### For boys:

A soccer ball, a pump for the football, juggling balls, toy cars, anything science related.

### PLEASE DO NOT SEND:

DVDs, computer games or things that require electricity or batteries. Even though batteries are available here, we do not want the students to ask their parents to buy batteries.

### Reading Books:

Feel free to send any reading or educational books that you think appropriate, but if you would like some recommendations, here are some suggestions:

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<sup>1</sup> The School of St. Jude, website; <http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/SupportUs/SponsorshipFAQ/tabid/291/Default.aspx>

### **General:**

- English dictionaries – simple picture ones for younger students and primary school ones for older students.
- English / Swahili dictionaries
- Student atlases
- Fairy Tales – favorites are Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel
- Books about sports, football/soccer (especially for the boys)
- Books about famous African sports people and role models
- Books on the solar system. Most kids here love hearing about outer space.
- Funny poems do well with this age group
- Any books with African themes or about subjects that the children will have experienced - e.g. lions, zebras, elephant stories

### **Prep & Standard 1:**

- Stories with very simple English and rhyming words
- Books by Eric Carle such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Bananas in Pyjamas series
- Playschool series
- We All Went on Safari by Laurie Krebs
- A is for Africa by Ifeoma Onyefulu
- Elisabeti's school by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen (suitable for Standard 1)
- Papa, do you love me? by Barbara M Joosse (suitable for Standard 1)
- Spot series by Eric Hill

### **Standard 2:**

- Dr Seuss
- Disney e.g. The Lion King, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Jungle Book, Tarzan
- We All Went on Safari by Laurie Krebs
- A is for Africa by Ifeoma Onyefulu
- Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove
- Elisabeti's school by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
- Papa, do you love me? by Barbara M Joosse
- Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole
- Berenstain Bears series by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- Space books and things that live underwater (corresponds with science lessons)

### **Standard 3:**

- Books from The Geronimo Stilton Series, text by Geronimo Stilton aka Katherine Cristaldi
- Books by Roald Dahl
- Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole
- Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne
- Disney e.g. The Lion King, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Jungle Book, Tarzan
- A Pride of African Tales by Donna Washington
- Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove
- Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema

- Space books and thing that live underwater (corresponds with science lessons)

**Standard 4 & 5:**

- Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema (suitable for Standard 4)
- Books from The Geronimo Stilton Series, text by Geronimo Stilton aka Katherine Cristaldi
- A series from Australia by Emily Rodda
- Books by Roald Dahl
- The Jungle Book
- Deltora Quest Series and Rowan of Rin Series by Emily Rodda
- Tarzan
- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling
- The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe series by C.S. Lewis
- Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events
- Cairo Jim series by Geoffrey McSkimming
- Babysitters series or Mary Kate and Ashley series (for girls)

**Standard 6 & 7:**

- Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales Edited by Nelson Mandela
- Books from the Rowan Series (1st book – Rowan of Rin) by Emily Rodda
- African Folktales by Roger Abrams
- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling
- The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe series by C.S. Lewis
- Babysitters series (for girls)
- Adventure books are particularly popular among Standard 6 and older children
- Tin Tin series by Hermes
- Robinson Crusoe.



## **Rift Valley Children's Village (RVCV) Visitor Policy**

**By India Howell  
Founder/Director**

Over the past 4 years we've welcomed a large number of visitors to the Rift Valley Children's Village to meet our children and learn about our work. Our purpose has been two-fold: First, to allow people to see firsthand our model for addressing the orphan crisis in Tanzania and second, to spread the word about our work in the hopes of attracting support.

In both cases I believe that we have achieved our goals. However, as the years have passed and word of our work has spread, the number of people asking to visit has grown to a point where it is becoming unmanageable and potentially detrimental to our children.

In addition, as the number of visitor requests has grown we have seen more and more groups arrive who don't have a genuine interest in seeing the Children's Village. "It was just on the itinerary" is a phrase we've heard too often.

We have come to the conclusion that in order to continue to welcome visitors while not creating a "zoo like" atmosphere for our children, we are making a change in how to screen visitors.

As a result, beginning December 1 of 2008 all visitors will be required to:

1. Contact our Visitor Coordinator in advance to make an appointment at:  
[tanzanianchildrensfund@habari.co.tz](mailto:tanzanianchildrensfund@habari.co.tz).
2. Make a donation of \$50 per person when they visit the Children's Village.

Donations should be presented by the safari driver in cash or Tanzanian check at the time of their arrival.

Please note that most of our children attend the local primary school Monday through Friday. As a result the best time to "see us in action" is on weekends. If weekdays are the only time a visit would work for your clients know that there is still a certain amount of activity here on weekdays with pre-school and English/Computer classes. The best time of day to visit is in the morning from 9AM to 12:30PM or in the afternoon from 2PM to 4:30PM

If you have any questions about this new system please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at: 0754 300 813 or [India@habari.co.tz](mailto:India@habari.co.tz).

# Unwanted Philanthropy

## The Paint Syndrome

*The following is written by Priscilla Macy, President of Global Sojourns.*

As we look at how we can assist those who are less fortunate, our focus often goes to “*What can we give them? What can we do?*” As well meaning as these questions are, it is important to be careful to avoid paternalistic attitudes and wasteful action. Too often those living in economic poverty have had projects implemented in their communities without their request, guidance or input and the efforts often end up making the visitors feel good but do little for the locals and at times, causing more harm than good.

Global Sojourns’ appreciates the comments by a Kenyan pastor who has Westerners visiting his church/community from time to time. He finds that the visitors always want to “do something” and more often than not, they come up with the idea of painting. So he lets them paint to feel like they accomplished something even though it was an unnecessary task. We feel this situation is all too common and we’ve come to call this scenario, “The Paint Syndrome”.

His comments: “You know, Americans always want to paint things. They want to paint buildings, so we have a building we let them paint. Usually we have to repaint the walls after the Americans leave because they don’t do a very good job.”



We use this example to remind ourselves that we need to be careful about looking at a situation from our Western perspective in which “being productive” is a driving motivator. Unless there is a specific need and request for our skills, we find the best thing we can do is to focus on “absorbing” and developing relationships with our local partners rather than “doing”.

## Bali’s Orphanage Scam

*The following is a portion a shocking article from the Bali Advertiser in Indonesia sent by Jane Crouch, Responsible Travel Manager for Intrepid Travel. Sadly, Bali isn’t the only place where travelers’ philanthropy is fostering exploitation. Jane sent CREST a similar article from South Africa.*

Orphanages in developing countries are often run as profit centres, and Bali is sadly no exception to this evil practice. These facilities can be a lucrative business for the people who run them. Many solicit donations in cash or kind from sympathetic tourists and expats which go directly into the pockets of the owners or to benefit their families. Some orphanages use the children as slave labour, forcing them to work on construction sites and beg in the street instead of sending them to school. Most of the orphanages here operate under religious banners; sadly, even a clerical collar is no guarantee that donations will not be misappropriated. How to tell the good ones from the bad?

Over 4,000 children in Bali are housed in 71 orphanages, up from 38 in the early 1990s. Only about 10% of them are technically orphans. The balance are children whose parents are too



Orphanage and School in Bali, Indonesia.  
Credit: The Bali Orphanage

poor to care for them, or whose mothers are unmarried or who have re-married and whose husbands don't want the kids. Because the government provides one million rupiah a year for each child in full-time care, the facilities sometimes misrepresent the number of kids they house. These orphanages make most of their money from international NGOs and sympathetic visitors/tourists, who see the poor infrastructure and skinny, ragged children and want to do something to help. Often, these visitors make on-the-spot cash donations, bring clothing and books from their home countries or pledge money for repairs and school fees. Direct gifts of books, clothing or school supplies to the children are often taken away to be sold as soon as the donor leaves. In all but a few cases, the money goes directly into the director's

pocket; several boast of sending their own children to university.

The worst-case scenario is represented by two facilities in Bali run by the same owner. He sends scouts out to approach poor families on the island, offering to provide free food and education for their children which the parents can't afford. Once the children enter the facility, they are not fed properly and the older ones are not allowed to go to school. They are forced to get up before dawn to operate mobile foods stalls or to work on a building site which has been under construction for over 10 years. One of the buildings is alleged to be a home for the 'orphanage' owner, built with unpaid child labor; one child fell to his death from the site this year. Other kids are sent out to beg at night in tourist areas. If the parents try to remove their children or the kids try to leave, they are threatened. If a visitor gives a present to child, it has to be handed over to the director.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Excerpt from *Bali Advertiser*, 2010 Greenspeak, <http://www.baliadvertiser.biz/articles/greenspeak/2010/orphanage.html>. The article states, "The best way to help other orphanages is by donation in cash and kind to transparent and ethical organizations like Bali Kids [www.balikids.org](http://www.balikids.org), the John Fawcett Foundation [www.balieye.org](http://www.balieye.org), Bumi Sehat [www.bumisehatbali.org](http://www.bumisehatbali.org) and High 5 [www.high5rehab.org](http://www.high5rehab.org). These organizations never give money to the facilities but provide services directly to the children."