



## Guidelines for Allocation of Scholarships

*„And He took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.“ Mark 10:16*  
*„It takes a village to raise a child.“ Igbo Proverb/ Nigeria*

### 1. Introduction – Aim of Scholarships

Children are the most vulnerable members of our society, while they are at the same time a symbol of our future – as a church, a nation and as humanity. In the bible we read of Jesus blessing the children and using them as an example to us all: Their loving trust towards their parents is a model for our own relationship with our heavenly Father in faith. A proverb from Africa says: „It takes a village to raise a child.“ The scholarship fund has been set up as one expression of our responsibility towards the most vulnerable of our children. It is mostly funded by our Partner Circuit of Melle in Germany for which we are very grateful, but it is our vision, that our own congregations and Leagues contribute towards this fund. In this way our own church members may express their commitment and responsibility for our own vulnerable children.

Scholarships are awarded to children in primary or secondary schools as well as students in tertiary learning institutions. The funds are meant to help to enable the child to learn properly in school and may be used to cover one or more of the following: school fees, cost of learning material not provided by the school, cost of uniform and school excursions/trips.

### 2. Criteria to be used in the Scholarship allocation process

In order to fairly distribute the limited funds available with the aim of the Fund in mind, a set of criteria will have to be followed in a transparent and fair process. The following criteria will guide the process of identifying the most deserving children:

- **economic situation of the child:** The scholarships are to be awarded to children living in economically difficult or even desparate situations. This includes a situation of unemployment or only informal employment of the parents or other relatives, with whom the child stays, a single parent household, poor housing situation and other circumstances making the economic situation of the child very challenging.
- **academic potential and discipline of the child:** The scholarships are to be awarded to children who are willing to learn and display a corresponding behaviour – being in school everyday, on time, prepared. In certain circumstances the dire situation may have prevented such an attitude, so that an evaluation of the childs behaviour after an appropriate time is necessary. In the event of supporting a student of a tertiary learning institution, the appropriate academic results will bear heavily on the renewal of a scholarship.
- **The childs participation in church activities:** The scholarships are to be awarded to children and youth who are members of ELCSA-SED Durban Central Parish. The recipients attend Sunday Services regularly and are active in Sunday School, Confirmation Class or Youth League.

### 3. Process of scholarship allocation

The following process leads to the allocation of a scholarship to a child. In September the availability of scholarships and the criteria and process of allocation is explained to all congregation members during announcement time. Application forms are made available, which children and their caregivers will fill out and attach a current photo of the applicant. At the same time congregational council

members will identify possible recipients, who do not have relatives to apply for them. The deadline for handing in applications to the secretary of the congregational council is the 15th October every year. In each congregation the congregational council together with their congregational partnership delegate will screen all applications and forward a maximum of 3 applicants per congregation to the Parish Partnership Committee no later than 30th October. The Parish Partnership Committee will meet and allocate the scholarships no later than 15th November and immediately forward a list of the scholarship recipients to all congregational council chairpersons as well as to the parish council. Successful applicants will be officially presented to the parish at the Parish Confirmation Rally at the end of November of each year.

#### 4. Payment of scholarships

Where the scholarship fund is to be used for school fees, or fees for extra-curricular activities, it will be paid directly into the account of the learning institution by the treasurer of the parish partnership committee (the congregational partnership delegate assists in obtaining the banking details of the institution concerned). Where scholarship funds are to be used for learning material, school uniforms, etc. these items will be bought by the congregational partnership delegate together with the caregiver and a receipt for the goods purchased (till slip, invoice) will be forwarded to the treasurer of the parish partnership committee by end of March.

#### 5. Evaluation and Renewal of scholarships

All applicants will write a letter of appreciation to the donors no later than end of March. These letters will be collected by the congregational partnership delegate, who will post them to the partners in Germany. The congregational partnership delegates will furthermore supervise the academic and social progress of the child by being accessible and regularly interacting with the child. An evaluation of all scholarship recipients will be done in all congregational councils in August. If still all criteria are met, the congregational council may consider to propose a further allocation of a scholarship to the same child and forward the name in the above mentioned process. The final decision lies with the parish partnership committee. The congregational partnership delegates are expected to be well informed of the progress of each recipient in their congregation and report to the partnership committee if requested. If so requested by the partnership committee, scholarship recipients may be invited to a meeting to report on their progress, meet members of our partner circuit in Germany or for other related issues.

#### 6. Funding of scholarships

Currently, the overwhelming majority of funding for scholarships in Durban Central Parish comes from our partners from Melle Circuit/ Germany. The aim should be to reach at least 50% funding from within the parish. This may include contributions by the congregations, the parish, the Leagues or by individuals. This will further enhance the identification of church members with this project, which gives hope to some of those often forgotten: our children.

*May God bless our children, especially those living and learning  
under challenging circumstances in Durban Central Parish.*

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