In this handout, we’ve attempted to answer questions we anticipate you’d have. If you have more questions, contact ease-exec@mit.edu

What is EASE?
EASE is an acronym for Expediting Access to Standard Education. The aim of the program is to aid in the education of needy children in Africa by raising funds to sponsor such children through their equivalent middle and high school education. We believe that education holds the solution to most of the world's problems. Yet, many children are denied the opportunity due to financial constraints. We are convinced that a little effort on our part will go a long way to help.

What sort of Projects does EASE engage in?
Currently, EASE is primarily concerned with obtaining funds to sponsor students through Junior Secondary School (JSS) and Senior Secondary School (SSS) in Ghana. We recently extended our sponsorship to children in Nigeria.

Our projects for the near future include:

- NEW! Expand our program to sponsor a greater number of students in the secondary level institutions-Senior Secondary School(SSS) to enable bright students being sponsored by the J.S.S. program to further their education.
- NEW! Extend EASE Sponsorship and Operations to other African countries besides Ghana and Nigeria.
- NEW! Extend EASE Operations to other colleges besides MIT.

How can I help/join?
You can help in kind or in cash.
- Your donations towards any of our projects are always welcome. Checks, made out to MIT EASE, can be mailed to:
  MIT EASE
c/o Mahlet Woldeyes
320 Memorial Dr.
Boston, MA 02139
- You can help with one of EASE’s projects. Any of our projects should be fun and fulfilling for you and your friends!

Please check the EASE website http://web.mit.edu/ease/www for more information.

Who do I make checks out to?
Make checks payable to MIT EASE.

How does the money get to Ghana?
EASE has an external account, which is jointly managed by EASE and our correspondents in Ghana.

How is money handled? What is EASE’s operation overhead?
A Board of Trustees of EASE in Ghana will directly pay the child’s fee after the parents sign an agreement to permit EASE to perform these functions. A receipt is sent back to EASE as confirmation.

The organizers of EASE have taken pains to structure the program so that we operate with as little overhead as possible. Unlike many aid programs, EASE will not sponsor anyone on a trip to/from Ghana with your donations. All EASE workers are 100% volunteers so no one gets paid. Neither do we invest donations in non-risk-free ventures.

Who qualifies for sponsorship?
Potential beneficiaries of EASE must be enrolled in public schools. Those in private schools are not eligible. About 95% of children in school are enrolled in public schools. This is a direct positive reflection on the strength of the public school system in Ghana and now Nigeria.

EASE scholarships are need-based and potential beneficiaries must have a good attendance record. Whereas continued sponsorship is not determined by academic performance, EASE may be forced to withdraw support in cases of excessive absenteeism.

How far can my donations go?
The cost of JSS for the 2009 academic year is about $15/term. This covers books and fees. EASE currently uses an estimate of $20/term per child to account for currency and cost fluctuations.

- $45: can keep a child in school for 1 year
- $90: can keep a child in school for 2 years
- $135: is enough for an entire JSS education

As of the academic year 2008 EASE was sponsoring 1 student in the Senior Secondary Education (SSS) level. The approximate amount to sponsor a child through SSS was and is approximately $150 per term inclusive of fees and books.

- * $150: can keep a child in SSS for 1 year
- * $450: can keep a child in SSS for 1 year (3 terms)

Indeed, no donation is too small!

Will the parents of the child have any responsibility towards his/her education?
Definitely! EASE is only responsible for pre-set fees and books. Parents will be responsible for uniforms, unanticipated fees, and any extra books needed by the child beyond that paid for by EASE.
Is EASE in partnership with any of the well-known aid organizations?
EASE is not partners with any established aid organization at the moment. We’re still in the process of finding one that operates with an acceptably low financial and bureaucratic overhead.

How do I know EASE is genuine? Who is involved?
EASE is a recognized MIT student group. Since the beginning of the program EASE has sponsored over 400 students through JSS. EASE is also backed by the MIT Public Service Center. You may visit them at: http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc/ for more information.

EASE is currently made up of 13 undergraduate students from MIT. EASE is in the process of establishing a Board of Trustees to disburse funds in Ghana. In addition to these individuals, EASE also enjoys the support of many of our Ghanaian and African brothers and sisters. Please see our website for more information on the people involved with the EASE project.

Does EASE have any events coming up soon?
Look out for our $1 Campaign November 30th-December 4th as well as the EASE Dinner Celebration during Spring 2011.

Where can I learn more about EASE?
To learn more, visit http://web.mit.edu/ease/www or email ease-exec@mit.edu

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For more information,
Visit http://web.mit.edu/ease/www

Or email: ease-exec@mit.edu

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