



Adopt-A-Student

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing, because he could only do a little." –Edmund Burke

Belizean children are being denied the basic human right of education. The level of exclusion from education in Belize is alarmingly high. The most recent statistics from the Policy and Planning Unit of the Ministry of Education (2010/2011 indicate that 49.7% of potential students (14,429 children) are excluded from secondary school education, with 54.0% of boys and 46.0% of girls are being excluded. An in-depth analysis highlighted that access to education as a key part of any solution in creating a peaceful, democratic Belizean society. One of the core five-year objectives, in the RESTORE Belize Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 is “To provide school-aged children with all the services needed for maximizing their education, making healthy life decisions, and becoming productive citizens.” To this end, RESTORE Belize, has developed the 'Adopt-A-Student Programme.

Through the Adopt-A-Student Programme, RESTORE Belize aims to galvanize the support of the private sector and the Belizean Diaspora in improving the quality of education offered to our most vulnerable students. The objective of this programme is to enable private donations to be directly invested into student(s) in need. This programme invites the donation of financial and material resources from the private sector and individual citizens. RESTORE Belize facilitates the relationship between the student and donor:

- a) identifying and sharing the most urgent needs of Belizean students
- b) providing direct assistance from the donor to be delivered to student deposited into the Adopt-A-Student account at the Scotia Bank
- c) ensuring that assistance is targeted effectively and strategically in Belize's most needy students
- d) providing the donor(s) with monthly report on the progress of the student
- e) arranging for after-school tutoring
- f) arranging for counseling (if the student requires counseling)

The student adoption process

Our adopt-a-student process enables the RESTORE Belize and donors to work with students effectively and sustainably. For an organization or company interested in adopting a student, the first step is to have the person (or family) select a student from the *list of eligible students* waiting to be adopted. RESTORE Belize will assist actively by providing relevant information on the students needs, arranging meetings with school the student providing overall guidance on the process of developing an adoption plan and providing a budget based on the students needs.

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Once the person (or family) has selected the student they want to adopt from the programme, the donor can:

- a) Develop a two-year adoption plan in collaboration with the student and RESTORE Belize
- b) Provide a one-time assistance to the student
- c) Provide a regular schedule of financial assistance for the student.
- d) Provide periodic donations (money or in-kind,) for items such additional books or computers for the student they have adopted.
- e) Donate time for tutoring, classroom visits, and mentorship and special events.

RESTORE Belize also highly supports that individuals become actively involved by spending time with the schools, thereby developing a rewarding personal relationship.

The contribution and involvement of private citizens can transform the face of education for Belizean students and make education accessible to a greater percentage of children. It is important to note, however, that the type and level of involvement and investment will be flexible based on the individual’s interests and capability of the donor, as well as on the particular needs of the school. Below is a table highlighting the average cost in Belize dollars and description of each item a child would need to complete an academic year :

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Uniform and Shoes	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Text- Books	\$500	\$500	\$700	\$900
Tuition & Other fees	\$0	\$500	\$700	\$1000
Total	\$1000	\$1500	\$1900	\$2400
Please tick which column you would be interested in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If after reviewing this concept paper you choose to adopt a student or more than one student RESTORE Belize will provide more detailed information on the student(s) in need of assistance, what schools they wish to attend and the cost of adopting the student. In order to begin to transform our society Belize needs everyone to get involved. The most beneficial way is by supporting the education of our Belizean citizens. If you are interested in adopting- a- student, please contact RESTORE Belize by calling 501-223-1269 or email tina@restorebelize.gov.bz