

The Mali Education Project Fund, UUSO Policy

Approved February 26, 2020

Mission of this Restricted Fund

The Mali Education Project Fund is administered through the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, Inc. and is restricted for use to promote the following mission:

“To sponsor the education of 55 impoverished children attending Youchaou's Private School in Bamako, Mali. In addition, we support worthwhile programs at the school to enrich the experiences of all the student body and foster greater cross-cultural understanding between our two communities.”

The Mali Education Project mission clearly supports UUSO's mission to Build Beloved Community and Reach for a Better World.

Governance and Fiduciary Responsibility

The Mali Education Project is considered a Team in the UUSO governance structure and is overseen by the UUSO Minister. The financial administration of the fund is managed and monitored by the UUSO Finance Committee including the Treasurer and Bookkeeper and is ultimately overseen by the Board of Trustees.

Due Diligence

UUSO has and continues to take measures to verify the legitimacy and good works of Youchaou's Private School by having UUSO representatives visit the school in Bamako, Mali, on at least three occasions, welcoming Youchaou and associates to a number of visits in person to UUSO, and requesting an annual financial report from the school. Additionally, Youchaou and his associates send periodic pictures, stories, and other evidence of the progress of the students and school. Many sponsors also take the opportunity to share correspondence with the students they sponsor.

In the event of UUSO ending support of Youchaou's Private School

Should circumstances necessitate that UUSO ceases support of Youchaou's Private School, all tuitions within the calendar year at the time of the decision to cease support will be returned to each donor if possible. All remaining Mali Education Project funds in UUSO accounts will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

Agreed upon Procedures

The Mali Education Project and Finance Committee will follow agreed upon procedures to solicit, receive, process, and contribute raised funds and will maintain periodic communication with donors to the fund describing the progress of the students and Youchaou's Private School and the way their donations have contributed to these accomplishments.