

## **UK Trustee - Board Member**

### **About So They Can**

263 million children are not in school worldwide. Education is the key to breaking the poverty cycle.

So They Can is a global NGO driven by the vision to change the future for children living in poverty in East Africa through education.

So They Can is currently in the process of applying to become a UK registered charity, and is looking for passionate Trustees to join our UK Board to support our fundraising efforts. It is a hugely exciting time to become an active contributor to our mission in the UK. You will be part of one of six boards globally applying and developing governance and fundraising strategies to enable us to achieve our mission (Australia, NZ, US, Kenya, Tanzania and UK).

So They Can is headquartered in Australia and employs more than 80 people worldwide. In-country offices are located in 3 project areas - Babati in Tanzania, and Baringo and Nakuru in Kenya. These offices are staffed by 100% nationals. So They Can also has registered entities in New Zealand and the US for fundraising.

Through our global fundraising entities, So They Can has raised and delivered in aid more than £15m.

So They Can is fully accredited by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing the Australian Government's Development Program. This is a significant recognition, which, based on rigorous assessment, is given to less than 1% of Australia's 60,000 charities. It acknowledges that the organisation operates at the highest standard, and delivers sustainable development outcomes.

### **So They Can's Impact**

So They Can's holistic Education Program improves access, quality and inclusion in education. It is implemented in 51 government primary and secondary schools, to reach 32,000 children and 750 teachers every year through:

- Government partnerships;
- Community and stakeholder engagement;
- School infrastructure and resources improvement;
- Teacher training and professional development;
- Student wellbeing (child rights and protection; school feeding programs, access to water, hygiene and sanitation);
- Development of school boards and management; and
- Quality Early Childhood Development.

### **Trustee Responsibilities**

As a UK Trustee of So They Can, you will play a key role in the continued growth and essential work of the organisation, to allow it to achieve its aim of "Educate to Empower" through strategic fundraising initiatives. Your engagement will lead to immense satisfaction in knowing that you are participating in improving educational results for teachers, students and their communities in East Africa.

*Governance:*

As a So They Can UK Trustee, you will have joint responsibility for all aspects of governance of the organisation's strategic and financial wellbeing. Responsibilities will include (but are not limited to):

- Attendance of all Board meetings in person or via electronic means (cadence to be agreed and may vary) and participation in board sub-committees if applicable and when required;
- Active contribution to decision making and Board meetings, using your expertise to steer the strategic direction of the UK fundraising entity;
- Contribution to the overall governance of So They Can's UK fundraising and corporate engagement plans, ensuring these records are kept in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and regulatory requirements;
- Contribution to the evaluation of UK performance, policy and target setting;
- Leadership of strategic reviews on fundraising plans to ensure alignment with organisational objectives and short and long term targets, as well as budgetary needs;
- Active monitoring of So They Can's UK fundraising processes, advising the Board on areas of opportunity and improvement on an ongoing basis; and
- Making yourself familiar with our projects in East Africa (plan to visit them at least once, as soon as practicable), and acting as an ambassador and advocate to So They Can, upholding our mission in all external engagements.

### *Fundraising*

Engagement in fundraising is essential and all UK Trustees have an opportunity to enhance this process through their active involvement.

As a UK Trustee, we would like you to use your network to attract philanthropic donations to So They Can when appropriate. You would also use your effective leadership to participate in and help drive fundraising initiatives. This would include activities such as matched giving, crowd sourced funding and participation in events for So They Can etc.

### **Knowledge, Skills & Experience**

- Ideally, you'll have some experience in how strategic charity fundraising works (through events, grants, trusts and corporate partnerships)
- A team mindset and the willingness to work collaboratively with your UK Trustee colleagues to raise funds most effectively
- You'll be a strategic thinker, with strong communication and leadership skills
- Demonstrated background of analytical and evaluation skills used to make informed decisions in a business context
- Understanding of the legal duties and liabilities of a UK Trusteeship, and the corporate governance issues that may affect an international charity
- A deep passion to break the poverty cycle in East Africa!

The safety and wellbeing of children is a priority of our organisation. So They Can provides a child-safe environment in all our programs and our activities. We are committed to providing a safe place for all children to learn and have fun. We have strong recruitment procedures to make sure the safest and most suitable people work with the children in our programs. We provide our staff and volunteers with ongoing supervision and support in their work with children. So They Can is an inclusive employer.

Even if you feel you don't meet all the criteria listed above, if you share our deep passion about Education to Empower in East Africa, we would love to hear from you!

Please send your CV and accompanying cover letter to [sarahm@sotheycan.org](mailto:sarahm@sotheycan.org).