

# EDUCATION FOR TOLIARA

## *Growing Minds, Growing Faith*

For the last two years, members of St James the Less have sponsored the education of children in private schools in our link Parish of Amboasary, Madagascar.

Last summer was a time of excitement as 5 of our 27 sponsored children graduated from High School. Soja is now at St Patrick's Theological College studying to be a priest. Soafiavy is doing further language studies and training as a catechist before going to seminary next fall. Mon Desir and Abraham (pictured right) are in their first year at university. Souvenir is waiting for a place on a car mechanics course.



Members of St James the Less also provided funds to enable all the children in the village of Marodo Ankilemasy to attend the public primary school. This is our second year supporting this school, which has been a great encouragement to the parents and teachers. We also raised enough money last year to provide the materials for the villagers to build this new, green school building. So they now have 6 classrooms for the nearly 300 children.

We had two great Zoom meetings: one with all the private school children, and another for the dedication of the new building at Marodo Ankilemasy.

Our link parish would love us to continue and even expand our involvement. We hope that all who are sponsoring individual children will continue to do so, and that more of you will want to take up that opportunity or help fund the supplies for the public schools.

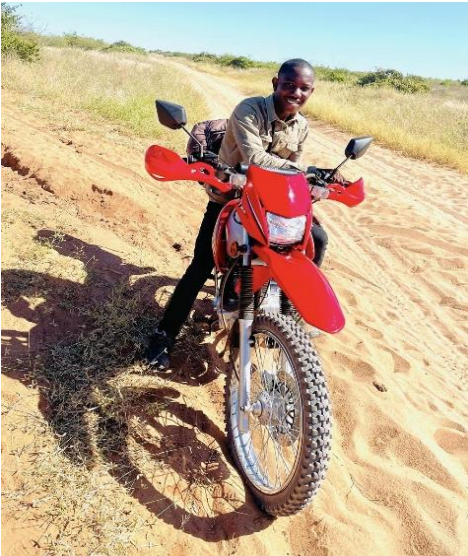
# Individual Child Sponsorship Program

Through its child sponsorship program, *Toliara Child*, the Diocese of Toliara offers education benefits for K-12 children of all paid and some volunteer leaders in the Diocese, and also some orphans and children of the very poorest families in the Diocese.

Through *Toliara Child*, St James the Less' members currently sponsor 22 children to attend private schools, where there are considerably better facilities than in the public schools.

Existing sponsors keep the same child(ren) each year. There are new children to support if you want to start sponsoring a child.

You will receive a photo of the child you are sponsoring, get news of their progress in school and occasionally hear from them by email. You may send emails for your child to [toliarachild@gmail.com](mailto:toliarachild@gmail.com). You can attach scans of birthday and Christmas cards. All will be translated into Malagasy before being printed for the child. The sponsored children will treasure photos of you and your family, your pets, your children's schools etc. They are fascinated by photos of our fall and winter as they do not experience anything like that.



## Structure of *Toliara Child*

The coordinator for the *Toliara Child* program is Fiadanana, whose father is a Deacon in the Diocese. He receives your emails and facilitates the connection between a child and their sponsor.

As many families are located in rural areas, communication is difficult. Every month, he makes telephone contact with the parents of each child in the program, and he endeavors to visit them each year.

Fiadanana now has a motorbike to enable him to visit the sponsored children and schools. Pray for him as he travels because the roads are not always this good!

## Costs of *Toliara Child* Sponsorship

\$360 per year or \$30 per month per child covers school enrollment & tuition fees; school supplies, and uniforms; health checks; and a Days for Girls' kit for girls of the relevant age.

# Public School Support Program

Public schools are free, but parents have to buy the necessary school supplies.

Before we started this program, many children in the area of **Marodo Ankilemasy** were not attending school because their parents could not afford such items. For the last two years, we have sent all the local children to school there.

Now that the parents have seen the benefits of sending their children to school, the Diocese is encouraging them to pay for 50% of the supplies fees this year. St James the Less members will provide the other 50%. Next year, we hope the parents will provide 75%, and us 25%, and that the parents will cover the costs in full thereafter. Again, this is a pilot program, and we will see how it evolves.



The remainder of what we raise will go to help another public school in our link Parish. It is in the village of **Ampanavy**, where a church was formed in March 2021, with about 100 members.

It has yet to be decided whether they will build another building, as this one is used for 240 children(!), or buy text books and materials for the teachers to use, or buy supplies for the children. It all depends on how much we raise!

## Costs of School Supplies Program:

\$20 will send a child to school for the entire year, and help provide the teachers with supplies and textbooks. Donations of any size are welcome. Think big! One couple sent 50 children to school last year! Would you like to do that this year?

# How and when to get involved

We need to get individual sponsorships and supply donations in place now, so that families will know their children can go to school for the 2024-2025 Malagasy school year.

If you have any questions or wish to donate through either program, please email Sue Babbs ( [suebabbs385@gmail.com](mailto:suebabbs385@gmail.com) ) Sue will be in contact with all existing sponsors of private school children to confirm their sponsorship.

All donations can be made through St James the Less by cash, check (with '*Education for Toliara*' in the memo line) or online, again designated for '*Education for Toliara*'.

**Please invite your friends, relatives, neighbors and work colleagues, to join us in providing Education for Toliara!**



**Come visit in 2026!**

These schools and most of the sponsored children are within about 20 miles of Amboasary town. We hope to send a short-term mission trip from St James the Less in 2026 to visit them and the churches with which we are linked. Talk to Simon or Sue if you are interested.