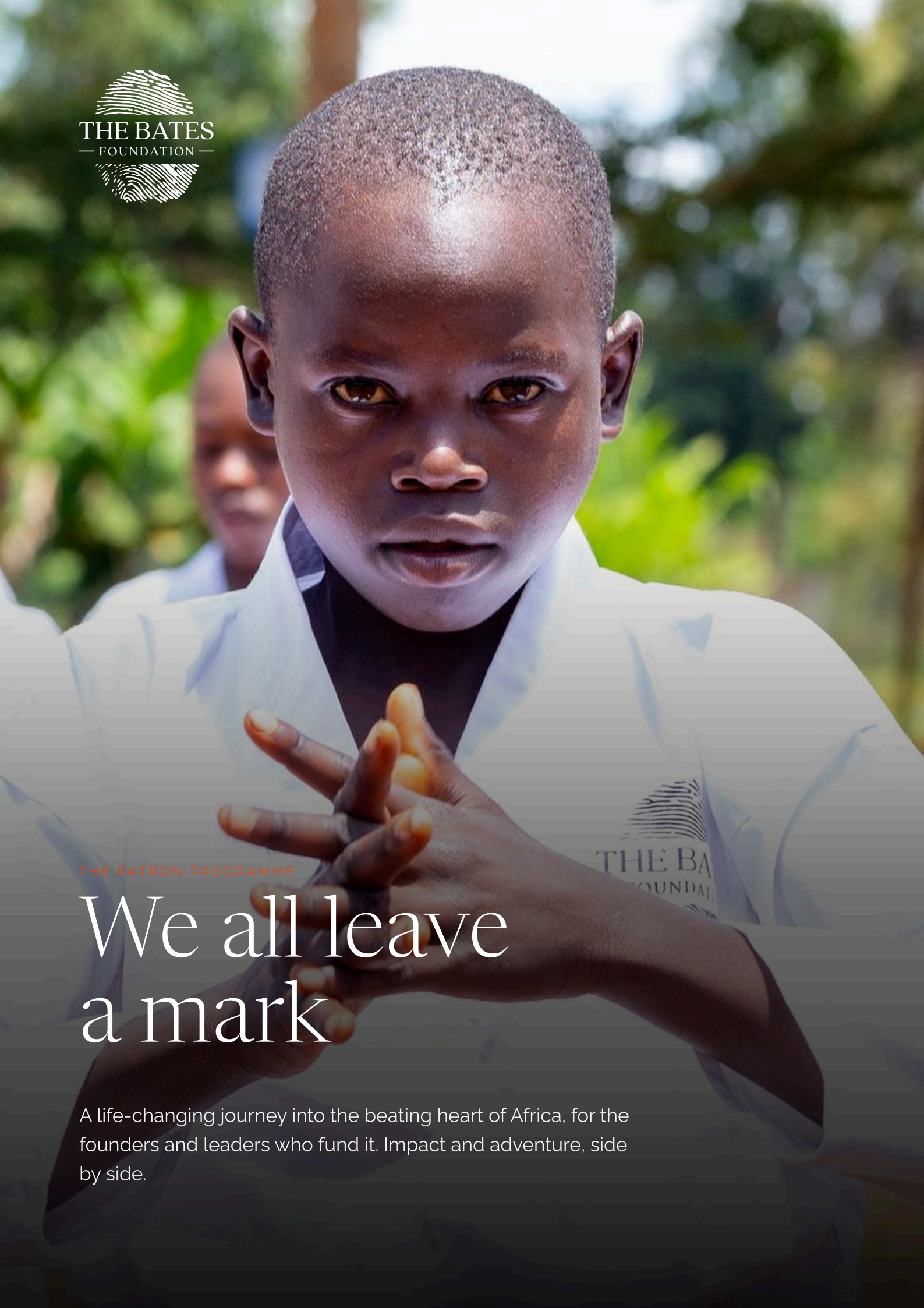


THE PATRON PROGRAMME

We all leave a mark

A life-changing journey into the beating heart of Africa, for the founders and leaders who fund it. Impact and adventure, side by side.

FROM THE FOUNDER

No one comes back the same

I spent fifteen years building The Warrior Academy from a village hall in Somerset into the largest martial arts academy in the Middle East. I had watched thousands of children grow taller, speak louder and dream bigger. One question would not leave me. What would this do for a child who had nothing?

In 2022 I went to Kenya to find out. I hired a small saloon car at the airport and drove it three thousand kilometres over dirt tracks it was never built for, to shelters, orphanages and slum schools. In Thika I found a handful of boys rescued from the streets of Nairobi, and a feeling I could not shake.

That shelter became the first Bates Foundation club. Three years on, we coach around 15,000 children a week.

This brochure is about those children, but it is also about you. The people who fund this do not read reports. They come with me. They stand in front of a thousand children in uniforms they paid for that morning. And I have never seen one of them come back the same.

Sebastian Bates

Founder, The Bates Foundation and The Warrior Academy



Sebastian with instructors in Kenya during the first scholarship tour

"We take our patrons on a life-changing journey into the beating heart of Africa, and no one comes back the same"

From the documentary, Into The Beating Heart Of Africa

WHERE IT STARTED

A homeless shelter in Thika

Thika is an hour outside Nairobi. On its edge is a small shelter run by a teacher called John. The boys who arrive have left home because of poverty, violence or a parent lost to drink. Most have survived on the streets. Some have been through gangs and glue. They sleep twenty to a room and grow avocados on the farm behind the house.

John told us something that has shaped everything since. A boy can only stay six months. Send him back to the same slum with nothing changed inside and he ends up on the streets again, worse off than before. Food, clothing and a bed only go so far. What lasts is a change in mindset.

That is what martial arts and character coaching does. Discipline. Respect. A belt to earn and a reason to turn up. The first class had thirty boys. Within weeks their school attendance was up. Then it spread: an orphanage of 400 in Nakuru, primary schools across Nairobi, a class of 1,000 at Kirigu.

Every patron tour begins at that shelter. We start there on purpose.



Two of the first Bates Foundation students on a bench outside class

> *"I was very lucky with my childhood and I take a lot of things for granted. To come here and experience this makes you tear up. Seeing these kids happy with almost nothing"*
>
> A patron, at the Thika shelter

HOW WE GREW

From thirty boys to fifteen thousand children

MARCH 2022	The Bates Foundation is founded and registered in England and Wales. The first club opens in the Thika shelter, the second at an orphanage in Nakuru.
INTO THE SCHOOLS	Kenyan instructors take the programme into slum primary schools, with meals alongside the training. One class reaches 1,000 children.
NEPAL	Academies open in the mountain schools of Kanda and Kavre. A former student now leads the Kanda class.
NOVEMBER 2025	Northern Nigeria, with our partner HOPPLE. 120 children becomes 450 within months.
DECEMBER 2025	Pakistan, with the Shamshad Foundation. Around 120 children in Islamabad.
FEBRUARY 2026	Uganda grows from one class of 250 to 1,500 children.
SPRING 2026	Kibera's St Martin's enter their first national tournament and come home champions.
TODAY	Around 15,000 children a week, free of charge. The largest martial arts scholarship programme in the world.



Kibera's first national tournament



Training in the hills of Nepal



A Kenyan class throws high kicks



KIRIGU PRIMARY SCHOOL, KENYA

1,000 children, one class

Two and a half years earlier, no one was here. The largest class we have ever run, every child in a uniform our patrons funded that morning.

WHAT WE DO

Mentor children, develop character, provide opportunity

The same mentorship, discipline and belief that shapes leaders in the most privileged schools, delivered free every week in the hardest places on earth, for eight years.



Mentor children

Local instructors, trained in our system, who walk with young people through the hardest transitions of their lives.



Develop character

Martial arts is the tool. Discipline, resilience, respect and leadership are the result, built class by class towards a black belt.



Provide opportunity

A child cannot train hungry, so every new school gets the food programme too. Then uniforms, competitions and a path to adulthood.

15,000

children coached every week, free of charge

6

countries: Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan and Brazil

8 years

of character coaching for every child, from first class to adulthood

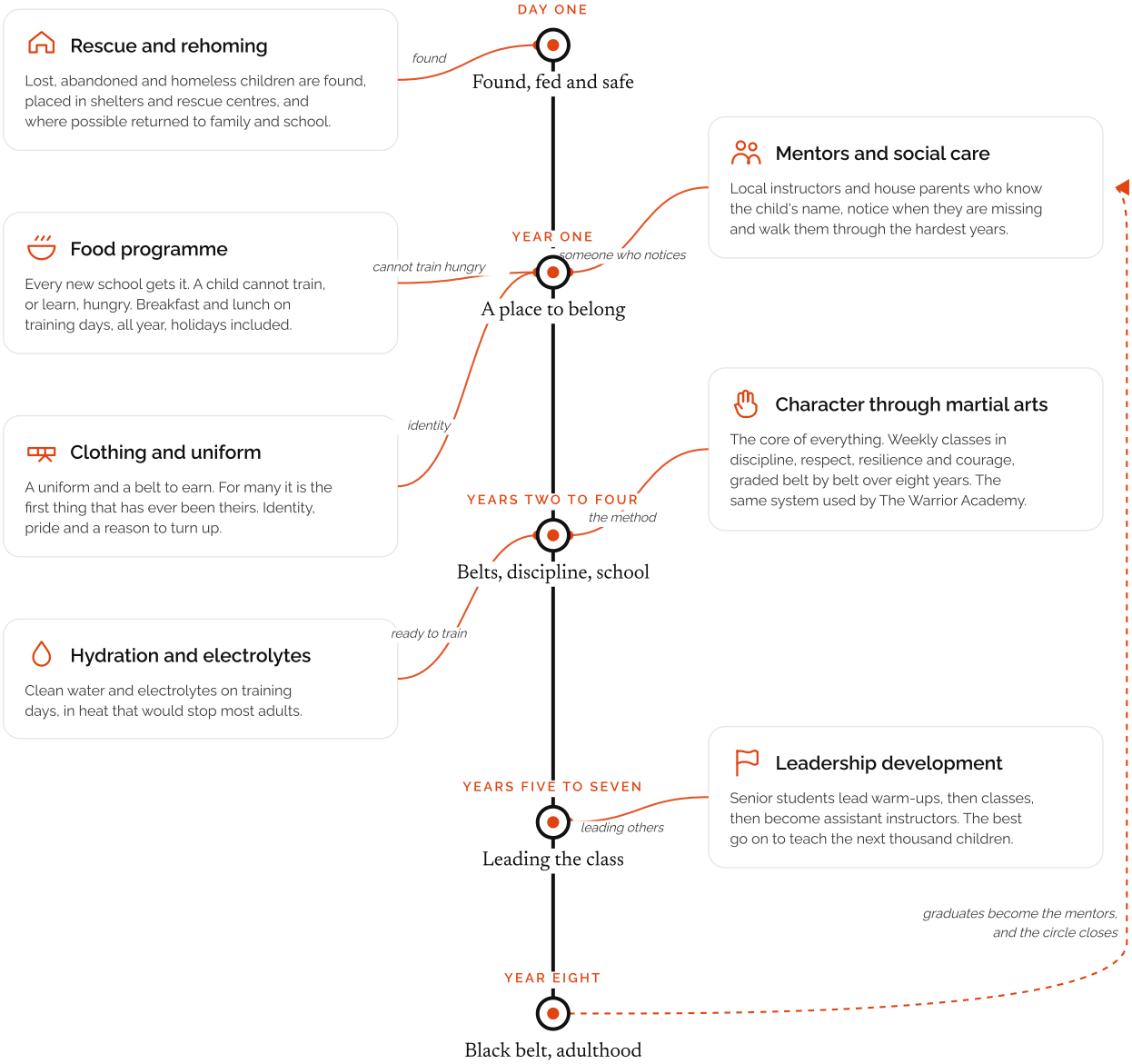
100%

of a patron's contribution goes to the children. All operations, admin and media costs are underwritten by the founder and The Warrior Academy

THE PROGRAMME

One child, eight years

Seven things, delivered together every week, that take a child from the street to a black belt and into adulthood
Take any one away and the others stop working. Together they change the direction of a life.



Rescue and rehoming

Lost, abandoned and homeless children are found, placed in shelters and rescue centres, and where possible returned to family and school.

Food programme

Every new school gets it. A child cannot train, or learn, hungry. Breakfast and lunch on training days, all year, holidays included.

Clothing and uniform

A uniform and a belt to earn. For many it is the first thing that has ever been theirs. Identity, pride and a reason to turn up.

Hydration and electrolytes

Clean water and electrolytes on training days, in heat that would stop most adults.

Mentors and social care

Local instructors and house parents who know the child's name, notice when they are missing and walk them through the hardest years.

Character through martial arts

The core of everything. Weekly classes in discipline, respect, resilience and courage, graded belt by belt over eight years. The same system used by The Warrior Academy.

Leadership development

Senior students lead warm-ups, then classes, then become assistant instructors. The best go on to teach the next thousand children.

WHAT CHANGES

Off the street
and into a shelter, a school and a routine

Fed and in class
attendance goes up within weeks of the first lesson

Belt by belt
confidence earned, not given, over eight years

A leader
who teaches the next class. That is how 30 became 15,000

Around 15,000 children a week · Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Nepal, Pakistan and Brazil · free of charge · thebatesfoundation.com

THE PATRON PROGRAMME

Entrepreneurs who don't just give, they go

A three-year journey for purpose-driven founders and leaders. You fund the academies, then you walk into them. Impact and adventure, side by side, with people who think the way you do.



Patrons and supporters together at Desert Dawn II in Dubai

Impact you can stand in

A thousand children in front of you, in uniforms you paid for that morning. A food programme launched with your name on the banner.

Adventure with a purpose

Kenya's slums and its wilderness in one week. Game drives at sunrise, sundowners on a Nairobi rooftop, a balloon over the desert.

People worth knowing

A small circle of founders who turn up in person. Partnerships, friendships and, more than once, a different plan for someone's life.

THE SCHOLARSHIP TOUR

Four days that change how you see the world

This is what the Kenya tour looked like. It is all in the documentary.

ARRIVAL	Uniforms handed out at a 2,000-pupil school. Ten instructors from across Kenya train together. Sundowners on the roof.
DAY ONE	The shelter in Thika, where it began. Then Kibera, Africa's largest slum: the food programme launched, a new club opened, a visit to a family's one-room home. The day that hits hardest.
DAY TWO	Nakuru. An orphanage of 400 in the middle of the slum, our second ever club. Belts tied for the first time.
LAST DAY	A game drive at dawn: lions, hyena, buffalo. Then Kirigu, where a thousand children put on uniforms for the first time.



Patrons launch the food programme in Kibera



A new scholarship class, ready to train



Meeting a class in their first belts

Our next tour takes patrons into the mountain schools of Nepal.

WHO YOU WILL MEET

The people behind fifteen thousand children

Monica, our head of operations in Kenya and the glue that holds it together. She saw children arriving without breakfast and created the food programme.

Gabriel, head instructor. Teaches 2,000 children a week with an energy that is completely infectious.

John, who runs the Thika shelter and will teach you more about Nairobi's streets in ten minutes than you could learn in a year.

The instructors, men and women who drive five hours to train together. The heartbeat of this mission.

The children. Thousands of them. They will sing to you, hold your hand, cover you in stickers and ask you to tie their belt.

The other patrons. Founders from the UK, Dubai and beyond. The people you process the day with on the rooftop at night.



A patron on the Kenya tour, mobbed on arrival



One of our Kenyan instructors with his class

IN THEIR WORDS

What it does to you

“This whole trip is a perspective shift. Not a single kid here has complained about anything. They just smile”

Patron, walking through Kibera

“I'm finding it really hard to put what I'm feeling into words. It is so far removed from anything I've experienced before that it doesn't seem real”

Patron, after visiting a family home in the slum

“The energy in the room was amazing. Very, very friendly, very warm”

Michael Chamberlain, patron, launching the food programme

“They're all just lined up in this pristine white. Taking so much pride in what they're wearing is unreal”

Patron, at the 1,000-child class in Kirigu



At our last Desert Dawn, one patron walked away with a completely different plan for his life. That happens more than you would think.

You come to see where the money goes. You leave with a different sense of what matters, and a reason to come back.

DESERT DAWN

By the time dawn comes, you will see the world differently

Desert Dawn is where our patrons come together in Dubai. Put great people in the same room and amazing things happen: partnerships, friendships and a bigger collective impact.



Into the desert

A sunrise hike through Fossil Rock, camel treks, a desert camp under the stars and a hot air balloon at dawn.



The mastermind

A full day at The Arts Club Dubai with guest speakers on growth, confidence and building a business that lasts.



The impact report

Full transparency on where every contribution went, straight from the founder, and the premiere of our Kenya documentary.



EVERY PATRON RECEIVES

- An invitation to every scholarship tour
- Patron gatherings in Dubai and London
- A place in our documentaries
- Updates direct from the founder
- A network of like-minded founders and leaders

THE PATRON PROGRAMME

Three years, one mission, a limited number of places

A three-year commitment, with every operations, admin and media cost underwritten by our founder and The Warrior Academy, so your contribution goes straight to the children.

BRONZE

100

children sponsored a year

£2,000 a year

SILVER

250

children sponsored a year

£5,000 a year

GOLD

500

children sponsored a year, and a scholarship academy named after you

£10,000 a year

PLATINUM · ONE PLACE

1,000

children sponsored a year, and a scholarship academy named after you

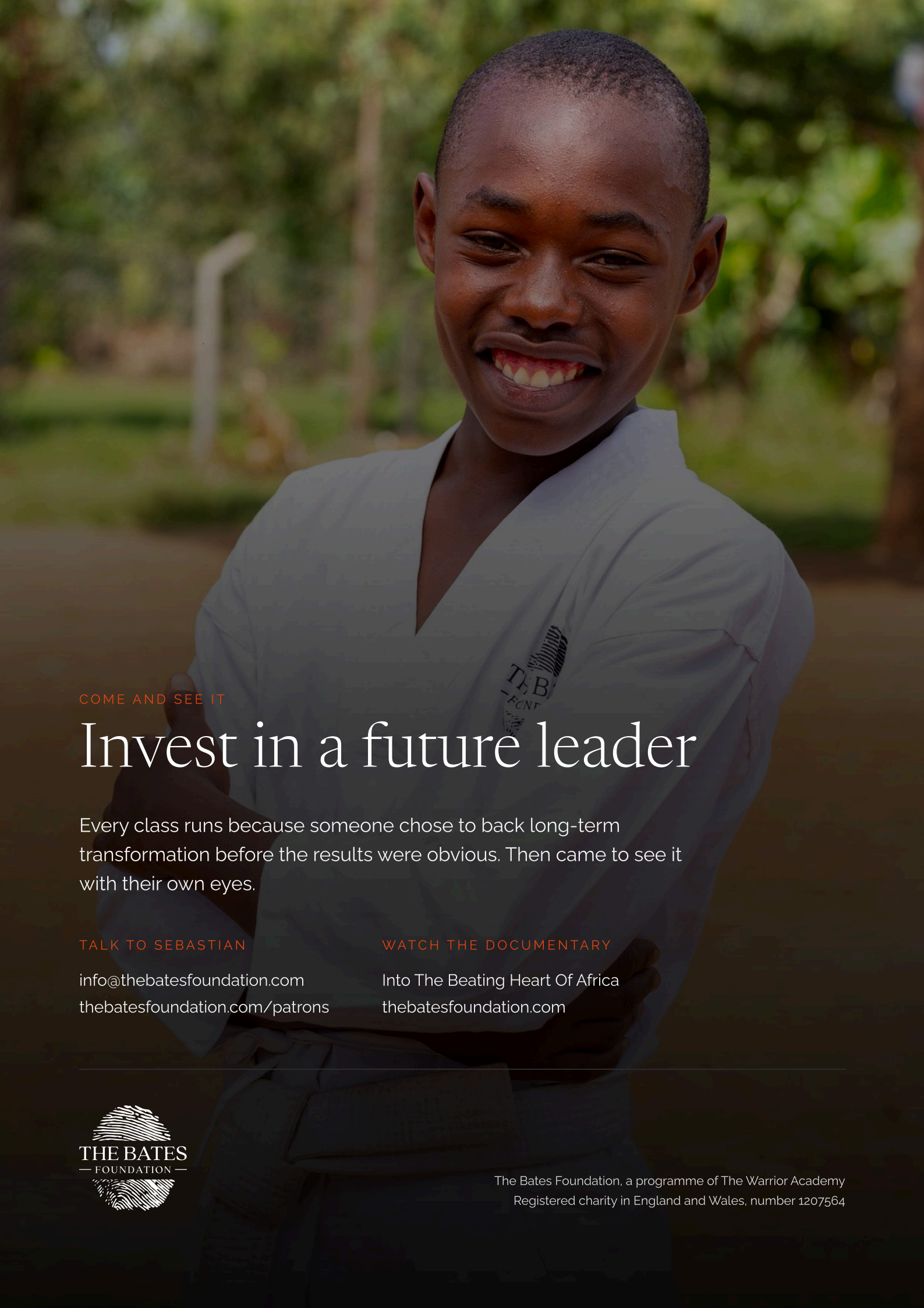
£20,000 a year

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Sponsor a class. A monthly contribution keeps a class of 12 children training every single week, with stories from your class's academy.

Partner with us. Schools, rescue centres, partner charities and companies backing impact.





COME AND SEE IT

Invest in a future leader

Every class runs because someone chose to back long-term transformation before the results were obvious. Then came to see it with their own eyes.

TALK TO SEBASTIAN

info@thebatesfoundation.com
thebatesfoundation.com/patrons

WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY

Into The Beating Heart Of Africa
thebatesfoundation.com

THE BATES
— FOUNDATION —

The Bates Foundation, a programme of The Warrior Academy
Registered charity in England and Wales, number 1207564