Sponsor Information Packet

The children at *Ciudad de Ángeles* reside here because they have been orphaned, abandoned by their families, or are the victims of physical or emotional abuse. The *Ciudad de Ángeles* Child Sponsorship Program is one of the most important ways for Christian individuals to bless children by giving them the attention and support that they need to foster their physical, emotional, and spiritual development.

Sponsors come in many shapes and forms. Personal visits are one of the most important aspects of developing a close, mentoring relationship with a child at *Ciudad de Ángeles*. Sponsorship is a wonderful opportunity to involve your family in a direct, personal mission ministry.

Your decision to sponsor a child should be entered into with planning and prayer. When you decide to sponsor a child, you are making a commitment to be directly involved in influencing a child's life and future. They need someone who loves them enough to pray for them daily. They like to be remembered on special days with notes or cards. They enjoy having photographs of their sponsors in their rooms to enhance their sense of being loved and of belonging. Personal visits are very special, as that is when real bonds of love are formed and lasting relationships begin. Because *Ciudad de Ángeles* is committed to raising children in the home, your relationship with the child may last until they reach adulthood and, hopefully, beyond.

Ciudad de Ángeles provides Christian childcare, and basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and housing, education, and healthcare for each child, including the cost of private school, where appropriate. The cost of living in Cozumel is one of the highest in the country of Mexico, partly due to the high standard of living in a tourist-based economy, and partly because of the expense of supplying goods to an island.

Please review the information on the following pages regarding our Sponsorship Program. If you decide you are ready to take on the role of Child Sponsor, please fill out the online application to begin the process. Our Sponsor Committee will review your application.

Ciudad de Ángeles is a registered 501.c.3 non-profit tax corporation, so all donations are fully tax deductible for U.S. state and federal taxes. If your application is approved, you will receive instructions for how to submit your sponsor funds. We look forward to sharing together in the blessings of this work--in His service, to His glory.

For the Children,
James Maclaskey, Executive Director

In Service to His Angels

James Maclaskey,
Executive Director

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Ciudad de Ángeles Child Sponsorship Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is a *Ciudad de Ángeles* sponsor?

By sponsoring a child through the *Ciudad de Ángeles* Child Sponsorship Program, you are helping us provide a child with a family, a home, and a future. *Ciudad de Ángeles* is a Christian children's home for orphaned, abandoned, and abused children. Sponsorships provide the ongoing support needed to care for each child.

Sponsorships also provide a vehicle for facilitating relationships between sponsors and their sponsored children. Through correspondence and personal visits, sponsors develop a personal connection with the children they sponsor. The children also benefit from this relationship, as they are encouraged to know that specific individuals care about them and are praying for them. Although *Ciudad de Ángeles* is a benevolent mission, we consider the Christian development and training of our children as our primary measurement of success.

How is my sponsorship money used?

Sponsorship donations are applied toward the comprehensive care of the sponsored child: food, utilities, medical and dental care, education, clothing, recreation, staff salaries, and other basic needs that may arise. Our financial statements and federal tax returns are available on our website for your review.

Am I the only sponsor for my child?

We have designed our program to divide sponsorship of each child into several sponsor units. This makes it more likely that a child will receive a personal sponsor visit at least once each year and makes the financial commitment more affordable for sponsor families.

How much is the sponsorship commitment?

The current funding pledge is $165.00/month ($1,980/year) per sponsor unit. This is allocated to basic needs (food, clothing, utilities, medical, childcare staff, etc. — $140/month, $1,680/year) plus education expenses ($25/month, $300/year).

If I commit to a particular level of sponsorship, can I give more some months?

Yes. If you give an amount above your committed level of sponsorship, the additional money will be used for other needs at the home. *Ciudad de Ángeles* routinely has expenses that are above and beyond what is provided through the regular sponsorship program. Your additional donations can help us cover these expenses when they arise, and will directly benefit your sponsored child. A "wish list" of specific needs is posted on our website.

How long does my sponsorship commitment last?

The children in our sponsorship program are in our full-time custody and care. Therefore, we anticipate that each sponsored child will be living with us at least until they reach the legal age of 18. However, our Transition Program gives each young adult an opportunity to remain in a supportive environment while they reach a point in their education/career preparation that they are ready to be independent and self-supporting. Our intent is that sponsors continue their support as long at their sponsored child remains in this program. In some rare cases, a child may leave our care prematurely. If a child leaves our care prematurely, we will advise you of the situation.

What happens if I need to discontinue my sponsorship?

We realize that your circumstances may change and that you may no longer be able to sponsor your child. If this happens, simply let us know that you will be discontinuing your sponsorship as soon as you can, and we will seek another sponsor for your child.

How are children matched to appropriate sponsors?

We try to match children with families that are a "good fit." We can discuss specific children with you to help you determine that you and they are a good match.

May I visit my child?

We encourage personal visits. While we recognize that circumstances may sometimes prevent you from traveling, *our goal is that every child receive a personal visit from at least one sponsor family every year, and we request that part of a sponsor's commitment is to visit,* ***if possible***. This is the best way to foster real relationships with your child.

Do you facilitate foreign adoptions?

No. We believe that adoption is an incredible gift, and there are many children living in Mexican orphanages who would benefit tremendously from adoption. However, this is not our mission focus. The focus of *Ciudad de Ángeles* is on providing each child with a Christian environment in which to grow and mature in his home country. Through education, loving care, and Christian discipleship, our long-term objective is to prepare each child to enter the community as a self-sufficient adult who will impact Mexico for Christ.

Why are we so "choosy" about Child Sponsors?

While we welcome anyone who has a heart for children to become a "Ciudad Child Supporter," Child Sponsors, aka Special Families, are those who assume a higher level of commitment to be involved in a child's life. We screen potential sponsors not to be exclusive, but to provide the best match for each child in two important areas:

Sponsors as Extended Family

Most of our children have little or no biological family with which to connect and their time as residents at Ciudad de Ángeles is finite. Our goal is for Child Sponsors to stay connected to their sponsor child even after that child has left our care. There is no intention that sponsor families would provide unending financial support, but rather, ongoing emotional support — encouraging, advising, celebrating milestones, etc.

Sponsors as Christian Mentors

Ciudad de Ángeles is not merely a humanitarian organization. While we do provide for the basic material needs of our children, we also share the love of Christ with our children and want them to have an opportunity to develop a relationship with God. While we are affiliated with Churches of Christ, we do not require Child Sponsors to be members of a Church of Christ. However, we have adopted a Statement of Faith, to explain the spiritual principles we teach our children. It is our responsibility to select sponsor families that will embrace and support these teachings when interacting with our children in order to assist in their spiritual growth and development. We ask sponsors to affirm that these are a reflection of their own core beliefs in order to provide that spiritual support.

How to Become a Child Sponsor

1. Review the Sponsor Information Packet, including our Statement of Faith below. Reach out with any questions, comments, or requests for clarification.
2. If you are ready to move forward in the process, submit an Application online for review by our Sponsor Committee.
3. Upon notification of Preliminary Approval status, submit information for a criminal background check.

Ciudad De Angeles - Statement of Faith

We believe there is one God who has revealed Himself in three distinct persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God loves us more than we can imagine.

Luke 3:21-22; Revelation 20-22

We believe Jesus is the Son of God; fully human and fully divine. He died on the cross for the sins of the world, and he was buried, rose again, and ascended to the Father. Jesus desires a deep relationship with all people and should be at the center of all we do.

John 1:1-18; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Hebrews 12:2

We believe that the Spirit lives in us, enabling us to live lives of holiness toward Him and grace toward all people.

John 14-16; Romans 8:18-39

We believe the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is inspired by God. Scriptures reveal a comprehensive story revealing the character of God and, ultimately, leading us to Jesus. It is the only authority for our lives.

Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1; 1-4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We believe that all have sinned, and all can be saved. Christ's death on the cross was the final and complete sacrifice for human sin. Faith in Christ is the only access we have to this salvation. We take communion to remind ourselves of this sacrifice that exemplified God's love for us.

1 Corinthians 11:23-36; 15:20-28

We believe that our initial step of faith is repentance of sin, confession of Christ, and baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Faith continues to work through us in choices that reflect Jesus being the center of everything we do.

Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6

We believe that God brings his people together in spiritual communities of faith, collectively known as the church. These communities exist to further the Kingdom of God in the world.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:2-6

We believe in both expressing and living out of the incredible grace that God has shown us. This means that we are quick to offer grace to others and constantly remind ourselves of God's grace toward us.

Romans 5:10; 8:34; Colossians 3:13

We believe that one of the highest expressions of our love for God is through our love for people.

1 John 4:7-12