

Child Sponsorship Introduction



The children at *Ciudad de Angeles* reside here because they have been orphaned, abandoned by their families, or are the victims of physical or emotional abuse. The *Ciudad de Angeles* 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 Angeles*. 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 Angeles* is committed to raising children in the home, your relationship with the child may last until they reach adulthood and, hopefully, beyond.

Ciudad de Angeles is able to provide Christian childcare, and basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and housing, education, and healthcare for each child for \$700 per month, including the cost of private school. 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. Sponsorships will be divided into 5 sponsor units, making the financial commitment \$140 per month. When you decide to sponsor a child, please contact us at the e-mail address below. We will make every effort to help match you and your family with a child who needs you the most.

Ciudad de Angeles is a registered 501.c.3 non-profit tax corporation, so all donations are fully tax deductible for U.S. state and federal taxes. All checks should be made payable to *Ciudad de Angeles* and earmarked for Child Sponsorship (your child's name). Please mail your sponsorship contributions to: ***Ciudad de Angeles, 5240 Roswell Road NE, Marietta, GA 30062.*** Please see the attached "Frequently Asked Questions" for further information on this program. 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

5240 Roswell Road NE
Marietta, GA 30062

www.ciudaddeangeles.org

james@ciudaddeangeles.org
(404)-551-5129

***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.

Sponsorship funds are not used for general administration or fundraising expenses required to operate the organization in the USA. 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 **five** sponsor units. This makes it more likely that a child will receive a personal sponsor visit at least once each year.

Ciudad de Ángeles provides a permanent home for each sponsored child and provides comprehensive care for these children. Each sponsored child is a child who would otherwise lack a home or a family to care for him or her. Operating a full-time residential facility that provides children with a high standard of custodial care is much more expensive than providing supplemental care to children who already have homes and families caring for them. On the island of Cozumel, Mexico, where *Ciudad de Ángeles* is located, the cost of comprehensive quality care for each child is \$700 per month, or an annual contribution of \$8400. By dividing that amount into five sponsor units, the commitment is \$140 per month, or \$1680 annually.

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.

Do I have to give monthly?

Sponsorship donations may be sent monthly, quarterly or annually, although regular monthly contributions help us with our "cash flow". We do ask that you tell us the frequency you intend to send funds, so we will know when to expect to have them in hand. You may send sponsorship funds my check (mailed to our address in Marietta), credit card (via the Donate button on our website) or ACH bank transfer (a form is available by request or 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 as 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.

Will I be billed for my sponsorship commitment?

We do not send "bills" or "invoices" for sponsor funds. When your first donation to the *Ciudad de Angeles* Child Sponsorship Program is received, you will be sent a confirmation receipt via email. Each January, you will receive a confirming summary report of all of your donations through the previous calendar year.

How do I correspond with my child?

You may write as often as you like by US mail (send to Marietta address), e-mail, or other electronic communication venues, as approved by *Ciudad de Angeles*. When the correspondence is received by *Ciudad de Angeles*, it will be shared with your sponsored child and will be translated if necessary. Mail sent to Marietta is collected and sent periodically to Cozumel, so there may be a delay for time sensitive items. A sponsor should not anticipate a personal response from the child to every communication sent.

Our children can access Facebook through school and it is therefore difficult for *Ciudad de Angeles* to control their access. If you are requested to "friend" one of our angels on Facebook, feel free to confirm that friend request. We do ask that you inform Les or James, so we can appropriately monitor the angels' status postings, too. Also, if you see something posted that is questionable, we would like to be alerted so that we can clarify anything that seems to be a problem.

May I send pictures to my child?

Yes. We strongly encourage you to send pictures of your family. You may also send other small, flat items, such as drawings that will fit inside a letter-sized envelope. Please focus on photographs and other pictures that will allow your child to know you better and to build a personal relationship with you.

May I send packages and gifts to my child?

You may send or bring gifts to your child. However, we encourage sponsors to help emphasize *relationships* as more important than *material things*. If you send or bring gifts for later deliver to the child (birthday presents, for instance), please make sure they are well labeled with the child's name and are logged into our system. Periodically, you will receive notice referring you to the child sponsor zone, which will provide you an update of your child's sizes. You will also receive instructions on how to participate in our Christmas celebration by sending your donation to Marietta. Christmas gifts are generally purchased in Mexico by staff, in order to maintain a level of equity among the children. We do encourage sponsors to send personal cards, notes, and photos on other holidays and special occasions other than Christmas.

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,*

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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. We do not currently have on-site guest quarters at *Ciudad de Ángeles* to offer to visiting sponsors, so you are responsible for your own travel arrangements and expenses. Please schedule your visit by going to our website and visiting the link, "Plan A Visit".

When sponsors visit their child, it is our desire to maximize the time spent together. Of course, school schedules and homework must always be taken into consideration. Excursions or special activities will be accommodated when practical, but should be approved in advance with Les. Once approved, sponsors are responsible for making arrangements, purchasing admissions, etc., as we cannot schedule activities for you. All minors will be accompanied to off-campus activities by Ciudad staff and sponsors should also provide any expenses for that staff member.

While our children enjoy special activities, they also tell us that they like simple activities where they can spend time with their sponsors. Activities like playing board games, preparing a meal together, flying a kite, etc. present opportunities for direct interaction and personal attention.

If a sponsor is visiting as part of a mission team, please make sure that the team leader plans some time in the itinerary for sponsor family activities.

From time to time, a child may be on disciplinary restriction at the time of a sponsor's visit and may not be allowed to leave campus. We hope these situations are rare, but when they do occur, we will accommodate visits by giving sponsors *as much time with their child on campus as practical*. What we must avoid is having a child try to use a pending sponsor visit as "leverage" to avoid consequences of misbehavior.

Is my sponsorship money spent properly?

Ciudad de Ángeles is committed to the highest level of financial integrity. We are stewards of God's money. We are therefore highly motivated to ensure that the sponsorship money is being spent wisely and efficiently. All of our financial data is available for your review. As a 501.c.3 non-profit corporation, we operate under, and are accountable to, the members of an independent Board of Directors. Also all financial statements are available to the public. You may find links to those statements on our website at www.ciudaddeangeles.org.

What makes the ministry of *Ciudad de Ángeles* unique?

The focus of *Ciudad de Ángeles* is on providing permanent homes and families for orphaned, abandoned, and abused children. By reaching these children, *Ciudad de Ángeles*, is engaged in implementing the Biblical mandate to care for orphans.

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. The home provides the children with a Christian family environment in which to grow and mature. We take seriously our responsibility to provide each child with the opportunity to know God and to develop a relationship with Him, and to disciple each child in his walk with God as he grows older.

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.