

# **Orphanage Support Services Organization (OSSO)**

## **Our History**

Orphanage Support Services Organization (OSSO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit international charitable organization providing compassionate service to a world of abandoned, disadvantaged and orphaned children.

OSSO began sending volunteers to Cuenca, Ecuador in 1998 to provide direct support to the children as well as to help invigorate existing programs and personnel within various institutions. OSSO expanded its volunteer program to Quito, Ecuador in March of 2001. In the past eight years OSSO has helped nearly 1,000 volunteers from the US go to Ecuador, usually for a period of about three months.

In addition to the volunteer support, OSSO also provides material support in the form of food, clothes, educational supplies, diapers, etc. These items, with few exceptions, are purchased or collected by OSSO, and then distributed by OSSO to the orphanages based on first-hand evaluation of need and first-hand accounting of appropriate usage. All funding comes through tax deductible donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and other charitable organizations.

While current projects of OSSO are successful, OSSO feels there is still much more that can be done for the children they serve as well as other children worldwide. To determine and provide for further needs, OSSO will be performing evaluations one to two times per year on the individual children and facilities and make recommendations for improvement. Your involvement in the OSSO sponsorship program will allow funding for the recommendations made from the evaluations so that improvements can be made.

## **OSSO Sponsorships**

**Together We Make a Difference, One Child at a Time**

At least 95% of all money from sponsors goes directly to help the children.

Only 5% or less goes to fundraising and administration.

### **What you will receive as a Child Sponsor**

1. Fully translated correspondence (we prefer you send e-mailed correspondence). You will receive at least one letter yearly, usually two or more, written by or on behalf of your sponsored child. Letters can be sent through mail or e-mail via OSSO. Letters will be translated by OSSO staff and sent to you. The support given to a child through letters is just as important as financial contributions. We encourage you to write to your sponsored child unless they are very young or severely disabled—see instructions on writing.
2. An initial information packet will be sent to each sponsor via US mail with information regarding OSSO, the confidentiality statement, specific information on the sponsorship program, do's and don'ts for sending your sponsored child/children letters, packages and money, specific information about your child/children/orphanage, as well as general information about your sponsored child's country.

3. A progress report will be sent to you twice yearly with an updated photo of your sponsored child/children/orphanage.
4. Schedule information about Evaluation Teams will be sent to sponsors if a sponsor would like to join a team and visit their sponsored child/children/orphanage.
5. Annual spending report.
6. Receipt stating tax deductibility of your contributions for the whole year will be sent out at the end of the year (the following January by the 31st actually).

### **What you will receive as an Orphanage Sponsor**

As an orphanage sponsor you will receive everything that a child sponsor receives but you will receive specific information on all the children in a family grouping. Some orphanages are already set up family-style where groups of children (ranging in age) are cared for by a house mom in individual houses/apartments. It is our goal to help each orphanage become this way.

### **Sponsorship levels**

*Child Sponsor:* starting at \$30/month

Monthly Sponsorship Levels: \$30 • \$45 • \$60 • \$90 • \$120

Payment Period: Monthly • Quarterly • Semi-Annually • Annually • Every two (2) years

*Orphanage Sponsor:* starting at \$1,000/yr.

Sponsorship Levels: \$1,500 • \$2,000 • \$2,500 • \$3,000

Payment Period: Annually • Every two (2) years

- Orphanage donations supplement expenses of our child sponsorship program, in areas such as utilities, the cost of providing medical care and therapists, the cost of immunizations, repairs and upkeep for the orphanage, etc.

*Corporate/Other Sponsor:* considered individually

We ask individuals to sponsor a child/orphanage for at least one year, which allows us to plan ahead and maintain a level of service to the child/orphanage. However, in case of any difficulty, the sponsor may cancel at any time with advanced notice to OSSO of the cancellation.

### **Payment schedule**

Sponsorships can be paid by check, credit card or debit card. Payment by check is preferred when made semi-annually, annually or every two years. Monthly or quarterly payment is preferred by credit or debit card. Child Sponsors will also choose a payment schedule (selected at the beginning of sponsorship) to pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Orphanage Sponsors will pay annually. Selecting to pay semi-annually or annually (versus monthly) will result in a higher percentage of sponsors' donations benefiting the child/children/orphanage. Costs connected with the handling of contributions, corresponding and updating sponsors result in no more than a 10% administration fee.

If the child an individual is sponsoring leaves the orphanage (due to adoption, reinsertion into their family, a move into another facility where OSSO is not working, or the child moving out on their own, etc.) the sponsor will be notified and given opportunity to sponsor another child in need.

No money should be sent directly to the orphanages! If you would like to send money in addition to your sponsorship fees to your child/children, this money needs to go through OSSO. If you would like to send your child/children something small for a special occasion, such as a birthday or Christmas, see details in GUIDELINES TO WRITING OR SENDING PACKAGES. We want the relationship between the children and their sponsors to be based mostly on friendship and gratitude, not based on monetary gifts.

### **How your sponsorship works**

1. You choose a child or children or an orphanage to sponsor and introductory information about your child/children/orphanage will be sent to you.
2. Your contribution helps provide the child/children/orphanage with:
  - Food & water
  - Primary healthcare
  - School fees and supplies
  - Shelter
  - Clothing
3. OSSO staff monitors and evaluates child/children/orphanage's situation by performing orphanage evaluations one to two times per year.
4. A progress report is sent to you one to two times per year.
5. Your support will change a child's life (as well as your own)!

### **Am I the only sponsor for my sponsored child/children/orphanage?**

Many of the children have multiple sponsors at various levels (i.e. \$30, \$45, etc.) so all of those sponsorships combined are used to improve the standard of living at each orphanage as a whole. This way, a child who has five sponsors is not living better than a child who has only one sponsor. It generally costs a lot more than \$30/month to provide good care for a child in an orphanage. Some orphanages receive support from many sources, while others depend almost completely on support from OSSO.

However, just because you may not be the only sponsor of a child does not mean that you do not have a very personal connection with them. Through the unique aspects of OSSO Sponsorships (like fully translated e-mails, letter writing and Evaluation Teams) you can easily develop a meaningful, life-changing relationship with someone who desperately needs a person to tell them they are valued and worthy of someone like yourself.

### **Visiting my sponsor child/children/orphanage**

Information on trip schedules for Evaluation Teams will be sent in sponsor information packets to inform sponsors when OSSO will be doing evaluations in various orphanages. Sponsors are encouraged to have a personal relationship with their child/children/orphanage and visiting them will help that to develop. OSSO will help in planning for travel, transportation and lodging during trips for Evaluation Teams.

### **Protecting your rights and the rights of your sponsored child/children/orphanage**

OSSO observes the privacy conditions of data protection law when collecting, storing and processing the personal data you provide. You may request to see the information stored by OSSO at any time and rectify any mistakes.

Protecting the rights of the children in our care is equally important to us. Therefore, please understand that we cannot pass on certain pieces of information to sponsors. In addition, we ask that you treat any information entrusted to you about your sponsored child/children/orphanage discreetly and responsibly and not publish it or pass it to third parties outside of your immediate family. Sensitive information should not be mentioned to the child/children. Please remember to return the enclosed privacy protection form.

**Your contact information**

Please remember to keep us updated regarding any changes to your personal information, including your mailing address, phone number and e-mail. Your information can be updated by writing, e-mailing or calling OSSO.

**Contact OSSO**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Mail: OSSO  
P.O. Box 345  
Rexburg, ID 83440

Our physical address is 310 N. 2nd E., Suite 146, Rexburg, ID 83440. Please do not mail anything to this address unless a street address is required for FedEx or UPS.

E-mail: [sponsorships@orphanagesupport.org](mailto:sponsorships@orphanagesupport.org)

Calling: (208) 359-1767 (if phoning from an international location, please use the proper country code)  
\*Office hours are Monday through Friday 9 am—5 pm.