

FINDING SPONSORS TO HELP PAY FOR YOUR TRIP

Many volunteers find sponsors to pay for part or all of the program fee*. Click here to download our “Sponsor Letter”:www.orphanagesupport.org/information/SponsorLetter.doc. Many volunteers personalize this (putting in their name and a personal letter, sometimes with pictures) and send it to people they want monetary help from. The best success you’ll have is if you appear in person—it’ll make it harder for them to say no or just shrug off your request...or simply forget about it. You should also put a clear due date in the letter (well in advance of when your payments are actually due) so your sponsor knows when you need their donation by.

You’ll have the most success from talking to people you know or, if you’re younger, people your parents know, people from your ward/church, in your neighborhood, doctors, dentists, small businesses, and service-oriented clubs (Kiwanis, Lion’s Club, Rotary, Soroptimists, etc.).

Tell them about your desire to do this, the fact that you have the time and the ability to do this, but that you need help paying for it...so you can be “partners” in this if they’ll help you accomplish this. If you wanted, you could say you’ll e-mail them to let them know what you’re doing, how things are going and how their donation in your behalf is helping these kids that you’ll come to love with all your heart.

Also, many employers now do charitable gift matching (\$1,000 check from you or your parents made out to OSSO in your behalf and a \$1,000 check from the employer made out to OSSO in your/their name for a total of \$2,000 toward your program fee). Check with your employer to see if they provide this option, and talk with other family members/friends and see if their employers have matching programs as well. Sometimes employer matching programs take time to process the request and cut a check, so make sure you plan plenty of time for this to take place so you can make the payment deadlines.

**** If you’re trying to get sponsors to help with the payments, the section “Payment of Fees” still applies. Be aware that sponsors may be very slow in responding to your request, so you need to approach them months, or at least weeks, before payment deadlines. Sponsor money is NOT RETROACTIVE to money already paid—in other words, you need to receive sponsor money before the payment is due.***

If you receive sponsor money in excess of your balance, we can make this money available in Ecuador for you to be involved in spending for needs in the orphanages while you’re down there (after talking to the Project Directors and with their approval of how you’d like the money to be spent).