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SPONSOR BOOKLET

ROOTS for a Child is the LOVE Takes Root program created to pair children at La Concorde Orphanage in Haiti with a sponsor. This sponsorship provides the child not just with monetary support, but with social and emotional support. We are grateful for your participation in this invaluable program.

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ABOUT LA CONCORDE



La Concorde was started to fill a need discovered by Dr. Rick Wilkerson during his stay in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. What started in a makeshift structure holding more than 50 children without proper food, clothing and medical care has grown into a thriving orphanage, school and medical clinic. This is all thanks to people coming together to care not just for the immediate well-being of the children but also for their future.



La Concorde orphanage is now located on the outskirts of Jacmel, Haiti which is southwest of Port au Prince along the southern coast of Haiti. It has 3.8 acres of land that allows for the keeping of livestock and maintenance of a garden to supplement the kitchen needs. The compound also includes both a boys and girls cottage, staff housing, a dining hall, a kitchen, a primary school, a secondary school, and a health clinic. There are currently 67 children living at La Concorde Orphanage. Twelve are in need of sponsorship. With the escalating costs of food and supplies in Haiti, it is necessary for each child to have three sponsors.

WHAT IS ROOTS FOR A CHILD?

ROOTS for a Child is the program designed to link sponsors with a specific child at the orphanage. A long-distance relationship with the sponsored child provides them with financial, social and emotional support as they seek ways to thrive in an increasingly volatile home country.

The children at La Concorde orphanage are extremely proud of their sponsors. They are quick to tell anyone who their sponsor is, where they live and even if they own a dog— they will tell you the dog's name, too! They treasure every card and photo received and pray for their sponsors daily.

Without sponsors, the children would be without the basic necessities— food, water, shelter, and medical care. They would also be without a means to pay tuition for schooling. The sponsorship program ROOTS for a Child was created to meet these needs and to create a lasting, healthy bond with people who truly care about the well-being and future of the child.



ROOTS♥for a child

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES



Provide Monetary Support

The children at La Concorde Orphanage rely on their sponsors to cover the cost of food, water, clothing, medical care, education, and physical security as well as supervision, care and guidance from trusted adults. Unfortunately, Haiti is under gang control, causing the price of basic necessities to skyrocket. Each child now requires three sponsors to cover these rising costs.

Each sponsor is responsible for \$720 per year. The preferred payment method is a \$60 monthly, automatic bank withdrawal. If this does not work, the \$720 can be paid yearly via check or credit card. This amount is to be paid yearly until your sponsored child graduates from the LOVE Takes Flight program— a program that transitions the children from life at the orphanage to a life of productive independence.

Communicate

Communication is a key responsibility of the sponsor. To say the children love to hear from their sponsors is an understatement. At least once a year, sponsors are to write to the child via email or snail mail. In this letter, sponsors can add an updated photo featuring them/their family/their pets.

This responsibility cannot be understated. Knowing there is someone out there who truly cares for them gives the children hope when the world around them is constantly changing and unstable. No matter what, you remain a supportive and stable constant in their life.

Share

ROOTS for a Child runs on generosity and word-of-mouth. When you put up a photo of the child and talk about them, you are spreading the word about our program. This is the best way to get others involved and keep ROOTS for a Child growing.



HEAR FROM THE CHILDREN



Montana

I am writing this to use my words to say thank you to our sponsors for everything. It is a pleasure to talk about everything that you do for us. You help us to go to school and live well and be safe at the orphanage. You send socks, notebooks and tuition for school. I pray thank you to sponsors for caring about us.



Zamor Junior

Every Christmas we are very happy at the orphanage because our sponsors send us a present. They are very pretty. After God, you do everything for us, and we want to say thank you for your help. Our God said help the poor and He will give you His blessing. You must have many blessings. At the orphanage, we thank LOVE Takes Root for all help. We wish that you will still be here to help others who can not take care of themselves. We pray for each of you, we love your care and God Bless you.



Valencia

Our sponsors always send money for every thing that we need to survive such as food, clothes, school tuition, uniforms, and a big thank you for the shoes you send us every school year. Thank you for the mattresses that you sent and the beautiful nice flat sheets. It is very special.

LETTER WRITING GUIDE

Writing letters to the children is part of the sponsor's role. These letters are absolutely cherished by the children. However, we often get asked what can or should go into the letter and what cannot or should not be included. Below we have created a list of dos and don'ts for letter writing.

DO:

- Tell your child about yourself. Where do you live and what is the weather like there? What do you do for a living? How old are your kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews and what are their names? What pets do you have? What are your hobbies?
- Add pictures of your family/pets or artwork from your kids!
- Ask about their life. What is their favorite color, class, meal, or hobby? Who is their best friend? If they are older, ask about what they want to do when they are done at school. Encourage their hopes and dreams.
- Keep it positive and upbeat.
- Tell them you pray for them. Your child prays for you, and it is a comfort to know you are doing the same for them.

DON'T:

- Discuss material possessions. It is best to err on the side of sensitivity to the child's living conditions.
- Ask sensitive questions about their past or family, their failures, or their faith.
- Try to convert the child to your own religious or political leanings. While we encourage telling the child they are in your thoughts and/or prayers, we ask that you respect their culture and beliefs.



FAQS

With Haiti in such turmoil, is my sponsorship truly making a difference?

Your sponsorship is more important than ever given the state of Haiti. The gang activity you read about in the news is mostly centered around Port au Prince, the capital city. While Jacmel is impacted by their activity in the sense of inflated prices and loss of trade routes, they are shielded from the violence. Your sponsorship allows the children to continue to receive proper nutrition, healthcare, and a well-rounded education. We firmly believe this education will set them up to be future leaders in Haiti who can create the positive change the country so desperately needs. Your sponsorship can make a difference not just in the current lives of the children, but also in their future and in the future of their nation.

Do I get to choose who I sponsor?

The Roots for a Child committee will work with you to identify those children awaiting a sponsor. You can choose which child you would like to sponsor from that list. Or, if you desire, we can assign a child to you.

Am I the sole sponsor of my child?

The cost for each child at La Concorde Orphanage is \$180/month. There are three sponsor slots for each child. You can choose to be one of the sponsor slots at \$60/month, two of the sponsor slots at \$120/month, or all three sponsor slots at \$180/month.

Can I sponsor more than one child?

Yes you can! OR you can be the sole sponsor of one child by paying for all three of their sponsorships at \$180/month.

What happens when my sponsor child graduates from the program?

Once a young adult begins to age out of the orphanage, they move into the four year transition program called LOVE Takes Flight. Part of this program is to teach independent living skills and job training. We hope you continue to support your sponsored child through the LOVE Takes Flight program.

Could the child I sponsor get adopted before graduating?

Adoptions in Haiti are very difficult but not impossible. With the Hague Convention, Haitian children can be adopted, but the child must first be deemed eligible by Haiti. Due diligence must then be given to finding a family within Haiti with which to place the child.

Can I visit Haiti and meet the child I sponsor?

Prior to the civil unrest in Haiti, many sponsors did travel to Jacmel to visit their sponsored child. At this time, Haiti is not safe to visit. We hope this changes soon.

What other ways can I support the children at La Concorde?

Our organization is run on a volunteer basis, and we welcome your time and skills in any of our programs from education to finance. Please reach out to learn more. Additional donations can help support needs that come up throughout the year as well as during our annual fundraisers such as Back-to-School, Holiday Giving, and Summer Projects. Lastly, we encourage you to spread the word about LOVE Takes Root and our mission.

How can I best communicate with my sponsor child?

LTR sends sponsor gifts three times a year-- Back to School, Holiday/New Year and Spring. There is a group gift and a personal note or card from each sponsor. These are BIG events at the orphanage. You can always send a message via email at rootsforachild@lovetakesroot.org and the child will receive it. LOVE Takes Root will forward their response to you.

