

FAQs for child sponsorship

Q. What makes our sponsorship programme different?

A. It is truly a one-to-one sponsorship. We hope that you enter this with the idea of renewing your sponsorship each year because otherwise it is very difficult for a child to understand and adjust. If this sort of commitment isn't right for you, there are many other worthwhile ways to invest in our work. DSDO is creating sustainable change for your child and Dekpor. We focus on education, medical care, food-growing assistance, clean water development, public health education, and enriching the lives of the people of Dekpor.

Q. How much does a sponsorship cost?

A. It costs \$300/yr to sponsor an elementary student. (High school students cost approximately double, due to having to live away from home. There is no high school in Dekpor.)

Q. When does a sponsorship start?

Immediately upon receipt of the \$300! It is ideal for a sponsorship to start the same as the school year, but if it's midyear, the first year's amount is prorated.

Q. Can I make several smaller payments throughout the year?

A. At this point in time, we do not have the resources to offer this.

Q. When is it time to renew?

A. In July, an update is sent, along with the request for you to renew. Cheques are required before the end of August so we can ensure that the necessary funds are available.

Q. Is child sponsorship tax deductible?

A. Yes! You receive a Canadian tax receipt for the full amount.

Q. What does \$300/yr give my sponsored child?

A. A lot! Your child is put on our food programme, which provides a healthy breakfast and lunch, every school day. She has her national health insurance covered, and summer school in August. All school fees are covered, which include: PTA fees, exam fees, a uniform, shoes, backpack, school supplies (math kits, exercise books, etc.).

Q. What do I do if my contact information changes?

A. Just send an email to carol@dekpor.org.

Q. Why is all of your correspondence done using email?

A. We're responsible! We want every single penny of donated dollars to be used to its fullest. Cutting out postal fees is a no-brainer! Every single one of our donors would rather provide a couple of meals for hungry children than have us pay for a stamp!

Q. Can I write to my sponsored child?

A. Yes, the easiest way is to send an email to carol@dekpor.org and she will forward it to Linda in Dekpor.

Q. Can I send my sponsored child gifts?

A. You may send your sponsored child stickers, bookmarks and appropriate photos* or letter that all fit into a regular business-sized envelope – but please refrain from sending larger gifts, which can be problematic at international customs, costs us to receive, and can cause jealousy between children.

Q. Can I visit my sponsored child?

A. If you would like to visit your child in Dekpor, we will do our best to accommodate! Please refer to the Get Involved, Outreach Volunteer section of our website.

http://dekporschool.org/Dekpor_School_Development_Organisation/Volunteers.html

Q. Can I post about my sponsored child online?

A. If you are posting about your sponsored child online, please use only their first name to respect their privacy.

Q. What communications can I expect as a sponsor?

A. After you've sent your payment, you will receive an official thank you letter, a photo and a profile of your child. In March/April, we issue individualized letters and photos, updating you on the academic progress of your child. In July, we send our renewal letter, again with photos and an update. We encourage you to 'Like' us on Facebook and to frequently visit our website so that you can follow DSDO's progress between our scheduled communications. At any point in time, you are welcome to contact us with any questions: info@dekporschool.org.

Q. How long do I need to sponsor?

A. What we do is a very real one-to-one sponsorship (unlike some other charities). Your sponsorship funds ensure that your sponsored child goes to school and has the medical attention and nutrition they need. We are very up front about our desire for prospective child sponsors to understand that we are looking for a long term commitment. If this isn't the right match for you, we have many other worthwhile projects, such as the food programme.

Q. Will I always sponsor the same child?

A. Yes, you will sponsor the same child for the duration of your commitment, except in the following situations: a) their family moves out of the program area, b) they or their parents opt out of the program (we require that children attend school and are committed to their education), c) they graduate from school. In any of these situations, we'll contact you to explain why your sponsored child is no longer in the programme, and you will be invited to sponsor another child.

Have more questions? Email us at info@dekporschool.org

*Photo policy: Please be sensitive to the child's circumstances and avoid sending photos of material possessions (e.g., your house or car, etc) and anything that might be considered inappropriate (e.g., revealing summer apparel).