

Frequently Asked Questions

- † **What is the cost of becoming a sponsor?**
A Sponsor is asked to make a \$25 per month contribution to support each child's education, housing, medical needs, clothing, and any emergencies that should arise.
- † **Does the sponsored child or his/her family receive the money I send directly?**
No. The donations sent to Catholic Charities are provided to Project San Pedro which is under the auspices of our partners at the local Catholic Church who are either religious Sisters or the pastor of the church. They insure that each sponsored child continues in school and receives whatever other services may be required for them to live a dignified life worthy of a child of God.
- † **Is my contribution tax-deductible?**
Yes. You will make your check payable to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Charleston which is a 501 (c) (3) organization. The money is placed in a restricted account and sent on a regular basis to those who collaborate in this ministry.
- † **May I make my contribution by credit card?**
By all means YES! Paying by credit card is simpler for you and it saves us having to mail our invoices and the cost of postage that this involves. Like all sponsorships, you may discontinue sponsorship at any time you wish. Periodically, your credit card expiration date will be reached and we will contact you for the new expiration date so that your contribution can be processed.
- † **May I make my contribution on a schedule other than monthly?**
Yes, you may pay quarterly, bi-annually, or annually. If you pay by check you will be sent a reminder the month before the time of the next payment. Similarly, if you pay by credit card, we will process payment according to whatever schedule you wish.
- † **When can I begin writing to my sponsored child?**
You may do so immediately. Send your letters here to Catholic Charities/1662 Ingram Road/Charleston, SC 29407 and we will be happy to have them translated into Spanish and sent to our partners at the parish in Guatemala who will give them to your sponsored child.
- † **May I send photos of myself and my family to my sponsored child?**
Yes. Your sponsored child would like to have an idea of what you look like. But one caution: be aware of pictures that show large houses, fancy clothes or cars as these might over-emphasize material differences between you and the sponsored child.

- † **How often can I write to my Sponsored child?**
Write as often as you would like. In fact, whenever you send in your contribution, you may include a brief note. Your sponsored child will enjoy hearing from you.
- † **May I visit my sponsored child?**
We would ask that you not do so on your own because it might cause difficulties arranging individual visits at the local site. However, if you would like to travel to Guatemala as a participant on one of our medical missions or to assist with other projects that are occurring between the parishes and Catholic Charities, please give us a call.
- † **Can a group sponsor a child?**
Certainly! We have several groups who sponsor a child. We only ask that you name one person to be the contact for the group and notify us of any changes.
- † **What if I no longer want to continue my sponsorship?**
Of course people's circumstances change and you might not be able to continue your sponsorship. We ask that you provide us with some notification in advance so we can arrange to secure another sponsor for your sponsored child.
- † **What if my sponsored child leaves Project San Pedro?**
Although not usual, it might happen that a child and his or her family move out of the area where the project operates. Also, a child might leave school for one reason or another. To continue in Project San Pedro, our local partners do expect that the child will be enrolled in the Catholic school. In such cases where this does not happen, the child will no longer be able to continue in the program. If that happens, we will notify you and also ask if you would be willing to sponsor another needy child.
- † **How else can I help Catholic Charities promote this sponsorship program?**
Project San Pedro can always use more sponsors. Speak to your friends about how you feel about being a sponsor. Also, ask your pastor if a deacon can come to the parish to either preach at the Sunday Masses or else make an announcement after Communion about the benefits of sponsorship.

[\(LINK\) View Children Who Need Sponsors](#)