



FAQs about Hope for Kids

Frequently Asked Questions about the Hope for Kids Program

What is Hope for Kids?

Flowing directly out of the Sister Church Program, Hope for Kids (HFK) is a program that RMI started in 1999 to meet the educational and physical needs of the many children who are unable to attend school due to severe economic conditions in their country.

Although this program began under the umbrella of the RMI Sister Church Program and sponsors were only from sister churches, it has now moved beyond the sister churches and sponsorships are available to churches, community groups and individuals. Some sister churches sponsor as many as 200+ children.

Why is Hope for Kids needed?

Many children in underdeveloped countries are unable to attend school due to severe economic conditions in the country. Even government schools, the few there are, require payment. When one is struggling to feed a family, school must be sacrificed. Going to school is seen as a luxury item and is usually the first thing that is cut from a family's life. Not getting basic life skills, such as learning to read, write, do math, etc., severely limits a person's ability to make a better life for themselves and is a source of severe embarrassment as an adult. RMI is helping to address this need through HFK.

What does Hope for Kids provide?

In most cases, HFK is able to provide the following for the sponsored children:

- school books for that year
- one set of new clothes for school (uniform when needed)
- if applicable, one church uniform
- one pair of shoes
- school entrance fee
- school tuition
- medical checkup (where available)
- most importantly of all - hope!

For the sponsor, RMI provides:

- fund distribution accountability from the RMI US office as well as on the field through our Cross-Cultural Bridge Team
- a picture and brief biography of each child
- translation of 1 or 2 letters a year between each child and sponsor
- occasional visits of the schools to check on the facilities, curriculum, get updated pictures, etc.
- posters and brochures to promote the program

What are the procedures to get started?

Contact the RMI office to let them know your intentions.

What other details do I need to be aware of?

- A sponsor sponsors a child for one year at a time.
- The HFK program only sponsors students through their elementary schooling, i.e.: 6th grade.

What about accountability?

RMI is a member in good standing with The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). This is the evangelical "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval". RMI and the Hope for Kids program are governed by a Board of Directors who meets bi-annually.

Who administers Hope for Kids?

The administration for HFK consists of the staff of the RMI International Office in Lehigh Acres, Florida, and the RMI Cross-Cultural Bridge Team (i.e.: RMI Field missionaries who are the administrators and bookkeepers and RMI national staff). The bridge team work with each school administrative committee, holding them accountable for making sure the kids are getting a good education.

What is a HFK Coordinator?

This is the point person who will act as the facilitator, liaison, communicator and organizer on your end to implement and facilitate the Hope for Kids Program in your church. This person is the one who will receive the kids' pictures and biographies from RMI, advertise and recruit sponsors for the kids. They will collect the funds and send them to RMI. They will receive any translated letters and get them to the appropriate sponsor. They will communicate regularly with the RMI office as well as with the RMI Field Office and be the liaison between sponsors and RMI.

What does HFK look like in Haiti?

Who does RMI work with in Haiti?

RMI works in cooperation with a national association of some 487 churches in Southern Haiti, called MEBSH - The Evangelical Baptist Mission of Southern Haiti. RMI leadership has had a good standing, working relationship with MEBSH for 40 years.

Where do the children come from?

Due to the lack of public schools, most MEBSH churches have schools, usually covering grades K-6th. The children that RMI sponsor are chosen from these schools by that church's pastor and the school administrator based on financial need.

How much does it cost to sponsor a child for one school year?

The cost is \$200 per child, per school year.

What does sponsorship include?

It covers 2 uniforms, shoes, books, tuition and a medical checkup where available.

When is the Haitian school year?

The school year starts in September and ends in June.

How does the HFK Program work in Haiti?

A picture and biography of each needy student is procured by the RMI Cross-Cultural Bridge Team and sent to the prospective child's sponsor or to the RMI International Office to share with those who might be interested. The Cross-Cultural Bridge Team's RMI Haiti office is in Les Cayes, Haiti's 3rd largest city. From there, they are able to access all the MEBSH church schools. There is a very intimate relationship between the Bridge Team and all the schools. All funds are processed in the RMI office in Lehigh Acres, FL then transferred to the RMI office there in Cayes. Once funds have been received they are distributed to the appropriate pastor of the school's parent church and the school administrator for the kids in that school. They are then responsible to use the monies as designated. They are required to give an accounting to the RMI Haiti office, who in turn supplies that information to the RMI International Office as needed.

How many are in the program in Haiti?

Currently we have 2,000 kids in the HFK Program. In 5 years, we hope to have 5,000 kids sponsored.

What does HFK look like Guatemala?

The Hope for Kids Program is currently being set up in Guatemala.