



Together: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Together?

Lifeline Christian Mission is beginning the process of transitioning individual sponsorship to a group partnership model. U.S./Canadian churches and individuals have the opportunity to prayerfully and financially support groups within Lifeline schools, children's ministries in Lifeline churches, or the nutrition program. Lifeline is moving away from a one-to-one model and instead sponsors will be partnering to support an grade at school, children's ministry, or nutrition program.

Why is it called "Together"?

It is called "Together" because we are all working together to show the love of Christ to children, families and the community. We are *Together* with our partners and *Together* with the field!

How does this impact me as a sponsor?

Current sponsors will move to a group connected with the grade of the child they currently sponsor, the child's church, or the nutrition program. Or sponsors can choose another class altogether! Regardless, all individual child sponsors will move to the partnership model.

What will sponsors be called?

"Partners"

There are many negative connotations to the term sponsorship. We want to encourage community empowerment and sustainability and get away from an "ownership" mentality that frequently happens with sponsorship. Therefore, we are now referring to "sponsors" as "*partners*" and "sponsorship" as "*partnership*."

What specifically will be changing?

- Financial support from partners will move from \$40 to \$37 per group. As before, the donations continue to support the entire ministry to all children.
- Gift distribution will be equitable: each child will receive a gift and the gift will be the same for each child

- Mission teams will interact with children on a group-based level, not with individual families or children. Mission teams will come alongside projects, events, field trips, school activities, etc. that are already taking place.

What will gift distribution look like?

- Gift distribution will be led and facilitated by our local school or church leaders, not by the mission teams.
- Every child will receive two gift packs per year:
 - A school pack filled with needed school supplies
 - A hygiene pack filled with toiletries and hygiene essentials
- There will no longer be gifts from individual sponsors to individual children
- Partners can donate items for the school pack and hygiene pack! Gift packs will be distributed to every child in the program.

Can I still give a gift or give a cash donation to my current sponsor child if I deliver it to Lifeline before the end of June?

We ask that you would honor and respect the field's request to no longer give personalized gifts or cash. This poses a safety risk and leads to jealousy. Instead, our field leaders request that you [donate towards the benevolent fund](#), which benefits children in the region.

The child you sponsor and their family are notified of the gift distribution changes and know that personal gifts are ceasing. They are excited to have provisions for their children that will meet many basic needs they regularly have. Additionally, the field leaders are excited to have funds that will benefit children in the region.

Will children still be able to receive gifts?

Yes, but instead of children receiving gifts *we think* are good for them, our field leaders have given guidance on what would be most helpful to the children. School and hygiene gift packs not only help the children, but in essence, put money back into the pockets of the family by removing an expense they would normally need to pay

What is the sponsorship/partnership money being used for?

Just like before, your donations go toward the overall program to the children. Your Together program donations provide funds to pay staff salaries (like the teachers and principals), curriculum, school lunches, discipleship/mentorship, after-school/church/extracurricular activities, health care, and other needs within the school, nutrition program, or church ministry.

What are benevolent funds?

[There are benevolent funds set up for each country](#). These enable field leaders to assist families that develop an urgent need, crisis situations, and/or other circumstances that arise that need financial support. The leaders will prayerfully consider the needs within their church,

school and community to determine where and when funds should be used. Lifeline will join in these discussions and decisions so that we can partner in support both financially and in prayer.

How can I know what's happening with the group I'm partnered with?

You will receive periodic updates which will highlight stories and news from the grade/school, church, or nutrition program. There will also be opportunities twice a year to send hygiene or school gift packs. Additionally, you can go on a mission trip to experience the culture of the group you are partnered with! There will be opportunities to connect and interact with the children.

Will I still be able to keep in contact with my current sponsor child?

Yes, you will still be able to write the child you formerly sponsored. However, please know that we don't guarantee a response. It is possible that the child may have moved out of the community, left the school, etc. and we will not be tracking the various paths the child and/or family has taken that caused the change of grade or connection to Lifeline.