

Why did VisionTrust create Light for Orphans?

Supporting a child through 1:1 child sponsorship is often not feasible in our orphanages due to the uncertainty of a child's length of stay and/or privacy issues related to the child's situation. Additionally, the cost of providing 24/7 care for the children in our orphanages requires substantial resources. Through Light for Orphans, we are empowered to establish a robust community of monthly givers that can contribute towards a healthy operating budget for our orphanages.

How much does it cost to be a Light for Orphans?

You get to choose. We felt compelled to design an opportunity where individuals select a monthly contribution based on their own financial situation and bandwidth for charitable giving. The minimum monthly gift for Light for Orphans is \$17, making this program both accessible to those on a fixed income and desirable for those who have higher capacity for giving than the standard \$40 per month through our child sponsorship program.

What does my monthly donation help provide?

Your monthly donation helps ensure that each child in our orphanages has nutritious meals, clean drinking water, clothing, shoes, bedding, hygiene supplies, school supplies, medical care, and more. It also provides resources for appropriate staffing at each orphanage, guaranteeing that there are adults responsible for caregiving, meal preparation, cleaning, and tutoring.

How often should I expect updates and communications when I join Light for Orphans?

You will get communications from us 1-2 times per quarter via email sharing stories, photos, and prayers requests for the orphanage(s) you support.

Is Light for Orphans just for individuals?

Community is at the very core of why we created Light for Orphans. While individuals are welcome to join Light for Orphans on their own, we encourage families, churches, youth groups, friend groups, etc. to partner together in a collaborative effort to support VisionTrust orphanages as a community.

Are there opportunities to serve at a VisionTrust orphanage on a short-term mission trip?

Absolutely. We offer short-term mission trips to Ketty's House in the Dominican Republic and to Casa Luz in Peru. We do not send short-term mission trips to our Southeast Asia orphanages due to security risks. For details on upcoming trip opportunities, reach out to Cheryl Ruckman: cherylr@visiontrust.org.

Are all the children living in VisionTrust orphanages truly orphans?

The term "orphan" applies to a child under the age of eighteen that has lost one or both parents to death. Our VisionTrust orphanages exist to serve orphans and vulnerable children who need 24/7 care due to a variety of reasons. While the death of one or both parents is one of the reasons a child comes into our orphanages, it is not the sole reason. Other reasons tend to be related to the inability of a parent or parents to provide adequate care for the child — such as incarceration, abusive behavior, addiction, abandonment, or mental illness.

How are children placed at a VisionTrust orphanage?

The unique circumstances of the children we serve determine how they come into our care. Typically a child is placed at our orphanage upon the recommendation or authority of a local judge, social worker, pastor, or family member.

How long will a child stay at a VisionTrust orphanage?

This varies greatly. In cases where a child has been placed into our care by a judge and/or the local child protective services entity, VisionTrust has little say or control over how long a child is in our care. Some children remain in our care for a few days or weeks. Others spend their entire childhood in our orphanages.

Are children ever adopted from a VisionTrust orphanage?

Adoption laws and regulations vary from county-to-country and there are unique and complex rules for both domestic and international adoptions. VisionTrust is not an adoption agency. Our sole purpose is to provide holistic, 24/7 care for the orphans and vulnerable children placed in our care.

Are orphanages the best option for orphans and vulnerable children?

In short, no. The best option for a child's long-term care is with a stable, healthy family. However, while staying with family is best, we know that there are children who cannot remain in the care of their parent(s) due to death, illness, abuse, abandonment, etc. VisionTrust orphanages open our doors to children who need 24/7 care in a safe, nurturing environment where their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs can be addressed.

How many children are in a VisionTrust orphanage?

VisionTrust orphanages range in size from 10 to 100 children.

Does VisionTrust serve orphans that don't live in orphanages?

Yes, many of the children that we serve globally in our learning centers and schools have lost one or both parents to death. These children are in the care of relatives or foster parents, and therefore, are best served through our other program models. In many places, it is a cultural norm for extended family or close friends to serve as foster parents for children when their biological parents pass away.