



HOSTING AN EFFECTIVE DREAM SUNDAY

Thank you for your passion to advocate for the children of Rwanda! Below, you'll find useful information to effectively host a sponsorship Sunday at your church. The following is simply a guideline of suggestions from past experience, not a list of rules! Our goal here is to set you up for success. To coordinate your Dream Sunday, please contact our Church Partnerships Manager, Jeremiah Smith at jeremiah@africanewlife.org or (843) 304-3436.

LEADING UP TO THE BIG DAY:

Perhaps equally important to the Dream Sunday itself is how you **prepare the congregation** leading up to it. More children are likely to be sponsored if those attending at least have a general idea of who Africa New Life is and that there will be children available for sponsorship on that day. Speaking about this event from the stage and via social media/newsletters in the weeks leading up will help tremendously!

DREAM SUNDAY FORMAT:

- Time Allotment: Only a segment of the Sunday (5 to 15 minutes) needs to be focused on Africa New Life specifically. Dream Sunday's are most impactful when the message is centered around missions in one way or another.
- Help Them Understand: Anything you can do to help the congregation understand that these children are *real*, not just pictures on a piece of cardboard, will make a tremendous impact. **Stories, videos, and images are powerful.** If you or anyone in the congregation have been on a trip with ANL or personally seen the power of sponsorship, please share your experience! Links to our downloadable videos as well as our logo and other helpful graphics, can be found on our resource site (seenewlife.org/resources). And please feel free to use any of our pictures from our Facebook Page you might find helpful.
- Set a Goal: The obvious goal to lay out before the congregation is to make sure that no child is left on the table. Let your congregation know that this is what you're going for!
- Talk About An Upcoming Trip: One of the most powerful things you can do is line up a team trip for your church prior to a Dream Sunday. Announce to the congregation that they can sponsor a child that day and then go to Rwanda to meet them and their family *in person*.
- Lead By Example. Be the first to sponsor a child and let the congregation see the profile in your hand. This is *far* more effective than simply having a stranger come in who is trying to convince everyone that sponsorship matters.
- ANL Representative: If possible, we'll send a ANL representative to your church to assist with your Dream Sunday and run the table. In certain cases, we might even be able to bring along a Rwandan pastor or former sponsored child. Please keep in mind though, that these things are not always a possibility.

TABLE SET UP:



- At least one, preferably two 6' long tables draped with tablecloths
- 2-3 brochure holders (can be baskets) for:
 - Child sponsorship brochures
 - Website cards
 - ANLM Newsletter
- Holders or baskets for pens
- Paperclips to attach any necessary paperwork (checks) to sponsorship
- Sponsorship registration forms/payment forms
- Manila envelope for storing sponsorships
- Africa-themed decorations to enhance the look
- *Optional: Laptop computer, looping "Daniel's Story" or "Sponsorship" video (muted). This is also helpful as a backup for interested parties to immediately go online to sponsor a child if you run out of profiles.

PROFILE SET UP:

- Profiles can be hung from a display stand (link below) with small clothes pins or simply placed on the table standing up or laid down – whichever is best to view the child's information and picture.
- Depending on table size and number of profiles, you may not be able to set all profiles at once. As children get sponsored, replace empty spots with new profiles.

***Link for display stand purchase (copy & paste into browser):**

<http://www.storesupply.com/pc-13505-1129-black-2-x-6-standing-grid-screen-40127.aspx>

VOLUNTEER STAFF:

Hosting a sponsorship table requires at least 2-3 individuals playing complimentary roles. For larger churches, 4-6 are recommended.

1. At least 2 volunteers to stand behind or very near the table to assist people in filling out registration paperwork as well as filing sponsorship forms upon completion.
2. One volunteer to watch over the kid's profile area to answer questions and monitor the removal of profiles, directing people to the sponsorship table as their next step.
3. For larger churches 2-3 volunteers mingling amongst folks ready to sponsor and waiting in line to fill out paperwork. In this case volunteers can be equipped with registration forms and even profiles to assist those who are waiting to see the kids or fill out paperwork.

RESOURCES:

Will be mailed to you (the week of your Dream Sunday):

1. Child sponsorship brochures
2. Child sponsorship registration process explanation
3. Child Profiles
4. Pre-paid flat rate Express Mail envelope for registrations to be mailed back to ANLM on the Monday after Dream Sunday event
5. ANLM Website cards
6. Other brochures & business cards

Church provides:

1. Tables for display and sign up
2. Tablecloths
3. Pens
4. Paperclips
5. Baskets for holding print material
6. Manila envelope to store registration forms and payments in
7. Laptop and decorations (optional)

ADVOCATE WILL COMMIT TO:

1. Recruiting a Volunteer Team to run the sponsorship tables after services
2. Training the Volunteer Team using the Child Sponsorship Registration Process handout
3. **Mailing all sponsorship registrations (both sponsored & unsponsored) along with payment paperwork in the provided pre-paid Express Mail USPS envelope within 24 hours of Dream Sunday.**
4. Any leftover promotional material may be kept and used at churches or advocate's discretion.