



DREAM SUNDAY GUIDE

Dream Sundays are sponsorship events hosted by local churches, providing hope to the children of Rwanda through Africa New Life Ministries. This is a free and simple way your church can engage every member of the congregation to live out the gospel while making a powerful impact in the world. We believe every child has the right to dream!



THANK YOU for hosting a Dream Sunday and giving students in Rwanda a reason to dream! Because of your willingness to speak up, lives will be changed for eternity. The following guide will walk you through the necessary steps to create a powerful event and **assumes you have already spoken with an Africa New Life staff member to work through details and set a date.** If you have not yet done this, please contact your primary Africa New Life representative or reach out to our Church Partnership Manager at jeremiah@africanewlife.org.

STEP 1: PREPARE

1. Promote.

- a. You will make a far greater Kingdom impact as a church if people come on the day of your event fully aware of what's happening and are prepared to sponsor, so it is critical that you build excitement and get the word out in the weeks leading up to your event.
- b. Start challenging your church two or three weeks ahead of time, especially from the stage and on social media.
- c. Let people know how many students you are praying will get sponsored, why you're doing this, and how much sponsorship costs.
- d. **Resources:** Included on the website above are social media graphics with wording, downloadable promotional slides, and verbiage for bulletins.

2. Build the service.

- a. Your Dream Sunday will be more effective if the overall message that day is centered around topics such as compassion, loving your neighbor, justice, or living out your faith.
- b. It's best to dedicate five to ten minutes of the service specifically to sponsorship. In that time, focus on helping people understand that these are not just pictures on a piece of paper, but that these are real children with very real physical and spiritual needs.
- c. If you've been on a trip to Rwanda with us before, be ready to share your own personal stories. Or you may consider doing a short interview with someone who has been on the ground with us.
- d. **Resources:** We have some powerful videos available to you in the "Host the Event" section of the website. Please watch these and determine which video you think will be most effective for your congregation.

3. Line up and train volunteers.

- a. As a general guideline, you will need one table for every 40-50 profiles, and 2 or 3 volunteers for each table. For larger or multisite churches, you'll need more tables and, therefore, more volunteers. Resourcing these volunteers ahead of time is crucial.
- b. **Resources:** Please find and print the two documents on the website titled "Registration Process" and "Sponsorship FAQs." Read through them carefully, let us know if you have any questions, and get them in the hands of your volunteers ahead of time.
- c. In addition, you may consider purchasing some Africa New Life gear from our [online store](#) for volunteers to wear.

STEP 2: HOST THE EVENT!

1. Set up your table.

- a. The first thing you need to do on the day of your Dream Sunday is get to the church early and set up your table. By this point, you will have received a box from our office, which will include student profiles, sponsorship brochures, a pre-paid return envelope, and some other resources for your specific event.
- b. A few tips about setting up your table:
 - i. Make it look clean and professional. Use a nice table cloth, put up a few African decorations if you have some around, and keep everything well-organized.
 - ii. Get supplies. You don't really need much more than we're sending you, but you will need several pens for people to use to fill out forms, paper clips for keeping things orderly, and printed copies of the "Registration Process" and "FAQs." You may also consider having a laptop on the table for showing one of our videos on a loop and for signing people up to sponsor online in the event that you run out of paper profiles.
 - iii. Give people space. Some churches like to use some kind of display stand to the sides of the table to make the profiles more visible and to clear up some space on the table for people to fill out their information. You may even want to set up some small, empty tables nearby for this purpose.
- c. Resources: We've included a few photos on the website from previous Dream Sundays at other churches that might help give you a better idea of the table set up, but certainly feel free to make this your own thing and be creative. We love to see what unique ideas churches come up with for this, so please take pictures and share them with us!

2. Get volunteers in place.

- a. Once the table is set up, you'll need to get volunteers in place well ahead of time and hold a quick meeting.
- b. Remind your team of some of the basics about sponsorship, build excitement, remind them of why you're doing this, and take the time to pray for God to move.
- c. This would be a good time also to ensure that someone will be covering the table at all times and to remind your folks to keep an eye on the profiles and make sure people don't wander off with them.

3. Challenge the congregation.

- a. During the actual service is where you really want to challenge the congregation and encourage them to step up. Let them know that your goal is that no child profile would be left on the table by the end of the day!
- b. You might even consider setting the example by sponsoring the first child yourself.
- c. Resources: Again, please utilize the videos located on the website to bring the cause to life and stir people to action.

STEP 3: FOLLOW UP

1. Double-check your numbers.

Once your Dream Sunday is over, the first thing you'll need to do is double-check your numbers to make sure all profiles are accounted for.

2. Mail in your profiles.

We ask that you collect all the profiles, both those that were not sponsored and the contact portion of sponsored profiles, and get them in the mail to us within 24 hours of your event, using the provided prepaid return envelope.

3. Promote additional sponsorship.

- a. It's likely that there were people at your Dream Sunday who needed a little more time to decide about sponsorship or who were not able to attend, so with each Dream Sunday, we set up a unique web page where people from your church can still sponsor a child for up to two weeks following your event.
- b. **Resources:** We have created PowerPoint slides, social media graphics and bulletin wording to help you point your people to this site.

4. Share your results with the congregation!

Celebrate the impact they are having and remind them of the big picture, both from the stage and on social media, using the hashtags #dreamsunday and #leteverychilddream.

5. Remind people to write their sponsored children.

- a. Sponsorship is far more impactful for both the student and the sponsor when the sponsor actively writes to their student. You can visit www.africanewlife.org/writeyourchild for more details on what this looks like.
- b. **Resources:** We have created PowerPoint slides, social media graphics and bulletin wording to help you remind sponsors to write to their sponsored students.
- c. Please keep in mind that this is something that you'll want to hold off on until two or three months after the event, as we ask sponsors to wait until they've received their first letter from the child before writing.

Following your Dream Sunday, somebody from our team will reach out within a day or two to see how your event went, to celebrate what happened, and to see if you have any feedback on the process.