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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Philippine International Aid's (PIA) "Off the Streets-Off to School" Scholarship Program and Sponsorship Form

What is the "Off the Streets-Off to School" Scholarship Program?

In 1986, PIA established a rehabilitation center for child prostitutes, aged 7 to 14, at the Caritas Manila compound. As a preventive measure, PIA started a scholarship fund with the help of the nuns at Caritas Manila to send street children to school, to take them away from the streets where they were being recruited by pimps, and to place them in schools where they belong. Since then, thousands of children have gone through the program. Many of them have graduated college and gotten jobs, and are now able to help support their families.

How much is it to send a child to school in the "Off the Streets-Off to School" Scholarship Program?

It only costs \$150 per year per child or 40 cents a day. The money takes care of tuition fees, books, supplies, field trip costs, uniforms, shoes, allowances for meals and transportation.

Every year, at the end of the school year, PIA will ask if you would like to renew your sponsorship for the same child. If you do not renew, the child will be given to another sponsor.

How are the children chosen?

This scholarship program is open to poor children who want to go to school. It is not based on academic performance. We work with the different parishes in identifying the children who need the most help. Our social workers verify their families' income levels by home visits. Parents are required to sign a contract stipulating that while the children are in school, they will attend school regularly and will not be on the streets selling wares. Once a month, the child and the parents

are requested to go to the parish for value formation sessions. Only one child per family is accepted.

What can I expect as a sponsor?

Aside from the satisfaction of helping a poor child go to school you will receive letters from the child during the year, reports from the social workers assigned to the child and copies of the child's report cards. You may also write the child you sponsored and send gifts through PIA.

The Philippine school year starts in June and ends in March. If you sponsor a child today, your sponsorship will start in the next school year, June 2010. You will receive a folder containing the photo of the child you are sponsoring and a short bio on the child and his/her family on or before June 2010. Your first letter will arrive in July or August 2010.

Can I keep the same child every year?

Yes, you can if you renew your sponsorship on time and if the child continues with the program. Due to the nature of poverty, the families move often in search of jobs. Oftentimes, the families go back to the provinces to be able to better support their families. In this case, the child is dropped as the program does not extend to the provinces. Other instances when a child is dropped may include when the parents do not comply with the requirements of the program, i.e., spends the money on things other than the education of the child, forces the child to work in the streets, does not attend value formations sessions conducted by the parishes, and when the family's income improves. If any of these should happen to the child you have sponsored, you will get another child.

() YES, I would like to sponsor ____ child(ren) in the "Off the Streets-Off to School" Scholarship Program for the school year 2010-2011. (\$150/child/year)

Name _____ Email Address _____

I want to pay by check _____ (amount enclosed) OR by credit card:

Card Number (Mastercard or Visa only) _____

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

Billing Address _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. SALAMAT PO. Your returned check is your receipt.
PIA's Tax I.D. No. 94-3008383.