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*Connecting people through the power of their hearts to end the social conditions that create material and spiritual poverty.*

**Thank you so much for your generosity and care in choosing to sponsor a Sunflower Child.**

**Here is a breakdown of roughly where your \$50 each month is spent:**



**Your monthly donations go to improve the lives of children, their families and their communities.**

**100% of your donations support programs directly in Nicaragua, as our foundation is run by a team of volunteers who work from their homes.**

**Care is the superhighway of the human spirit, and your actions will blossom beyond what you can imagine for you, and your child. The fifty dollars you provide each month will go**

towards giving your child food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and schooling. But it is not just your money that makes the difference. Your care is planting seeds that will blossom many years from now.

This was the discovery of the young woman who began this program in 1989 when she met a 12-year-old abandoned boy on the streets of Nicaragua. After sending him a monthly stipend and loving letters for six years, she was sad to lose touch with the boy and never thought she would know what became of him. Yet her small gestures of kindness would prove to have profound impact on his life. 13 years after their first meeting, at the age 24, the boy sought her out via the internet to tell her of the impact her care had. He expressed that just knowing someone out there in the world had cared about him kept him from going into prostitution, drugs, and crime, and inspired him to a life of service. The young man, once a street child selling peanuts to pay his way, had become a psychologist and the head of an orphanage. Their inspiring reunion led to the birth of the Sunflower SunPower Kids.

The unique opportunity to make a relationship with your child offers a world of wonderful surprise for both of you. We hope you will engage in correspondence with your child. Here is how that can happen.

The best way to correspond with your child is through email. It is instantaneous, free, and will not be stolen in the mail or confiscated by customs and immigration! You can email letters in English or Spanish (we'll have your English emails translated before printing and delivering to your child) as well as photographs and scanned pictures and drawings. Also, note that there is a size limit to the photos you can upload, to prevent your letter from being rejected by slow Nicaraguan Internet servers. There are websites where you can resize photos if your file is bigger than 5M.

Each time you want to send an email please put your child's name in the subject line and copy your email to the two following addresses: [castillofuerte@rocketmail.com](mailto:castillofuerte@rocketmail.com) (Carold Garcia, our regional director) and [support@heartambassadors.com](mailto:support@heartambassadors.com)

You can use Google Translator and other free online translation services to translate your letters into Spanish, which saves our team time and money we can then direct toward serving the children!

Carold prints your letters and photos and delivers them by hand to your sponsored child.

For special occasions you can send extra money to your child. Carold will take them on a shopping spree and to a restaurant! For many their first experience ever of ordering anything they want off of a menu! You will receive photos of your child's excursion.

If you find yourself wanting to give more, we recommend making a donation to the Fyera Foundation Center that provides other community services in the region where your child lives, or adopting another child in need. Also, please do not send candy or sweets, as we will remove them from packages: lacking basic nourishment, sugar can be very detrimental to the health of your sponsor child.

It is my deepest heart's desire that these avenues provide a portal of fulfilling and empowering heart connections for you and for your sponsor children. Thank you again for helping your child to blossom in all the dimensions of their life, as well as helping us to tend the global garden! Your gift will have profound impact. Your presence in this child's life will give them a much-needed sense of value and esteem, a sense of belonging, and hope. Thank you for this powerful act of good and investment in the future of the human family.

**To learn more about where your sponsorship monies go, and our policies for maintaining children in the program, you can read through the appendix to this letter where you will find our philosophy and three-fold strategy. Attached is also a document of “Sponsorship Policies” prepared for you by our regional team in Nicaragua.**

**Words will not express the depth of our appreciation for your sponsorship- but we know your child’s smile and bright future, unfolding brightly only thanks to you, will!**

**With hearts full of gratitude to you,**

**Sheva Carr and the Sunflower SunPower Kids**



## **APPENDIX:**

### **The Fyera Foundation Philosophy and Strategy**

#### **Our Philosophy:**

**Care Counts!**

**Service is a gateway to experiencing true power.**

**Gratitude is a foundation for positive transformation.**

**When we extend ourselves to someone in need, we find a power within to make a true difference and discover what we have to be grateful for.**

#### **Our Three-Fold Strategy**

**At Sunflower SunPower Kids, our vision is not just to rescue children from their impoverished lives on the streets, but to end the cycles of poverty and the social conditions that put them there in the first place.**

We have a threefold strategy to accomplish this aim:

**1) We don't just support individual children to rise above the conditions they are born into- we work to change those conditions for the entire community.**

A percentage of all donations, and all sponsorship monies for individual children, go to better the communities where the children live:

- building outhouses and giving access to clean water
- repairing roofs
- adult literacy and sustainable vocations programs (such as knitting, tailoring, and computer science)
- community wide education and health care
- stress and anger management seminars based on the HeartMath system of stress management
- soup kitchens
- parenting classes and special programs for pregnant teens
- community clubs and psychological counseling as an alternative to self medicating with drugs, glue and alcohol
- HIV awareness and prevention

We have found that sponsor children benefit more when their whole community is uplifted. This provides an adult population made up of better examples for the children, and hope for a new future. It also prevents sponsored children from being alienated by those who envy their sponsorship. It reduces child abuse, crime, illness due to lack of hygiene, and other social symptoms of a depressed economy and poor overall living conditions. All while benefiting many more people in the process. Imagine trying to

cultivate one seed out of hundreds in toxic soil. It is much more effective to improve the soil as a whole so that all the seeds can thrive.

**2) We have a zero tolerance policy for child and teen prostitution, and aggressively work to eradicate this industry in our communities as a primary cause of child homelessness.**

Street children do not just appear out of nowhere. Many are conceived in the teen sex trade, only to then become sex workers themselves. When a nation's economy is decimated by things like natural disaster and war (such as Nicaragua in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century), many young women have nowhere to turn for their survival and are forced into selling their bodies to meet their most basic of needs. Lacking reproductive education or any means of contraception, these young women become pregnant through their line of work. Barely able to sustain themselves on their meager wages, they end up leaving their children on the streets to fend for themselves, not because they want to, but because they have nowhere for them to live and no means to care for them. These children then follow in their mother's footsteps, prostituting themselves to survive, and the cycles of shame, abandonment, poverty and despair repeat themselves. At Sunflower SunPower Kids we take a stand that this generation can be the last to see this devastating cycle take place: the buck can stop here. Working with 80 pregnant teens each year through our alliance hospital, we rehabilitate teen prostitutes and help them to both keep their children and create futures independent of the sex trade through:

- Psychological counseling
- HIV and STD testing and treatment
- Drug rehab
- Parenting Classes
- Giving out baby starter baskets (with diapers, bottles, blankets, baby clothes)
- Sustainable vocations programs in knitting and computer science to give them an alternative source of income to the sex trade

Weeds are best pulled out at the root. Much of child homelessness and child labor in Nicaragua has its roots in the teen sex trade, and we work diligently in our communities to create new lifestyle maps leading to futures free of prostitution for those teens.

**3) We work to educate fortunate children and families in all nations, giving them avenues of appreciation for what they have, and empowering them to make a difference for those less materially fortunate than they are (but in perhaps some case more spiritually fortunate). In this, a true exchange of value – tangible and intangible fortune- occurs.**

Gratitude is a foundation for positive transformation. Service is a gateway to experiencing true power. When we extend ourselves to someone in need, we suddenly discover what we have to be grateful for, and find a power within to make a true difference. Like homeless children, homelessness and poverty are not born out of a

vacuum. They are the result of collective ignorance, collective greed, collective imbalance, collective resignation and feeling powerlessness to make a difference. At Sunflower SunPower Kids we offer people in Nicaraguan communities as well as in North America practical avenues of caring, sharing, and empowerment to make the world a better place. In the process of changing the world for the better, you get to discover that the world, as it is, offers up a lot to be thankful for.

Imagine the empowerment for homeless children in a dangerous ghetto in Nicaragua when we help them create a car wash so that they, who have so little, can experience the joy of raising money for women with cancer in a rural Nicaraguan Hospital who have even less than they do! And then imagine gathering recyclables with a group of youngsters in posh Beverley Hills, for whom school is a burden and going to the doctor is something that they take for granted; when they see that a few bags of plastic bottles can save a child's life with parasite medication, or change the outcome of a teen's future by sending them to vocational school that gets them off the streets of Nicaragua- their attitude towards their own lives, what they have, and what they will do with it in the future, changes dramatically. The real benefit of Sunflower SunPower Kids is children's empowerment, self esteem, and heart based living. You can have all the material wealth in the world, and be bankrupt in the heart. Our goal is not just to feed hungry bellies but to satisfy for people of all socio-economic backgrounds their longing for the power to make a difference, live with a sense of purpose, love their lives, and live from the heart. In this, our projects and media communications aim to increase the human as well as material wealth and value of all those that we work with. In this, we work to end spiritual as well as material poverty.

We offer individuals, families and classrooms the opportunity to be the light of love that developing human beings may grow from and aspire towards. Empowering people to empower each other, we offer tools and resources for children and families at home and abroad, wealthy and impoverished, to become the answer and to make a difference in their own lives and in the world. Through heart intelligence and power, we are contributing to the emergence of a world culture based on cooperative creativity and care, rather than defense and recovery. We foresee that this will yield a future for the entire global family of peaceful cohabitation, innovation, and discovery.