



Hand -in –Hand Child Sponsorship Plan

Helping Sierra Leoneans Build a Family for
Orphaned Children through House of Hope



The Need

There are 350,000 child orphans in the small West African nation of Sierra Leone—17% of the population. One of them, Emilia, was left in a box at the door of House of Hope. Another, a baby, was found crying under a table in the market at night. Four-year-old Samuel was found at the main gate of the city center in Freetown sitting near the post office. Police discovered that his father was killed by rebel forces in the civil war, and his mother was abducted by the rebels, taken into the bush, and forced into marriage. Since then Samuel has been a registered orphan with **House of Hope** (www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm), a ministry headed by Abdul and Faith Conteh, pastors of Faith Walk World Outreach Center Sierra Leone.

- Samuel now has a sponsor in Moline, Illinois, but several other **House of Hope** children need your help. If you accept this opportunity, you will be working hand-in-hand with Sierra Leonean sponsors who are doing their best to take care of these children with very limited resources.

The Plan

The **Hand-in-Hand Plan** is unique because it links an American sponsor with a Sierra Leonean sponsor for each child. As the American sponsor, you will become a very important person to a child who, without House of Hope, would have urgent needs and probably be hungry. You will be able to communicate with the child you sponsor, and if you choose to, you may also communicate with the Sierra Leonean sponsor.

Your sponsorship will help provide food, shelter, medical care, educational expenses, personal needs, and vocational training that will open opportunities for a bright future. Working hand-in-hand with you, our Sierra Leonean partners will provide not only financial support, but also loving care, Christian training, and the community connections that the children need to become successful, responsible citizens who can serve the Lord and help others.

Unlike large programs such as World Vision, Compassion, and Save the Children, which do excellent work, the Hand-in-Hand Sponsorship Plan is a small, focused ministry built on the working relationship between two churches: **Faith Walk World Outreach Center** in Silvis, Illinois and Faith Walk World Outreach Center Sierra Leone in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which operates **House of Hope**. The project is headed by Suzanne and Emily Pitz, a mother-grandmother team who caught the vision for House of Hope and began working to get help for the children. Suzanne visited Sierra Leone in April, 2008 and again in October, 2009 to see the project firsthand and meet the children and the people who are caring for them.

- You can sponsor a child for a tax-deductible contribution of **\$30 per month**. Sierra Leonean sponsors are contributing **\$7 per month**, which is remarkable since nearly 75 % of the population lives on less than \$2 a day. There are several different ways to handle your contribution. You may choose monthly, quarterly, or annual payment options. If you want your contribution to be tax-deductible, please make checks payable to **Faith Walk World Outreach Center—House of Hope**. Otherwise, you can make your checks payable to Suzanne Pitz—House of Hope. You will receive a payment coupon booklet with all payment details for the plan you choose. For the future, we are trying to arrange online giving.

Faith Walk World Outreach Center will receive all sponsorship payments and send them monthly to Pastor Abdul Conteh, who will administer the project. **100%** of your payment will be used to meet the needs of the children. No administrative expenses are covered by sponsor contributions. All expenditures will be carefully tracked and monitored on a monthly basis. ■

The Answers

- **Is House of Hope an orphanage?** Abdul and Faith Conteh have envisioned House of Hope as a family for suffering children, who are currently at-risk because of inadequate care. Before the children moved to the home, a thirteen year old girl was sexually abused and impregnated, and a 10-year-old

boy died from a snake bite when he did not receive immediate medical care. Most of them were malnourished and overworked. Since they have moved to House of Hope, their basic needs are met, they receive preventative healthcare, and their school performance has dramatically improved. Faith Conteh will oversee all of the activities of the home and monitor the well-being of the children. Mary, the Principal of the local school, will also be very involved with the children. Members of Faith Walk World Outreach Center will be actively involved in the lives of the children.

- **Will I be able to choose a child to sponsor?** No. Since the children all know each other, we cannot give some children the impression that they are less appealing than their peers. The children who are most at-risk will be assigned to sponsors first. ■
- **What information will I receive about the child I sponsor?** You will receive a photo of the child and the limited personal information that is available. Unfortunately, we do not even know the birthdates of the children. As you communicate with the child through letters, you will learn more about his or her experiences, interests, and dreams for the future. We will work with House of Hope staff to keep you as up to date as possible about the child you sponsor, and we will send you a regular news update about the project, preferably by email.
- **Will my contribution go directly to the child I sponsor?** No. All of the contributions received will be used for the care of all the children.
- **What about gifts?** You will be able to send gifts directly to the child you sponsor within guidelines set to ensure that gifts are appropriate and that all children are treated equitably. ■
- **How can I help if I cannot afford \$30 per month?** We appreciate contributions of any amount. How about asking other people to share a sponsorship with you?
- **Will it be possible for me to visit the child I sponsor?** If you feel called to a short-term mission with House of Hope, we will help you explore this possibility in cooperation with Pastor Abdul.
- **Will House of Hope children be available for adoption?** Adoption is part of the long-range plan for House of Hope. At this time, out-of-country adoptions are not included.

The Commitment

If you decide to sponsor one of these precious children, you are making a spiritual and emotional commitment in addition to your financial commitment. You will become part of a group of people here and in Sierra Leone who are working hand-in-hand to transform tragic stories into stories of hope for the future through the House of Hope family. We are not asking you to make a commitment for a specific period of time, though of course we hope you will want to continue. We simply ask you to tell us one month in advance if you are unable to continue your sponsorship. We believe God will reward you richly.

■ If you have questions or just want to talk about the Hand-in-Hand Child Sponsorship Plan, call or email Suzanne. If you are ready to get started, we will get your sponsorship packet in the mail as soon as we hear from you. Please complete the **Sponsor Agreement** (available for download at www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm) and send it with your first \$30 check (payable to Faith Walk World Outreach Center—House of Hope) to:

Suzanne Pitz (309) 736-0840
1116 10th Street Suzanne@professorhouse.net
Moline, IL 61265

The Story

Please listen to our House of Hope and Moms for Hope story on our website: www.fwwoc.org/hope.htm. While you are there, download our House of Hope flier and news updates. A story is meant to be told. Please share our story with people you think will care. ■

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." - James 1:27