



Sponsor A Dreamer

Mission: The mission of the Sponsor A Dreamer program is to help young adults in rural Haiti achieve their educational dreams.

Vision: The vision is to provide young adults with ways to overcome the obstacles that prevent them from reaching their personal goals.

Program: Living Media will select qualified young adults that meet specific criteria focusing on community service and the potential to positively contribute to change in their society's future to participate in the program. Selected individuals will be connected with a sponsor who will pay for further education or training to prepare the young adult for their chosen vocation. This sponsor will also serve as a mentor to the participant to guide and encourage them through the process.

Selection Process: By working with the leaders of local high schools, Living Media will identify potential applicants for the program. Interested individuals will apply and be interviewed before the committee decides who will participate. The number of individuals accepted into the program each year will be based on the projected number of potential sponsors and available resources. Individuals accepted into the program must meet the following criteria:

- A dedication to serving their community and contributing to its development
- The proven potential to be a strong leader
- A commitment to education and a desire to learn
- A demonstrated creativity to pursue innovative, new ideas
- A passion for their dream that has resulted in them already taking steps towards achieving that dream
- An ability to integrate their spiritual beliefs into their physical pursuit of a more beautiful future for themselves and their communities

Expectations for Dreamers:

1. Must be able to provide a clear and decisive plan towards achieving their dream
2. Must maintain excellent grades or receive exemplary progress reports while in the program.
3. Must communicate at least once a month by telephone or email with their sponsor.
4. Must execute a personal project through Living Media in their terminal year of the program utilizing what they have learned to benefit the community
5. Must volunteer to provide training for high school students in areas such as university preparation, career planning, goal setting, etc.

6. For the first year after completing the program, and having found work in their field, participant will donate X% of their wages into the Living Media Dream Big Scholarship Fund.

Expectations for Sponsors:

1. Must commit to paying a minimum of \$1650 US per year for approximately 4 years to provide for the dreamer's education and training.
2. Must communicate with their Haitian young adult at least once a month by telephone or email.
3. Must make an effort to visit their dreamer in Haiti at least one time during the program.
4. Through their regular communication must provide mentoring to encourage the dreamer on their journey.
5. Help promote the program with other potential sponsors to permit more Haitian young adults to participate each year.

Program Components

- Dreamer Education

Individuals accepted into the program will each have a different educational path depending on what their dream may be. Some may go to university for four years; others may attend a professional school or even become an apprentice to an expert while taking supplementary classes from the Living Media Learning Institute. At the time of application they will be expected to provide a clear plan for achieving this dream and proof that they have already taken steps towards carrying out that plan. Then they will work with Living Media staff and their appointed mentor to discuss the plan and decide if it is the most effective way at achieving their dream. Together they will consider any possibilities for strengthening the plan.

Once a strong plan is decided upon, the dreamer will be expected to commit him or herself to that plan fully and provide ongoing reports of their progress. In a university or school situation, we will expect the student to maintain exemplary grades through their studies. In other situations we will require regular reports from whoever is providing the training to the dreamer to monitor their progress and will expect these reports to be consistently positive. Each participant will be held to a standard of excellence that will make both the sponsor and organization proud and will generate interest for more people to get involved in the program. In this way it will also enable success in finding work in their field after the program. If any participant fails to satisfy this standard, they will not be removed from the program, however, they will have to pay an amount equivalent to the cost of the class that they failed or amount of time that they performed poorly. In this case the money would be deposited into the Dream Big Scholarship Fund.

- Dreamer-Sponsor Relationship

The relationship that will be created between the sponsor and the dreamer in this program will not be like your usual sponsorship program. We are not asking the sponsor to simply send money and the Haitian participant to simply take that money and go to school, but we are expecting for the two to create a relationship that is much more special than that. This relationship will be a very important component in the young adult being able to achieve their dream. We hope that the sponsor becomes a mentor to the young adult helping them find encouragement along their path. This could mean helping with school work when the student is having trouble, helping the participant learn English, praying with the young adult and providing spiritual encouragement, or even giving advice in their personal life. The young adult will actually consider his sponsor more like a godparent, which is a very important relationship in Haitian culture. We hope too that the sponsor can consider their dreamer like a member of their own family.

This is why we require both the sponsor and the dreamer to contact the other at least once a month via email or telephone. For participants that speak English, a phone call will be the preferred method, but for those participants that do not speak English, email will be used more frequently so that Living Media staff can translate the messages for both sides. Sponsors will also be expected to visit their sponsored dreamer in Haiti at least once during the four year program period to meet them face to face and learn more about their life and their dreams in their country.

- Personal Project

At the end of the four year program each participant will design and execute a personal project to benefit their community that will utilize what they have learned throughout the program. The participant will be responsible for designing the project, writing up a project proposal, raising funds and other necessary resources, mobilizing community volunteers and organizing workers to help with the project, carrying out the project with a sustainable vision for how to continue it in the future, and providing reports to the organization afterwards. It will be expected that this project will be carried out with guidance and help from the participant's sponsor, however, it should not be the sponsor who is the primary funder of the project. The participant must search out other sources of aid to facilitate their project, although the sponsor may help in that search and provide their ideas.

An example of what this project could entail would be if the young Haitian had the dream to be an agronomist and went to university for four years to study agronomy, then perhaps they would design a project to implant a community nursery of fruit trees or a project to provide an irrigation system to farmers in their area that struggle to find enough water for their fields. If the participant had a dream to become an artist perhaps they would design a project to paint large, colorful murals in local elementary schools or a project to organize an annual art exhibition for local artists to display their work to the community and visitors. And so on.

- Sharing the Dream

One of the greatest obstacles preventing young Haitians from being able to pursue their dreams is that they receive no training in high school as to what to expect once they graduate. They receive no orientation to prepare them for what comes next. So as to respond to this problem, part of the Sponsor A Dream program is that participants will work with local high school to provide students with the training that they need to know how to follow through with their dreams once they complete their high school education and are ready to move forward. They will train current students in things such as preparation for university, choosing the right university and classes for your dreams, career planning, job searching and applications, goal-setting, etc. In this way they can share what they have obtained through the program so that the young dreamers coming behind them can feel empowered to pursue their purpose in life as well.

- The Dream Big Scholarship Fund

The Dream Big Scholarship Fund will be a fund out of which Living Media will provide scholarships every year to other unsponsored, qualified, young adults in Haiti outside of the program who wish to continue their education to pursue their dreams. These individuals will not be partnered with a sponsor and mentor the same way as the program participants, but will be given a one-time scholarship to aid in their education. As the sponsored individuals complete their program of study and enter the work field, they will be expected to donate a percentage of their earnings for a short time into this fund as a way to pass on the gift to other dreamers. As we help them to achieve their dream now they will help someone else.

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