



MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING



APRIL 1, 2017

We are grateful you've made the decision to travel to God Cares Schools in Uganda! Mission trips are a huge opportunity to step out in faith and grow. Since Uganda is about 8,000 miles away from the U.S., traveling there isn't cheap. Committing to this trip also means committing to the work, energy, time and effort that is required to raise the funds needed to pay for the trip.

SUPPORT LETTERS

A support letter is a letter asking for people to support your mission trip by giving financially, praying for you and encouraging you along the way. We have found that writing and sending out support letters to family and friends allows them to, in a sense, take the trip to Uganda with you. If this is something you haven't done before, we want to give you step-by-step instructions on how to do this well. This is not the only way to raise funds for your trip but it is highly effective.

10-STEP SUPPORT LETTER CHECKLIST

1. Pray – Spend time in prayer, asking the Lord to provide for you financially and confessing any doubts, insecurities or fears you have. If God has called you to take this mission trip then surely he will provide.
2. Write – (For those of you who have no context for letter writing, please see the two sample letters below) You can write about Buyamba's mission and vision and how you are going to be serving needy children and working on projects that will help sustain the future of Buyamba. Please remember that support letters are primarily a way to share your vision and passion for the mission trip and to invite others to participate. Focus more on why you are going and not so much on what you will be doing. People give to people, not to projects.
3. Proofread – Have someone review your letter to check for grammatical errors and to be sure your "ask" is clear.
4. Print and Sign – After printing the letters, adding a personal signature and note at the bottom can go a long way. You're welcome to send the letter via email but we find that a physical letter works best.
5. Identify Names – Below you will find help to figure out who you should send a letter to. It should not be hard to come up with 50 – 75 names.
6. Gather Information – Make a running list of addresses you have. For those you don't have, drop people a text message or email letting them know you would like to have their address.
7. Mail – Take a moment to pray before you drop the letters in the mail.
8. Monitor Progress – You can always contact the Buyamba office to see how much has been raised towards your trip.
9. Follow Up – Don't take it personal if people don't respond to your letter, they are probably just busy. Following up with them in a kind and gently way is not inappropriate.

10. Say Thank You – Every person who gives to your trip should get a hand written thank you note. Also consider sending a follow up letter after the trip is done with stories, pictures, and more gratitude.

WHO SHOULD I WRITE LETTERS TO?

When you start thinking of people to be on this list do not automatically exclude them from the list because you think they don't have the money, they don't know you very well, or they aren't Christians. After writing everyone down, pray about who should and who should not be on the list.

Go through each of the below categories and write people down that you know or who know you. Then look at each one and put a check mark next to the name if you decide you will send them a letter.

Categories of people to write down names for:

- Immediate family
- Extended family
- Family friends
- Neighbors
- Parents of close friends
- High school ministry friends (especially your small group)
- Coaches
- Teachers (current & previous)
- Small group leaders
- People you work with (If you have a job)
- Doctors
- Business Owners

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Your success in support letters is not based on how wealthy your friends and family happen to be or how lucky you get. The important thing is how they all donations add up. The key to success is not the size of the donation but the volume.

MORE DETAILS

Link to accept donations:

<http://www.ugandabuyamba.com/donation.html>

Donors can also send a check to the Buyamba office with a note that the funds are for your trip.

Buyamba Uganda
3625 E. Thousand Oaks
Blvd. Suite 265
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-558-0089
Tax ID # 56-2628066

Any support letter must include the following wording regarding financial support:

*"Checks should be made payable to Buyamba, returned with the attached Sponsor Card, in the attached self addressed stamped envelope. **Please do not designate the donation to a specific person on the check, instead, please designate the donation on a separate piece of paper.** Financial gifts toward my trip are tax-deductible. Please understand that it is Buyamba's policy that all contributions are non-refundable. Should I not be able to go for some reason, or the trip is canceled, all donations received for the trip will be used to pay the expenses of other people participating in the trip, reallocated to other short-term trips or reallocated to the general fund at Buyamba's discretion."*

Sample Letter #1

Dear (First name),

Through Buyamba Uganda, we will be joining a team on a two week mission trip to Uganda. Buyamba's vision is to **empower** the orphaned and needy children of Uganda to **impact** their nation for Christ. Buyamba supports God Cares Schools where they provide food, clothes, education, love and discipleship to needy children of Uganda. They do all this in a Christ-centered environment, serving the children's physical and spiritual needs.

As a friend, we invite you to be part of our trip by supporting us through your thoughts and prayers. We are praying for a smooth trip, safety for the team and good health during our travels. We pray that our efforts will continue to build upon what Buyamba has already started and have a lasting impact on the children of Uganda. And we'll find comfort during our trip knowing that you are all supporting us from home!

If you feel moved to support our cause financially, thank you! Checks can be made out to Buyamba Uganda, (a 501(c)3 non-profit. Or you can visit UgandaBuyamba.com and click on the donate button. Be sure to designate your donation to our trip. It's very easy.

Please let us know if you have any questions! We will be very blessed if you choose to be part of this amazing opportunity! And we know you will be, too.

Thank you and God bless!

Sample Letter #2

Dear Friends and Family,

(Begin with a personal paragraph. Could contain activities you have been recently involved in and/or a brief update on your life)

I want to tell you about an exciting opportunity I have this summer. A group from (insert who you are going with) will be going to Uganda from (insert your outreach dates).

Will you prayerfully consider partnering with me on this mission trip. This is a great opportunity to share the Gospel and display the love of God to those in need. I am looking for people who will commit to pray for me as I prepare for the trip, while I am there, and when I return home. Will you pray for me?

I am also in need of people to support me financially. This trip will cost about \$3,000 and I would like to ask you to give to make it possible. If you would like to support me, please make your check payable to Buyamba Uganda. Please send it in the enclosed envelope by (Due Date). All contributions are tax deductible. Pray about the part God wants you to play in this trip, and may He bless you for your time and support.

Thank You,

(Signature)