



HOW DO I RAISE SUPPORT FOR MY MISSION TRIP?

First, Pray!

Trusting the Lord for his provision is the first part of preparing for a mission trip. It is his money and his mission, so begin in prayer and know he will provide if he desires you to go. As we say in Romania, "Nu te stresa!" (Don't stress out!)

Write a Prayer/Support Letter

This letter should include:

- A brief update about yourself
- A brief outline of the mission project (i.e. what the needs are in the country and why you are going)
- A brief outline of what you will be doing
- Share that you need both prayer and financial support. This is VERY important. Tell them the amount you need to raise, the dates of your trip, and you are looking for a TEAM to participate with you through prayer and financial support
- Provide specific ways they can support you both through prayer and funding

Make your letter concise. Your goal is to provide "the bottom line" and make it simple for people to know how to respond. You may consider creating and mentioning a blog to capture and share updates with people regarding the mission and how they can pray specifically.

Include a "response card." (See sample provided) Make joining your support team easy! Response cards should include how they desire to support you and their contact information. Include a self-addressed envelope for them to return checks and response cards to you. Please indicate that **checks are made payable to "Livada Orphan Care"** but should be mailed directly to you using the little self-addressed envelopes provided. This will allow you to track your support.

A sample letter with our logo is included in this packet. We hope it serves as a helpful resource as you write your own letter. Other helpful information you might include: your picture, a map of Romania, background information on Livada Orphan Care, etc. Personalize it!

Make a Call

We highly encourage you to write in your letter that you will call them the next week to see if they have received your letter. Then you **MUST** call them that next week. When you call, ask them how they are and about their families, etc. Usually they will be excited to hear about your trip and will be happy to support you. If they don't mention it, then you can ask if they received your letter, remind them again about the vision of the project and how the Lord has led you to be involved in fulfilling that vision and meeting that need. (You can even do a practice call with your family first to build confidence.)

After you give them the basic information, ask if they would like to donate online. If so, have them pull up the Livada website at www.livada.org. Be familiar with the sight and guide them to the “Donate Now” page, and they can donate toward your trip immediately.

Giving Online

The easiest way for your supporters to give IMMEDIATELY to provide them with this link: <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/LivadaOrphanCare/OnlineDonation.html> or direct them to livada.org and to click on “Donate Now.” You can share this link on Facebook and your Friends can give directly.

Track Financial Support

As you receive financial support, mail collected checks and monies to Livada. **Make sure your name is noted on the memo line of each check.** For cash donations please provide us with the name and address of the donor and amount given. Livada Orphan Care is a registered 501(c)3 US charity and will receipt each of your donations and send the receipts to your supporters for tax purposes.

Mail funds to: Livada Orphan Care, 2001 W. Plano Parkway, Suite 3430, Plano, TX 75075

If you receive funds above the cost of your trip, you have two options:

- 1) Send it to Livada to use as funding for unexpected team expenses and for various ministry needs that arise as we try to meet the needs of the orphans. OR
- 2) Return the funds to your supporters, telling them you reached your goal and want them to pray for you. If people still desire to give you money personally, they can. However, it will not be considered a tax-deductible donation.

Write a Thank You

Write a brief thank you note **before** you leave on the trip, telling them how excited you are about what the Lord has in store and thanking them for their prayer and/or financial support.

When you Return

One of the most important parts of raising support is the follow up. At the end of your mission experience, you should send your supporters a **follow up letter** to share what the Lord did and how He used their prayers and finances. As a supporter, hearing what the Lord did and how they were a vital part in the ministry overseas means so much.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to call our office at 972.941.4416 or email missiontrips@livada.org. We are here to help you!

For Fruit That Will Last,
The Livada Staff

SAMPLE RESPONSE CARD:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone (wk) _____ (hm) _____

Email Address _____



Please check any that apply:

YES, I will **PRAY** for Sally in Romania

I will pray for Sally **DAILY!**

I will pray for Sally on _____ (day of week) at _____ am/p.m.

YES, I want to be a member of Sally's **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** team. I would like to contribute to Sally's mission trip to Romania by giving:

\$100

\$50

\$25

\$_____ (other)

NO, I cannot be a part of Sally's support team at this time.

Please place this response card in the pre-addressed/stamped envelope.

If you are supporting Sally financially, you may place your gift in the envelope as well. Please make all gifts out to LIVADA ORPHAN CARE and write "Sally Smith" in the memo line.

Thank you for going to Romania with Sally through your prayer and financial support!



March 5, 2012

SAMPLE

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Michael Johns,

I hope that all is well with you and your wonderful family. It was great seeing you this last weekend when I was home.

I want to tell you about an adventure. I have a fabulous opportunity to go to Romania this summer and help lead evangelistic camps for orphan children and teenagers / OR minister to babies and toddlers in the baby hospital. I will be a part of a team helping to share Christ to the orphans as well as to their caregivers. How exciting it will be to see lives transformed for God's glory!

The purpose of the summer is to lead Christian camps through drama, songs, games, testimonies, small groups and two evangelistic "talks" during the sessions each day. It will be a privilege to me to build relationships with the children and youth at the camp, pointing them to Christ. OR The purpose of the summer is to minister to the babies and toddlers along side the caregivers at the baby orphanage each day. We will be assisting them with basic care for the children, but our mission is to pray over the babies, by name, and share God's love in the smallest of ways. We will also have VBS type activities for the older children each day as well.

I would love for you to go on this adventure with me through your support. I leave _____ and will return _____. Every participant is responsible for raising funds and having a *team of prayer supporters* for this ministry experience. The mission trip will cost \$_____. I would be so grateful for your investment in this mission opportunity. There is a response card enclosed with a self-addressed envelope for your reply. Checks are made payable to LIVADA ORPHAN CARE or you can go online to www.livada.org and give directly by clicking on the DONATE NOW page, selecting the Mission Trip Fund and typing my name.

As I prepare for and then participate in this mission trip, I covet prayers. Though I need the finances to be able to participate in this ministry, I cannot minister effectively without your prayer support throughout this summer. It is vital to have people like you join me on my knees in prayer for the Lord's will to be done in the lives of the orphans, my teammates, and my life as well. He has such tremendous things in store!! Please pray that I will be a blessing to those around me and be bold for Christ while I am in Romania.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. I look forward to sharing with you all that the Lord will do in Romania.

In Christ,

Sally

Sally D. Smith

www.livada.org

"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