



LIFESONG FOR ORPHANS IS GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF YOUR ADOPTION JOURNEY BY PROVIDING FUNDRAISING SUPPORT. A FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT AT LIFESONG IS ESPECIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO YOUR DONORS AS IT ALLOWS THEM TO SUPPORT YOUR ADOPTION AND ALSO RECEIVE A TAX-DEDUCTION. THESE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS ON BEHALF OF YOUR ADOPTION CAN BE USED TO PAY YOUR ADOPTION EXPENSES.

A photograph of a smiling man with glasses, a smiling woman, and a young child, all looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

ADOPTION MATCHING GRANT FUNDRAISING KIT

All of these tools are available to help you raise funds for your adoption. You may choose to use one or all, it's up to you.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 1 Setting Up Your mySTORY Crowdfunding Page
- 2 Writing Your Fundraising Letter
- 3 Fundraise with Gobena Coffee
- 4 Additional Fundraising Ideas
- 5 Additional Adoption Resources

SETTING UP YOUR mySTORY CROWDFUNDING PAGE

SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT AT mySTORY.lifesongfororphans.org/get-started

After submitting your campaign, we will review your content and check to make sure your family account number is correct and matches what we have on file. Within 2 business days you will be notified to review your live page and then you can share your page through social media.

PLEASE NOTE

- 1 Remember this is a public website and if you cannot share your child's photo on social media, you shouldn't share it here.
- 2 Lifesong prohibits auctions, raffles, and other fundraisers involving the exchange of goods and/or services through mySTORY as we cannot receipt these as tax-deductible donations.
- 3 Since mySTORY is an online crowdfunding site, donations are processed through STRIPE and their fees do apply. Your mySTORY page will not reflect STRIPE fees, but they will be reflected in your family fund report.
- 4 mySTORY only reflects donations made through your page. To see your complete, actual accounts, please log on to your family fund report.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at mySTORY@lifesong.org

A SIMPLE, EASY TO USE CROWDFUNDING OPTION FOR OUR FAMILIES TO RAISE SUPPORT ONLINE.



REGISTER



TELL
YOUR STORY



SHARE
YOUR PAGE



GET
FUNDED

GUIDE TO SUCCESS

- ▶ Tell your story from the beginning. Don't write a novel, but clearly define your goal. Why are you adopting? How has God confirmed your story? How can others join you in your journey? How will their donation be used?
- ▶ **Don't** just share the dollars you are needing by a certain time. Donors connect with stories.
- ▶ Use compelling photos and videos.
- ▶ **Share your page** on Facebook, Twitter, on a personal blog, email, everywhere. You can do this on your dashboard.
- ▶ Celebrate and update each adoption milestone, unexpected large (& small donations). **Thank your donors.**
- ▶ Finish strong. If you are \$1000 short with 1 day to go, **share your need.**
- ▶ mySTORY is a tool for families to use, **but the LORD provides the increase.** Remember to pray for your story to be funded in HIS timing.



100% FREE!

All funds received go to the fundraiser!



TAX DEDUCTIBLE



FUNDS DIRECTLY

Into your Lifesong account

WRITING YOUR FUNDRAISING LETTER

FOLLOWING ARE SOME GUIDELINES TO ASSIST YOU IN WRITING YOUR SUPPORT LETTER:



“Fundraising was the thing we were the most afraid of in the adoption process. Lifesong took the fear out of that for us and really let us lay it in the Lord’s hands.”

-OWEN & EMILY

- ▶ Briefly give your adoption testimony and how God led you to this point.
- ▶ If possible, include a picture and name of the child you are adopting.
- ▶ Ask for prayer for your family, your child, your adoption process, specifics to your situation.
- ▶ Ask for financial support and specifically state the amount needed.
- ▶ State matching grant amount and who funded the matching grant.
- ▶ Include a “goal date.” **Funds will be accepted until the child is home or adoption is complete.** However, the goal date serves as an encouragement for timely giving.
- ▶ Make the options for giving very clear.
- Checks should be payable to “Lifesong for Orphans.” In the memo, **note family name and family account number** to assure it goes to the correct account. Please mail to Lifesong for Orphans, PO Box 40, Gridley, IL 61744. Lifesong has been blessed with partners who underwrite all U.S. administrative and fund-raising costs (TMG Foundation and other partners). **That means 100% of your donation will go directly to the adoption.**
- To pay online go to www.lifesong.org/donate/family. Select “Give to an Adoptive Family.” Complete the online form and fill in “Family Account Number” and “Family Name” fields. NOTE: Your donation is processed by STRIPE with a 2.2% + \$.30 (3.5% for AMEX) per transaction fee. 100% of the donation received by Lifesong will go directly to your account. *If using the mySTORY platform, please direct online donations to your specific mySTORY webpage.
- ▶ **It is important to include the following two points in your letter.**
- NOTE: In accordance with IRS guidelines, your donation is to the named non-profit organization. This organization retains full discretion over its use, but intends to honor the donor’s suggested use.
- Individual donations of \$50 or more and yearly donations totaling \$250 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Receipts for donations under \$50 will gladly be sent upon request. Lifesong is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.
- ▶ Send as many letters as possible (we suggest 100-200 households of church family, family and friends).
- ▶ Use social media—Facebook, Twitter, blogging, etc.

Remember to write “thank you” letters to those who support you.

Please email or mail Lifesong a copy of your fundraising letter when it’s completed.

Please look at sample fundraising letters in a separate attachment.

FUNDRAISE WITH

**GOBENA
COFFEE**



**86% OF
HOUSEHOLDS
MAKE COFFEE
EVERY DAY,**

making Gobena Coffee
a GREAT way to raise
funds for your cause
or organization!



**GET STARTED AT
MY.GOBENA.ORG**

GREAT COFFEE WITH A GREAT CAUSE... FOR YOUR FUNDRAISER!

Great coffee starts with fresh green coffee beans and a quality roaster to roast the beans to their full potential. By using Gobena Coffee for your fundraiser, you will be introducing your customers to a great product. Your Cause, well that's the exciting part! Whether you are adopting or a ministry looking to fundraise, we give 50% of the sales price for each bag sold to your Cause.

- ▶ 50% Profit on All Items
- ▶ Fresh Roasted
- ▶ No Minimums
- ▶ Fundraise Online or Traditional Methods



The Nelson's raised funds with Gobena Coffee for their adoption because of the partnership with Lifesong.



"[They] align with our values and beliefs...and we know coffee will sell well among our friends!"

-THE NELSON FAMILY

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING IDEAS

EVENTS

- ▶ Both Hands Project – bothhands.org
- ▶ BBQ Chicken Dinner – or similar (pork chops / spaghetti) to raise \$\$ - use as opportunity to share story and raise awareness
- ▶ Bingo Night – charge \$5 per card and get prizes donated
- ▶ Family Fun Days – competitions, \$50 per family to enter, tug of war, hot dog eating, puzzles, etc
- ▶ 3 on 3 Basketball Tournaments, get donated prizes, charge for entry fee, snacks, pictures etc
- ▶ Dinner/Auctions held at church

CHALLENGES


- ▶ Puzzle Fundraisers – sell pieces of a puzzle to complete a picture
- ▶ 52-week Saving Challenge – start saving \$1 in week 1, \$2 in week 2... \$52 in week 52 – you will have saved over \$1300 – challenge others to join you

SALES

- ▶ Sell MudLOVE Bands & Mugs – mudLOVE.com
- ▶ Design & Sell T-shirts or have fundthenations.com design and print your shirts
- ▶ Sell Jewelry – compelledesigns.com & others

OTHER RESOURCES/IDEAS

- ▶ fundYourAdoption.tv - Learn about available adoption grants, loans, and scholarships.
- ▶ Read the Book *Adopt Without Debt* – Julie Gumm
- ▶ Photograph and Print Christmas Cards for Families – proceeds to adoption costs.
- ▶ Skills Auction – church members gift something they are good at (tax preparation, oil change, babysitting, tutoring, car wash, lawn care, etc) to the highest bidder with money going to your adoption.
- ▶ Sponsored Events – 5K run, bowl-a-thon, bike ride
- ▶ Restaurant Fundraiser Nights – Many restaurants support local fundraising. You may wish to research this option in your community.
- ▶ Loose Change Project – have Sunday school classes / youth groups etc bring in their loose change over a term / semester, share stories and collect for the adoptive family
- ▶ No Shave Style Fundraisers
- ▶ Garage sales where friends donate items
- ▶ Zazzle.com - Some families are creating their own Orphan Awareness Gear and selling it to raise adoption funds.
- ▶ Highlight a Holiday: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Orphan Sunday, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday etc as Sundays that people can give donations

 **NOTE** Lifesong for Orphans will not provide a tax-deductible receipt for a “quid pro quo contribution” received for an adoptive family. A quid pro quo contribution is a payment made by a donor partly as a contribution and partly for goods or services provided to the donor because of the contribution.

ADDITIONAL ADOPTION RESOURCES

PREPARATION: IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY

Children need time to heal and adjust after adoption. Parents must be the primary agents of that change and therefore must be trained adequately both before and after the adoption is completed.

As you begin the journey to adoption or foster care, consider preparing your hearts as you wait:

GROUP STUDIES

- ▶ Consider reading and/or leading a **Created to Connect** study along with reading **The Connected Child** book.

BOOKS

- ▶ *The Connected Child* by Purvis, Cross and Sunshine
- ▶ *Parenting Is Your Highest Calling: And Eight Other Myths* by Fields
- ▶ *Anatomy of the Soul* by Thompson
- ▶ *Nurturing Adoptions* by Gray
- ▶ *Attaching in Adoption* by Gray
- ▶ *The Whole-Brain Child* by Siegel and Bryson
- ▶ *The Out-of-Sync Child* by Kranowitz
- ▶ *Wounded Children Healing Homes* by Schooler, Smalley, Callahan
- ▶ *The Body Keeps the Score* by Van Der Kolk

DVDS AND VIDEOS

- ▶ Trust-Based Parenting DVD
- ▶ Empowered to Connect videos
- ▶ 'If You Were Mine' DVD series

CONFERENCES & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Christian Alliance for Orphans Summit
- ▶ Together for Adoption
- ▶ Empowered to Connect Conferences

PRE-ADOPTION

- ▶ Ask your agency for resources available to prepare your family.

WAITING

- ▶ Join or Start an Adoption Support Group at Your Church

POST-ADOPTION

- ▶ Empowered to Connect — Online library covering a wide variety of topics for adoptive and foster parents.
- ▶ **iCareAboutOrphans.org** — Ministry of Focus on the Family offering Free Post Adoption Phone Line, 1-800-A-FAMILY

ADOPTION TAX CREDIT INFO & TRAVEL RESOURCES

- ▶ IRS - **[Adoption Credit and Adoption Assistance Programs](#)**
- ▶ **[Bill's Tax Service](#)**
- ▶ **AdoptionAirfare.com**