

## **Why does Global Education Ministries (GEM) have a sponsorship program for their school in Puerto Escondido?**

Part of GEM's mission is to create schools that are accessible by anyone in the community. GEM's first school, named Centro Educativo el Manantial (CEM), is located in Puerto Escondido, Mexico. Many of the families in Puerto Escondido are unable to afford quality education.

To fully fund the school through parent tuition payments, CEM would have to charge parents around \$120 USD per month, per student. Most families can't afford that, so we have set our tuition at artificially low rates of around \$40 USD per month, per student. This only covers about 1/3 of the total cost to educate each child, but also makes CEM accessible to almost anyone in the community.

GEM's sponsorship program is our way of fully supporting each child so that CEM's tuition rates can stay low and the school can stay open.

## **How much does a full sponsorship of a student cost?**

A full sponsorship costs \$79 USD per month. This donation is matched with the \$40 tuition payment of the parent to cover the full cost of the sponsored child's education. If a sponsor supported their sponsored student for 1 year, the total of their donations would be \$948.

## **Does GEM offer different type of sponsorships?**

Yes. We offer three levels sponsorship: \$19 per month, \$39 per month, and the full \$79 USD per month. The \$19 and \$39 USD per month levels are mixed and matched together to cover the full sponsorship of one child, while those sponsoring at the \$79 USD per month are the sole sponsor for their child.

## **Once I start my sponsorship, do I have to continue for a whole school year?**

No. You can cancel your sponsorship at any time. We ask all sponsors to commit to at least one school year to allow us time to find another sponsor so the student can continue their education at CEM.

## **Will I have an actual child that I'm sponsoring?**

Yes! You will have the opportunity to sponsor a little boy or girl who is in desperate need of your help. After signing up to be a sponsor, you will receive a picture and bio of your sponsored child. You will also get more information on how to correspond with your child.

**Will I have contact with my sponsored child?**

Yes! You will receive letters, photos, and other updates from your child; which will allow you to learn more about them, their families, and follow their progress through school. They may be aided by their teacher if they are too young to write or are in need of translation. Physical updates will be sent out in the mail 2 times each school year, typically in October and March. Sponsors will receive additional updates via email throughout the school year.

**How will my sponsorship donation be used?**

Your donation will be combined with the gifts of other sponsors and donors to support Centro Educativo el Manantial and ensure that the school can keep tuition rates affordable for all families. Without every student having a sponsor, CEM would not be able to keep tuition rates low and quality Christian education available for everyone in Puerto Escondido.

**Are all students at CEM currently sponsored?**

No. As we are now in our fourth school year, we have less than half of our 156 students sponsored. If we do not find sponsors for our remaining students, our school will not be able to function and remain affordable to the local community.

**Is my donation tax deductible?**

Yes. GEM is an incorporated non-profit 501 (c) (3). All donations are tax deductible.