



# Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund

## POLICY - Criteria for Group Trip Sponsorship

### Guidelines for Short Term Teams Requesting Financial Support on Work Project

#### **Background**

CRWRF endeavours to provide Christian charity through relief and development work as a vehicle for our constituency to address the temporal needs of our neighbours who live outside of Canadian borders. Faithworks operates as a sub-committee of CRWRF sending service and learning teams (SALT) to places where they can serve in Christian love, learn about poverty and justice issues, and grow in their understanding of our Christian role in God's culturally diverse kingdom.

Yearly CRWRF's membership approves a budget to assist with the purchase of materials used on Faithworks SALT trips. Occasionally, CRWRF has assisted other short-term trips not organized through Faithworks. These are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and sponsorship should not be assumed simply because group members are from a Canadian Reformed Church. CRWRF has been reflecting on better ways for team members to have a positive impact on developing world communities, without detracting from the long term goals of local Christians taking ownership and leadership for their own development projects. Our guidelines have changed as we have reflected and evaluated the impact of short-term groups over the years.

CRWRF endorses the seven standards for short term trips outlined by many Christian Charities in North America which include:

- 1) God Centred-ness; as seen in trip planning, selection of participants, and activities
- 2) Empowering Partnerships; between national church and Canadian team members
- 3) Mutual Design; project plans involve local people who are responsible for it's maintenance
- 4) Qualified Leadership; have received adequate orientation
- 5) Comprehensive Administration; donations, trip logistics, safety and risk assessment
- 6) Appropriate training; team members have participated in learning activities about ministry & service, cultural sensitivity and appreciation, poverty & riches, and are reflecting on our Christian role in God's culturally diverse kingdom.
- 7) Thorough Follow-up; trip seen as a stepping stone for growth in cross cultural service to communities with economical disadvantages

All requests for group sponsorship must adequately addresses how the short-term trip meets the standards noted above. Further, requests should indicate that:

- Team members are active members in the federation of Canadian Reformed Churches or United Reformed Churches.
- Team project falls within CRWRF's program focus (Children, Community Development, HIV/Aids response, Relief & Rehabilitation)

- The sending organization the team is working through meets CRWRF's standards for Programs and Projects (Christian witness, and standards of accountability and stewardship)
- Team members have skills needed for the task and have proper visas, vaccinations, and certification of credentials (where necessary.)
- The material costs requested from CRWRF do not represent more than 50% of the team's project budget for material costs.

The mission trip leader is to contact CRWRF four months prior to the trip for a Project Assessment Questionnaire. Funding requests will only be considered if they are received by CRWRF two months prior to the scheduled trip departure date. Your funding request must include a completed Project Assessment Questionnaire.

Process:

- Upon receipt of your submission, the CRWRF Administrator will contact your team leader by phone to clarify details about your service assignment, preparation materials, and follow-up plans.
- Information will be sent to the CRWRF Executive Committee as well as a representative from Faithworks.
- Your sponsorship application will be reviewed at the next scheduled monthly meeting of the CRWRF Executive Committee and the decision will be communicated to your team leader.

For further information contact:

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