



Retail Orphan Initiative
Helping Vulnerable Children Worldwide
www.RetailROI.org

Case Study

LifeSong brings joy and purpose to orphans with a little help from RetailROI

Lifesong for Orphans works to break cycles of hopelessness in orphans lives by creating in-country solutions for approximately 2000 orphans to become strong leaders in Ukraine, Zambia, India, and Honduras through: Christian schools, in-country adoption/foster care, transition homes, job-skill training, and mentors.

Many children live in orphanages and have no hope of ever being adopted. Lifesong (LS) provides for these children in the following ways:

Improving Living Conditions: Through financial support and visiting teams, LS provides basic needs: food, clothing, bedding, orphanage facility renovations, and medical supplies for hospitals and clinics.

Mentoring: LS hires nationals who work in the orphanages on a full-time basis. In each orphanage, LS renovates a room supplied with books, games, and videos where children can come to learn in a comfortable and safe environment.

Job Skills Training: To prepare the children for their future role in society, LS provides practical training with farm animals and equipment, sewing machines, baking equipment, and computer labs.

Transitional Living: To transition successfully into adult life, LS engages the local community of faith to provide the support, accountability and fellowship this family provides. LS provides transitional housing and encourages lasting relationships with the children as they grow up and out of group living.

Surveys suggest that close the 33% of couples consider adoption at one point, but less than 1% ever complete an adoption.



Often the primary reason for not going through is the financial cost of an adoption. Lifesong for Orphans provides innovative tools to help remove the financial barriers to adoption. Adoption Matching Grants leverage funds and serve as a catalyst in raising money to cover adoption expenses. Interest-Free Loans maximize stewardship by helping overcome the initial 'cash-flow crunch' that many couples face, and can help new adoptive families as loan repayments are made (creating a self-sustaining fund). Lifesong has helped 1,000 children into adoptive families through Grants and Loans.

The initial grant from the Retail Orphan Initiative is being used as part of a matching grant program to help a US family adopt 4 children (4 siblings – with the oldest being 12 years old) whose parents died of HIV in Africa. The local orphanages are so overwhelmed with the number of children that have been orphaned due to war, disease, and famine and they are unable to take in all four children. The grant from RetailROI will help bring these children home to a new family here in America. Once the adoption is complete, we will update this case study to show the new family. (Legally we cannot show a picture until the adoption is complete...so stay tuned)

To find out how you can help RetailROI, go to:

www.retailroi.org/Donate.aspx

For more about LifeSong for Orphans, go to:

www.lifesongfororphans.org