

## **Becoming a Volunteer Compassion Advocate**

We are thrilled that you are prayerfully considering joining Compassion's Advocates Network. As a Compassion advocate in your community, you can play a vital role in changing the lives of children around the world.

Before you begin the application process, please carefully consider the following:

### **Prerequisites:**

All Compassion Volunteer Advocates are committed Compassion child sponsors.

### **Position Summary:**

This volunteer position is designed for committed Compassion sponsors, like you, who are willing to spend time representing Compassion's ministry to people within their sphere of influence, including representing Compassion at local events and in local churches.

### **Purpose:**

To help Christians understand the Bible's teaching regarding the poor and the needs of children around the world.

To present the ministry of Compassion and child sponsorship as a way of meeting these needs.

To represent Compassion at events.

### **Responsible to:**

You will be assigned to either a state advocate coordinator, or in some areas, an area coordinator or team leader.

The advocate/area coordinator will be your point of contact for all communication and any questions or requests for resources will be channelled through them.

### **Expectations:**

- 1. Be a consistent witness for Christ.** Christ comes first in this ministry. We, therefore, encourage you to conduct yourself in a Christlike manner, pray for all aspects of Compassion's ministry, and study God's Word on a regular basis.
- 2. Participate in a minimum of two self-initiated sponsorship generating activities a year.** Representing Compassion within your sphere of influence for the purpose of acquiring new sponsorships is a must for all advocates. These activities may take on various forms, including presenting Compassion's ministry to local churches, individuals or groups, and placing sponsorship displays and posters. We hope that each advocate will bring a minimum of three new sponsorships each year to Compassion.
- 3. Staff sign-up tables at Compassion events.** As an advocate and trained representative of Compassion, you are encouraged to staff the sign-up tables at Compassion events that are held in your area. Events include concerts, conferences, and festivals.
- 4. Mandatory Training Activities.** In order to best represent Compassion, you will be asked to attend training sessions where you can keep up-to-date with Compassion's ministry. In order for advocates to maintain active status, **all advocates are required to participate in at least one training/workshop activity per year.** (For long distance regional advocates your advocate coordinator will work this out with you.)
- 5. Maintain regular communication with your appointed experienced team leaders.** As a team it is important to stay connected. Your team leader will be in regular contact, but please let them know if you change any of your contact details.
- 6. Consider your strengths, talents and available time.** To be an affective advocate, you need to be able to commit to a certain amount of time and to make child advocacy a priority in your life. Please consider how much time you can realistically commit before making that final commitment.

### **Support and Training Provided:**

**1. The initial training course** to become an official Volunteer Compassion Advocate runs for approximately 3 hours.

**2. Informal Training Opportunities.** You will be able to learn more about Compassion and how to develop successful ministry strategies by reading materials sent to you by the staff and by attending national advocate's conferences and regional workshops. You will also have the opportunity to visit Compassion's work in the field.

**3. Communication with your team leader.** While you have a great deal of autonomy and flexibility in your position, you will need to stay in close communication with your team leader. In order to be a good steward of time and resources, please read emails and regular mail outs sent to you by the Advocates Network and your advocate/area coordinator

**4. Be part of the team.** Participate in team meetings, encourage others within your team, and assist with special projects as provided by your leader, e.g. the Christmas Child Initiative.

**Length of Commitment:**

Your status as an advocate is reviewed annually. Of course if your circumstances change at anytime, please contact your team leader to discuss and review your availability.

**Next step:**

After prayerfully considering all you have just read, if you believe that God is calling you to be a Compassion Volunteer Advocate please fill in the attached application form. The advocate coordinator in your state will try to contact you within seven working days of receiving your application.

Thank you so much for taking the time to enquire about the wonderful ministry of 'releasing children from poverty in Jesus name'.