

F.A.Q. for Family Compassion Experience

What constitutes family?

We are committed to building compassion-minded families, so whoever makes up your family is welcome to join this experience. This could include a husband and wife with their children, a single parent and child, a grandparent and grandchild, etc.

How do I know if my family is ready for this kind of experience?

If you desire to make a difference for Christ and your children are ready for an adventure, then God can work through your family! There are no specific gifts or skills required, but rather a willing and obedient spirit.

How old do my children need to be?

This is something determined by you as you know your children best! The experience is designed to include children as young as 4 in meaningful ways. Children younger than 4 may require care that prohibits participation in the full experience.

What will be my child's role?

Children are full participants in this experience. The daily work project will include tasks that young children can fully participate in alongside adults.

What will we do?

The experience will include a work project, ministry outreach, learning about the country and worship with a local church. Each day families will spend the morning on the work project. The main tasks will include things such as painting and tying rebar. The afternoons will consist of ministry outreach. This will include opportunities of going out into the community to meet families through leading games, face painting and sharing about your life and also hosting families for similar types of activities and swimming at the LightHouse Compound. There will also be some afternoons where we will travel into the city and visit some historical sites and learn about the country. Evenings will be free for family time, rest, etc.

What will our accommodations be like?

Each family will stay in their own private room with en suite washroom in the dormitory building. The building has hot water and is air conditioned. It also has a recreation/play room for children.

Is this safe for my children?

Safety is of utmost importance. The LightHouse Project's main facility is on a secure compound. Our project partners and your team leader will take every precaution to ensure that the entire experience is safe for you and your family.

What will the food be like?

Food provided during the team experience is prepared by the local partners with regular input from International Teams Canada personnel. The menu is designed to provide balanced meals using locally purchased ingredients and takes into consideration North American diet. All food is prepared with a high health and safety standard. The water at the project site is clean, safe drinking water. Purchasing food from street vendors is discouraged unless the local host has made special arrangements or indicated it is safe.

What expectations do you have of parents?

We expect that you will read all materials provided and be aware of all deadlines for forms, payments, etc. We expect that you will invest the time needed to prepare for this experience as a family and any particular ways you may need to prepare your children. This may include using the materials provided for training.

What training and/or resources will I receive?

Upon acceptance to the team, you will receive a binder containing information about the experience as well as ideas for preparing as a family. You will also receive a copy of the book, *Don't Forget to Pack the Kids Short Term Missions for Your Whole Family* by Jill Richardson. Your family will be required to attend the Orientation and Training Day, date TBA.

Is it really possible for my family to raise the funds necessary?

Yes! One of the first, and perhaps greatest lessons that can be learned on an experience like this may be God's provision for families needing to raise financial support to fund the trip. The means of provision might not look the same for each family, but God will provide. Some families may achieve their financial goals through mailing support letters to family and friends, others through unexpected bonuses and raises, or church fundraising, such as a dinner. Some families may choose to forgo birthday and Christmas gifts for a year and put those funds toward this compassion experience instead. Families may wish to pursue a strategy of thirds, meaning, you pay 1/3 of the cost, your church's mission board supports 1/3 of the cost, and you raise 1/3 of the cost as a family. This is a great opportunity to learn as a family of the unimaginable ways God works and shows Himself trustworthy, when you take a step of faith.

How are the funds allocated?

The cost covers everything needed for this experience. The cost of the flight is approximately \$1000 per person. There is a daily cost per person set by LightHouse Projects which includes the cost of accommodations and food, transportation and sightseeing costs, and project materials. This is approximately \$700 per person. The rest of the cost covers travel medical insurance, orientation expenses, including accommodations the night before the flight out, preparation materials, etc. A small portion covers the administrative cost of leading this experience.