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Study Tours: See the Smiles, See the World

- Sponsors or anyone interest in ChildFund’s programs can travel to areas ChildFund works.
- The trips last from seven to 12 days.
- “The children in every country are the future of the world,” says one participant.

Richmond, Va. – July 31, 2009 – “When I was introduced to her I melted,” said Santa Fe, N.M., resident Alexandra Travis after meeting 6-year-old Natazia in Zambia last year on a ChildFund International Study Tour.

Study Tours take ChildFund International sponsors or people interested in ChildFund’s programs directly to the countries where ChildFund International works with deprived, excluded and vulnerable children. This year, a group traveled to Brazil in May and plans are under way to visit Cambodia and Vietnam early next year.

The trips are an opportunity for ChildFund donors to meet firsthand with their sponsored child. They’ve developed relationships through writing letters back and forth to each other. Study Tours allow them to share their stories first hand.

“We are also considering a trip to Senegal or Kenya in early spring,” said ChildFund International’s Assistant Director of Marketing Gary Duncan.

Duncan is no stranger to Study Tours – he’s been on every one but two since the program started in 2002.

“We’ve had hundreds of people participate in Study Tours to every continent in the world,” Duncan said. “While on the Study Tour, we try to spend two complete days visiting ChildFund International projects and one complete day of visiting children of sponsors and their family members. The other time is devoted to learning about the culture, history, music and customs of that country.”

Study Tours average about seven to 12 days.

Several ChildFund International sponsors have been on multiple Study Tours, including Dan Tearpock of Houston, Texas, who has been on two trips to Mexico.

“There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that they are truly helping these children and families out of poverty,” Tearpock said of ChildFund after a trip to Mexico last year.

Tearpock’s initial plan was to celebrate his sponsored child’s 17th birthday. While they did have the “biggest and best birthday” party, Tearpock ended up meeting and sponsoring a 4-year-old girl while on the trip.



"She seemed like the perfect child," Tearpock said.

Like Tearpock, Glynis Crabb of Hollister, Calif., has been on multiple tours, including one last year to Zambia.

"The children in every country are the future of the world and they deserve the best that we can give them," said Crabb, who has been on five Study Tours.

For more information about ChildFund International's Study Tours, visit www.ChildFund.org/study_tours.

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ChildFund International, formerly Christian Children's Fund, is a global child development and protection agency, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, ChildFund International works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. ChildFund International is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.