

Cover Page**Grant Proposal:****Loving Shepherd Ministries | New Laptops****Submitted to:**

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Submitted by:

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501(c)(3)	

Executive Summary

Loving Shepherd Missionaries aims to help the world's most vulnerable children reach their God-given potential by creating and sustaining families, engaging the church in the U.S. and abroad, and developing educational and business opportunities.

In past years, the students in LSM have had laptops that have been provided for them to develop their academic growth as well as fostering relationships and recovering both physically and emotionally. With the goal to help students succeed, LSM needs reliable laptops to work with these children and engage with LSM's programs, such as their Homes of Hope. Consequently, LSM is seeking funding for laptops to provide students with technological resources for them to academically and emotionally succeed.

The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of students who can have a laptop for academic and emotional growth, and build connections with sponsor families in the states by having this valuable resource. We are hoping that your foundation, the Yellow Birch Charitable Trust, will see it fit to invest not only the funding for 9 laptops, but also the lives of all who will use this technology and its impact.

The total price is \$5,400 for our students living in House of Hope in Haiti. This would allow the children to show academic growth and communicate with their family sponsors.

The Yellow Birch Charitable Trust seeks to fund organizations that work with low-income residents in Indiana and Haiti. By supporting LSM, children and families in Haiti would be impacted with resources in need. Your support will help us move forward with our goals for the children in Haiti who will grow and become the leaders in their homes and around the world.

Statement of Need

We know that computers are vital to the development of the minds of youth, as we live in a technological world. In developing countries with children in vulnerable situations, many don't usually have access to technology. Therefore, they are unable to develop this skill although it is proven to be a necessary skill. Technology is an important tool for young people to learn, communicate, and expand their world views.

Because technology is a universally-understood language, every person would benefit by having access to tools and resources to fully utilize it. One of the most direct ways to understand this universal language is by incorporating laptops into a classroom in an educational setting. Laptops are technological tools that help youth engage, express themselves and stay connected to others.

Loving Shepherd Ministries, headquartered in Bluffton, IN, sponsors Homes of Hope across Haiti to help reach the world's most vulnerable children in order to expose them to a world of their potential and promise.

"Haiti is one of the least developed and poorest countries in the world; 65% of the Haitian population lives below the poverty line. Economic hardship, coupled with political instability, has compounded the impact of natural disasters on the condition of Haitian children, particularly in terms of health, education, welfare, etc.", writes Humanium.org (2019).

"Only 40% of Haitian children have access to health services" (Humanium.org, 2019). While health services have significantly increased over the years, children in Haiti are still usually left without proper health care. Children in LSM's Homes of Hope are given the opportunity for a chance at a better, healthier life. Not only does LSM provide services to these vulnerable children to receive healthcare, but incorporating laptops into their education also educates them on the importance of health and is yet another aspect of their growing education through technology.

"Ninety-two percent of schools in Haiti are private, leaving most families unable to pay school fees. In addition, the quality of teaching in Haiti is also acutely poor, since 80% of teachers do not have a teaching degree. Much progress remains to be made to ensure Haitian children the right to a good education", writes Humanium.org, 2019.

Each year, LSM reaches 240 children in Haiti in regard to education, housing, trauma recovery aid, and development all around. Having laptops in these classrooms would allow children to communicate with their sponsor families across the globe, learn how to navigate the many technological advances in the world and better their problem solving skills. Laptops would

provide these young students with better education and overall prepare them for their future and potential careers/jobs, equipping them for success.

Loving Shepherd Ministries desires to see more accessible technology incorporated into the Haiti Homes of Hope to further education and connection.

LSM Tech and the *Homes of Hope* in Haiti lack the proper resources to communicate with the children's sponsor families in America. It is vital that these children have the resources to communicate with their sponsor families because communication builds the relationships between both parties and teaches them to be aware of other cultures, what others are experiencing in their lives and much more. Relationships are an important part of life and learning how to nurture them is critical to child development. That is what these students, divided into 20 *Homes of Hope*, are learning. While LSM programs are kept running through the aid of donors and sponsors, they would benefit from 9 laptops.

Family sponsorship in Haiti through LSM means the opportunity to provide children with life-changing opportunities. Therefore, communication with family is vital. The family becomes a continuous support for the children and has a significant impact on their futures. . There is an online family room that includes family pictures, access to videos, prayer requests and updates and allows them to send their own pictures and notes across the globe.

Laptops provided for vulnerable children in the LSM *Homes of Hope* would allow for these children to access new educational opportunities. A laptop serves a multitude of purposes including the ability to learn what is happening across the globe, access to more teachers, and the ability to search a wide variety of topics and lessons. This advantage exposes them to the world of employment and a more promising future in the workforce.

Another benefit of laptops in the *Homes of Hope* is that they can provide counseling tools and resources to help vulnerable Haitian children as they heal. A large percentage of children in Haiti are at-risk and exposed to human trafficking/slavery, sexual abuse and trauma on many levels. In fact, 50% of Haitian girls are sexually assaulted, with over a third being sexually abused before the age of 15. LSM provides services for these children in the form of trauma recovery, writes Humanium.org (2019).

Since the Yellow Birch Charitable Trust believes in helping children and youth, economically disadvantaged and low income people and supports organizations based in Indiana and Haiti that aid in human services and rights and youth development, we are asking you to invest in the Haitian children by providing \$5,400 to purchase 9 laptops to send to the Haitian children

Project Description

Target Audience: The U.S. is the location that LSM's target audience is for family sponsors and donors to provide funding and services for vulnerable children in this ministry. Loving Shepherd Ministries help services for at-risk children in Haiti and Ethiopia through the *Homes of Hope* program.

Loving Shepherd Ministries: LSM provides vulnerable children with the unique Homes of Hope Care, resulting in self-sufficient leaders who transform their culture for Christ. For 240 children in Haiti, we currently provide:

- the stability of a loving family
- trauma recovery for mental wellbeing
- practical education resources
- an Impact Program to inspire personal stewardship and achievement
- our Gospel Project, which provides an avenue for service and evangelism
- college education and vocational training, which set up our children for long-term success so they can become leaders.

Project Goal: We strive to increase the amount of students that are able to have a laptop for academic growth and more connections with sponsor families.

Objectives:

1. To provide students with laptops to enhance their academic growth.
2. To grow space for students to be open and connect with their teachers, the staff, and sponsor families.

Methods:

1. To download software with laptops so the students have reliable technology to help them with their work.
 - a. To receive the laptops and complete assignments for academic growth which shows that they are useful.
2. To teach students how to take care of the laptops and be able to connect with sponsors.
 - a. Teachers would inform students how to use the different apps that are installed on the laptops
 - b. Students can connect with sponsors via video chat, message boards, and other messaging platforms through the laptop.

Staffing: Jorame Idoxis will be the key point person for the new laptops for the students in LSM. He is the LSM's Informatics teacher. He also serves as a Director's Assistant of our Department of Education and Child Development.

Jorame has the most experience with technology and equipment management. He will help the youth with any issues and errors that would be made in LSM. He will train students on how to use the laptops for academics and connections with sponsor families.

Evaluation: The students in the Haiti Homes of Hope with the newly implemented laptops would be evaluated on how this updated technology is helping them grow with academics and sponsor relationships in the following ways:

1. Conduct a survey to see the increase of growth amongst sponsor families and students in Haiti with new technology implemented.
2. Seek instructions on how to connect with sponsor families.
3. Train students on how to properly work installed apps on the laptop for their academic work.
4. Track the students growth by quizzes to notice the impact with the laptops.

Sustainability: Upkeep of the laptops will be managed by (this staff). We are currently working with 45 laptops with youth in LSM in Haiti. This staff will be the point people to go to when any troubleshoots or technical issues occur, as they already have experience with this level of technology.

An average laptop would last about 4 to 5 years depending on the proper care. A laptop would have to be reupdated and checked for viruses. LSM has a prepared plan to take care of the minor repairs with our staff, that involves installing the necessary software on these laptops that can monitor which updates are needed and adjust accordingly.

When the laptops are no longer functional, we will see funding from donors to replace them.

Budget

- The specific model needed is a Lenovo Thinkpad or its equivalent for both cost and product efficiency
- At a cost of \$600 per laptop
- Totalling in \$5,400

Organizational Information

Loving Shepherd Ministries exists to help the world's most vulnerable children reach their God-given potential by creating and sustaining families, engaging the church in the U.S. and abroad, and developing educational and business opportunities.

Loving Shepherd Ministries is a faith-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded by Ed Schwartz in 2002 that aims to help families adopt internationally. This organization has grown in different locations, Haiti, Ethiopia, and the U.S., over the past 19 years to help the world's most vulnerable children.

Loving Shepherd Ministries is currently located in Haiti, Ethiopia, and the United States. The U.S. is home to LSM's target audience of family sponsors and donors that provide funding and services for vulnerable children in this ministry.

LSM currently serves 240 vulnerable children in the Haiti Homes of Hope. In Ethiopia, 590 at-risk families have been aided through education, job skills training, discipleship, and more. In the U.S., 7,300 adoptions have been navigated, saving prospective adoption families both incalculable time and money.

Some of LSM's accomplishments include: adoptions, creating job opportunities, business development, LSM testimonies, trauma recovery and more.

Conclusion

Loving Shepherd Ministries provides services to help the world's most vulnerable children in Haiti, and connect them to resources available in the United States. Our success is dependent on sponsors, donors and accessible resources. Implementing the donation of funds for 9 new computers would allow LSM's programs to thrive.

We thank the Yellow Birch Charitable Trust for its consideration of a \$5,400 grant towards our Homes of Hope in Haiti to strengthen connections, communities, and kingdom impact. Like your organization, we value providing human services, advocating for human rights, helping economically challenged individuals and developing future generations. These laptops would set Loving Shepherd Ministries programs on the right trajectory to aid these vulnerable children, while setting them up for a future of success and promise.