



## Sponsoring in the Emmaus Village Encounter.

Good sponsorship is vital to the integrity of the Sponsoring to the Emmaus Village Encounter. Many people take sponsorship for granted; they assume that everyone knows the how and why. Yet sponsorship is arguably the most critical job in Emmaus. This is even more so in the online environment. As always, it is more than just “signing up people”. The quality of sponsorship influences the Pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus Movement, and the churches affected by the movement.

Good sponsorship is your first act of agape before the Encounter even begins; the experience for the pilgrim, starts with how we handle sponsorship.

Good sponsorship undergirds the encounter with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim. Sponsors use discernment in recruiting pilgrims, and they embody the personal commitment of the community to each pilgrim. Sponsors also provide personal acts of agape during the three parts, 6 sessions of the program Encounter. These acts of agape include signing up for the Prayer Vigil, collecting Agape letters, attending Candlelight and Closing, and following up to help your Pilgrim connect in their fourth day growth.

Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement fulfilling its true purpose – **the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the Church in ministry**. The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of its recruiting practices. Suppose the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders to strengthen the local Church. In that case, the community will be a robust and vital force in the renewal movement.

## Steps to Sponsorship

- Identify potential pilgrims for the Village Encounter.
- Seek prayerful guidance before asking the applicant to attend
- Make a time to meet with the person or couple to discuss their participation.
- Answer all questions and concerns honestly before giving them an application.
- Invite them to attend.
- Help resolve any problems that might prevent attendance.
- Ask them to commit by filling out the registration form.
- Submit their registration form.
- Seek agape letters; suggested amount five or more personal agape letters.
- You can support the Village Encounter through your prayers by signing up for a slot during the prayer vigil and by being present at the send-off, sponsors’ hour, Candlelight, and Closing.
- Encourage the Pilgrim to be involved in their Fourth Day and take them to the Gatherings.

## **VE Sponsor Responsibilities**

When you agree to sponsor a pilgrim for the weekend, you accept certain responsibilities for that person.

The on-line nature of the Village Encounter, apart from the accepted sponsor roles and responsibilities, have some variations. A VE sponsor has a more of a “hands on” role in supporting their Pilgrim. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cover them with prayer
- Foster a sense of expectation that God will be moving in their life and bless them in the experience.
- Depending on their level of Computer experience, there may be a need to help set up and login to the Zoom portal. Also be or have a contact person, if things go wrong.
- If there are two people in the same household, then they will need to be in separate rooms and be on separate computers.
- A stable internet connection and sufficient speed is important.
- Act as a courier to deliver Pilgrim Guides and agape either in person or by mail
- Sit with them, if possible, on the first Thursday “Orientation” meeting to answer any questions, so that the pilgrim knows that they are being supported.
- Contact your Pilgrim during the week, between meetings, to see how they are going, encourage them and allow them to share their journey thus far.
- Be with them at the Closing.
- Help integrate them into a local Emmaus Community.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, the Pilgrims, the Emmaus Community, and the Church. It is a demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of prevenient Grace.

## **SPONSORSHIP IS IMPORTANT**

### **YOU AGREE TO:**

**PRAY FOR THEM:** Before, during and after the Village Encounter.

**TELL THEM** about the Village Encounter. Do not be secretive, but do not reveal specific details about activities. We want them to be surprised.

Be with them on the Thursday Orientation evening

**PRAYER AGAPE:** Make sure your name is on the prayer vigil.

**ATTEND CANDLELIGHT.**

**ATTEND CLOSING** with them.