



[www.avsi-usa.org](http://www.avsi-usa.org)

# Opportunity: a unique giving program to share in the adventure of life

Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: What is Opportunity and what does it hope to accomplish?**

A: Opportunity is a fundraising initiative organized and managed by AVSI-USA, the US branch of AVSI Foundation ([www.avsi.org](http://www.avsi.org)). Opportunity was launched in January 2009 as an effort to channel resources, primarily financial but not only, to three charitable institutions which AVSI has worked with for many years in Brazil, Mexico and Kenya. AVSI-USA seeks individuals, families and groups to register as Partners by making an annual donation to one of the three institutions and supporting their activities and growth. AVSI-USA hopes to provide a stable source of complementary funding to these three institutions which are addressing very concrete needs of the poor and marginalized in Brazil, Mexico and Kenya and thereby help to strengthen the capacity of local organizations and their staff to address the needs and hopes of their communities.

**Q: What does it mean to be a “Partner” of Opportunity?**

A: Being a Partner in Opportunity implies an annual contribution to one of the three institutions, which each partner is free to choose. Partners can be individuals or groups. The suggested minimum annual contribution is \$250, which can be made in a single payment or in two payments throughout the year.

**Q: How do you become a “Partner” of Opportunity?**

A: AVSI-USA has a Registration Form available on-line: [www.avsi-usa.org](http://www.avsi-usa.org) . Open the document in Adobe Acrobat and fill-in your information directly. Send it to AVSI-USA in one of three ways:

- Use the “Submit Form” link in the upper right hand of the document to send it via email (you must be connected to the internet to do so).
- Save the document onto your computer and then email it to [infoavsi-usa@avsi.org](mailto:infoavsi-usa@avsi.org) as an attached file.
- Print out the document and send it to AVSI-USA in the mail or via fax.

The Registration Form will ask you to choose which of the three institutions you would like to support and how much you will contribute each year.

**Q: What can I expect once I register as a Partner?**

A: Within two weeks of receiving your Registration Form AVSI-USA will contact you to confirm receipt. This may be by phone or email, especially in those cases where information is incomplete or we have some questions about your Registration. All Partners will receive a welcome letter and further information on the institution they have chosen to support.

**Q: What kind of communication can I expect as a Partner?**

A: Partners will receive periodic updates from the institutions they support including reports, letters, photos, videos, and opportunities to interact with the staff and beneficiaries. The possibilities for interaction and mutual exchange are endless, and could include pen-pals with the young people, creation of blogs, or site visits. Most communication will take place via email and the internet, though some printed materials will be sent as well.

**Q: Can groups or families register as Partners?**

A: Yes! A great way for an individual to participate in Opportunity even when he/she cannot commit to the suggested minimum annual donation of \$250 is to encourage a group to register together. In this case, AVSI-USA would ask for one person to assume the role of primary contact person to receive communication from AVSI-USA and to share it with the group. Groups can be families, groups of friends, school classes or clubs, businesses or co-workers, etc.

Here are some ideas:

- **FAMILY:** involve your family members and children to register as a Partner and use it as an opportunity for education within the family, finding out more information about the country you have chosen, for example;
- **CLUB/ FRATERNITY:** propose this idea to your club, social group or fraternity and register as a group Partner, and then plan a fundraiser to collect the money each year;
- **WORKPLACE:** propose this to your colleagues at your workplace, decide upon an annual contribution and divide it among those interested. Sharing the periodic communications could provide for interesting lunchtime conversation at work, and your company may agree to match your donation; or
- **SCHOOLS:** propose this to any school or youth group you are involved in and suggest extension activities such as research about the country or related topics (education for all, poverty and inequality, etc) or pen-pal arrangements (this could be especially appropriate for support to the Otunga High School in Kenya where the main language is English and opportunities for significant exchange among students are endless).

**Q: Can I make a one-time donation to one of the Opportunity sponsored institutions, or must I make an annual pledge?**

A: We encourage donors to consider the possibility of planning on an annual donation to the same institution. From our experience, this method promotes a greater seriousness on the part of the donors to learn about and follow the developments of the charitable activity. On the other side, long-term pledges of financial support help AVSI-USA to have a better idea of what level of funds we can promise to each of the supported institutions. In this way, they can plan their activities better and everything runs more smoothly. The support which Opportunity gives to each of these institutions will be most useful and efficient if it becomes a reliable source of funding. Yet, one-time donations will be accepted, especially if they are generated by public events which have as their purpose spreading the word about Opportunity to potential new Partners. We hope that anyone who considers making a one-time donation to the initiative will keep open the possibility of becoming a repeat donor by matching the funds contributed in future years.

**Q: I have more questions about Opportunity, whom can I speak to?**

A: Please feel free to contact AVSI-USA via email ([infoavsi-usa@avsi.org](mailto:infoavsi-usa@avsi.org)) or phone (202-429-9009). We would love to talk to you!