



Sweet Sleep Mission Journeys for Churches

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in your church going on a Sweet Sleep Mission! We are excited that you will be partnering with us to share God's love by providing beds to the world's orphaned and abandoned children.

For Sweet Sleep to create a custom mission journey experience for your group, you'll need to be sure you have at least 8-10 people who want to serve. You can have more than 8, but 8 is the minimum number of team members needed to complete a Sweet Sleep bed-building project. (Note: there may be a need to cap a team depending on location, housing limitations, project size, etc.) If you do not think 8 people will be able to go, simply check our website, www.sweetsleep.org, and look for upcoming mission journeys. A small group from your church can join any trip that is open and listed on our website.

If you know you will have at least 8 team members, the best option is a custom mission journey for your group. Working with your country preferences and the giftings and expertise of potential team members, we'll match you with an orphanage in need, select some date options for you to consider and talk through details about your mission journey.

Once the date and location for your mission journey are set, we'll need you to recruit a team leader - a staff member or a lay leader - whom we'll work with to prepare your team to go. The team leader will receive a Team Leader Notebook with everything they'll need to prepare your team for the mission journey. Sweet Sleep staff members are available to attend some training meetings if possible or to participate via conference call. They are also available along the way if you or your team members have any questions not answered in the Team Leader Notebook or the Mission Journey Notebooks team members will receive after they turn in their applications and pay their deposits.

What Do Mission Journeys Cost?

The cost per team member for a trip to Moldova is currently \$2,600. Trips to Uganda are currently \$3500. Trips to other locations are possible as well and costs will be set depending on airfare and in-country expenses. Each team member is encouraged to raise his or her own support. Sweet Sleep provides sample fundraising letters you can customize to send to friends and family who will want to participate in this mission journey experience. Applications and \$500 deposits are generally due to Sweet Sleep 8-10 weeks before your departure.

What's Included?

Everything! The per-person price includes: Airfare, lodging, all meals (except for food in airports to and from our site), translators (if needed), in-country transportation, travel insurance, Sweet Sleep team t-shirts and luggage tags, your Mission Journey Team Notebooks, and an Administrative Fee. This fee helps cover miscellaneous expenses on your journey, in-country staff, and a Sweet Sleep staff member to accompany your team on your journey.

What Else is Required?

In addition to the per-person cost for airfare and expenses, teams also help raise funds for supplies to build the beds for the orphaned children we serve. We ask churches/teams to raise 50 percent of the cost of supplies for the beds your team will build. The current cost of providing a Sweet Sleep bed is \$250. If you have a team of 8 people and the orphanage we'll work with needs 80 beds, your church/team will need to raise \$10,000 and Sweet Sleep will provide the additional \$10,000 raised through ongoing fundraising efforts through our office. This may seem like a lot, but you'll reach your goal in no time.

Here are some ways the funding for beds can come together:

- Sweet Sleep's Build-A-Bed Project can be the missions emphasis at your church's Vacation Bible School. Average raised \$2,000.
- Insomnia event can be hosted by your youth ministry. Average raised \$1,500.
- Church-wide/team garage sale. Average raised \$5,000
- Special Sunday morning offering – show video and engage church in giving to provide the beds you'll build. Average raised \$5,000.

These few events and you're more than there! Another way to raise money for beds would be to divide it amongst your team members. If you have 8 team members and you're building 80 beds, your 8 team members would just have to find 5 friends to "sponsor" or provide a bed (\$1,250). Time and time again, God has provided for team members who step out and go. Jennifer Gash, our President and Founder, always says the team is much bigger than the people who get on the plane and go. The people who pray and give to support those who go are equally vital to the mission. We think you'll find folks ready and willing to support your work with orphaned and abandoned children.

If your team is larger than 8-10 people, say 15 or 20, you will be able to build more beds on your mission journey. In this case, we'll find a larger project for your team so the cost of half the supplies will be a bit higher. Church-wide fundraising activities listed above and team members recruiting friends to "sponsor" beds may all be needed to reach the amount needed for half the supplies for your trip.

If you raise more than the 50 percent of bed supply costs, these funds will be put towards the beds you build and Sweet Sleep funds will be freed up to supply more beds to orphans around the world.