

# Five to Thrive

Successful Practices for Self-Sustaining Orphan and Street Children Homes

Purpose: To empower organizations serving vulnerable children to leverage resources to help kids thrive and become more self-sustaining themselves.

To link centers to resources and opportunity. It is a living document to adjust for your needs and share your successful findings with others.

## 1) SEED –

**Build Greater Support- Micro-Franchise:** Actively seek out opportunities that will expand support to your children: crops, chickens, industry, and opportunities that will provide ongoing support for your organization. Try to match them with training opportunities for the children.

**Nurture Leadership** – Education is vital. Children can participate in education, teaching, chores, problem solving, business ventures in a way that limits hours so the opportunity lifts their education, rather than hinders it. The goal is to create programs that enable youth to become the thriving leaders of tomorrow.

**Grow Your Resources** – High impact organizations work with other organizations. Seek to cooperate with other organizations and to participate in programs that support what you do: seek and suggest potential organizations on ClayForEarth.org.

**Nurture Heritage** – Your cultural knowledge is valuable. Your tradition is valuable. Passing knowledge and respect of your culture onto the children is important and builds their self-respect. Respect local wisdom while borrowing from best practices globally.

**Friends For Life - Helpers Return with Help.** Volunteers and those who have graduated from your program can benefit your organization when they feel they are part of it. Communicate your needs. Show appreciation. “Thank You” is even more powerful than “Please!” Those you thank are more likely to serve, donate, and tell others about you. Invite them to participate in ways that matter (projects, hands-on efforts, share their time, expertise, or money, whatever works best for them). Make it easy for them by giving options to choose from. Invite, honor and acknowledge their contributions... because many hands make light work.

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[www.ProjectThrivingTalents.org](http://www.ProjectThrivingTalents.org) Sustainable Orphanage Model Draft 1.5

## 2) SAVE--

**Don't Eat All Your Chickens – or Tomorrow No Eggs.** When you create money-making projects it is not easy to save some of the profits to work for you later, when need is great now. Yet saving some of the profits of your success is a choice that keeps working ahead of you-- building a stronger future. *Example:* A center that raises chicks and sells them as broilers, found they could keep earning by saving some of the profits to purchase more chicks each time they sold boilers. No need to start over again.

**Money Saved, is Money Earned** – Seeking ideas that work well and save money may cost money up front but puts money in your pocket by saving on operational costs. What expenses could you reduce with new solutions? This might include solar ovens that save fuel costs, time and health. Many other solutions exist. You can discover and share solutions that have worked for others at [www.ClayForEarth.org](http://www.ClayForEarth.org) &/or by asking others near you.

**A Burnt Tree Gathers No Rain** – What if solutions that save natural resources also saved you time, money and health, while helping you utilize your abundant resources? Consider such examples as the Greenbelt Movement which plants trees while employing people. Or solar energy, which can save you enough money and time to buy a cow or put in crops, or whatever you would choose. Saving resources can make a lot of sense while conserving your country's important natural resources. Please find and share options at [www.ClayForEarth.org](http://www.ClayForEarth.org)

## 3) SHARE –

**Partners Lead to Prosperity** - Sharing costs can make great leaps in progress possible. Need a bus? Can you share one with several schools? What else could you share? Teachers, a well, books, a medic, library, tools? *Example:* An orphanage had funding for crops and some recently graduated students who could learn farming, but no land. Another had fertile land but no money for crops. They cooperated and both had crops within ten weeks.

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words** - Help your supporters catch the vision of why they help. Share photos of your progress (along with stories) in newsletters and correspondence to your

Friends For Life. Ask visitors to send their favorite photos of your center to you. Use them to share your success.

#### 4) **PASS IT FORWARD** –

**Giving Pays** - Giving grows community support. Share what you can-- What you know, what has worked for you, pass it on and you will build community support that will come back to serve you again and again. Example: At Project Thrive's first Center we gave pairs of goats to the center with the agreement that they would give the first offspring to another Center or orphanage, in turn asking them to do likewise. Why? Giving in this small way builds trust, friendships and connections while helping the whole community. A stronger community helps everyone.

**Paths Promise a Future** – Policies and structures can feel threatening to begin, but when done well they create a stable foundation for the children's future and the future of programs. People can only follow when a clear path of direction and structure is present. PATHS (Planned Action & Teams Helping with Support) can effectively take us where we hope to go, without reinventing support time after time. Structure enables preparedness and transparency. Transparency builds trust and greater support. Creating PATHS for the future of your organization is a choice between long-term stability or short term crisis solving.

#### 5) **PROTECT** - It's about thriving kids!

**Safety secures focus for the future** - Safe kids can look to the future instead of their immediate survival. Thanks to you, vulnerable kids now have a chance to do just that. Is your center dedicated to helping kids survive or thrive? Thriving kids live in an environment that abides by an honor code of safety. Safe from starvation, the elements, sexual harassment, health hazards and physical threats.

**Honor breeds loyalty** – Don't bite the hand that feeds you. Funding what is funded ensures your donors that they can count on you to make their donations work hard. It builds trust, trust builds confidence, and confidence builds donation dollars and support.

**Safe Kids Honor Code**- Directors oversee programs, but none of us can be everywhere at once. A code of conduct the youth agree

to and uphold creates a more secure environment. Offer the children and facility to “start from now.” One proposed code reads as follows: *God Has No Orphans: Children are all respected here. We Refuse to Abuse \* Treat with respect \* Refuse to Be Silent \* Refuse to Excuse \* Refuse to Blame Victims \* Refuse to conspire. We uphold the safety of our kids.* Do you have a code of honor? Would you share it with us? Email: [info@projectthrivingtalents.org](mailto:info@projectthrivingtalents.org)

**BLOOM** – Success gathers support. Working hard to help kids thrive? BLOOM Certification options ensure donors and potential volunteers of your dedication, purpose and success. There is no cost to register. Certification also qualifies centers serving orphans and vulnerable street children for Project Thrive Grants to support sustainable solutions of their choosing. Visit [www.ProjectThrivingTalents.org](http://www.ProjectThrivingTalents.org) for more information

**B:** basic survival  
**L:** living safely  
**O:** opportunities for training  
**O:** organized community  
**M:** moving toward sustainability

## **Thriving Kids Honor Code**

### ***Because God Has No Orphans***

- *We Treat All with Respect*
- *Refuse to Abuse*
- *Refuse to Be Silent*
- *Refuse to Excuse*
- *Refuse to Blame Victims*
- *Refuse to conspire.*
- *We uphold the safety of our kids.*