



**CWS**

## Photography Guidelines for Community Sponsorship Groups



PHOTO: BRUCE DEPYSSLER



Thank you for helping to capture photos of community sponsorship activities, families and volunteers. Here are some guidelines for taking photos along with ideas for types of images.

## Photo Taking Tips

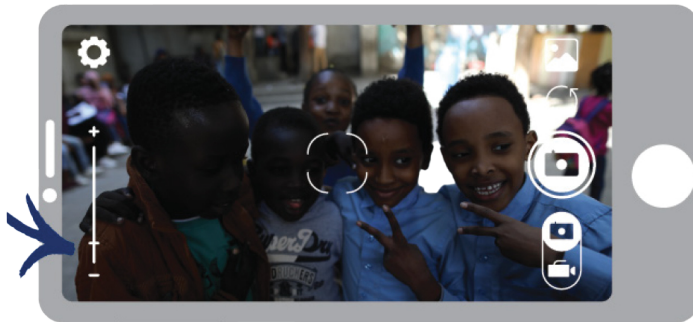
### Take Both Vertical and Horizontal Photos

Switching up the orientation is a great way to make sure you never miss the action.



### Adjust the Brightness of the Photo

If you're using a phone camera, look for an adjustment slider to make the photo either darker or brighter.



For iPhone users: touch and hold the camera screen and a sun icon will appear for you to slide up or down.

For Android users: look for a settings icon in one of the corners, there should be a brightness button you can select for the slider bar.

### Rule of Thirds

Imagine a 3x3 grid over the photo you're about to take, place the person in the photo in either side of the frame (where the points of the imaginary grid cross)



# Types of Photos to Look For

## Number of People in the Photo

Having a mix of photos with 1-3 (or more) people in the photo is great. Try mixing up the number of subjects in your photo. Photos of three or more people in the frame is more compelling. But don't hesitate to take photos of individuals.

## Images of Volunteers Engaging with the Sponsored Family... "Action Shots"

You don't need to stop the action to have people pose for the photo, "in the moment" photos are great. They help showcase the type of work a community sponsorship team does. Some examples are:

- Members of the sponsorship group engaging with the family in various ways
- Delivering household goods to a family—snap photos of the volunteers bringing in bags and boxes, family members unloading things in the kitchen etc.

## Educational / Candid Moments

Maybe a family is learning how to ride the bus for the first time, or volunteers are taking them to their local grocery store. Take photos of "everyday" type of activities where the family is learning and engaging with their new community.

## Photo Permissions

Community sponsorship groups are asked to adhere to the CWS Photo policy and only take images of clients that have given written or verbal consent to be photographed.

CWS requires written consent of a parent/guardian for photos of children under 18.

[Download Photo-Video Consent Form](#)

Should a family decide they do not want to be identified in photos, offer to take photos where the individuals are unidentifiable. It's still possible to take a good photo while protecting identities.

