



ODFL Frequently Asked Questions

What is ODFL?

ODFL stands for “One Dollar For Life.” It allows American high school students to help students in the developing world by giving just one dollar. ODFL combines those dollars and works with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to improve the self-sufficiency of developing world villages. The result is Bigger People and a Better World.

How does ODFL help students in developing world villages?

We mainly build schools, but we also build other small scale infrastructure projects—things like irrigation systems and sanitary waste disposal systems, projects that have a low cost but a high impact on the quality of life. These can dramatically improve the life chances for tens of millions of people. In many cases, without ODFL, these students would never be able to go to school.

What are these Non-Governmental Organizations?

The NGOs are non-profit organizations run by local people. They have established track records of delivering successful projects. They are non-political and non-religious. They follow established ethical guidelines and justify the results of every project they undertake.

How does ODFL get its funds?

ODFL helps American students run a fundraiser in their school where each student has the chance to give just one dollar. ODFL combines these funds with other schools’ funds to pay for the projects. Students can follow the progress of their projects on the ODFL website. *Every dollar a student gives* goes to a project in the developing world. ODFL is a registered non-profit.

Why is this a good thing for American students?

American teenagers are incredibly well-off. They have fancy clothes, toys, cars, and other nice things. What they want is some connection to the rest of humanity and a way to help other people who are so much worse off than themselves. ODFL is a way to do just that.

With the current economic situation shouldn’t the donations stay in the US?

There are three answers: **First**, the money goes at least 10 times as far in the developing world. We built the school and community center in Indonesia for \$6,500. You couldn’t replace a broken window in a U.S. school for that. **Second**, even the poorest person in the U.S. is already fabulously wealthy compared with people in the developing world. They have clean running water, electricity, paved roads, police and fire protection, free public education, libraries, access to health care, and more. **Finally**, we have made our choices in our country. We spend \$41 billion a year on pet food, \$39 billion a year on make up, \$33 billion a year on diet aids, etc. Can’t we spend *one dollar* to give other students the chance to go to school, or for life itself?