



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



**CHILDREN**  
INCORPORATED

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
SPONSORING A CHILD**

## WHAT IS CHILDREN INCORPORATED?

Founded in 1964, Children Incorporated is an international nonprofit organization that assists impoverished children in the U.S. and abroad. Partnering with already-established schools, orphanages, and childcare centers, we facilitate child sponsorships, manage special projects, and maintain special funds for emergency needs that arise for the children we serve.



### WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED? Our

administrative office is located in the south side of Richmond, Virginia. We maintain about 300 program sites in 9 U.S. states and 22 countries.

### HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU SERVE?

Roughly 10,000 children are enrolled in our sponsorship program each year, and Children Incorporated has assisted more than 250,000 children since our founding in 1964. Moreover, thousands of additional children receive aid each year as a result of contributions from our donors.

### HOW MANY STAFF MEMBERS DO YOU EMPLOY?

Children Incorporated employs sixteen paid staff members at our administrative office in Richmond, Virginia. Additionally, approximately 300 volunteers manage our program sites around the world, administering our services to children in their care.

### WHY DO YOU RELY ON VOLUNTEERS TO IMPLEMENT YOUR PROGRAMS?

First, we have found that volunteers are in the best position to meet the unique needs of each child. All of our volunteers are teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, school principals, or other childcare professionals. They interact with the children enrolled in our sponsorship program on a daily basis, and they observe firsthand the circumstances of each child's life.

Second, working with volunteers allows us to keep our programs highly efficient. We benefit because we employ only a small number of paid staff. This allows us to devote a higher percentage of our funds directly to our childcare programs. Meanwhile, our volunteers benefit because our programs help them to improve the lives of the children in their care.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Without you – our sponsors – so many children around the world would go without basic necessities.

### WHAT IS SPONSORSHIP, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The sponsorship relationship enables a donor to support a needy child by means of monthly contributions and, if the donor so desires, through the exchange of correspondence. A sponsor's friendship and encouragement is priceless to a child in such circumstances. Indeed, many children value the relationships they establish with their sponsors as much as they value the financial help they receive. Our current monthly sponsorship rate is \$28, and it goes toward providing basic necessities such as school supplies and fees, food, clothing, and access to health care, among other services.

### Children Incorporated

PO Box 72848

North Chesterfield, VA 23235

1-800-538-5381

[childrenincorporated.org](http://childrenincorporated.org)

[sponsorship@children-inc.org](mailto:sponsorship@children-inc.org)



» **HOW LONG CAN I SPONSOR A SPECIFIC CHILD?** We hope that you will assist your sponsored child until she or he leaves our program. This typically occurs when a child graduates from high school or moves out of our service area. Due to the transient state of many families and the trying circumstances of the regions where they reside, we cannot predict or guarantee how long a child will remain enrolled in the Children Incorporated sponsorship program, although we make every effort to provide services to children for as long as possible.

When a child leaves our program, our policy is to select another, equally-needy child for you, in the hope that you will accept this new child and continue to help us change lives. Unfortunately, we usually lose contact with children once they leave our sponsorship program. Even so, rest assured: the positive impact of your generosity – upon each child and his or her community – endures!

» **WILL I RECEIVE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE CHILD I SPONSOR?** Yes. We will send you updated information and an updated photo about once a year, although the frequency may vary depending upon the child's location. A typical progress report includes information on the child's grade level in school, hobbies, and interests.

» **HOW DO I PAY FOR SPONSORSHIP?** Sponsorship contributions may be made by check, money order, credit/debit card, or ACH transfer (debit from a checking or savings account). Please call us or visit our website if you would like to set up automatic recurring contributions on a monthly, quarterly, biannually, or yearly basis.

» **MAY I SEND PACKAGES TO THE U.S. CHILD I SPONSOR?** Yes! Sending a gift can be a great way to give your sponsored child extra help at certain times of the year, or to simply let the child know you are thinking of her or him. Here are some suggested guidelines: Please send monetary gifts directly to our North Chesterfield, Virginia office, as our site coordinators are not able to process checks or cash. Packages of already-purchased items should be mailed directly to your sponsored child's school address. A gift valued between \$25 and \$50 is most appropriate. We recommend using a tracking service, if possible, when shipping a package to the child you sponsor.

» **MAY I SEND PACKAGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD I SPONSOR?** Due to high customs duties and the likelihood of loss, we do not recommend sending packages to our program sites outside of the U.S. Children Incorporated cannot guarantee receipt of any packages you send internationally.

» **MAY I WRITE TO THE CHILD I SPONSOR?** Yes! Corresponding with your sponsored child can be a wonderful experience. Our site volunteers will translate your letter, if necessary, and deliver it to your sponsored child. You will find the project mailing address in your child's information brochure.

» **WHAT SHOULD I WRITE ABOUT?** The children enjoy learning about the lives of their sponsors. Writing about your own family (children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, etc.) is always a good place to start. The children also like to learn about your part of the world, what you do for a living, your hobbies and interests, and any pets you may have.

» **WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CHILD I SPONSOR?** Please call us at 1-800-538-5381 or email us at [sponsorship@children-inc.org](mailto:sponsorship@children-inc.org). Depending on the nature of a child-specific question, we may need to contact our volunteer coordinator at the site of your child's program. We will get the requested information to you as soon as possible, as long as it does not violate the child-protection and privacy laws to which we adhere.

» **IS IT POSSIBLE TO VISIT MY SPONSORED CHILD?** It is possible to visit sponsored children; however, since we work with a network of volunteers and projects, and circumstances vary from area to area, we cannot guarantee that all projects are open to sponsor visits. If you are interested in visiting a sponsored child, please contact us for specifics relating to the child and project.

If your child's project does allow visits, we ask that you contact us at least 45 days prior to your planned visit. One of our Sponsorship Managers will assist you in making arrangements with the program, parents, and site volunteer. Children Incorporated has forms to request the visit, and a child protection policy in place that we ask sponsors to follow. This includes a background check at the sponsor's expense.

» **DOES MY GIFT QUALIFY FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?** Children Incorporated has been a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization since 1964. Contributions, therefore, may be eligible for tax deductibility status. We strongly recommend that you consult with your tax advisor when making such determinations.

» **WHAT KINDS OF GIVING OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU OFFER?** In addition to our child sponsorship program, Children Incorporated maintains a variety of special funds that support our efforts to meet the needs of underprivileged children around the world. These include funds to assist children awaiting sponsorship, to provide immediate assistance in case of an emergency (such as a natural disaster or a house fire), as well as funds to assist with seasonal needs such as our Warm Clothing Fund and Back to School Fund.

» **HOW CAN I INCLUDE CHILDREN INCORPORATED IN MY ESTATE PLANS?** There are many options, including bequests, IRA/401(k) designations, annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. For more information, please contact us at (800) 538-5381. We will work with you to create the plan that best meets your needs.

» **DOES CHILDREN INCORPORATED PARTICIPATE IN A MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM?** Yes! Please contact your human resources department to determine whether your company participates in such a program.

*Gifts may be mailed to:*

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North Chesterfield, VA 23235  
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