

SPONSORSHIP HANDBOOK



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

A loving home for every child



WELCOME TO THE SOS FAMILY

Whether you're sponsoring an SOS child or an SOS Children's Village, your money will help us make a big difference to orphaned or abandoned children. But, your support isn't just about money. Children in our villages will know that someone, even on the other side of the world, is thinking about them and caring for their well-being. That's a very special feeling.



This page: children from SOS Children's Village Dharamsala, India. Opposite: a family from SOS Children's Village La Cañada, Venezuela

Getting the most from your sponsorship

This leaflet is designed to help you get the most from your sponsorship and to answer any questions you may have. However, if there's anything else you'd like to know, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**SOS Children, Terrington House,
13-15 Hills Road, Cambridge,
CB2 1NL**

T: 01223 365589

E: sponsorship@soschildren.org

W: www.soschildren.org



How will my sponsorship help?

By sponsoring an individual SOS child, you'll help to give them a home, access to medical facilities, a good education and vocational training, all of which will provide them with the skills and knowledge they'll need



*SOS Children's Village
Trjavna, Bulgaria*

when they leave the village to lead independent lives.

To fund all of this, each child needs to be supported by several sponsors from different countries. This way they also benefit from knowing they have a number of 'friends' around the world who care for them. The money you give provides improved facilities and better care, which then also benefits the other children in the SOS Village. If you've chosen to sponsor a village, your money will help all the children living there, as well as families and children from the local community, who are free to make use of the additional facilities, such as schools and medical centres. You can find out more by visiting our website at www.soschildren.org

What can I expect from my sponsorship?

You will receive letters twice yearly, around Christmas and again in the summer, from our colleagues in the country where your sponsored child lives. One of these will include a new photograph and report on your sponsored child; the other an annual letter about what has been happening in the villages during the last year. We do not receive copies of correspondence sent to a sponsor from the country where their sponsored child lives, so should correspondence not be received then please let us know so we can make enquiries for you. It is often the case that there have been postal difficulties overseas of which we are unaware. Copies will be obtained and forwarded to you. If, on the other hand, you've

sponsored a village, you'll receive photos of the village and the children living there, as well as detailed twice yearly reports on everyday life in the village.

Finally, however you choose to support us, you'll also receive our regular magazine *Family Matters* filled with information on our work, and our monthly newsletter *SOS eNEWS* if we have your email address.

Will all my money be used to help the child or village I'm sponsoring?

We guarantee that every single penny will be sent to the SOS association in the country where you sponsor, without any deduction in the UK, and will be used to support your sponsored child or village. We cover our UK administration costs by using

some of the Gift Aid from those donors who agree to Gift Aid their donations.

What's Gift Aid and how does it work?

Signing up for Gift Aid makes your gift worth more – without costing you a penny extra. It allows us to reclaim 28p* from the government for every £1 you've donated. If you're a UK taxpayer, simply tick the Gift Aid box on any SOS donation form and return it to us.

Where does my money go?

Your sponsorship money is used to support the child or village you've chosen to help. Each SOS mother receives a housekeeping allowance, which she uses to manage her own household budget and care for her children.

Am I under any obligation?

All we ask is that you make your monthly minimum contribution for as long as you're able. Our sponsors normally do this by Direct Debit, but other payment methods are available – please contact us for details. If for any reason you should decide to discontinue your sponsorship, just write and let us know.

Can I visit the child or village I'm sponsoring?

You're welcome to visit the SOS Children's Village. To do so, we would ask that you contact the National Office in that country (details are on the child/village profile enclosed) about a month before you go, to arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

**Rate correct at date of publication*



*SOS Children's Village Irbid,
Jordan*

I'm sponsoring an SOS child, is it okay to write to them?

Yes of course. Why not send them a Christmas or birthday card, for example. You can send any letters or cards directly to our national office in the country where your sponsored child lives (see Fact File for details).

Don't worry about any language problems if your sponsored child lives in a non-English speaking country; there's always a member of staff to translate.

Please bear in mind that we don't put pressure on our children to write back to their sponsors. Some children may not be able to write back to you, as a number of children are behind in their education when they join us or because letter writing is not part of the culture in certain countries. Many of the older children, especially if they are learning English as a second language, do write to their sponsors, but it's entirely their decision.

How do I introduce myself?

Your sponsored child will know who you are. Introduce yourself however

you feel most comfortable, but remember that in some cultures it's polite for adults to be called mother/father (for example, even your mother's sister will be called mother). Some sponsors like to be known by their title (Mr/Mrs X) while others prefer auntie/uncle, godparent or their first name.

You might want to describe where you live, for example, or the weather, your hobbies and interests or how you celebrate special occasions.

Many sponsors like to include photos of themselves and their families, but please be aware of your surroundings – many of these children come from very different backgrounds. Postcards of your town or where you go on holiday are always interesting and can

be used as part of a geography lesson in school.

Can I send gifts to my child/village?

SOS Children advises against sending gifts as, sadly, they don't always arrive at the intended destination. Similarly, your sponsored child will be sharing their home with their SOS siblings and not all of them are thought of by their sponsors on special occasions like a birthday. As in any family home, all of our children celebrate their birthday and other festivities when the SOS mother ensures there's a gift to unwrap.

What we suggest instead is that you send a money gift to us here at the Cambridge office, made payable to SOS Children (in £ sterling), stating that it's a gift for your sponsored

child. We'll then place all of it in your sponsored child's unique savings account to be given to them once they are independent. Some may use this to furnish their first home, while others may choose to buy a small plot of land to farm or start their own business.

Any money gift for a sponsored village will also be forwarded in its entirety to be used for whatever is needed most at that time. If you'd still like to send your sponsored child or village something, may we suggest slipping a packet of sunflower seeds (so your child and their friends can have a competition on growing the tallest), or some other small gift, such as a packet of stickers inside a card or letter? Our children love to personalise their things and it's something that they can share.

How can I leave a lasting legacy to orphaned and abandoned children?

You can continue to help SOS Children by leaving a gift in your will. This is a wonderful, practical way to carry on supporting the children and villages you care about. For more information, please give us a call: **01223 365589**.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you need to tell us that you're moving or have any questions whatsoever about your sponsorship, please contact us and we'll be more than happy to help: SOS Children's Villages
Terrington House, 13-15 Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 1NL
T: 01223 365589
E: sponsorship@soschildren.org

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

...from some of your fellow sponsors:

"We've always felt lucky to have a fulfilling family life. So when our own children left home we began sponsoring Nagaraj, an Indian boy who lives in the SOS Children's Village in Bangalore. We can't think of a better way to spend 66p a day than to give a child a family."

Prunella Scales and Timothy West

"Having driven from Kathmandu to Sano Thimi through the heat and dust, the SOS Children's Village was a positive oasis of peace and calm. I was so impressed by what I saw and how the village benefits the whole community."

Mary Taylor, an SOS Sponsor since 1966, on her visit to SOS Children's Village Sano Thimi in Nepal

"I first sponsored a child called Anni, aged five, in 1965. I visited the SOS Children's Village where she lived in 1969 and since then, except for one year, I have seen Anni every year. Anni is no longer a sponsored child; she is married (I went to the wedding) to a lawyer and they live with their four children. I feel I am part of their family and they are certainly part of mine."

Anne Bailey, Cambridge



SOS Children's Village Hyderabad, India
Front cover: SOS Children's Village Meru, Kenya

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**THANK YOU AGAIN
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**