



PO Box 510167 St. Louis, MO 63151
www.crisisaid.org 1-888-740-7779

Child Sponsorship Frequently Asked Questions

- **How can I provide my monthly sponsorship?**

If you would prefer to send your monthly sponsorship donation by mail, please send your check or money order to:

International Crisis Aid
c/o Child Sponsorship: Child's Name
P.O. Box 510167
St. Louis, MO 63151-0167

If you would prefer to use your debit or credit card, you can make a secure donation online at www.crisisaid.org/donate or over the phone at 1-888-740-7779. You can also set up a direct payment withdrawal from your checking account.

You can make 12 monthly contributions of \$40 for a child each or a one-time full-year sponsorship contribution of \$450. You are also welcome to pay a few months at a time.

In any case above, please make sure you identify the donation is for **Child Sponsorship** and please provide the **name of the child** you are sponsoring. This will ensure the funds are properly designated and distributed.

- **Does the donation go directly to my sponsored child?**

ICA is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. In fiscal year 2010, ICA spent 90.6% of donations on programs & services and 9.4% on administration & fundraising. We are committed to keeping costs minimal in order to provide more for the children and families in need.

Your monthly sponsorship is combined with other sponsors' contributions to provide services and programs for all of the children attending and/or living at the orphanage, school, community project, etc. By combining the monthly gifts from each sponsor, we are able to pool the resources in order to provide the best services to the children. In some situations, ICA provides funds to the families caring for the child to assist with paying rent and other resources. However, if you do not send your monthly sponsorship, your child will not receive anything from the program that month.

- **Can I get an update on my sponsored child?**

We value your interest in the development of your sponsored child. Due to the amount of time it takes to obtain information from field offices, sponsorship sites and families, Child Sponsorship updates are prepared and sent one time a year. This includes an updated photo and an overview of the development of your child.

Due to the small number of office staff, we are not able to answer specific questions you have regarding your sponsored child throughout the year. ICA staff are there to meet the needs of the children rather than providing updates to sponsors. However, should more information become available throughout the year, we will provide that information at that time. Thank you for understanding.

- **Can I adopt a child through ICA?**

International Crisis Aid is a humanitarian relief and development organization helping thousands of children around the world by providing much-needed food, medicine, education and other necessities. ICA does not currently have an adoption program. However, we would recommend you consider contacting Children's Hope International at (314) 890-0086 or www.childrenshope.net for international adoption opportunities they provide.

- **Can I send a letter or card to my sponsored child?**

Thank you for your desire to correspond with your sponsored child. Due to the small number of staff, ICA currently allows sponsors to send 2 letters or cards per year.

If you would like to correspond with your child, please make sure your letter is in a flat envelope, no bigger than 6"x9". Please do not put anything too bulky in the package. Your letter/card should be mailed directly to ICA at P.O. Box 510167, St. Louis, MO 63151-0167. ICA staff will review the letter for content. The sponsors' letters will then be kept in headquarters until a staff/board member travels to the sponsorship country for delivery. The country staff will translate your letter/card into the appropriate language for the child to understand and then distribute it to the child.

At that time, if there are any letters from the children to their sponsor, they will be picked-up from the country office, reviewed at U.S. headquarters and then mailed to the sponsor.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of the time involved in this process.

- **Can I send a gift to my sponsored child?**

Thank you for your desire to provide extra gifts to your sponsored child. We appreciate your generosity, compassion and concern. However, ICA does not currently allow gift exchange between our sponsors and children. There are several reasons, including:

1. The cost to ship internationally is very high.
2. It is difficult to get packages through customs.
3. Some of the children in the sponsorship program live at orphanages. Therefore, it would not be fair to the other children if one or two children receive gifts and the others do not.

You are welcome to send a letter or card (see above for instructions).

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution, it can be designated for Child Sponsorship, but not for a specific child. Thank you again for your continual support of your sponsored child.

- **Can I go visit my sponsored child?**

Visiting your sponsored child can be a rewarding experience and opportunity of a lifetime. However, the ability to accommodate your request is dependant upon your sponsored child's orphanage, school, community and/or family. All sponsorship sites and/or families are not open to receiving visitors for various reasons.

If you are planning a personal trip to your child's country and wish to visit your child, we will do everything we can to make this option available to you. However, there is extensive planning required to ensure the needs of the child, staff and you have been considered. Because the visit process often takes many weeks to coordinate between the U.S. and country offices, International Crisis Aid requires three months notice prior to the visit date in order to coordinate the visit.

To begin the planning process, please provide the following information:

1. Sponsors full name
2. Sponsored Child's full name and country
3. Dates of travel to the sponsored child's country
4. Preferred date and amount of time for sponsor/child visit

Upon receipt of this information, International Crisis Aid will contact the country office and sponsorship site to determine if the visit can be arranged. If they can accommodate the request, we will then provide a full application you will need to submit for further consideration.

**If you have any further questions, please contact
International Crisis Aid at info@crisisaid.org or 1-888-740-7779.**