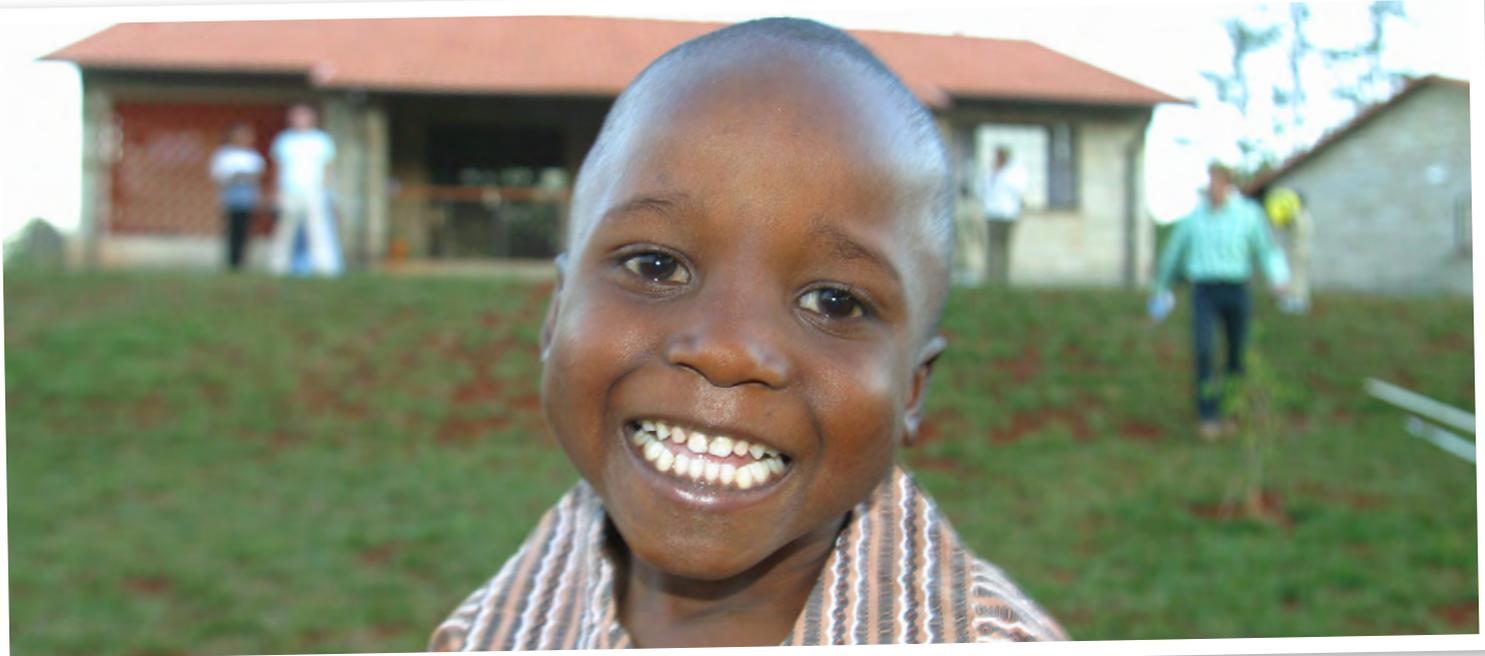


# Sponsorship handbook



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.



### How will my sponsorship help?

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



SOS Children's Village  
Trjavna, Bulgaria

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 facilities and 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](http://www.soschildren.org)

### What can I expect from my sponsorship?

You will receive letters twice yearly, around New Year and again in the summer, from our colleagues in the country where your sponsored child lives. One of these will include a report on your sponsored child; the other an annual letter about what has been happening in the Village during the last year and a new photograph of your sponsored child. 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.

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?**

Sponsorship is NOT used for UK admin, 100% is sent to our Villages where it is put into a pot from which each child and their new family are clothed, fed and educated. To ensure no sponsored child ever goes without

care as living costs change, some flexibility is needed. To allow for this a minimum of 85% of each sponsorship payment will go to your sponsored child or Village, and up to 15% may be transferred to help sponsored children in SOS Children's Villages which are underfunded. This will only be done when necessary and funds will only come from Villages with sufficient resources to ensure that the children there continue to receive the same high standards of care as ever.

We cover our UK administration costs by using 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 25p\* from the UK government for every £1 you've donated. If you're a UK taxpayer, simply tick the Gift Aid box on any SOS Children donation form and return it to us.

*\*Rate correct at date of publication*

### **Where does my money go?**

Your sponsorship money is used to support the children in our Villages. Each SOS mother, caring for up to 10 children in a family house, 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



*SOS Children's Village Irbid, Jordan*

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.

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

Yes of course. Why not send them a 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 child/Village profile 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. 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.

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 stickers, or some other small gift, inside a card or letter?

### 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  
 Terrington House, 13-15 Hills Road  
 Cambridge, CB2 1NL  
 T: 01223 365589  
 E: [sponsorship@soschildren.org](mailto: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."*

**Ann Bailey, Cambridge**



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

**SOS Children, Terrington House,  
13-15 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1NL  
T: 01223 365589 F: 01223 222960  
E: [sponsorship@soschildren.org](mailto:sponsorship@soschildren.org)  
W: [www.soschildren.org](http://www.soschildren.org) Reg. charity number 1069204**

**Thank you again  
for your support**