



## **Child Sponsorship FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)**

### **How can I update my credit card information?**

Please visit our secure online credit card update form at [www.sos-usa.org/paymentupdate](http://www.sos-usa.org/paymentupdate).

### **What does my recurring gift provide for my sponsored child?**

As a sponsor, you provide the critical essentials for a child: food, clothing, shelter and medical care. However, your gift does so much more—ensuring that a child grows up in a family surrounded by a loving parent and siblings. Children living in our SOS Children's Villages families benefit from more than 70 years of our expertise caring for vulnerable children, including trauma support for children coming from difficult circumstances. Your sponsored child also receives a quality education and a tailored development plan so they can reach their full potential.

Additionally, your sponsorship gift strengthens the child's greater community. We have devoted decades to building lasting relationships with children, families and communities around the world. SOS Children's Villages schools and medical clinics service children in our families as well as other children and families in the area. Additionally, vocational programs teach job skills to children, youth and adults from SOS Children's Villages families and the surrounding community so they can earn an income and eventually become self-reliant.

### **Can I write/send gifts to my sponsored child?**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently discouraging sponsors from sending physical mail to their sponsored children, as it is a health and safety concern for the children in our care. If you are interested in sending a scanned letter, card, photo or email to your sponsored child, you can reach out to our sponsorship team at [sponsors@sos-usa.org](mailto:sponsors@sos-usa.org) and request the email address of a sponsorship coordinator in your child's country. Our international colleague should be able to pass along your letter to your sponsored child.

When sending photos or letters to a religiously or socially conservative country, the subjects should be modest. While you're welcome to invite your sponsored child to write back, please understand that the ability to respond may be limited due to his or her age, education level or the difficulties that come along with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **How can I give a special monetary gift to my sponsored child?**

Many sponsors choose to give an additional gift to their sponsored child for an occasion such as their birthday or the holiday season. If you are interested in giving your sponsored child a gift for a special occasion, consider giving a monetary gift toward the child's independence fund! These donations are held in a savings account until your sponsored child transitions to independent living in young adulthood. They might use these funds to continue their education, start a small business, purchase a home or rent an apartment.

To give a special gift online via credit card, visit the special gift page on our website at [www.sos-usa.org/sponsorgift](http://www.sos-usa.org/sponsorgift). If you are interested in making a special gift by check, please make it out to SOS Children's Villages USA, Attn: Sponsorship Team, include your sponsored child's name or ID number in the memo and address the check to:

1620 I Street NW, Suite 220  
Washington, DC 20006

## **Can I visit the village and my sponsored child?**

While we hope to facilitate village visits again in the future, most of our villages are not currently allowing visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The top priority of SOS Children's Villages is to ensure the health and safety of the children in our care. Though we are always thrilled to hear about the interest our sponsors have in visiting their sponsored children, visits from international travelers may not be in the best interest of the children's well-being at this time.

## **When will my sponsored child leave SOS Children's Villages care?**

Children leave the care of SOS Children's Villages for a variety of reasons. When possible, SOS Children's Villages works with local authorities to reunite children with their families, if and when that is in the best interest of the child. However, most children will remain in our care until they are between the ages of 18-23, in accordance with both their individual development and the social and cultural norms of their community.

We will notify you immediately if your sponsored child leaves the care of SOS Children's Villages. At that time, you will have the opportunity to sponsor another child in need, often within the same village.

### **For additional information:**

Please contact us at [sponsors@sos-usa.org](mailto:sponsors@sos-usa.org) or 202-470-5172