

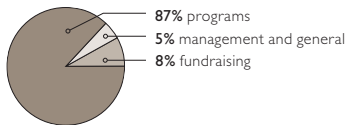
Our vision for every child,  
 life in all its fullness.  
 Our prayer for every heart,  
 the will to make it so.



34834 Weyerhaeuser Way S.  
 P.O. Box 9716  
 Federal Way, WA 98063-9716  
[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

**Child Sponsorship**  
[www.worldvision.org/forsponsoronly](http://www.worldvision.org/forsponsoronly)  
 1.800.777.5777

2008 World Vision expenses:



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.



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thank you for  
**changing my life**  
 your guide to sponsorship

# thank you for your decision to sponsor a child and change a life

**The need is great.** Every day, more than 25,000 children under the age of 5 die—most from preventable causes such as malaria, diarrhea, measles, and pneumonia. Hunger is linked to more than half of child deaths worldwide. More than 75 million of the world's children of primary school age are not enrolled in school. Some 1 billion children are severely deprived of at least one of the essential goods and services they require to survive and develop.

**The statistics are staggering**—and sometimes they make us lose sight of the individual lives that are lost or severely damaged by desperate poverty. The child you have chosen to sponsor is not a statistic. He or she is a beloved child of God.

## Thank you for making a long-term commitment

to bring hope and help to a life and a community that need you so very much. Please use this booklet to guide you through the sponsorship journey with your child. God bless you.

### a word from Max Lucado



*“Our sponsored child, Mimi, wants to become a schoolteacher. Denalyn and I thank God that we can help her reach that dream.”*

—Max Lucado, Christian Author and Pastor, San Antonio, Texas, pictured here with Mimi, from Ethiopia, and his wife, Denalyn

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And [Jesus] took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:16 (NIV)

For more information about child sponsorship and World Vision's work, view the videos on the DVD that accompanies your welcome kit (in the back pocket of the folder).



## praying for me

Your prayers for your sponsored child, his or her family, and the community are crucial. You can pray that he or she will experience God's love, be healthy, and do well in school. If you are sponsoring a HopeChild in a community affected by AIDS (see page 22), please pray that God will meet the special needs of all the community's orphaned and vulnerable children, as well as the needs of its families.

Please also pray that your sponsored child and his or her family will understand that World Vision is motivated to serve them by our faith in Jesus and our desire to reflect God's unconditional love.

Finally, as you get to know your sponsored child, please pray for his or her specific needs. Your long-term commitment to sponsoring and your prayers will help your child reach his or her God-given potential.

section

1

## getting to know me

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*"My sponsor tells me that she always prays for me. This is why I love her so much, and I would like to meet her some day."*

*—Irina of Chile, pictured here at age 9*

## writing to me

Exchanging letters with your sponsored child is a great way to get to know each other. This section will give you helpful tips and important information about communicating with your sponsored child. You can also watch the “Getting to Know Your Sponsored Child” video on the DVD found in the back pocket of your welcome kit folder.

### what to tell me about yourself

Your sponsored child will be delighted to learn about you and your world! Simple one-page letters are perfect.

**Helpful Hint:** Photos of you and your family will be especially treasured. Please be sensitive when choosing photos, as standards of clothing and modesty vary in other countries.

Consider the child’s environment and culture when choosing your letter topics. Since he or she has very few possessions, it’s best not to write about things you own. Rather, share about your family members, your friends, things that are important to you, and simple things you enjoy doing, especially activities like sports or crafts that your child can relate to.



*“I thank my sponsor, Gloria, for her support and affection,” says Nuria. “I know my sponsor loves me.”*

—Nuria of El Salvador, pictured here at age 17



I’m so excited that you’re sponsoring me. I hope you’ll write to me soon!

what this means to me



### questions to ask me

A few basic questions can help you start to learn your sponsored child’s own unique story. Try asking about his or her favorite foods, activities, school subjects, friends, and family.

**Helpful Hint:** On the DVD in your welcome kit folder, you will find videos that show sponsorship through children’s eyes. These may give you ideas for other questions to ask your sponsored child.



In addition, you might want to learn more about your sponsored child’s country. Take this opportunity to learn about a culture that may be new and different to you! If you have children of your own, this can be especially fun for them.

**Helpful Hint:** In your welcome kit folder, you’ll find a small brochure about your sponsored child’s country and community. This can be a good introduction to his or her world.



## how to send me letters

These three easy steps will help ensure your letter gets to your sponsored child as quickly as possible.



- 1 Write **World Vision's national country office address** on the **front of the envelope**. This information is printed on the right side of your child's profile in the front pocket of your welcome kit folder. Or use the pre-printed mailing labels provided with your welcome kit.
- 2 Write **your name and return address** on the **back flap of the envelope**, then write **your sponsored child's name and ID number** on the **bottom of the back**. *Please do not write the child's name and ID number on the front of the envelope.* For ease of reference, you may wish to write your sponsored child's name and ID number, along with your World Vision account number, in the special space provided on the inside back cover of your welcome kit folder.
- 3 Finally, write your **child's name and ID number** at the **top of your letter**. *To avoid confusion, please do not write your address on your letter. Your child will write back via their local World Vision office.*

Remember that all checks to World Vision, including your monthly sponsorship donation, should be sent to our address in Washington state.

## special cards for me from World Vision

Several times a year, we will send you colorful greeting cards that you can sign and return to us for delivery to your sponsored child. These are always a big hit with the children and an easy way to send a special note of encouragement. Although you will not receive a reply to these cards from your sponsored child, you can be sure that the cards will be kept and cherished.

## send me an e-mail!

You might also want to take advantage of our convenient e-mail option to write to your child. To send a message, simply have your World Vision account number, child ID number, and child's full name handy, and go to [www.worldvision.org/emailmychild](http://www.worldvision.org/emailmychild).

The local World Vision office will deliver a printed copy of your e-mail to your child. Though the child will not be able to respond by e-mail, he or she will be excited and encouraged to receive your message—and will send you a response via regular mail.





section

2

# building our relationship

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## getting letters from me

You should receive the first letter from your sponsored child within two to four months after beginning your sponsorship. You will also receive a Christmas or New Year's card and an annual progress report (with a new photo of your sponsored child) each year.

The number of letters you receive from your sponsored child depends partly on the number of letters you send. However, due to a variety of circumstances, it's common for a reply to take up to three to four months. Remote locations and inadequate postal services can result in slower communication. Also, in most cases, a staff member will need to translate the letter from the local language. (You should receive the original letter along with the translation.)

Another thing to remember is that letter writing is a new experience for any child, and many children come from oral traditions. Feel free to write again, even if you've yet to receive a reply!

If it's been more than four months and you haven't received a response from your sponsored child, please call us at **1.800.777.5777** and we'll look into it for you.



building our relationship



## if I'm too young or unable to write...

If your sponsored child is unable to read and write, someone will help him or her read your letter and respond. This person may be a teacher, a family member, or a World Vision staff member. If your child has received assistance in writing, there will be a special note on the letter.



**Helpful Hint:** Be patient if your sponsored child is still developing literacy skills. Remember that writing and receiving letters is a great way for children to improve their reading and writing abilities. Staying in touch is a personal way you can support your sponsored child's education!

## a sponsor's story



*"I have developed a relationship with my sponsored child through letter writing," says Barb. "The thankfulness and love expressed in the letters always touches my heart."*

—**Barb Schellhardt**, child sponsor, Edgewater Park, New Jersey, shown with sponsored child Mutinta of Zambia, pictured here at age 7

## sending gifts to me

### packages


Many sponsors wish to do something extra for their sponsored children by sending gifts. Unfortunately, due to high import duties and restrictions by foreign governments, local World Vision offices cannot receive large packages for sponsored children. The good news is that you are welcome to send small, inexpensive items that fit into a 6-inch by 9-inch envelope in addition to the letters and postcards that your sponsored child will treasure.

Your envelopes should be sent to the same address you use to mail letters to your sponsored child. Any envelopes or packages sent to our address in Washington state will be donated to a local charity.



**Caution:** Never send cash to your sponsored child. (See "extra financial gifts" on page 15 if you'd like to give an extra cash gift to benefit your sponsored child and his or her family or community.)





what this means to me

The best part of gifts is knowing you're thinking about me.

## what to send

Here are some small items that sponsored children especially enjoy and that fit into a 6-inch by 9-inch envelope. Use your imagination to come up with others!

- Stickers
- Pencils
- Hair ribbons
- Coloring books
- Paper airplanes
- Small notebooks or pads of paper
- Colored pencils and a small sharpener  
*(no crayons—they might melt or break)*
- Handmade items (small paintings, flat craft projects)
- Drawings made by your children, grandchildren, or children at your church
- Bandannas
- Picture postcards
- Bookmarks
- Small puzzles

## what not to send

- Jewelry
- Toys or other items that appear expensive
- Keepsakes or items of great sentimental value
- Money of any currency, which could be confiscated

If you have any questions about these guidelines or a specific item you'd like to send, please feel free to call and ask us.




## extra financial gifts

You may learn that your sponsored child has a special financial need, such as a bicycle for transportation or a new roof for the family's house. If you'd like to help by giving a financial gift beyond the amount of your sponsorship, please call us at **1.800.777.5777**. To ensure the best stewardship of our field staff's time and resources, such gifts must be \$75 or more. Your gift will be used to purchase the item(s) in the child's country, saving shipping and other logistical costs.

## visiting me

We are delighted when sponsors wish to meet their sponsored children face-to-face. Because of our commitment to child protection, and the complexity of travel arrangements to remote communities, we need to know of your desire at least three months before the date you'd like to travel. A background check for all visitors is also required. Once your visit is approved, we will facilitate the arrangements, including a staff member to act as your guide and interpreter.

To learn more or to apply for a visit, please call us at **1.888.511.6432**.



what this means to me

Your visit would be a dream come true . . .  
I will never forget meeting you!





## about me

Use this page to record special details you learn about your sponsored child through your correspondence.

my parents \_\_\_\_\_

my brothers \_\_\_\_\_

my sisters \_\_\_\_\_

my friends \_\_\_\_\_

my favorite activity \_\_\_\_\_

my favorite food(s) \_\_\_\_\_

my favorite subject \_\_\_\_\_

my favorite song \_\_\_\_\_

my favorite color \_\_\_\_\_

what I want to be when I grow up  
\_\_\_\_\_

my special achievements or talents  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

other special things about me  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

how you can pray for me  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



section  
**3**

# transforming my world

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## about my country

In your welcome kit folder, you'll find a small brochure that will give you a brief overview of the country and community your sponsored child lives in. This will help you understand some of the challenges faced by your sponsored child and his or her family.

## what your help does for me and my community

Child sponsorship addresses a child’s most basic needs, both immediate and long-term. World Vision’s decades of experience have proven that the most effective way to help a child is to strengthen the child’s entire community.

We do this by pooling your sponsorship donations with donations from other sponsors to provide the assistance a child, his or her family, their community, and other impoverished children need most. We work with local people to determine their specific needs, and then help them gain access to the resources that will fill those needs: things such as clean water, improved nutrition, health care, education, vocational training, and economic opportunities.

We encourage you and your family to learn more about this exciting process by viewing “Journey of Transformation,” a video on the DVD we’ve included in the back pocket of your welcome kit.

By strengthening the community, we help bring about lasting change. And that offers children a new future filled with hope!

# life cycle of a sponsorship community

## Phase 1: Building Trust & Laying Groundwork

- Partnership with community established
- Needs and resources assessed and planned
- Child sponsorship and community projects begin

Years 1-3

## Phase 2: Building Hope & Skills

- Community participates in progress and embraces project ownership
- Children continue to benefit from projects such as education, nutrition, clean water, health care, and spiritual nurture

Years 4-9

## Phase 3: Building Confidence for the Future

- Self-assurance and self-sufficiency grow
- Years of hard work and partnership transform lives of children and communities

Years 10 to Project Close

## showing me God's love

Your sponsorship gifts support physical, spiritual, and emotional transformation for your sponsored child! You reflect the unconditional love of God to him or her through your tangible help, prayers, and letters. World Vision staff strive to serve every child and family with selfless compassion and act as the hands and feet of God in sponsorship communities. Through sponsorship, we offer life-saving help and hope and enable children to reach their God-given potential.

World Vision also is privileged to offer sponsorship in many communities where the majority of the families we serve are not Christian. When working in these communities, we not

only abide by local laws and customs but also strive to show respect and honor to those of different faiths.

It is our deep desire that every child experience wholeness. Wherever possible, World Vision works in partnership with local churches, and other local Christian organizations, that minister in sponsorship communities.

*"I like school because I get knowledge," says Koura. Her father Sassi adds, "I am very happy that my daughter is sponsored."*

—Koura of Mali, pictured here at age 8



## if I'm a HopeChild

A World Vision HopeChild is a child who lives in a community affected by AIDS. If you are a HopeChild sponsor, your sponsorship gifts provide an extra level of care for your child and others in the community.

Trained volunteers look after children's emotional, physical, and spiritual needs and help care for sick or dying parents. Counselors promote fidelity in marriage to help prevent the spread of AIDS. And children receive age-appropriate HIV-prevention education that promotes abstinence, along with practical life-skills training.

Our partnerships with local churches and other organizations in Hope communities provide an important advantage, enabling us to reach, help, and mobilize as many community members as possible.

For more information about the AIDS crisis, watch "The Impact of AIDS," a video on the DVD in the back pocket of your welcome kit folder.

## updates on my progress

Each year you will receive a progress report from your child's World Vision Area Development Program (ADP), as well as an updated photograph of your sponsored child. This report will let you know how your gifts are making a difference in your sponsored child's education, health, and community.



*"I thank Dan, my sponsor, for giving me a chance to learn."*

—Pathias of Zambia, pictured here at age 12, lost his father to AIDS. Pathias was very ill and did not have the strength to go to school before he became sponsored, but now he is regularly attending school and his family receives medical assistance.

## why sponsorship may end

We hope your new friendship will be treasured by you and your sponsored child for a lifetime. Sponsorship is a long-term commitment, however the length of each sponsorship depends on the needs of the child and his or her community. Your sponsorship may conclude for one of the following reasons:

### my community has "graduated"

The goal of sponsorship is to help break the cycle of poverty so children and families can step into the future with well-founded hope. When these goals are met, projects are phased out and World Vision moves on to serve children in great need in other communities.

### I am self-sufficient!

In many cases, children are sponsored until they finish school, reach maturity, are able to support themselves, or marry.

### I've moved to a different community

Occasionally circumstances arise that mean a child must leave the sponsorship program. For example, a child's family may move out of the community into an area where World Vision child sponsorship is not available.

Unfortunately, World Vision cannot continue to facilitate communications between you and a child who is no longer part of a World Vision project.

When your sponsorship ends, we will let you know and give you the opportunity to sponsor another child who needs your help.



section

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## making your donations

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## giving options

As a child sponsor, you may choose to give your gifts monthly or annually. We invite you to choose the giving method most suitable for you.

**Automatic Giving** Our Automatic Giving Plan not only offers you convenience and peace of mind, but also helps World Vision to be a good steward of resources by reducing the amount spent on monthly reminder mailings and processing fees. Your sponsorship support will be deducted automatically from your debit card or bank account or charged to your credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover). To sign up, just call us at **1.800.777.5777**.

**Check or Money Order** When you give by check or money order, your monthly statement will include a reply coupon and an envelope for your next gift. Please make checks and money orders payable to World Vision. Money orders should include your full name, address, ZIP code, and World Vision account number. Please do not send cash.

## records of your donations

If you give your monthly donations through our Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive quarterly statements. If you give by monthly check or money order, you will receive monthly statements. If you give annually, regardless of your giving method, you will receive annual statements.

Sponsorship contributions to World Vision are tax-deductible. Be sure to keep your statements, as they are your only legal receipts for income tax purposes.



Your statement includes:

- 1 Your child's name and ID number
- 2 Your donor account number
- 3 The amount of your monthly commitment
- 4 A tax-deductible receipt for you to keep
- 5 A reply coupon and envelope for your next donation

The image shows a World Vision 'My record of Giving' statement. It includes fields for Donor Name, Account Number, Pledge Amount, and Pledge Start Date. A table lists 'Gifts' with columns for Date, Amount, and Description. At the bottom, there is a 'Return this coupon with your gift!' section with fields for Name, Address, and Phone Number. Numbered callouts 1 through 5 point to specific areas: 1 points to the Donor Name, 2 to the Account Number, 3 to the Pledge Amount, 4 to the Gifts table, and 5 to the reply coupon section.

To manage your account or see your giving history online, go to [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) to sign in.

## if you have questions

We want to serve you and make certain that your sponsorship experience is a blessing! An online resource has been created to answer many questions that sponsors often have. Access it today by logging on to [www.worldvision.org/forsponsoronly](http://www.worldvision.org/forsponsoronly).



**Helpful Hint:** If at any time you have unanswered questions, please get in touch with us. You can call us toll free at **1.800.777.5777**, Monday through Saturday between 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. Pacific time. You may also write to **World Vision, P.O. Box 78481, Tacoma, WA 98481-8481**. Or, send us an e-mail at [info@worldvision.org](mailto:info@worldvision.org).

dear friend,

I'm so pleased to welcome you to the family of World Vision child sponsors! You are now one of more than 2 million people around the world who have made a long-term commitment to transforming the life of a child in partnership with World Vision.

Your decision to sponsor this child may seem like a simple one. Yet consider that it is the beginning of something much greater. You are extending the warmth and comfort of God's love—and planting the seeds of hope in the heart of a precious child, as well as offering hope to his or her family and community and other children in need.

As you begin to learn more about this special child, it's my prayer that you will be blessed by your newfound friendship.

Once again, thank you for coming alongside a child in desperate need. You've become a valued helper to their community and our valued partner as we work together to be instruments of God's love.

For the children,

Rich Stearns  
World Vision U.S. President

