

## **Now that I am connected with a specific child, can I visit them?**

Yes! Back2Back makes it easy to meet and visit your sponsor child by joining us on a mission trip. Many child sponsors have had the opportunity to build a deeper relationship with their child by meeting them and seeing where they live. Learn more about taking a mission trip by logging on to [www.back2back.org/missiontrips](http://www.back2back.org/missiontrips)

## **What will communication look like with my sponsor child?**

You are welcome to write to your child as often as you like. Four times a year we will translate any letters you have written and hand-deliver them to your child. Your child will then write you a return letter, which we will translate and pass on to you. You will receive between 2 to 4 letters per year from your sponsor child, based on how often you write.

Unsure what to say? Please see Back2Back's Letter Writing Tips for more ideas. You are welcome to use the Back2Back Child Sponsorship Letter template to write on, but you do not have to. Please keep letters to an appropriate length, keeping in mind that a staff person will translate it. You are welcome to email a letter to your sponsor child to [childsponsorship@back2back.org](mailto:childsponsorship@back2back.org) or may mail it to: *Back2Back Ministries, P.O. Box 439, Mason, OH 45040*. We hand deliver all letters due to postal services in the countries we serve often being unreliable.

## **What should I know about my sponsor child?**

Many of the children Back2Back works with come from a background of abuse and/or neglect. We ask that as their sponsor, you do not ask your sponsor child about their past. We want the children to focus on today and their future rather than dwelling on negative memories. Most of the children we serve meet with a psychologist to work through woundings from their past.

Many of the children Back2Back works with have some biological family that they are in contact with. They often will visit these family members on weekends and/or holidays, and some may be reunified with family in the future.

Many of the children have had gaps in their education-- whether from not being able to attend school, or by struggling with an undiagnosed or untreated learning disability. Therefore, many of the children are behind in school compared to their age, and are working to get caught up.

## **Can I get a gift for my sponsor child?**

Yes! Due to the high cost of mailing gifts to sponsor children, we offer sponsors the opportunity to make a donation above and beyond their normal giving amount to be used for a gift, a special outing, or a birthday party for their child. By giving generally, sponsors allow us to celebrate each child in unique ways. To donate toward a gift to your child, simply mail in a check or make a donation on Back2Back's website for the gift amount. Be sure to write your child's ID# and write "gift" in the donation memo line.

It may take up to eight weeks for your gift to be given to your sponsor child, due to the amount of time it takes to transfer funds internationally to the site staff. If you would choose to include a gift with your letter, we ask that the gift be able to fit into an 9x12 envelope. Sponsors should abstain from giving monetary gifts or expensive items to their sponsor child.

## **Can I communicate with my sponsor child through social media?**

If you choose to connect with your sponsor child via social media, we ask that you use it as a vehicle to encourage and edify your child. Please remember we are serving children who may be working through the issues that arise from experiencing abandonment, neglect and abuse, in addition to the typical struggles that all teenagers face. We do not assume that they will cease to wrestle through these issues simply because they are in our Child Sponsorship Program. In light of this, we encourage the children to communicate in a way that is respectful and appropriate. We hope that as their sponsor you will assist us in that by letting us know if you ever have questions or concerns about the content of an email or post from your child. Copying a caregiver or captain at the home on emails to the sponsor child is preferred.