








To: Jose ♡



**NPH USA**  
Raising Children. Supporting Families.  
Transforming Lives.

# Your Guide to Sponsorship

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# Glossary

**Godchild** – a sponsored child

**Pequeño or pequeña** – a boy or a girl who was raised in an NPH home and/or has benefited from NPH services.

**Tía/Aunt or Tío/Uncle** – A caretaker at the home who provides assistance to pequeños.

**Año de Servicio/Year of Service** – Before leaving the NPH programs, pequeños give a year of service, typically working in a home to support their NPH family. This is a very important part in their formation and strengthens their self-esteem. It is important that each NPH family member can contribute something back to the community.

**Padrino/Godfather or Madrina/Godmother** – An individual who has sponsored a pequeño.

**Hermano/a(s) Mayor(es)** – An adult pequeño who no longer receives financial support from NPH and lives independently. Often serves as a role model for younger pequeños in the NPH programs.





# Introduction

## Who We Are

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) means “Our Little Brothers and Sisters” in Spanish. Founded in 1954 by Father William Wasson, NPH has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of the most vulnerable children and young adults, providing a nurturing family environment, education, health care, and vocational and life skills training.

NPH USA helps children in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru achieve their full potential, becoming productive, caring leaders in their communities and breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

NPH USA, Federal Tax ID # 65-1229309, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

# Thank you

for sponsoring a child through NPH USA. Inside this guide you'll find helpful tips for connecting with your sponsored child and useful information about NPH USA and the child sponsorship program.

## *Your support is life-changing!*

Whether your sponsored child lives at one of NPH's residential care homes or with their family in one of the communities where we work, you are helping to provide a safe and loving home, an education, clothing, health care, independence, and skills to achieve a productive future and break the cycle of poverty.

A child needs love and encouragement every day of their life. As a sponsor you are a member of our global family. NPH children and staff often refer to a sponsor as a padrino or madrina (“Godfather” or “Godmother”), because of the consistent encouragement and emotional support you can provide to your sponsored child. Through correspondence and visits, you have the opportunity to develop a special bond with your sponsored child that is sure to enrich your own life.





# About NPH

## Who We Serve

NPH is supporting thousands of vulnerable children and families in nine countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Where We Work

- **BOLIVIA**  
Family-style home, school (K-6), home for transition to independent living, clinic
- **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
Family-style home, temporary home for at-risk children, school (grades K-12), vocational workshops, farm, clinic, ambulatory surgery center
- **EL SALVADOR**  
Family-style home, school (K-9), vocational workshops, farm, clinic, daycare center
- **GUATEMALA**  
Family-style home, school (K-9), vocational workshops, farm, clinic, family & daycare centers
- **HAITI**  
Family-style homes, schools (K-10 & K-12), farm, clinic, rehab centers, St. Damien Pediatric Hospital
- **HONDURAS**  
Family-style home, home for children with severe disabilities, temporary home for at-risk children, school (K-9), vocational workshops, farm, clinic, surgery center, soup kitchen, family & daycare centers
- **MEXICO**  
Family-style homes, school (K-9), technical high school, farm, clinic, single mothers program
- **NICARAGUA**  
Family-style home, school (K-11), vocational workshops, farms, clinic, therapy center for children living with disabilities
- **PERU**  
Family-style home, home for transition to independent living farm, clinic, family community center



## Our Homes and Communities

Most NPH homes are located near cities, making services and supplies easily accessible. At the same time, the homes are relatively isolated and have extensive grounds. This provides safety and security to children who may have never experienced either. Each home strives to be self-sustaining by producing its own food and other necessities.

NPH operates family and community strengthening programs in local communities, including daycare centers, food kitchens, and initiatives aimed at reuniting biological families through family reintegration efforts. Additionally, local children are offered scholarships to attend NPH schools.

## Our Vision

We envision a world where vulnerable children, families, and communities have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.



Learn more about the homes and see photos at [nphusa.org/impact](https://nphusa.org/impact)

## Our Values

- Create a life-long family for our children, through unconditional love, shared responsibility and helping others.
- Provide physical, emotional and spiritual support on a long-term basis to disadvantaged children.
- Enable children to grow into caring and productive members of their communities.
- Help our supporters create change and improve the lives of vulnerable children.
- Ensure a quality education culminating in trade school or a university degree.
- Offer our children a sense of purpose and pride through taking part in our program and giving back to their brothers and sisters.
- Give donors a chance to visit our homes and meet the children whose lives they have changed.



# Welcome to Our Family

As a sponsor, you are now part of your sponsored child's extended family, and ours!

At NPH, the children and youth often refer to themselves as *pequeños*, Spanish for "little ones." Through updates, correspondence, and visits, sponsors become witness to the incredible impact of their emotional and financial support.

## Children Supported

**Traditional** – Knowing that every child deserves a secure, nurturing family, NPH homes provide a family environment for children when there are no other safe options. All children in NPH's residential care receive the love and full support they need so they can grow to their fullest selves.

**OneFamily (family reintegration)** – When possible, NPH works to transition children to live safely and happily with their biological families, while putting the best interests of children first. Families receive services from NPH OneFamily teams (psychologists and social workers). If your sponsored child reintegrates with biological family and continues to receive support through the NPH OneFamily Program, we will notify you of this change and you will receive two annual Child Wellness Reports. You may continue to send messages of encouragement to your sponsored child, as the OneFamily team will deliver these during their visits.

**Community** – To impact the root cause of family separation, NPH provides vital services to vulnerable families in surrounding communities, including nutrition, daycare services, educational scholarships, and empowerment programs. By sponsoring a child in the community, you help keep families, the backbone of society, strong so children can thrive and not be separated from family.



## **A Continuum of Individualized Care**

Each child in NPH's care is unique and has their own individual needs. In residential care programs, many children arrive having suffered from neglect, abuse, and the effects of extreme poverty. From the day they join the NPH family, they are treated with dignity and respect. In general, there is no fixed age at which children are asked to leave the NPH programs. Instead, NPH provides pequeños with individualized support to acquire the skills they need to live independently at their own pace. Children with disabilities receive a range of therapy treatments and services, including occupational, physio, art, and speech for children, youth, and adults with cognitive, physical, and other challenges.

## **Education and Service**

Through your support, NPH supports the unique educational needs and goals of each child and provides access to quality education from preschool through university. In some cases, children have never attended school or are behind in their education. Whether a child is part of a residential or community program, NPH evaluates each student and provides individualized attention to ensure the student can catch up with their peers. Therefore, it is not uncommon to see older children in earlier grade levels. While some youth will choose to leave NPH programs after secondary school to start working in a trade, others may decide to complete an advanced technical degree or study at the university level. All children are expected to complete an "año de servicio," or year of service, at NPH before or after they have finished their higher educational pursuits. This year of service provides an opportunity for the older youth to learn new skills and give back to their NPH family by working with the younger children, serving in the kitchen, offices, school, or farm. Students are also afforded the opportunity to study higher education. Half of all youth in Latin America never finish high school, which makes higher education unattainable. This support can help advance a young adult to the top percentiles in their countries, preparing them to become leaders and engaged, productive citizens. Within the NPH family, graduates are not only celebrated, but they are also seen as role models and leaders by example for the many children who follow in their footsteps toward a bright future.





# Communicating with Your Sponsored Child

## Correspondence

Your sponsored child eagerly awaits a letter from you! We strongly encourage letter writing as it helps to build a special relationship. Even a short note or photograph is sure to bring a smile! Here are some tips to get started.

To send a card or letter by mail:

1. Place your letter in an unsealed envelope and label it with your sponsored child's full name, country, and your name. (To avoid confusion, please do not put return addresses on the envelopes.)
2. Place the unsealed envelope into another envelope and mail it to the **national NPH USA office**:



Child's Full Name  
c/o NPH USA  
20 North Wacker Drive  
Suite 4000  
Chicago, IL 60606-3193



### **SHORT ON TIME? SEND A QUICK NOTE ONLINE!**

You can view your sponsored child's current photo and send an e-letter through our electronic correspondence site: *Community*. To enroll, visit [nphusa.org/email](https://nphusa.org/email)



**To protect the privacy of both sponsors and children, direct communication with your sponsored child outside of NPH's official channels is not permitted.**



**Please refrain from sending mail or packages directly to the home. The homes are unable to accept or return any correspondence or gifts sent by sponsors.**



## Writing a Letter

**Your sponsored child is always excited to receive your letters!**

While the exchange process can take some time, it's a truly meaningful experience for both you and your sponsored child. On average, it takes about **2 to 4 months** to receive a response after sending a letter\*. However, during certain times of the year—especially around Christmas—please allow a few additional weeks due to increased volume and holiday schedules.

If you write your letter in your sponsored child's native language, this can help speed up the process. While online translation tools can be useful for translating individual words, they are often less reliable for full letters. For this reason, any letters translated using online tools will still be reviewed and properly translated by our team before being sent.

Please note:

- Children in all NPH homes speak Spanish, except in Haiti, where they speak French Creole and read and write in French.
- If needed, we will translate your message before delivering it to your sponsored child.

\*Sponsors with children in the OneFamily program will receive two child wellness reports a year in response to correspondence received by the national office.

## DID YOU KNOW...

**sponsors are the ones who initiate communication with their sponsored child?**

That's right! Once you begin your sponsorship, the NPH home will send you an **introductory letter** from your sponsored child so you can get to know them better. You can expect to receive this first letter within **2 to 3 months** after your sponsorship begins.\*

Please note that **sponsored children can only respond to messages they receive**. If it's been a while since your last letter, we encourage you to write back and keep the conversation going.



## What to Write

These tips can help you make the most of writing to your sponsored child:

- Keep your letters simple. Write about things your sponsored child will understand, such as family, pets, hobbies and activities.
- Encourage your sponsored child's learning activities and special interests such as art, dance, and sports.
- Ask specific questions and emphasize things you have in common. As time goes on, you will discover shared interests, perhaps a favorite school subject or a love of music.
- Your interest and support make a positive impact on your sponsored child's life. Beyond material support, you provide moral support that enhances self-esteem.
- Please avoid discussing material possessions, which will emphasize differences.
- Send pictures of yourself and your family. Such photographs will become prized possessions.

## What to Send

If you would like to send a special gift or item, please follow these guidelines:

- Postcards and photos are fun and educational. Flat items like bookmarks, coloring book pages, stickers, flat magnets, and prayer cards are all appreciated.
- Flat and lightweight apparel (e.g., shirts, socks) in modest quantities and appropriate package sizes are welcome. Contact the sponsorship team in advance for assistance with sizing details.
- Large toys, battery-operated items, or those that alter the shape of the package are not recommended.
- Please limit the size of gifts to the equivalent of a 12"x9" envelope or a similar size.

## Receiving a Letter

If you have written to your sponsored child and have not received a response within four months, please contact us at 1-888-201-8880 or [sponsorship@nphusa.org](mailto:sponsorship@nphusa.org) and we will look into it for you.

Not all children are natural writers, and some may find it challenging to express themselves in long letters. Rest assured, though, your sponsored child deeply appreciates and loves receiving your messages, even if their replies are short. Your support means the world to them!



## Sponsor Correspondence Policy

We are committed to protecting the safety, well-being, and dignity of the children, as well as respecting the privacy of our supporters.

- To protect your family's privacy, please refrain from including any direct contact information (such as physical addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, social media accounts, or work-related details) in your correspondence.
- All correspondence must be sent through the national office.
- We ask sponsors to handle sensitive information, including child photos and biographical details, with respect and care. To protect the children's rights and comply with local laws, please refrain from sharing this content on social media or other platforms.
- We review all correspondence sent to sponsored children to ensure it does not contain any abusive, exploitative, inappropriate, or threatening content.
- We also review letters to sponsors to ensure they do not include inappropriate requests for funds or improper solicitations from children.

## Updates from Your Sponsored Child

Throughout the year you will receive updates regarding their progress, including an annual Christmas card.



## Helpful Phrases in Your Sponsored Child's Language

The following phrases are provided in case you wish to include one or more in your correspondence.

### **Happy birthday! We hope you have a great day!**

French: *Joyeux Anniversaire ! On espère que tu as une journée merveilleuse!*

Spanish: *¡Feliz Cumpleaños! ¡Esperamos que tengas un buen día!*

### **Hello! How are you doing? We are all doing well.**

French: *Salut ! Comment ça va ? On va bien!*

Spanish: *¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? Todos estamos bien.*

### **You are doing well in school. We are very proud of you. Keep up the good work.**

French: *Tu vas bien à l'école ! Nous sommes très fiers de toi! Continue avec le bon travail!*

Spanish: *Vas muy bien en la escuela. Estamos muy orgullosos de ti. Sigue con el buen trabajo.*

### **It was nice to get your letter and picture. Thank you!**

French: *C'était génial de recevoir ta lettre et ton photo! Merci!*

Spanish: *Que bueno que recibimos tu carta y fotografía. ¡Gracias!*

### **Always try your best at whatever you do and never give up.**

French: *Fais toujours de ton mieux dans tout ce que tu fais et n'abandonnes jamais.*

Spanish: *Trata siempre de hacer lo mejor que puedas. Nunca te des por vencido.*

### **We are so happy to be your Godparents.**

French: *Nous sommes si heureux d'être tes parrains.*

Spanish: *Estamos muy felices de ser tus padrinos.*

### **We hope to be able to visit you sometime.**

French: *On espère pouvoir de te visiter quelquefois.*

Spanish: *Esperamos poder visitarte algún día.*

### **Write back soon. We will be waiting to hear from you.**

French: *Réécris bientôt. Nous attendrons tes nouvelles!*

Spanish: *Escribe pronto. Estaremos esperando oír de ti.*

### **Remember . . . we are always thinking about you.**

French: *Et n'oublies pas que nous pensons toujours à toi !*

Spanish: *Recuerda . . . siempre pensamos en ti.*

Translators are always needed! If you can help, e-mail us at [sponsorship@nphusa.org](mailto:sponsorship@nphusa.org).



## Visiting Your Sponsored Child

Godparents are always welcome to visit their sponsored children! Spending time with the pequeños and touring the homes is a great way to learn about NPH's unique programs and discover first-hand how loving care lift children who would otherwise struggle to survive.

NPH USA organizes trips to the NPH homes and communities on a regular basis, making arrangements for accommodations, ground transportation and activities. Prices and activities vary. Please note that additional time may be required if visiting pequeños living in the communities.



View our trip schedule at  
[nphusa.org/travels](https://nphusa.org/travels)

Please contact the sponsorship department if you would like to visit your sponsored child. We will help facilitate the visit with the NPH home and make sure that your sponsored child knows that you are coming. We ask that you provide us with as much notice as possible so that we can make sure your sponsored child and the NPH home are prepared for your visit.

## Visitor Policies

### Photography:

Visitors taking photos or videos of any NPH program are requested to photograph only children who are in the custody of NPH, unless prior authorization is approved. Please be respectful and do not take photos of participants in any community outreach program.

### Social Media:

To protect the rights and safety of the children in our care, visitors and supporters are asked to not post pictures with children's faces on social media—even if your account is set to "private"! Some of our children come from "hard" pasts and revealing a child's location might endanger their safety. NPH has the right to request that any media used of an NPH home, child, or program be removed. This can differ from country to country so please be sure to check with your trip leader, prior to posting anything.



# Your Sponsorship Account

## Managing Your Sponsorship Contributions

Donations to NPH USA, Tax ID #65-1229309, are tax deductible as provided by law. As a sponsor, you may choose to make your donations monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. We invite you to choose the giving method that works best for you and your family.

- **AUTOMATIC GIVING:** Your sponsorship donation can be automatically deducted from your bank account or charged to your credit or debit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover). To sign up for automatic giving, please call us at 1-888-201-8880. To help us reduce costs incurred by sending multiple mailings, your credit or debit card bill or bank statement will serve as your receipt.
- **CHECK:** If you prefer to donate by check, please make checks payable to **NPH USA** and send them to our national office for processing. In the memo line or the accompanying letter, please state that this is for your sponsorship. We will send you a receipt, which will also serve as a reminder for your next donation.

**\* Did you know that it costs over \$5.63 to process a check? We encourage you to help us maximize your contributions by switching to automatic giving!**

## Changes to Your Sponsorship

Sponsorship is an ongoing commitment that continues for as long as you are able to contribute. Occasionally, children may leave NPH for various reasons, such as choosing to live independently when they are old enough. Please understand that there may be a delay between when a change occurs in a country and when our US office is informed. We will notify you as soon as we are made aware of such a departure and kindly ask you to consider supporting another child. Unfortunately, it is not possible to facilitate communication with your sponsored child after they have left the NPH program.



### **We want to hear from you!**

As a sponsor you are a valued part of our family. We want your experience to be as rewarding as possible. Your sponsorship team is here to assist you Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CT at 1-888-201-8880 or by email at [sponsorship@nphusa.org](mailto:sponsorship@nphusa.org).



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