

ការស្វាគមន៍ (welcome)



Your guide to sponsoring a child in Cambodia



Pearl S. Buck International®

A black and white photograph of Pearl S. Buck, an elderly woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a dark, short-sleeved top and a patterned skirt. She is seated at a desk with several open books in front of her. The background is slightly blurred, showing a framed picture on the wall. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, typewriter-style font.

Our treasure
is in our
children, for
in them is
our future.

Pearl S. Buck

Author, Humanitarian, Activist

Welcome

Thank you for beginning your journey as a child sponsor through Pearl S. Buck International.

As a child sponsor, you are becoming part of the legacy of Pearl S. Buck. She founded this organization to, in her exact words, “address the issues of poverty and discrimination”.

Ms. Buck was a staunch advocate for children in need and helping the most vulnerable ones was a cause close to her heart. She would never stand by when any child was treated poorly simply because of the circumstances of his or her birth—and neither will you. While the cost to you is less than a dollar a day, the benefits to your sponsored child, his or her family, and future generations are priceless.

Your gift provides your sponsored child with life-changing healthcare, nutrition, and education. Most of the sponsored children in our program go on to complete their education, become self-sufficient, and break the cycle of poverty that has plagued their families.

Through your support, however, you are providing more than just food, healthcare, and education—you are providing hope. You are providing a future.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Stephanie Saveriano
International Programs Director
Pearl S. Buck International

About Cambodia

Language Khmer

Religions Buddhist (official), Muslim

Major urban areas Phnom Penh (capital), Siem Reap, Battambang

History Cambodia became a French protectorate in 1863 after asking for help to defend themselves from invasion by Thailand and Vietnam. In 1953, the kingdom of Cambodia became independent from France under King Sihanouk, who became the country's sole ruler. In 1970, civil war broke out with King Sihanouk being deposed by the military. Sihanouk joined forces with the communist regime Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot and conquered Phnom Penh in 1975. Pol Pot tried to turn Cambodia into an agrarian state with people being forced to move to the countryside to farm. Those who resisted were tortured or murdered. Up to two million Cambodians were murdered by the regime. Under the control of Pol Pot, Cambodia was transformed from a fast-growing, globally aware country (whose capital drew the envy of the leader of a then-fledgling Singapore), to one of abject poverty and chaos. In 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia and drove the Khmer Rouge out of the country and Sihanouk became king again. The country has struggled for decades to recover from the devastation caused by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge.

Geography Located in Southeast Asia, Cambodia is bordered by Thailand to the west, Vietnam to the east, Laos to the north and the Gulf of Thailand to the southwest. The Central Plains cover approximately three quarters of the country. Cambodia's highland mountain ranges are in the Central Plains. Many rivers run through Cambodia including the Mekong River.

Livelihood Cambodia's economy depends heavily on tourism and garment exports. Many in Cambodia still rely on subsistence farming. Cambodia is one of Asia's poorest countries.

Where Pearl S. Buck International Works in Cambodia

The Kravaan Primary School in Siem Reap.

As Cambodia struggles to educate the next generation of children, the schools in Siem Reap run by Caring for Cambodia are seen by the government as the shining example of how education should look in Cambodia and are used as the template for the national education system. The children who attend these schools are given a well-rounded education that includes learning English as a second language, ICT/STEM, health education, music and life skills, and career preparations. They are also given two meals every day so they are not hungry at school and can concentrate on learning.



The History of Pearl S. Buck International in Cambodia

In 2020 Pearl S. Buck International partnered with Caring for Cambodia, United States based 501 (c)(3), to help improve the lives of children in Siem Reap.

Child sponsorship in Cambodia supports the costs for educating all sponsored students attending Caring for Cambodia's safe and well-equipped schools. The schools are safe havens where teachers are trained, tools provided, and barriers are removed to facilitate a nurturing learning experience so all students can reach their highest potential and make valuable contributions to their community.



Pearl S. Buck International's Services in Cambodia

Education is key to helping revitalize Cambodia after the devastation caused by the Khmer Rouge. Pearl S. Buck International along with Caring for Cambodia are striving to make it possible for every Cambodian child to attend school from preschool to 12th grade and to graduate with the skills required for higher education or for obtaining meaningful employment. This enables the students to support their families, to become productive citizens, and to give back to their communities.

The children served by these schools are also provided with nutritious meals during the school day as well as basic health care needs such as vision, dental, and health screenings. They are given access to clean drinking water, first aid training, and mothers are given prenatal care and early childhood lessons so they can prepare their children to be successful when they begin kindergarten.

There is a particular focus on making sure girls get an education. Many girls are not afforded the opportunity to get an education because of societal attitudes that a girl's place is in the home taking care of chores and younger siblings. Many families cannot afford the cost of educating a girl and see them as more valuable at home than in school.



Communications from Your Sponsored Child

First Communication

The Family Greeting Letter (marked FGL) is the first communication from your new sponsored child. You should receive this within one to two months of starting sponsorship, based on how remote the child's residence is.

From Your Sponsored Child

Each year, your sponsored child will send you at least two communications. A third communication will be included if your child is between the ages of 5 and 12 years. Parents, guardians, or case workers will help younger children write their letters which will be translated into English and marked with the code that corresponds to the type of communication.

1. Family letter #1 (marked FL#1) is a letter sent in the first half of the year.
2. Family letter #2 (marked FL#2) is a letter sent in the second half of the year. Please note that if your sponsorship starts in the second half of the year, the first Family Letter you receive will be marked FL#2 to coordinate with this schedule, not the number you've received.
3. If your sponsor child is between 5 and 12 years of age, they also will send you one non-verbal communication (marked NVC) in the form of a drawing or handmade greeting of their own, once a year.

Other Communications

Once a year, the Executive Director of the affiliate country office will compile a family journal which will contain updates on your sponsored child, their family, and the programs in which your sponsored child participates. An updated photo will be included.

Please note that due to language and cultural difference, some children may start letters by introducing themselves. They haven't forgotten you. It is simply their style of letter writing.

How to Write to Your Sponsored Child

Writing to your sponsored child will build a special relationship with him or her. You may send a letter whenever you wish. How often you write is up to you.

Important information about writing to your sponsored child

We are very protective of your rights and those of your sponsored child. Please do not include your last name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or social media accounts in your letter. All communications are required to come through the child sponsorship office to ensure all messages are appropriate.

To reduce delays in processing, all letters should include:

- Sponsored child's name
- Sponsored child's ID number
- Your sponsor number

Tips for writing

Share about yourself and your family.

Your child will enjoy learning about you as well as your family, pets, traditions, and interests.

Offer encouragement and guidance.

Your letters of support and encouragement as well as interest in your sponsored child's well-being, education, family, and hardships will be greatly appreciated.

Ask questions.

Your child will look forward to responding to specific questions. However, keep in mind that your sponsored child may be shy.

Sending a letter

Online Go to www.pearlsbuck.org/write.

Email For your convenience, you can send a letter by email to childsponsorship@pearlsbuck.org. If sending by email, you may include pictures.

Postal mail Letters, cards, and packages sent by postal mail will incur a fee. See page 9 for pricing. Letters and small items should be mailed to Pearl S. Buck International, 520 Dublin Rd, Perkasie, PA 18944.

Monetary Gifts for Sponsored Children

Unlike most child sponsorship programs, Pearl S. Buck International matches only one sponsor to each child. Therefore, child sponsors are allowed to provide a cash gift to each of their sponsored children on birthdays, holidays, or other occasions. The money you send will be used to buy the child a gift since it is difficult for the children in Cambodia to open bank accounts. A picture will be sent to you of your sponsored child with their new gift.

Monetary gift guidelines

The minimum amount for a financial gift is \$6. There is no maximum amount. Average gifts range from \$20 to \$100 per year. Large cash gifts are not encouraged, as Pearl S. Buck International seeks to build community interdependence rather than individual dependency.

Ways to send a gift

Send your monetary gift by postal mail to Pearl S. Buck International, 520 Dublin Road, Perkasio, PA 18944, Attn: Child Sponsorship. Please include a check with a note stating your sponsored child's full name, sponsored child number, your sponsor number, and the purpose of the gift.

To make your monetary gift on-line, go to www.pearlsbuck.org/giveagift.

Monthly gifts

To set up a monthly monetary gift for your sponsored child or an annual recurring birthday gift, call the Child Sponsorship Manager at 215-249-0100 X142.

Timing

Please plan ahead to make your monetary gifts early enough to ensure your sponsored child will receive it by your target date. All monetary gifts are sent overseas on the 15TH of the month following the month your gift is received. Please note that some of the locations served are remote so it could take additional time for overseas staff to get the gift to your sponsored child.

Sending Personal Gifts to Your Sponsored Child

Sending cash gifts instead of sending physical items is recommended because of postage costs. Packages will not be sent until the postage or shipping fee is received. Also, the value of the dollar is stronger overseas. However, if you prefer to send personal gifts please follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines

Include your sponsored child's full name, sponsored child number, and your sponsor number on each letter, card, and gift.

A postage fee of \$5 is required to mail a letter or greeting card. There is a minimum of \$25 to ship each package up to two pounds. Any package over two pounds will incur additional costs.

Ideas for gifts that are permitted

School supplies such as pencils, pens, markers, crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners, paperback notebooks, paper, drawing pads, and small scissors, paperback books, bookmarks, paperback activity/coloring books, stickers, sticker books, and small craft kits

Hygiene products such as toothbrushes, floss, combs, hairbrushes, and hair accessories

Inexpensive children's costume jewelry (items are not insured)

The following gift items are not permitted

Food products, candy, clothing, stuffed animals, gold or silver jewelry, DVDs, videos, electronic devices, computers, U.S. dollars or coins.



Holidays Observed by Sponsored Children

Khmer New Year (Bon Chol Chhann Thmei) *April 13 or 14* This three-day celebration marks the end of the harvest season and Cambodia's single most important holiday. It is the only holiday when Cambodians get a substantial amount of time off to celebrate. Cities are shut down and Cambodians return to their villages to celebrate with their families and visit local pagodas. Houses are decorated with stars, lights, plants, and food and drink (usually Fanta).



Royal Ploughing Ceremony (Bon Chroat Preah Nongkoal) *May* This celebration marks the start of the rainy and rice growing season with feast and prayers for a bountiful harvest. During the observance, usually led by the king, sacred oxen plow a ceremonial row and are presented with plates of food that represents the crops of Cambodia. Depending on which food the oxen eat, predictions are made for the season ahead. Wine is also offered to the oxen and if they drink it foreshadows disaster.



Ancestor's Day (Pchum Ben) *End of September to mid-October* Cambodians return home to visit their families to celebrate. Cambodian Buddhists believe the souls of their deceased ancestors up to seven generations back are released for 15 days to make the journey to purgatory. During that time the fate of their souls will be decided by their karma and by the offerings made by their living relatives. Cambodians dress in white, visit pagodas, and make food for the monks to benefit their ancestors as well as leave food offerings for the spirits of their ancestors. Pchum Ben is one of the most important holidays in Cambodia.

Water Festival (Bon Om Touk) *November* This holiday celebrates the reversing of the flow of the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap at the end of the rainy season. Bon Om Touk dates back to the 12th century when King Jayavarman VII's navy kicked off Cambodian fishing season. Colorful boats are used for racing and the celebrations are mostly held in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.

Visiting Your Sponsored Child

Visiting with your sponsored child in their homeland can be a rewarding benefit of sponsorship. It can strengthen the bond between you and your sponsored child and enable you to see the challenges your sponsored child faces and how your support is truly life changing.

Pearl S. Buck International periodically offers group tours to its program countries. In addition to meeting your sponsored child on these trips, you will also learn more about the programs and the culture of the region. For more information about upcoming tours, go to www.pearlsbuck.org/cultural-trips. If you would like to independently travel to visit your sponsored child, Pearl S. Buck International will facilitate a supervised meeting with your child. Coordination of your visit must be made at least two (preferably three) months prior to the trip. All child sponsor meetings require staff supervision. For more information, email ssaveriano@pearlsbuck.org or call 215-249-0100x142.

Sponsorship Payment Process

Sponsorship Investment

For \$360 per year you can transform a child's life. Payment plans are available with several options:

- Annually with a \$360 payment once per year
- semiannually with two \$180 payments per year
- quarterly with a \$90 payment made in four equal payments across a 12 month period
- monthly payments of \$30

Methods to contribute

Personal checks, business checks, electronic fund transfer (EFT) from your bank account, and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover) are all accepted and appreciated.

Receipt of Contribution

Your sponsorship contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and no goods or services are provided by Pearl S. Buck International in exchange for these contributions.

The official registration and financial information of the Pearl S Buck International Inc® may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Pearl S Buck International Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Child sponsors who meet the minimum donation amount will receive an end-of-year acknowledgement of contributions total for the calendar year.

When Sponsored Children Leave the Program

Occasionally, transitions in the life of your sponsored child occur during the course of your sponsorship. The lifestyles of the children and families served are very different from those of children in the U.S.. Change in their lives is a common occurrence. Sometimes a child may need to leave school, move with their family to another area, or the family may be affected by a natural disaster, such as a flood destroying their dwelling or livelihood.

At other times, the change can be a positive one, such as when the child graduates from school or the child or family become financially able to take care of themselves. When a sponsored child reaches the age of 18 and/or at the time of their high school graduation, they will graduate from the child sponsorship program. However, if your sponsored child has the potential to continue their education beyond high school and you have the capacity to financially support this, Pearl S. Buck International will help facilitate the process.

Please remember that the goal of the program is to help the child and their family to become self-sufficient.

We understand the difficult nature of these transitions after you have developed a relationship with your sponsored child. If your sponsored child must leave the program due to a life change, you will be notified as soon as possible. Any information obtained from the overseas affiliates will be shared with you. You will be given the opportunity to continue your support with a new child.

Contact the Child Sponsorship Department with any concerns or requests at ssaveriano@pearlsbuck.org or 215-249-0100 X142.

Child Sponsorship Online Resources

Pearl S. Buck International website provides several convenient ways to serve your needs as a child sponsor with tools and information at your fingertips.

Go to www.pearlsbuck.org and click “Help Children in Need” in the “Menu” to review options.

Sponsor a Child

Review profiles of children waiting for your support and then easily process your sponsorship by following a few simple prompts

Write to Your Sponsored Child

Follow the prompts for a convenient way to correspond with your sponsored child.

Give your Sponsored Child a Gift

Follow the prompts to provide a gift that will make your sponsored child smile.

Learn More About Other Ways to Help

- Fund a Project
- Support a Specific Need
- Be a Champion for Children

Success Stories

Read *Mission Matters*, which includes *Success Stories* and *Program Updates* at www.pearlsbuck.org/success-stories.

Visit the homepage at www.pearlsbuck.org to read “News & Events” or click on “About” to find out more about Pearl S. Buck International.

Follow Pearl S. Buck International on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Other Programs at Pearl S. Buck International

Fund a Project You can help to fund a project in your sponsored child's country, community, or in other areas of need. To find active projects, go to www.pearlsbuck.org/projecte

Gifts You can purchase individual items to help a child in need. Go to www.pearlsbuck.org/YXe

Tours of the Pearl S. Buck House You can take a guided tour of the National Historic Landmark home of Pearl S. Buck, where she and her husband lived, worked, raised their large international family, and took action to make this earth a better place. Go to [www.pearlsbuck.org/h\[f](http://www.pearlsbuck.org/h[f)

Signature Events You can attend a reception, gala, or other event inspired by the legacy of Pearl S. Buck that benefits the transformative work of the organization. Visit www.pearlsbuck.org/signature-events.

Membership You or your business can enjoy multiple benefits with an individual or business membership while supporting the legacy of Pearl S. Buck in bridging cultures and changing lives. For details go to www.pearlsbuck.org/membership.

Volunteers As a volunteer, you can play an important part in sharing and continuing the legacy of Pearl S. Buck. Volunteers serve in a variety of roles. To learn more go to www.pearlsbuck.org/volunteer.

Welcome Workplace Your organization or school can learn to establish an environment that embraces diversity and inclusion through the Welcome Workplace program. For details go to www.pearlsbuck.org/welcome-workplace.

Pearl S. Buck International

Mission

Pearl S. Buck International provides opportunities to explore and appreciate other cultures, builds better lives for children around the globe, and promotes the legacy of our founder by preserving and interpreting her National Historic Landmark home.

Vision

The legacy of Pearl S. Buck unites nations, societies, communities and individuals with an appreciation for cultural differences and a commitment to service.

Stay Connected



[Facebook.com/PearlSBuckInternational](https://www.facebook.com/PearlSBuckInternational)



[Twitter.com/PearlSBuckIntl](https://twitter.com/PearlSBuckIntl)



[Pinterest.com/PearlSBuckIntl/](https://www.pinterest.com/PearlSBuckIntl/)



[Instagram.com/PearlSBuckIntl](https://www.instagram.com/PearlSBuckIntl)



[YouTube.com/user/PearlSBuckIntl](https://www.youtube.com/user/PearlSBuckIntl)





Give with confidence

Pearl S. Buck International uses your contributions as effectively as possible. The organization has received top marks from these respected evaluators.



Pearl S. Buck International

Stephanie Saveriano
International Programs Director
215-249-0100 X 142
ssaveriano@pearlsbuck.org

520 Dublin Road
Perkasie, PA 18944
www.pearlsbuck.org