

karibu
(welcome)



Your guide to sponsoring a child in Kenya



Pearl S. Buck International

A black and white photograph of Pearl S. Buck, an elderly woman with short, light-colored 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. Your generosity truly bridges cultures and changes lives.

Thank you!

About Kenya

Language

KiSwahili and English are the official languages.

Religion

Christianity (majority), Indigenous Religions, and Muslim

Major Urban Areas

Nairobi (capital), Mombasa, Kisumu

History

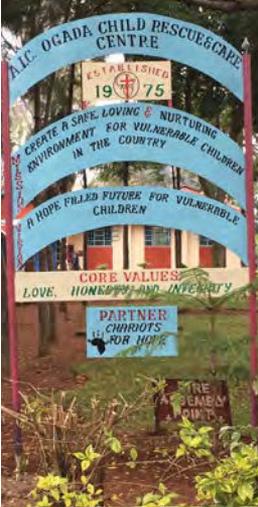
Kenya has a rich and complex history. Arabs settled the area around 600AD to establish trading with the Arab world, Persia, and India. Kenya was later ruled by the British until the mid 20th century when a group called the Mau Mau rose up against the British government demanding independence. In 1963, Kenya gained its independence from Britain and became a sovereign nation.

Geography

The geography of Kenya is quite diverse including coastal lands, swamps, forests, broad plains, valleys and mountains. Kenya is on the east coast of equatorial Africa and shares a border with Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Indian Ocean.

Livelihood

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood with corn and wheat being the main crops. Tea, fresh flowers, sisal, cotton, and fruits and vegetables are also important cash crops. Kenya is also the world's majority supplier of pyrethrum, a flower used to make the pesticide pyrethrin.



Where Pearl S. Buck

International Works in Kenya

Kisumu

- Ogada Children's Home

Ogada is an area that is primarily occupied by the Luo tribe. It is just outside of Kisumu, the third largest city in Kenya. Kisumu is on Lake Victoria where fishing is a main livelihood.

The children who live at Ogada either are orphans or their parents are unable to care for them. At Ogada, the child is given the tools they need, like a good education, to be successful.



The History of Pearl S. Buck International in Kenya

In 2020, Pearl S. Buck International partnered with Chariots for Hope, a United States based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to help improve the lives of children who live in orphanages in Kenya, specifically the Ogada Children's Home in Kisumu.

Child Sponsorship in Kenya not only supports the costs for educating all students living in the Ogada Children's Home but provides them with a nurturing and safe environment that fosters physical and emotional growth by giving the children much needed healthcare, nutritious meals, and emotional support.



Pearl S. Buck International's Services in Kenya

Education is a powerful tool for Kenyan children as they develop into impactful citizens and leaders, ready to change their communities. Education in Kenya is a privilege as most children in the local villages will never have the opportunity to go to school.

Education starts in nursery school at the age of 3 or 4 and continues through primary school up to 8th grade. By the time they are in 3rd grade, most of our children will be trilingual. They will know their tribal language, Swahili, and English.

Each fall, 8th grade students take placement exams for the opportunity to continue their education. Children who score high enough on the exam are eligible to attend secondary school, otherwise known as High School.

Funding through the Child Sponsorship Program supports the cost of tuition and fees, books, and other school-related expenses for the students.



Communications from Your Sponsored Child

First Communication

The Family Greeting Letter (marked fg 1) 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 letters 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. **If your sponsored child or their family members attempt to contact you directly through social media, please do not respond and notify Pearl S. Buck International Child Sponsorship Manager.**

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. 7

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 the children in Kenya can not open bank accounts. A picture will be sent to you of your sponsored child with thier 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 Manager. 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 online, go to www.pearlsbuck.org/give a gift. Please indicate the child's name and number as well as how you would like the money to be used.

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

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 1 pound. Any package over 1 pound will incur additional costs. Please see the United States Postal Service website for international shipping rates. Packages will not be sent until postage has been paid.

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

Jump ropes, deflated soccer balls, t-shirts, hats, hard candy and gum, Frisbees, and small games

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, soft candy, stuffed animals, gold or silver jewelry, dvd s, videos, electronic devices, computers, U.S. dollars or coins, USA paraphernalia, and immodest family photos for Kenyan culture (i.e. beach vacation photos)



Holidays Observed by Sponsored Children

New Year's Day *January 1*

Good Friday and Easter Monday *The Friday immediately preceding Easter Sunday and the Monday immediately following Easter Sunday*

The beginning and end of the observance of the Christian Easter Holiday

Labour Day *May 1*

A day to celebrate the achievements of workers.

Madarala Day *June 1*

Commemorates the day in 1963 that Kenya attained internal self rule after being a British colony since 1920

Mashujaa Day *October 20*

Heroes Day to honor all those who struggled for Kenya Independence

Jamhuri (Independence) Day *December 12*

Celebration of Kenyan Independence Day in 1964

Christmas *December 25*

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 215-249-0100 x142.

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 childsponsorship@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/project

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



Twitter.com/PearlSBuckIntl



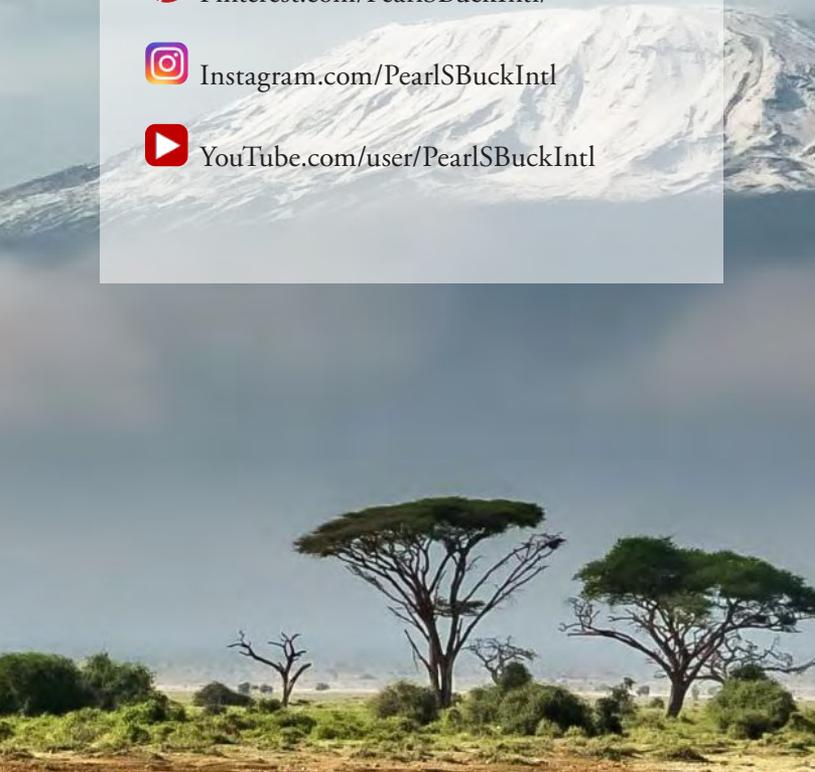
Pinterest.com/PearlSBuckIntl/



Instagram.com/PearlSBuckIntl



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

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