

สวัสดี
(welcome)



Your guide to sponsoring a child in Thailand



Pearl S. Buck International®

A black and white photograph of Pearl S. Buck. She is seated at a desk, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a dark, short-sleeved top and a patterned skirt. A pearl necklace is visible around her neck. On the desk in front of her are several books, including one with a floral cover. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a framed picture on the wall.

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 Thailand

Language Thai (official) and Burmese

Religions Buddhist (official), Muslim, Christian

Major urban areas Bangkok (capital,) Samut Prakan, Mueang Nonthaburi, Udon Thani

History The Thai kingdom, established in the mid-14TH century, is the only Southeast Asian country to never be colonized by a European power. In 1932 an establishment of a constitutional monarchy was created from a bloodless revolution. In 2011, business woman Yinglak Chinnawat led the Puea Thai Party to become Prime Minister but was removed by the Constitutional Court in early May 2014. Later that month, the Royal Thai Armed Forces launched a coup d'état, the 12TH since the country's first coup in 1932. The military established a junta (the National Council for Peace and Order) to rule the country, dissolved the government, repealed the constitution, banned political gatherings, and took control of the media.

Geography Located in Southeast Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. Thailand controls the only land route from Southeast Asia to Malaysia and Singapore. The terrain is mostly mountainous with the central plain and the Khorat Plateau in the east.

Livelihood Agriculture (major) with crops of wheat, rice, citrus, and coffee. Industries include mining, manufacturing, energy production, and construction.

Groups Served in Thailand

People in ethnic minorities groups called hill tribes live in very rural areas in the north. Many are not considered citizens, despite having lived there for generations, thus they are extremely poor.

Healthcare is inaccessible because of the cost, so even simple respiratory infections run rampant and can be deadly.

Because of the large tourist sex trade in Thailand, HIV/AIDS is widespread. Pearl S. Buck International also serves children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Where Pearl S. Buck International Works in Thailand

Our main office in Bangkok, the capital, is the largest and most urban city in Thailand, and we work in the following areas:

Ubon Ratchathani Province:

- Muang district
- Warin Chamrab district
- Det U-dom district
- Keang Nai district
- Trakarn Peudpon district
- Sri Maung Mai district
- Khong Jiem district
- Kemmaraj district
- Na Tarn district
- Poh Sri district
- Maung Samsib district
- Pibul Mangsaharn district

Tak Province:

- Mae Ramard district
- Sam Muen sub-district
- Ban Nong Luang village
- Ban Huay Som Poi village
- Ban Huay Yao village
- Ban De-ji-caw village
- Ban Ton Pheung village
- Khanajue sub-district
- Ban Khanaeue village
- Ban Pa Rai Din Daeng village
- Ban Huay Poo Ling village
- Ban Tue Lue village

Pitsanulok Province:

- Noen Phoem sub-district
- Ban Mai Rong Kla village

The History of Pearl S. Buck International in Thailand

Since 1967, Pearl S. Buck International has been improving the lives of children through its Child Sponsorship Program in Thailand.

Through the organization's affiliate, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Thailand, work is done that improves the quality of life and expands opportunities for children who are deprived of their basic needs due to discrimination or economic circumstances beyond their control.

The assistance children receive through the Child Sponsorship Program not only supports their health and education, it kindles the spirit of hope and possibility.



Pearl S. Buck International's Services in Thailand

Children served by Pearl S. Buck International in Thailand receive a variety of services depending on their particular needs.

Healthcare:

- Healthcare, nutrition, hygiene, and reproductive health training
- In-home healthcare and hygiene/sanitation counseling
- Family health camp
- Medical assistance and emergency support
- Education about HIV/AIDS, STD prevention, reproductive health, and early pregnancy education
- Supplementary foods that combat malnutrition
- Personal hygiene training

Education:

- Transportation fares and meals
- School supplies, books, notebooks and stationery
- Uniforms, bags, and sport suits
- Socks and shoes
- Behavioral and educational counseling
- Higher education guidance
- Classroom materials

Psycho Social:

- In-home and at-school emotional family support
- Social development through sports

Life skills camp:

- Youth leadership empowerment
- Psycho-social and emotional support as well as emergency assistance

Livelihood:

- Support for family and community income generation
- Occupational, small business management, and marketing training
- Support and initial funding for the establishment of small businesses



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.

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, Perkasie, 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, click on "Help a Child in Need", then "Sponsor a Child", and finally "Give your Sponsored Child a Gift". Complete the form and click "process".

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 1 pound. Any package over 1 pound 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

Chinese New Year *Falls on the new moon between January 21 and February 20.* Thai people celebrate the New Year for three to four weeks allowing for travel. Students who study away from home use this time to travel home. Thai schools hold parties with games and performances and students exchange gifts. A number of Thai people visit their temples to *make merit* either on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day and attend meditation retreats over the holiday. Thai Buddhists make merits by offering donations to the monks, listening to sermons by the monks, giving food and releasing birds or fish.

Children's Day *Second Saturday of January*
Various celebration activities are organized for children by both government and commercial sectors to promote the welfare of the children. Children are allowed to enter zoos and ride buses without any fare.

Songkran festival *April 13–15 (some areas hold longer celebrations.)* This is the Thai New Year's celebration. As a festival of unity, people who have moved away return home. The tradition of younger people pouring water over the palms of elders' hands to show respect has broadened to include revelers splashing others with water as a way to offer a clean start for the new year. Paying reverence to ancestors is also an important part of Songkran tradition.

Loi Krathong Day *Usually falls in November*
While not a government-observed holiday, this is nonetheless an important day in Thai culture. People create small floats and decorate them with elaborately-folded banana leaves, incense sticks, and a candle. A small coin is sometimes included as an offering to the river spirits. On the night of the full moon, Thais make a wish as they launch their *krathongs* on the water. This is symbolic of letting go of anger and starting life afresh, or getting rid of misfortune, making room for good luck to arrive.



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 childsponsorship@pearlsbuck.org or call 215-249-0100 x142.

Sponsorship Payment Process

Sponsorship Investment

For \$420 per year you can transform a child's life. Payment plans are available with several options:

- Annually with a \$420 payment once per year
- semiannually with two \$210 payments per year
- quarterly with a \$105 payment made in four equal payments across a 12 month period
- monthly payments of \$35

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 a Child in Need” on the navigation bar 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

See How You are Changing Lives

Read *Mission Matters*, which includes *Success Stories* and *Program Updates* at www.pearlsbuck.org/see-how-you-are-changing-lives.

Visit the homepage at www.pearlsbuck.org to read “What’s New” or scroll to the bottom for the “Annual Reports” and “Press Room”.

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/fund-a-project.

Support a Specific Need You can purchase individual items to help a child in need. Go to www.pearlsbuck.org/support-a-specific-need.

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/takeatour.

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.

Cultural Tours On a guided Pearl S. Buck International Cultural Tour, you can immerse yourself in the rich culture and natural beauty of China, the Philippines, Thailand, or Vietnam. During the tour you will be able to meet sponsored children whose lives are being transformed by compassionate donors. To learn more go to www.pearlsbuck.org/cultural-trips.

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



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Give with confidence

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



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