



sponsoring a child

why sponsor a child?

We believe that our sponsorship scheme enables God's people to participate in the lives of children taken into the care of IMC from serious situations of abuse and neglect.

Children in the sponsorship scheme are assured the opportunity to grow up in a healthy environment. The support and care they receive from IMC staff during their formative years opens many new possibilities for their lives, and options for a future in which they can continue to thrive and flourish.

You, as a sponsor, have the encouragement of seeing a child's life transformed over the long term with the loving attention of dedicated workers. Through your regular gifts, we can help to change their situation from a picture of despair to one of hope.

how does the scheme work?

We have many children in the sponsorship scheme. From time to time, new children join the scheme, or a sponsored child may leave the scheme. This may depend on changing family circumstances or a positive re-assessment by the social worker.

Most children we will follow through their formative years until they graduate from secondary school. After this we continue with sponsorship for a further year, as they make the transition into independent life as a young adult, with help finding accommodation and looking for work.

If for any reason your sponsored child leaves the scheme, you will be informed and given the option to sponsor another child, or if you prefer, to give to the wider work, or to stop your regular payments.

Money received through sponsorship is not normally sufficient for all of the costs incurred, especially for children in residential placements. Funds from other sources make up the difference. However, sponsors do make a significant contribution towards meeting the needs.

The child and their family will not receive cash directly. Instead, IMC uses the income to pay for the child's clothing, food, educational materials, medical costs and other related expenses.

what can I expect?

- We hope all sponsors will be willing to invest in the child's life for the long term.
- You may sponsor a child until the end of one full year after they complete secondary education. If for any reason a child leaves the scheme earlier, we will inform you so you may choose how to redirect your giving.

- If you wish to maintain contact with a young adult after they leave the scheme, we can put you in touch. You are then free to make your own correspondence arrangements.
- We aim to provide sponsors with an annual update on their sponsored child, with photos in most instances.
- We aim to deliver your occasional letters and cards in a timely manner, with translation where needed. You may send them directly to Colombia, or via the UK office.

can I send a gift?

how to send a letter or a card:

You may send directly to the postal address in Colombia. It is recommended that postcards are put in an envelope, and that definitive stamps are used (not seasonal ones). If it needs translating first, you may send it to our UK office address, and we will forward it on the next mailing.

address in Colombia

IMiC Colombia
Apartado Aéreo 077099
114 Bogotá
Colombia

address in UK

IMC-UK
Courtyard Building
Heath Road
Petersfield
GU31 4DX

Don't forget to include a clear note with the child's full name.

how to send a birthday gift:

If you would like to send extra for a child's birthday, then this money will be used to purchase new shoes or clothes for the child, or another appropriate gift.

Please do not send goods, as we cannot ship them. It is easier to ensure that each child receives an appropriate gift if these are purchased by staff on location.

Send a cheque with a clear note that this is a gift for the child's birthday to the Links office at:

Cheques made out to "Links International (IMC)"

Links International
P.O. Box 198
Littlehampton
BN16 3UQ

Please do not include a birthday card with the cheque, but use the addresses given above.

Note: you will need to allow at least 31 days for your card to be translated and sent, and your cheque to be processed and to arrive on time for birthday celebrations!

any other questions?

We hope this sheet provides the essential information. However, if you have other questions please contact us at our office address, and we will endeavour to answer you.