

## BRIDGE OF HOPE AFRICA MINISTRIES SPONSORSHIP FAQs

### **How do I become a sponsor?**

You can choose a child you would like to sponsor by clicking [here](#). Select a child you would like to sponsor and then provide your initial payment. If you would like to have a representative set up your sponsorship, please email [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org) and someone will contact you to set up your sponsorship (for instance, if you would like to pay by check). If sponsoring online, you will receive a payment confirmation notice by email once you sponsor your selected child. A BOHAM staff member will then set up your monthly recurring sponsorship payments through Authorize.net starting the following month. Through Authorize.net, you will be automatically charged via your credit or debit card each month for your sponsorship on the day you started your sponsorship. Once you sponsor, you will receive a welcome packet including a hard copy profile of your sponsored child and their photo within two weeks. The staff in Uganda will let the child and the family know of their child's sponsorship within the week.

### **How much does child sponsorship cost and why are there three sponsors per child? Is this a higher amount than I would find at other sponsorship organizations?**

Child sponsorship is \$150 per month or \$1800 per year for a sole contributing sponsor. Child sponsorship is \$50 per month or \$600 per year as a contributing sponsor. Most sponsors are contributing sponsors. They contribute \$50 per month to the child and are among one of his or her three sponsors. Due to higher costs and more care per child (including private education and microenterprise costs), we have up to three sponsors per child. Most sponsorship organizations pull resources and do not help a child with direct benefits rather indirect benefits like building a new health clinic or water well in the community. We do it differently. We do not pull resources. Your sponsorship payment goes directly toward providing for that specific child. For a breakdown of the benefits they receive and those costs, click [here](#).

### **Does a child receive some of their benefits before all three sponsors are found for them?**

Yes. While we wait for a child to receive their remaining sponsors, we begin their benefits right away. We focus on their education and spiritual needs first, and then start their microenterprise project. We aim to have three sponsors per child in order to guarantee that each child receives all the benefits of our program. All monies go toward that child specifically; hence we encourage you to make this a long-term commitment until they finish secondary school.

### **What amount of my contribution goes toward my child?**

Your sponsorship payment goes directly toward providing your child with school fees, scholastic materials, a uniform, a microenterprise project, pharmacy needs and doctor visits, Bible Club materials and food, and admin costs for both the U.S. and Ugandan offices. No more than 10% is retained for each office. A diagram is provided with specifics on the Sponsorship webpage. In addition, as previously mentioned, we do not pool our resources, as is common practice with other sponsorship organizations. Your sponsorship payment goes directly toward your sponsored child; hence, the importance of continued and timely sponsorship payments. Furthermore, the Ugandan office pays the school fees directly to the

school, handles the purchasing of medicine or payments of doctors visits, and also purchases the materials needed for their microenterprise project. No monies are given directly to the family.

### **What are the payment options?**

Child sponsors can contribute on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis for their sponsored child via credit/debit card payment or by check. To sponsor a child online, select your child and pay their first sponsorship payment via the online marketplace portal. BOHAM staff will then set up your monthly recurring sponsorship payment through Authorize.net. Through Authorize.net, you will be automatically charged via your credit or debit card each month for your sponsorship on the day you started your sponsorship. All systems are safe and secure for credit/debit card processing and have the verified merchant seal of approval. If you would like to pay by check, please contact us at [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org) to set it up, or simply mail us your sponsorship payment to Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries, PO Box 96091, Portland, OR 97296 and put the child's ID number in the note section. Don't forget to make sure the check is made out to "Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries."

### **Will I hear from my sponsored child?**

Yes! You will receive three scanned or hard copy letters and a photo of your child each year. This will be sent to your email box and/or mailing address.

### **Can I write to my sponsored child?**

Yes! You can email a letter to your child and we will get the letter to your child within the month. Please email [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org) and include your child's name and ID number. You can share with your sponsored child about you and your family. You can also let your child know you are praying for them and encourage them in their studies. Correspondence means a lot to the child and their families!

### **Can I send something to my sponsored child?**

At this time, we do not have the capability for you to mail something to your sponsored child. You may purchase something for your child or their family such as a mattress, food, clothing, solar lantern, Bible, etc. by visiting our [child gifts page](#) online. You can also email [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org) if you would like to inquire about their specific needs before purchasing. After a gift is purchased online, our staff will purchase the gift and give it to the child and/or their families. We will then email you photo of the child with the gift and thank you note from the child the following month. We do include a small fee in the price of the child gift to include our delivery and admin costs.

### **Can I meet my sponsored child?**

Yes! We highly encourage individuals and families to meet their sponsored child. We take group trips once a year. You can visit their home and meet their family. If you are traveling to Uganda with another group, we can also coordinate for you to meet your sponsored child. Please email [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org) to learn more and arrange details with staff.

### **How long should I commit to sponsoring my sponsored child?**

We ask that sponsors commit until their sponsored child has completed their secondary education. Not only do children become attached to their sponsors, but you will also benefit from the long-term relationship!

**What happens if I need to cancel my child sponsorship?**

We understand that circumstances may change that requires cancellation of your child sponsorship. We ask that you try to find another sponsor in order to finish out your commitment. If not, we try to find a sponsor as soon as possible so the child can continue receiving benefits. We may also use your child's savings fund if they have started the microenterprise project in order for benefits to continue uninterrupted.

**What is my sponsored child's savings fund?**

After the first year of sponsorship with three sponsors, your sponsored child and their family are required to contribute financially into a savings fund for their child. The first year that the child is fully sponsored is the child's grace year and no contribution is required. The child and their family are then required to make a contribution each year, most likely \$100. They are able to do so from the income they generate from their microenterprise project. In other words, to assist the child part of the sponsor's sponsorship payment each month includes a capital investment into their microenterprise project. Furthermore, the microenterprise project helps the child and their family earn an income and learn entrepreneurial skills. BOHAM can later use these funds to help the family if there is an health emergency or the family can continue to grow funds for future investment. Sponsors receive a report each year regarding their child's savings fund. When the sponsored child graduates from secondary school, BOHAM then helps the child/young adult open a bank account in their name with these funds. Our hope is that these sponsored children/young adults will use these funds toward college, as additional investment into their microenterprise business, and/or for unplanned emergencies. Furthermore, BOHAM uses these funds to create ownership and accountability with children and families in our program, teach entrepreneurial and financial stewardship skills, and to ward off financial disruptions.

**Does the capital invested into the child's microenterprise project change each year?**

It may. Staff will check in on the child's microenterprise project and report yearly on the progress to the sponsor. Based on the project, we might supply more or less of certain supplies in year two or three. We want the microenterprise project to be a success so we help alter the project each year to best suit the child and their family and the microenterprise needs. This year we are starting the Enkoko project; to learn more, please visit our Projects webpage. Children will receive 10 chicks, a cage, a trough, and feed. Children and their families will then rear the chicks and sell the eggs to earn a small income for the family. No project should compete with the child's time in school. If it does, the child may be dropped from the program.

**What happens if my sponsored child and their family cannot financially contribute toward their child's savings fund?**

If your sponsored child and their family cannot contribute into their child's savings fund from their microenterprise project in year two or beyond, this may jeopardize their standing in the program. We do however meet with the child and their families to learn why and see if we can alter their microenterprise project to produce income and have them contributing their part as soon as possible.

**What is Bible Club?**

During weekly Bible Club, your sponsored child will learn about Jesus and the gospel and how to live out Christian character. We hope to mentor your sponsored child spiritually and emotionally during this time. Bible Club is also a time for children to interact with their peers, enjoy games, and receive a hot meal. We also use Bible Club to check in with the children and perform administrative tasks.

**Must my sponsored child be a Christian and must they attend Bible Club?**

Your sponsored child is not required to be a Christian to receive benefits. Your sponsored child is highly encouraged to attend Bible Club at least once a month so we can keep track of your sponsored child and to let them know of program updates.

**How do you choose children for your sponsorship program?**

We select children who are in desperate need and live in the communities in which we operate. Many families or guardians struggle to pay the children's school fees while others live close by the partner schools and have been unable to attend. Some children in our program are orphans or live with one parent or guardian, and many battle HIV/AIDs. Our staff perform background checks, meet with the family or guardian, and perform a home visit. All parents and/or guardians must sign an agreement with Bridge of Hope Africa Ministries and provide consent. We do not discriminate against religion, ethnicity, gender, or health status.

**Why may some of my sponsored child's information seem abnormal?**

In Uganda, circumstances and cultural norms may differ greatly from the United States. For instance, your sponsored child may start school late or be retained in a grade, which is quite common. Hence, age and grade level vary substantially from child to child. Also, children and parents often do not know their birthdates, as birth certificates are uncommon. We may estimate these dates based on background knowledge given to us by parents, guardians, or community members. Furthermore, surnames are often written first followed by the child's first name and it is not uncommon for family members to each have different last names. This is just part of Ugandan culture!

**What if I have more questions about my sponsored child or the sponsorship program?**

We are always excited to hear from you, please email us at [info@boham.org](mailto:info@boham.org)!