

The Children We Sponsor

The majority of the children in our program are from a community, called Korah, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Korah is adjacent to the city's trash dump and many of the families in the community search for food and items in the trash dump daily. There are many diseases in the community, including HIV/AIDS and leprosy, which have left a large portion of the older population disabled and unable to work. By sponsoring the children here, we are giving them opportunities to improve their future and break the cycle of poverty.

Some of the children in our program formerly lived in the trash dump. Others could not attend school because of lack of funds. Children who do have homes and families are cared for within Korah. It is our goal to keep them close to their community, further strengthening their support.

Sponsorship Guidelines

We ask that you do **NOT** communicate with your child online. We do not want you to be 'friends' with your child on Facebook because the level of communication may become uncomfortable for you or for them. It is too much of a temptation for the kids to misrepresent their circumstances in an effort to receive more money/items from their sponsors.

Korah Kids does not provide students with funds to buy a cell phone for email/Facebook access. Many times the children sell a personal item (such as shoes) for money to buy the phone or internet minutes. Sending the children expensive items that the other kids do not have can contribute to this issue. Please only send your child items that Korah Kids suggests.

Please do not post photos or videos of the trash dump near Korah or other photos of extreme poverty, as seen in Korah. The Ethiopian government closely monitors this activity, and it can be detrimental to our work here when such photos/videos are posted.

Korah Kids does not permit sponsored children to be taken out of Ethiopia by their sponsors. Children who go abroad and experience a different lifestyle find it very difficult to return and re-engage with life in Ethiopia again. It is our goal for the sponsored children to finish high school in Ethiopia and go on to attend university, if they so desire, equipping them to become successful and productive citizens who give back to their own country.

Please do **NOT** make any promises or hopeful offers to the children. These promises can give them false hope, resulting in severe letdown when the hope isn't fulfilled. Such offers might be suggesting that someday a child may come to your home or country. Also, offering some kind of outside help (medical, educational, vocational) for a child. If there is a need for some additional expenses then you will be made aware of these through our sponsorship coordinator. These potential offers can actually result in harm to the child when it turns out that such help is not possible for whatever reason.

We encourage sponsors to communicate and engage with their child. Letters may be sent at any time to:

Korah Kids

PO BOX 41

Addis Ababa

ETHIOPIA

Please only send small, flat envelopes to this mailing address. When they write back, the letter will be mailed directly to you.

Letters may contain a letter, photo(s) of your family, stickers, or other flat items. You may write to your child in English and it will be translated for them if necessary. Each sponsor can expect to receive at least two letters from their sponsored child during the year. Dictation and/or translation from the students can be time-consuming, and we ask for your patience as these are generated throughout the year.

In their letters, your sponsored child may ask that you send items such as iPods, cell phones, new shoes, or new clothes. Please know that Korah Kids supplies the sponsored children with necessary items, including clothing, school supplies, and medical needs. We prohibit giving your children electronics, money, or other expensive gifts.

We plan to have at least one opportunity during the year for sponsors to send their child a small gift. This opportunity, usually at Christmas, will be communicated to sponsors via email. For the safety of the students, we request that all letters/packages not contain significant gifts or other items. Expensive gifts create controversy and struggles for the children due to jealousy. Appropriate gifts to send include pens, pencils, gum, candy/ sweets, chapstick, lotion, bandanas, scarves, photos, stickers, and small journals. Please do not send jewelry, fingernail polish, electronics (iPods, cellphones, etc.), or other expensive items, even if your child requests these items.

Please notify us in advance if you plan to take a mission trip or a personal trip in which you would like to visit Korah and/or your sponsored child. Please contact Leanne Wade at info@korahkids.org Getting to meet your child is an amazing experience, and one that we highly encourage. If you would like to take your child a gift when you visit, we encourage you to give items mentioned above or clothing. If you have something that you want to bring that is not on the list then please mention it to Leanne when you email her.

We hope that you understand that these guidelines are not meant to inhibit your relationship with your sponsored child. Instead, they are meant to protect our sponsored children in the best way possible and to give you the best experience with your child.