



# Child Sponsorship Program

changing the world by giving children back their potential

Whatever you did  
for one of the least  
of these brothers  
of mine,  
you did for me.

Jesus

**Kaleb e.V., Cambodia** is not primarily a child sponsorship organization. However, it does offer the service to underprivileged Cambodian children, to lower the high drop-out rate in the public schools by promoting a healthy up-bringing within the challenging context of poverty.

The **focus** is on supporting the individual child while being sensitive and respectful to his background and culture, without turning a blind eye to the needs of his family and community.

The **money** goes towards improvements in education, nutrition, and health – in part or in whole – dependant on the needs of the child.

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Education is a protection for the present and the future. Children are gaining a better understanding about themselves, their lives and the world around them. They are learning to make choices – personally, politically and economically – and to know their own worth and value. With sufficient education come greater opportunities for employment.



Education can also help to develop a proper respect for individuals and communities, reducing misunderstanding and intolerance. If children are educated beyond primary school age, then they can have an improved quality of life.

# Principles of Sponsoring

**There is no condition giving!** Every child has the right to choose his own beliefs. However, we do teach biblical values and principles so that he may become a vital and supportive member of society. The Khmer Rouge has destroyed many social norms in Cambodia, creating a moral chasm and henceforth making ethical teaching a high priority.

**The basis for our focus** on individuals is rooted in our desire to bring equality to the most disadvantaged members of a community. Nevertheless, breaking the cycle of poverty, for the most part, has to be done on a political and economic level, e.g. fighting corruption, fair trade, good governance of a country, etcetera.

**Support** is given in accordance with the needs of the child, so that the fostering of dependence is avoided and the parent's dignity is preserved. For this reason, the amount of money provided varies.

**Communication** on the part of the sponsor needs to be culturally sensitive to the child's way of life. When writing letters, the sponsor should focus on understanding the child's environment as opposed to talking about his own background so that the child does not become dissatisfied with his own family and community. The letters should encourage the child's studies and should not lead to the consciousness of aid and dependence. Thank you letters should not be expected, at least not in a western style, as Cambodians do not express their thanks with words, but they will more commonly show their gratitude through their actions.



**The safety, privacy and dignity of sponsored children** are protected at all times, which is why Kaleb e.V., Cambodia does not publish their full names with photos and details in public.

**There will be no child sponsorship advertisements.** These advertisements create an unnecessary sense of pity in the would-be sponsor, are disadvantageous to the child's dignity, and play on a person's emotions for the sake of fund-raising.

**Follow-up.** All sponsored children receive attention, supervision and follow-up on a regular basis. This consists of progress reports, attendance records and home visits in a safe and encouraging environment.

**The cost of running the program is kept low.** All of the sponsor's money goes to the child, his family or community. Kaleb e.V., Cambodia pays for the cost of administration and for the salaries of the local staff.

## Requirements for Sponsorship



**Child Requirements.** Kaleb supports children, on the conditions that they have a background of poverty, and a strong desire to study, with no affiliation to religion or race.

**Family Requirements.** The parents are required to support the child's education, provide a positive learning environment, maintain domestic tranquility, and be in agreement with Kaleb's Child Protection Policy.

**Sponsor Parent(s) Requirements.** Sponsoring a child is a big commitment. We encourage all would-be sponsors to take care when making the decision to support the child.

## Forms of Support



Within child sponsoring, two schools have emerged. The first is one of individual intervention, sent directly to the children, while the second form of support uses the funds to improve the community where they live. Kaleb is inclined to utilizing both approaches. However, because we started with the sponsoring of children individually, our program for the community, does not have the same reach, as of yet.

**Education.** Inclusive in the children's schooling are several of their necessities. The first is the payment of the monthly school fee. This is an unofficial tutoring expense due to the low salary given to the teachers in Cambodia. Next we provide all stationary and school supplies that are needed for classes, as well as providing two sets of school uniforms, shoes, a belt, and a bag annually. Sometimes, the distance between school and home is too great. In such cases, a bicycle is made available for transportation.

**Food.** To supplement the nutritional needs of families who are especially impoverished, financial aid is given.

**Foster Care.** When the family lives too far from a public school, all-day care with a foster family is offered.

**Visits.** All participants in this program are visited on a regular basis. Talking with the family to assess the child's well-being, as well as checking the school attendance and performance with the teacher, is included in the visitation. Outside of this, we spend time with the child as a friend to listen to him, to encourage him and to involve him in the program design. By having a good communication with the child we want him to experience a sense of relief and being accepted as he is.

**Calls.** Mobile phones are used to stay in contact with the child's family. In the event of an emergency, the office can be contacted any time of day or night.

## Means of Participation

**Assigning the child to his sponsor.** The selection of the child is based on two criteria – the urgency of the child’s need and the length of time he has been on the waiting list. If the sponsor expresses a preference for a specific age or gender, we will do our best to accommodate.

**Photo and personal data of the child.** The sponsor will be given information on the child’s prior education, the background of his family, and how they stand among the other members of the community.

**Communication between sponsor and child.** Kaleb encourages, but does not require, the establishment of a relationship between child and sponsor via letters or emails. Letters are not censored by translation to avoid critic of the program or to put the child in a better light but all letters are reviewed for child protection reasons.

If a sponsor wishes to visit his sponsored child, and the child reciprocates this desire, all assistance needed will be made available.

Kaleb does not encourage donors to send the child a present or cash gifts. Such well-intentioned gestures cause more problems than they solve because in poor communities any gift is a source of envy and can lead to the danger of outright hostility.



**Reports.** The development and school performance of each child are recorded after each visit. The sponsor will receive an overview of this once annually at the end of every school year.

**Duration of sponsorship.** Our work is long-term and committed support from sponsors allows us to achieve lasting results. However long you will be with us, your sponsorship is very important to us. Children are normally sponsored until they graduate from secondary school or high school.

**Quarterly newsletter.** Kaleb distributes one newsletter every three months, which provides updates on all the activities of the ministry, and is made available on request.

**Annual tax receipt.** This receipt allows you to claim the full benefit of your tax deduction with all child sponsorship payments and additional donations.