

## Sending Your Child's Support Money

### **Will Mission To Haiti send me a "bill" when my support comes due?**

No. We offer payment options on our website that allow you to set up a recurring charge. You can specify the amount and frequency of your payments. You should receive a giving statement after the new year showing your offerings for the previous year.

### **How do I specify that my support be directed to my child?**

When you make a payment, please write the code number of your child in the comment section. This will help us in handling your offering. If you set up a recurring charge online, this information will be kept with your payment.

### **How is my support money used to help my sponsored child?**

In the schools where Mission To Haiti serves, your child will not receive cash payments. Rather, through the schools, we carefully use your support to provide valuable services and benefits for your child such as tuition, high protein meals, and health care through our medical clinic. Because your offerings are managed in this way, your sponsored child receives direct benefits that will make a lasting impact in his life. Other needy children in the school will benefit because of the ministries provided through the sponsorship program.



## FAQ

### **Why is my child older but in a lower grade?**

It is common in Haiti to start school later if the family is not financially ready. We encourage children of all ages to attend if they are able.

### **How long will my child stay in school?**

Haitian children will normally start school at four or five years old. When they are sponsored, they will continue at the school for as long as they can. Smaller schools will continue through 6th grade. Larger schools will continue through high school.

### **When will my child finish their schooling?**

Schools in Haiti will have either primary through secondary grades (kindergarten through senior high), or just the primary grades. The schools we work with start with Preschool and continue through the 6th, 9th, or 13th grade.

Sponsorship not only benefits our children but the schools they attend. Sponsorship gives our schools the opportunity to grow and allows them to add more grades.

When your child reaches the final grade at their school, we will let you know.

### **What happens if my child leaves the program early?**

From time to time, a child will leave the school before they reach their final grade. Often this is because the child's family moves from the community.

If this happens, we will ask you to consider a new child to sponsor. This is a great way to help another boy or girl in need to have a sponsor. All the arrangements will be made to direct your support to your new child.

### **What happens to a child when a sponsor stops giving their support?**

If a sponsor is not able to continue their support, we will work to find a new sponsor for that child. Unfortunately, this may take some time and may disrupt the benefits the child receives.



Visit [missiontohaiti.org](http://missiontohaiti.org)  
for additional information



# Sponsor Information





# Letters & Gifts to Your Child

## As a sponsor, am I required to write to my child?

No. However, we encourage you to write your child. We have workers that will handle and translate your letter so that your relationship can be more meaningful. Many sponsors write once a year, while others write more often.

## What should I write about?

Keep your letters simple. Write about things your child can relate to. Here are some suggestions:

- yourself or your family
- things you like to do (hobbies or sports)
- activities you take part in (work, church, school)
- words of encouragement
- PLEASE DO NOT GIVE ANY SPECIFIC ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

To assist our translators, please keep your letters to one, double-spaced page in simple English.

## Are there some subjects that I should avoid?

Yes. Please do not elaborate on your material possessions, such as the size of your home, kind of car, etc. This will only accentuate the difference between you and your child's family.

Do not suggest that your child visit the United States. The Haitian government makes it very difficult for Haitian children to travel abroad.

Avoid slang terms or colloquialisms. Avoid descriptions of things outside your child's comprehension. For example, it is hard for children in Haiti to visualize winter sports.



## Is there information I need to include when sending something to my child?

Yes. Please include your child's name and code number. The code consists of 3-letters and a 4-digit number. For example: Joi 1027

## Cash Gifts

There are several gift options that you can send to your child. They are:

- **FOOD FOR FAMILIES** - \$25; this package of food will typically feed a family of six for a week
- **GOAT** - \$75; this can be an extra source of income for the family
- **UNIFORM** - \$30; each school uniform is handmade in Haiti
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - \$30; to help students purchase their school books and materials
- **TEXTBOOKS** - \$50; these are the textbooks your child will need for the school year.
- **BIBLE** - \$15; this is an frequently requested gift by the children
- **CASH GIFTS** - ANY AMOUNT, HOWEVER WE RECOMMEND \$10-\$20. Often, the choice of what to buy is best left to your child and his or her parents. They know what is locally available and what gift would be most appreciated.

You can find these gift options on our website.

## Gift Packages

If you would like to send your child a small gift package, that would be perfectly fine. We do ask that the package be no bigger than a shoebox size.

Often times, sponsors would like to send clothes to their child. Getting a child's clothing size is extremely difficult. The best thing is to estimate your child's size. Keep in mind that Haitian children tend to be smaller for their age.

## Other gift suggestions are:

- Crayons and coloring books
- Pens, pencils and stationary
- Hair accessories for girls
- Stickers
- Matchbox cars
- Soccer ball
- Small hygiene kit
- Hard candy

## Sending Your Gifts

The easiest option for sending monetary gifts is to use our website. There are options for each of the cash gifts items. Please find us at:

**[www.MissionToHaiti.org](http://www.MissionToHaiti.org)**

You can send gift packages to our mailing address:

**Mission To Haiti, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 523157**

**Miami, FL 33152**

**(Your child's name and code number)**

# Letters From Your Child: What To Expect

## What kind of relationship can I expect to develop between my child and me?

Sponsoring a child is not a "pen-pal" relationship. Cultural differences and remote locations make that difficult. However, both you and your child can benefit from the one-to-one focus of sponsorship. Your financial support and encouragement will communicate to your child the special love you have for him or her.

Please keep in mind that children love to receive letters, but they find it very difficult to write letters back. This is especially true for younger children, children who start late in school, and children in remote areas.

When you send a gift to your child, we will have your child write a thank you letter and take a picture to send back to you. However, sometimes this may take time to get. Please allow a few months for the delivery of a gift to your child.

## How often will I hear from my child?

We ask each child to write their sponsor at least once a year.

## Will my child write his own letter?

Your child will write his own letter if he is able. If he is too young or needs help, our sponsorship team will help him write his letter.