



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT CHILDREN OF THE NATIONS' I LOVE BASEBALL CHILD SPONSORSHIP

What specific benefits will the player I sponsor receive? The player you sponsor through the I Love Baseball® (ILB) Program will receive opportunities and services that are not available to most of the world's poorest children. Some of the specific benefits include:

- Quality baseball coaching and training
- Education, balanced meals, medical care, clothing
- The opportunity to hear the gospel and receive ongoing discipleship enabling each player to grow in his faith

Does my monthly gift go directly to my player? Your donation will go into our sponsorship fund and your sponsored player will receive the benefits of their program through your contributions. It is our desire to meet the needs of all the children in our care. We have competent staff in each of our countries who make sure our programs are operating effectively. There are strict financial accountability guidelines in place to ensure funds are used appropriately.

How long should my sponsorship last? You will have the opportunity to sponsor your player through high school, trade school, or college, depending on the child. Our desire is to see these young men actively contributing to their society. (For some, this might be 18 years old, others older.) If we determine your player no longer needs support, or if he moves out of the village or area where our program operates, we will contact you regarding sponsoring a different child. We also have a University/Vocational Student Program for qualifying students. More information will be sent to you regarding these programs if your sponsored player qualifies.

How important is prayer in sponsorship? Very—we not only desire your financial support; we highly value your prayer support as well. Your sponsored player sees prayer as important and will be praying for you.

How can I learn more about the player I sponsor? You can learn more through writing letters, visiting your sponsored player on a Venture Trip, and viewing our blog and other resources on our website (cotni.org). You will also receive regular updates about our programs through emails and newsletters.

How can I communicate with my player? Specifics for letter writing can be found on the back of this page or at cotni.org/letter-writing. We encourage you to write letters to your player, but **please do not send more than one 6-by-9-inch envelope per month**. Our in-country staff will translate letters both coming and going. It may take several months to hear back from your sponsored player, as our mail is sent with staff or teams traveling to our countries.

May I send gifts to my player? You may send items with your letters to our USA office **in no larger than one 6-by-9-inch envelope per month**. We will also identify special Christmas and summer camp projects each year. If you visit your player, you are welcome to bring gifts, **as long as they are appropriate and their total value does not exceed \$25**.

Why do we have rules for gift-giving? While we appreciate the intent behind gifts, if directions are not followed, direct gift-giving can cause several problems for your player. These include: (1) causing jealousy among other children; (2) undermining the authority of in-country staff; (3) breeding dependence and materialism; (4) taking the place of more urgent needs; (5) misuse or misinterpretation of the items and their meaning.

Can I visit my player? Yes! Visiting the Dominican Republic can be an exciting and encouraging experience for both you and your sponsored player. We greatly encourage it. For more information on joining an existing "Visit Your Child" trip, or to set up a trip of your own, visit cotni.org/venture/trips or contact us at venture@cotni.org or 360-698-7227.

Guidelines for Writing to Your Sponsored Player

Children of the Nations has established specific letter-writing guidelines to protect our children and allow for building relationships between sponsors and children. All mail is screened at our USA office. This includes reading all letters—both coming from and going to children—and documenting all items that are sent. Please follow these simple guidelines to help make the most of writing to your sponsored player.

Please double-envelope your letter or package. Address the inner envelope with your player's name and reference number on the center of the envelope and your first and last name on the upper left corner. Address the outer envelope with the COTN address, P.O. Box 3970, Silverdale, WA 98383.

All mail is sent to and from our countries with staff and teams. Therefore, the mail only goes when teams go, which may be once every one to three months. We suggest writing every one to two months, as it may take several months for you to receive a response. You do not have to wait for a response before you write again.

Items sent must fit into **one 6-by-9-inch envelope per month, and may not exceed \$25 in value.**

The exception to this size limit is a book. If you are sending a book, you may send the book with a letter and this will count as the one envelope for that month. No other items may be sent with the book/letter. All books should only include content that would be beneficial to your sponsored player, and must not include violence, as many of our children have lived through traumatic experiences. The final decision on books is left up to the in-country staff, so we cannot guarantee that all books will be delivered.

Please leave room in your letter for translation.

Things to include in your letters:

- Write plainly, clearly, and decorate your letters with stickers, stamps, and other fun things.
- Write about things that your sponsored player will understand, such as family, pets, work, church, hobbies, tastes in food, music, and activities. Encourage your sponsored player's learning and relationship with the Lord. Include Bible verses and remind him that God loves him and that you are praying for him and his family.
- Send photos of yourself and your family. Dress standards may be different in the Dominican Republic, so please send pictures where everyone is dressed modestly.
- Send photos or postcards of places you visit. This will be educational for your sponsored player.
- You may send items such as stickers, gum, sports trading cards, Band-Aids, socks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, toothbrush and toothpaste, hard candy, deodorant, etc.

Things to avoid:

- Politics or governmental issues. In many of the countries where we serve, families have very strong views regarding politics. Mentioning these issues often leads to anger or resentment—the opposite of the hope and love COTN's ministry focuses on bringing to the children we serve.
- Discussing money and possessions, as these things may cause your sponsored player to feel jealous or ashamed, or become fixated on material things. Share positive achievements in a way he can relate to.
- Asking your sponsored player if there is anything he needs or desires. Your sponsorship meets his needs and he is taught not to ask for things. We will communicate any needs with you, should they arise.
- Your address, email, phone number, Facebook page, or contact information of any kind.
- Sending expensive items (over \$25 in value) or money. COTN can accept these items as general donations, but not for individual children.

If you have further questions, please contact our Sponsorship Department at sponsor@cotni.org or 360-698-7227, or visit cotni.org/letter-writing.

Thank you for writing!