



# Welcome to the Child Sponsorship Program!

We are excited to offer the opportunity for our supporters to sponsor an individual child at CHLA. We hope this helps make you feel a part of our entire project through the lens of one life. By sponsoring a child you are a part of changing many lives of children, not only at Casa Hogar Los Angelitos, but all around the Manzanillo area. **We strongly believe that everyday a child is with us is a day they are thriving and growing so whether the time is short or long, their lives are being positively impacted.** Sponsoring a child is one way to support the entire life changing work at Casa Hogar Los Angelitos and The Children's Foundation International.

## FAQ'S

*Here you will find answers to some of the questions we are frequently asked.*

### ***How can I communicate with the child I am sponsoring?***

*E-mail.* You can send an e-mail to your sponsored child at [info@TCFcares.org](mailto:info@TCFcares.org). From there, they will be translated and forwarded to the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos (CHLA) office. Please reference your child's name in the subject line of your e-mail. You can also send a picture along with your e-mail.

*Mail.* You can mail cards or letters to The Children's Foundation office and they will be scanned and sent to CHLA they will also be taken to Mexico and given to your sponsored child as individuals or groups travel to Mexico. The Children's Foundation address is: *The Children's Foundation, PO Box 1443, Loveland, CO 80539*

### ***How often is it appropriate to send an e-mail or card?***

Primarily because they are being translated, we ask that you keep it brief and no more than one e-mail/card per month.

### ***Will my child respond to my communication?***

To both e-mail and letters, your child will be encouraged, but not forced, to respond. You can also look forward to receiving something special in the mail from them twice a year.

### ***Are there guidelines about what I should or should not say in my communication?***

We ask that you keep the language simple for ease of translation. We also ask that you use good judgment regarding topics and content of your communications. We do encourage you to get to know your child by telling them about yourself, your family, and your interests and asking questions about their lives. In addition, it is ok to send photos of yourself and family.

### ***Am I the only sponsor for my child?***

Because we provide full-time care, to meet the needs of a child in the Casa Hogar, approximately \$3,000\* is required per child, per year. Consequently, several sponsors are needed for each child.

*\*This cost does not include extraordinary expenses, special medical expenses, special events, or costs associated with some of the extracurricular activities the child may participate in.*

### ***Does my contribution go specifically to meeting the personal need of the child I am sponsoring?***

Your contribution is directed to the needs for the CHLA and all of the children. Because not all the children have sponsors, it is not practical to allocate your funds to a specific child. However, the general allocation of the funds does not negate your opportunity to develop a relationship with the child you have selected to sponsor.

*We would like you to know that your funds are NOT used for purposes other than supporting the children. Any funds spent on construction, facility repairs, or maintenance are paid for by contributions specific for those purposes.*

***Are there other opportunities for me to contribute to the care and development of the child I sponsor?***

Should a child require special medical or educational attention, sponsors may be notified and offered an opportunity to contribute to the cost of the necessary care. We will do our best to keep you informed on the child's circumstances.

***Can we give birthday or Christmas gifts to our sponsor child?***

Sending a birthday/Christmas card to your child is encouraged; however, we ask that you do not send gifts. In fairness to all the children, a gift fund, Gifts of Love, has been established to ensure that all the children have a gift, even if they do not have a sponsor. Giving to this fund is an option and you may do so by contacting our office at 970 402-2272. From this fund, the staff of Casa Hogar purchases a personal and unique gift for each child on their birthday and at Christmas.

***How would I arrange a visit with my sponsored child?***

If you plan to be in the Manzanillo area and would like to visit Casa Hogar los Angelitos please e-mail [info@TCFcares.org](mailto:info@TCFcares.org) in advance to request a visit time. Please do not go directly to the Casa Hogar without prior notice. The children enjoy visitors, but pre-arranging is requested. This is the children's home, and we must maintain a routine and schedule for their days, and ensure that staffing is available for tours. We also have an open house and child sponsorship day once a year, which all sponsors are invited to.

***Can I take my child out for the day or have a party for them?***

The children are not permitted to leave CHLA without a staff member going with them. We would prefer you stay at the casa hogar to spend individual time with your sponsored child. If you have an event that you would like to have the entire Casa Hogar attend you may contact 011 53 143 - 334 0878 (In the US dial The Children's Foundation office at 970-402-2272) to schedule that with our staff. Events for the children are planned well in advance through the Casa Hogar administration, and should fit within the schedule of the staff and the Casa Hogar children.

***Are the children of the CHLA adoptable?***

While adoption is not impossible, it is a lengthy and difficult process with no guarantee of success. The Children's Foundation/Casa Hogar los Angelitos is not in a position to act as an adoption agency. As such, adoption is not currently part of our program.

***What if my sponsored child leaves the CHLA?*** It is helpful for sponsors to know that we do everything we can to keep the children with us at the CHLA until they are able to finish their high school education thus giving them a great chance of breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse so many of them have come from. There are times when the children are unable to stay with us until their completion of high school. Children move on from the CHLA for many different reasons; perhaps circumstances with their families have changed and they are able to go back to their family or to live with a distant relative or as they mature and grow up they are ready to go out on their own. Just as it is here in the USA, Mexico desires to keep the family intact and will try to reunite family members whenever possible. In the event that the child's situation changes and he/she is no longer with us, which happens from time to time, we will contact you. Our hope is that you will continue as a sponsor for another child in need.

*Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.*