



Note: If you sponsor a child from **Ukraine**, Ukraine Customs will not allow you to send a gift to your child. Pre packaged Christmas Gifts however are acceptable and **MUST** be purchased **PRIOR** to **October 25th 2010** – simply call our office at 1 800 454 4494.

Sending Gifts and Letters to your Sponsor Child:

When abandoned or sick children live in orphanages, sometimes with up to 400 other children, it is easy for them to feel lost in the crowd. That is why it is so exciting when they receive a gift or a note that is specifically for him or her. It makes them feel special and to know that someone far, far away is thinking of them and praying for them. There are some guidelines Mission Without Borders has set up to ensure the enjoyment and safety of these gifts. We thank you in advance for adhering to these guidelines.

All packages must have the name of the child – the sponsorship number – along with your name.

Letters and Cards:

Sponsors can send short letters or cards, written in English. If you are able, you may write in the child's native language. Content must be appropriate to the child's age and understanding. The Sponsor cannot request the child's address nor pass on their personal address. Content must **not** include the following items: Doctrinal beliefs, stories of personal tragedy, sexual material, any mention of money, promises (visits, large gifts, future schooling, etc). **All cards and letters will be translated for you.**

While our workers encourage your child to respond to your correspondence, please realize that they may not choose to do so or may be unable to due to specific learning or physical disabilities.

Gifts:

- All gifts must be able to fit into a shoebox size
- Parcels **must be left unsealed and unwrapped**. We must be able to inspect and record all items
- All card, letters and gifts must be sent to the Canadian Office:
PO Box 2007
Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8
- **Please have your Child's gifts in our office before the 20th of the month**
- Gifts are sent from the Canadian Office at the end of each month to our warehouse in Holland. From there, they are processed and sent to the field country to be delivered to the child's Home. This process, at times, can be quite lengthy. Please allow at least 12 weeks if you are sending a gift for a Special Occasion. **IF YOU ARE SENDING A CHRISTMAS GIFT PLEASE HAVE THEM IN BY SEPTEMBER 20TH IF POSSIBLE**

The following are Government restrictions for customs purposes:

Food:

Food items are not allowed with the exception of hard candy – other candy, including gum cannot be sent.

Toys:

Please do not send the following toys as they have caused problems for our staff in the field countries.

- No violent toys, war toys, guns, knives, sharp objects, glass objects
- No gambling games or playing cards
- No evil toys (Pokemon, vampires, etc)
- No dinosaur toys
- No battery operated toys

Medical Goods:

No medical goods or vitamins. Special certificates are needed for these items.

Used Clothing or Toys:

These items cannot be sent, per government regulations.

New Clothing:

Small quantities of **new** clothing are acceptable. We however do not encourage this as they can end up in the communal wash and not necessarily returned to your sponsored child.

Suggested Items to Send:

- Birthday Cards, Christmas Cards, Postcards of Canada
- Short notes or letters
- Photos of you and your family/friends, photo frame
- Drawings or other artwork by you or your children
- School/art supplies (crayons, pens, pencils, stationary, stickers, notebooks, glue, erasers, sketchbooks, etc.)
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, hairbrush, hair ties, barrettes and clips)
- Inflatable balls, balloons, small dolls, teddy bears, toy cars, costume jewelry
- Books: Please limit this to PICTURE books only, as the children cannot read English.
- Coloring books with almost no English writing in them
- Small puzzles, small kites, bookmarker, calendar, gloves, keychain, wallet, Yo-Yo, hackeysack, etc.

If you have any questions about sending gifts to your sponsor child, please call our office toll free and we will be happy to help in any way possible. Also, it costs Mission Without Borders extra money in postage to send these gifts overseas. If you are sending parcels, please consider giving a small donation for postage to help defray the costs. Thank you and God bless!

Mission Without Borders Canada
PO Box 2007
Abbotsford, BC V2T 3T8
Toll free: 1-800-494-4454