

## Child Sponsorship

Status: In Progress  
Project Partner: Multiple  
Country Office: Asian Aid Australia  
Duration: Since 1970  
Budget: \$2.4 million per annum  
Sponsorship Team: Quentin Campbell  
Leigh Glasspell  
Sharri McKay

### What does this project aim to achieve?

Child sponsorship is Asian Aid's chosen way of providing education to needy children in four different countries in Asia. Many children in our sponsorship program are orphans, or come from single-parent families. Some are disabled, and all are too poor to afford a proper education. Sponsorship gives them hope for a brighter future.

Asian Aid believes education is a powerful way to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of children in poverty and their families, but education is not all that sponsorship provides. For many of our sponsored children, having a sponsor means they can have a roof over their heads, nutritious food every day, and medicine when they are sick. They are surrounded by people who care about them and have their best interests at heart. Sponsorship gives a disadvantaged child a sense of value to know that someone on the other side of the world cares enough about them to support them. For some children, sponsorship is the difference between life and death.

### Who does this project help?

There are currently over 7000 children in Asian Aid's sponsorship program. They come from all over India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. All the children in our program are unable to get an education on their own. They may have no family, or their family may be too poor to pay for their education. Some are disabled and need special care and education, and others may need shelter as well as education.

This project can continue to help thousand of children, their families and extended communities in these countries. Need - to be educated, to be fed and to be cared for - is the only requirement Asian Aid has for accepting children who need sponsors.

### Why has Asian Aid chosen this project?

Asian Aid has chosen to facilitate child sponsorship because it believes it can make a *real* and *positive* difference in the lives of some of the most disadvantaged people in Asia.

The gift of sponsorship does not end when a child finishes school. The benefits of education continue long after formal schooling has been completed, passing on to the next generation and reaching out to the child's family and broader community.

Sponsorship is not only an effective way of helping people in need; it is also a rewarding experience for the sponsor. It is a great way for sponsors and their families to learn about other cultures, and the needs and issues that are faced by children in poverty.

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Asian Aid is a registered Christian non-profit organisation and a signatory to the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.



## When will this project begin and/or end?

Asian Aid has been sponsoring children since 1970. Maisie Fook, founder of Asian Aid, was inspired to start an organisation for needy people when she went to visit two girls she was sponsoring in Korea at the time. Asian Aid's sponsorship program began in Vietnam, and continued there until it was no longer possible due to the Fall of Saigon in 1975. Since then, we have been addressing needs in other Asian countries including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Sponsorship is an integral part of the work we do in creating permanent, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

## How will this project be funded?

When a child is recognised as being in need of sponsorship, Asian Aid finds a school or home most appropriate for them and begins to provide financial support immediately. As soon as a sponsor steps forward, the sponsor takes over the costs of that child's education and/or other needs, ensuring Asian Aid funding continues to support another child.

Finding sponsors for children in need is a vital part of Asian Aid's work. You can partner with us in sponsorship or as an individual, as a family, as a school community, as a women's or men's group – the possibilities are many and varied.

## What can you do to help?

We are always in need of new sponsors. You can help us give hope today by signing up to sponsor a child, or donating to a school or home. To sign up or donate, visit [www.asianaid.org.au](http://www.asianaid.org.au) or call us on (02) 6586 4250 with your credit card details.

Volunteer positions are sometimes available for teachers or carers. Call Quentin Campbell on (02) 6586 4250 + extension 133 for more information about these opportunities.

We value your continued prayers for the work Asian Aid does.

Thank you.