

**Children's care international (CCI)**  
**Aide internationale pour l'enfance (AIPE)**

**Let's fight together against child exploitation**

**SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME**



**OPERATIONAL GUIDE**

Since July 2011, in special consultative status  
with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

## **1. Why does CCI run this sponsorship programme?**

In India, as in other South Asian countries, indentured slavery (also known as debt bondage) subjects thousands of children and their families to the worst forms of exploitation. It is a modern form of slavery that consists in reimbursing debt through hours of work rather than with goods or money. Indian families indebted to employers or moneylenders are forced to work without any remuneration to repay their debts with interest rates as high as 25%. Children and adults work long hours in inhumane conditions to meet these obligations.

Since 2003, CCI has liberated several children from indentured slavery in the State of Andhra Pradesh, and put them on the road to school. Initially illiterate, these children used to toil in various dangerous occupations such as stonecutting, deep-sea fishing on makeshift boats, or in shrimp factories where they found themselves in constant contact with extremely harmful chemicals. Once being provided with access to education, proper nutrition and health care by CCI, most of these children have become dynamic young adults who are today preparing to enter the workforce. For example, many of these young people have received or are still receiving a quality university education; our graduates are now pursuing professional careers as nurses, engineers or accountants. Others are still attending high school, diligently we might add, and also dream of attending university later on.

## **2. What are the effects of this programme?**

Sponsorship provides:

- a quick and easy way for children and youths to continue their education and subsequently land a safe and decent job;
- a means by which each sponsor receives news regarding the academic progress made by a sponsored student;
- support to CCI in its mission of freeing children exploited through labour, and contributes to their reintegration into society;
- a way to break the long-term vicious circle of poverty in a community, and foster the emergence of a generation of young professionals.

## **3. How does one participate in this programme?**

*Step 1:* Read the sponsorship guide and complete the registration form provided on the ***Canada Helps*** website ([canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org)).

*Step 2:* Each sponsor then receives from CCI an identification card regarding a youth it recommends for sponsorship.

*Step 3:* Once a year, CCI will provide to the sponsor an academic progress report concerning the youth that has been sponsored.

## **4. Timing**

We suggest a child or a teenager be sponsored for a minimum of one year on a renewable basis, so that the student may continue his/her studies and remain permanently safe from exploitation. Sponsorship can be entered into at any time of the year. The sponsor can opt out at any time simply by informing us by email. However, the following is quite important: we highly recommend that a sponsor make a minimum commitment of one year because exploitation depends on the existence of poverty and need. Our goal is to support these children until they graduate, not only academically but also from their precarious financial situation.

Basically, the ideal situation is that the sponsor continue to provide support until the final stag in order to give the sponsored child the very best chance of success!

## **5. Who can be a sponsor?**

Sponsorship is open to everyone be it an individual, a business, a school or a group of friends. For children or groups of children who would like to sponsor a student, it is recommended that they do so under the supervision of an adult.

## **6. Which youth to sponsor?**

We will introduce those children whom we consider a priority based on their economic and family situation as well as their academic motivation.

## **7. How is the sponsor kept up-to-date with the student's progress?**

Once a year, at the end of the academic year, a sponsor receives a report on the student's progress. A sponsor wishing more information should not hesitate to contact us at any time by 'phone or email; we will make every effort to respond as soon as possible. In addition, sponsors receive CCI's annual report (in English and in French) and quarterly electronic newsletters by email, so that they may be kept up-to-date as to the progress of all our projects.

## **8. How do you allocate the funds provided through sponsorship?**

Tuition fees at the university level are high in India. A sponsor's monthly donation of CAD\$40 is used to fund a portion of these expenses, plus school materials, health care, housing and food for each child for a year.

## **9. Can a sponsor contact his/her sponsored student?**

In order to minimise administrative and bureaucratic costs associated with the sponsorship programme so that the funds raised are used exclusively to finance the children's education, it is ill-advised for sponsors to contact their sponsored children.

## **10. Is it possible for a sponsor to visit his/her sponsored student in the field?**

Sponsors may visit, but only under certain conditions, and always in accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. A sponsor must inform CCI at least 6 weeks in advance, and comply with the provided instructions.

In its dealings with each sponsor, Children's care international pledges to do the following:

- Provide an updated identification sheet on the sponsored student
  - Annually transmit news of the child's progress
  - Inform the sponsor should the child leave the programme
  - Forward CCI's newsletters and annual reports to the sponsor
    - Provide a receipt for tax purposes.