



Every Child Ministries Special Gift Policy

Special gifts have a special place in the lives of ECM's children, and we encourage sponsors to send extra gifts for birthdays and Christmas. However, because sponsored children are almost always surrounded by other Hope Center children, three important guidelines have been established for the good of the entire program.

- Special gifts of **\$30 or less** are encouraged and allowed for the child's birthday and Christmas (only two special gifts allowed per year). The specific use of the gift is determined by the Hope Center coordinator, the child, and the child's family. Sponsors must specify whether the gift is for the child's birthday or for Christmas. If there is no specification, the gift will go to the child's Hope Center to be shared with all children.
- Any portion of a financial gift which is **over \$30**, in order to avoid jealousy and conflict, will be used for *all the children at the Hope Center*. For example, our staff may choose to buy soccer balls for the Hope Center, which all the children can play with together.
- Sponsors may also wish to send non-monetary gifts such as birthday or Christmas presents to a child. Because of the high cost of shipping, along with possibility of theft and difficulty getting the packages to children in remote areas, we **cannot send anything through the post except at Christmas**, and therefore we request that donors DO NOT send the items to the ECM office without prior permission. In the months leading up to Christmas, you will receive an email indicating when to send small gifts to the office and by what date. This is the ONLY annual mailing. When ECM staff members travel to Africa, they will make every effort, as space allows, to carry gifts from sponsors to their children. We will let you know when the opportunity arises to send small gifts with one of our staff members to Africa. **Please note: There are limitations on the size of packages our staff can carry with them. All packages must be in an 8.5" by 11" envelope or smaller, under one inch thick, and up to 6 oz in weight.**

Effective March 14, 2016; revised June 2021; revised August 2022; revised December 2022; revised March 2026



Letters and Special Gifts - Do's and Don'ts

DOs

- Send photos of you and your family.
- Send letters.
- Send greeting cards.
- Send small gifts (please refer to previous page for package dimensions).
- Discuss upcoming events/holidays.
- Share stories of your family.
- Ask how you can pray for them.
- Ask them questions about themselves.

DON'Ts

- Send photos in bathing suits (modesty differs country to country).
- Seal envelopes unless necessary to mail.
- Send liquids or items that could melt.
- Send anything containing batteries.
- Tell them you sent them money or a gift (Please refer to the previous page for information regarding monetary gifts and how they are used).
- Discuss political topics.
- Discuss privileges such as vacations, new cars, etc.
- Tell them you are coming to visit them.

- Include your personal address in letters or cards.

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