

The Naomi Project

Godparenting the least of these...

Information Packet



ChildVoice)))

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' – Matthew 25:40

WELCOME

Thank you for your generous investment in the life of a girl and her family! We appreciate the financial commitment you have made to be a part of our godparenting program and are committed to making it a meaningful, transformative experience for all involved. This packet has been created as a guide for you and your new relationship. Please refer to this packet throughout your experience with ChildVoice for any questions you may have, and don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further support!

THE NAOMI PROJECT

You might recall the role that Naomi had in the book of Ruth. Naomi was first and foremost an encourager to the much younger Ruth, offering wise advice and counsel during some very difficult times of loss and displacement. The two women became mentor and mentee as they bonded spiritually. Ruth was able to face the future with courage, with her godly friend by her side.



The war-affected girls at ChildVoice need a similar friend and confidant—a godparent. The Naomi Project provides a means for you, as an individual, small group, or church, to fulfill the role of a godparent in the life of a girl and her children—committing to loving, supporting, and praying for her and her family as she navigates the difficult journey of healing and transformation.

GODPARENTING THROUGH CHILDVOICE

Here at ChildVoice, we aim to restore the voices of children silenced by war. The Lukome Center in northern Uganda is a therapeutic community for children and youth traumatized by conflict: former child soldiers, orphans, sex slaves, child mothers, and other highly-vulnerable girls. By being a godparent, you will be supporting an adolescent girl and her children during their journey of restoration.

At ChildVoice's Lukome Center, the girl and family you are supporting are given the opportunity to develop assets to protect themselves against the vulnerabilities that for so long defined them. This process is through sanctuary, psychosocial and spiritual counseling, education, vocational training, access to basic healthcare, and reintegration support. By being a godparent, you create a personal connection with one of these girls and her family and become their personal echo, amplifying their voice through your encouragement and support.



COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES

How can I communicate and stay connected with my matched girl or family?

Communication is key to building lasting relationships! Now that you are matched with your girl or family, we encourage you to send a personal or family photograph and short letter introducing yourself. In this package, you will find all of the materials needed to start this conversation, including four addressed envelopes. Due to a lack of internet access in the remote location of the Lukome center in northern Uganda, email is not a reliable means of communication between you and your girl and family.



After writing your letter, you may either mail it to our office in Newmarket, NH or scan it and email it to us. Our mailing address and email are listed at the bottom of this packet. Once we receive your letter, we forward it to the ChildVoice office in Gulu, Uganda. There, our program coordinator will distribute the letters to the girls and determine a schedule for correspondence. You can expect to receive communication at least four times a year.

While very few of the girls have been to school and know how to read or write, each one has the availability of a staff member to help them read, write and translate your correspondence back and forth for the entirety of the Therapeutic Phase and

Post-Therapeutic Phase of our program.

We appreciate your patience in the correspondence process and invite you to join our online communities and visit our website for more frequent updates.

- childvoice.org
- facebook.com/childvoice
- instagram.com/childvoice

What should I write about?

- Keep your letters short and use simple vocabulary
- Keep your letters positive and encouraging
- Describe your family, home, pets, hobbies, sports, job/school, city and country, etc.
- Be sensitive to avoid writing about or sending pictures of material possessions, keeping in mind the difference in socioeconomic status between Western and developing cultures.



Can I send gifts to my girl/family?

To avoid creating dependencies and fostering jealousy within the program and the community, which would place a girl and her family at risk, ChildVoice does not allow gift giving. This refers to both monetary and material gifts beyond your baseline financial commitment.

May I visit my matched girl and her children?

Absolutely! It is encouraged to make a face-to-face connection with the girl/family you are matched with as it can be an exciting and moving event for both of you. If you have an interest in doing so, we're here to help you! We ask that you please contact our office headquarters by phone or email to let us know of your interest.

We prefer to send visitors to the Lukome Center in teams or groups of people to simplify logistics. There are team trips several times a year, so hopefully, you can find a time that works for you. If that does not work for you and you want to

travel on your own, we can work with you to make it possible.

THE JOURNEY

How long is my commitment? When do girls “graduate” from the program?

The decision to become a ChildVoice godparent for a girl/family is a wonderful opportunity that can last up to 5 years. Throughout the Therapeutic (18 months), Transition (4 months), and Post-Therapeutic (36 months) Phases of the program, we place high importance on teaching the girls self-sufficient behavior. Upon



graduation, the girls are capable of sustaining a livelihood for themselves and their family. ChildVoice continues to coach and monitor their progress throughout the Post-Therapeutic Phase, which is three additional years after graduation.

The continuation of your commitment to godparent this girl and her family throughout the 5 years is contingent on

your capacity to maintain financial support. If there comes a point where you are unable to support a girl and her family anymore, we will work with you and find the best solution for the girl and her family.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

What happens if the girl I am matched with is dismissed from the program for disciplinary reasons?

ChildVoice serves highly vulnerable, at-risk girls, therefore it is expected that we will encounter problematic behaviors from time to time. We use a progressive disciplinary process to handle such instances which in most cases is effective in correcting behavior problems. However on rare occasions, after exhausting every available option, the last resort may be for her to leave the program.

At that point, we will communicate with you to let you know what the situation is. Because the girl will be leaving ChildVoice, we will end your support for her. If you

are willing, we will match you to another girl and her children.

COST

How much does it cost to support a girl and her family?

Godparenting for a girl and her child(ren) costs minimally \$100 per month per family member. This amount is greater than most other programs for two reasons— first, the quality and intensity of full-time services being provided in the therapeutic setting at the Lukome Center and, secondly, you are supporting the girl and her children—not just one child. Your support for these girls and their families provides above and beyond the level of services in most child sponsorship programs.



The cost attached to supporting a girl and her family is predicated on how big the family is. The average operational cost is \$100/month for each individual, so if the family unit you are supporting is a girl and one child, the cost is \$200/month (\$100/month/person times 2). In the event that there are financial constraints that would preclude you from completely supporting your matched girl and her children, we will secure a co-sponsor to make sure the entire family is funded. Both godparents will be provided the same access to the family.

Are my contributions to ChildVoice, including my participation in the Naomi Project, tax deductible?

Yes! We are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Every donation given to ChildVoice is 100% tax deductible. Each January you will receive an end-of-year giving summary receipt.

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

How does ChildVoice ensure that my support actually benefits the girl/family I godparent?

ChildVoice's Naomi Project is a model that encourages a one-on-one relationship to develop between a girl and her godparent. Throughout this relationship, your financial support is pooled with other resources to provide a wide array of educational, vocational training, and developmental activities for the girls and their families at the Lukome Center and in the Post-Therapeutic Phase. A girl will not receive direct cash benefits to discourage the creation of dependency and to avoid jealousy between program participants.

ChildVoice conducts rigorous, independent financial audits annually to make sure donated funds are tracked and managed properly. You can view this information on our website at www.childvoiceintl.org



It is not enough to ensure that funds are reaching the Lukome Center and spent on planned activities for your matched girl/family. Like you, we want to be sure that real development is taking place in the life of every girl/family. This is why ChildVoice works hard to monitor and evaluate program effectiveness and long-term impact on an ongoing basis for each individual girl and child.

What percentage of expenditures are allocated to program activities?

Through prudent administration and management, as well as the use of volunteers who contribute their time and talents to our efforts, ChildVoice is able to keep its overhead relatively low. In FY2017, 81% of the funds raised were allocated to direct programming.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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