A Taste of Compassion

EVENT PLANNING GUIDE
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Thank you for supporting Compassion’s ministry to children living in poverty. We hope this booklet inspires you, and gives you lots of ideas about how you can continue to share Compassion’s work with your friends, family, work colleagues and church family.

As you start thinking about how you will run your event, we simply encourage you to be as creative as possible! Use the ideas in this booklet as a starting point, and then incorporate your own creative ideas and style to make it a fun, unique and inspiring event for your guests.

What will your event look like?

Whether your idea of the perfect event is a black-tie dinner, a pop-up picnic or a casual lunch at your favourite restaurant, we encourage you to make this event your own, and share about Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme in a way that only you can.

But don’t worry—while your event can be as colourful as you are, we will be here to help you along the way!

Inside this booklet, you will find stacks of resources to help you plan your event, including stories and photos of children in Compassion’s programmes, tasty recipes from three countries where Compassion works, all the latest statistics and information about children living in poverty and irrefutable proof that Compassion child sponsorship works (for the friend who loves a healthy debate!).

But for now, let’s get brainstorming! Grab some paper and colourful pens, and then read through the list below for inspiration and suggestions (and feel free to pinch any of our ideas—we won’t mind!).

**Pop-up picnic:** Invite your guests to a picnic in a surprise location. Send them all the details, including the time, date and dress-code—but don’t tell them the location until a few hours before! When it comes to the location, why not think outside the box: a picnic in your backyard, on your building’s rooftop or at the beach.

**Culturally themed dinner party:** Decorate your venue to reflect your cultural theme, serve authentic cuisine and ask your guests to wear traditional dress. To help you host your culturally themed party, we’ve included mouth-watering recipes from India, Ethiopia and Dominican Republic in this booklet (check out pages 6-17). You can choose one of these countries, your sponsored child’s country, or any other country in which Compassion works. If you have a friend who knows how to create gourmet, traditional dishes, why not ask for their help?

**Black-tie canapés:** Think black suits, soft jazz and plates of tiny sushi rolls. A classy black-tie dinner or afternoon tea is a great way to have some fun, mingle with friends and family and share more about your heart for Compassion’s ministry.

**Afternoon tea party:** Channel your inner Mad Hatter and host a tea party on a long
cloth-covered table, piled high with cupcakes, tea cups and bunches of colourful flowers.

**Progressive dinner:** Get together with three or more friends and organise a dinner that moves from one house to the next: entrees at Sally’s, dinner at Tom’s, dessert at Rachel’s and finishing with coffee at Elisa’s.

**Games night:** Run a games night, complete with Trivial Pursuit, Cranium and Pictionary, or a traditional game from your focus country.

**Authentic cooking class:** Appeal to your foodie friends by inviting them to an authentic cooking class, either at your house, or through one of the many cooking class companies. While perfecting a traditional Indian curry, chat with your guests about India’s amazing culture, history and the challenges children living in poverty face every day.

**Dessert night:** Embrace your sweet tooth and host a dessert night with your Bible study or home group. Amidst bites of ice-cream sundaes, apple pie and custard, talk to your home group about your experiences of sponsoring a child with Compassion. Show them drawings or letters from your sponsored child, and let them know that by sponsoring a child, they can be part of why Compassion child sponsorship works, just as you are.

**Backyard BBQ:** Host a BBQ with a twist, by cooking a mix of Irish favourites – burgers and sausages – with a side of authentic cuisine from a country of your choice.

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**How will you share Compassion with your guests?**

This event is your opportunity to share your experiences of sponsoring a child with your friends, family, work colleagues and church family. Just as you have planned your event to reflect your personality, we encourage you to share your experiences of Compassion in your own style. If you hate presentations, plan to share your testimony through conversations instead. Use the many online resources available e.g. short videos to help get conversation started or share a letter from your sponsored child over dinner.

You could even include Compassion in your event decorations: write country facts on your guests’ invitations, use framed photos of Compassion kids as your dinner table centre-piece or ask your guests to write a sentence of encouragement to your sponsored child in a guest book.

Most importantly, use this opportunity to share about your personal experiences of Compassion child sponsorship. Every one of us has a story to tell—and we encourage you to tell it!

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**NEED HELP SHARING ABOUT COMPASSION CHILD SPONSORSHIP? CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT www.compassion.ie/volunteer-resources**
The website is a quick, easy and secure place to sponsor a child. People can choose a country and whether they would like to sponsor a boy or girl. Alternatively, a child can be selected for them. The website is www.compassion.ie

Contact Forms
If someone is interested in sponsoring a child, but would like to be contacted by a staff member for more information, they can quickly fill in a Contact Form. These can be found at www.compassion.ie/volunteer-resources

After your event, please send the details to Compassion Ireland, Suite 3 Eden Gate Centre, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.

Child profiles:
You can also ask us for some child profiles to have at your event. Every child profile includes the photo, name and information of a specific child in need of sponsorship.

To ensure you have your child profiles in time for your event, please request them at least three weeks before your event. Simply email info@compassion.ie and state how many child profiles you would like, as well as any preferences you may have regarding country (if you’re having a culturally themed night), age or gender. If you don’t have a preference, we’ll send you the profiles of children who have been waiting the longest for a sponsor. Once we send you a child profile, that child’s photo will be removed from our website so that your guests have the first chance of becoming their sponsor. If no-one sponsors the child, that’s okay, simply let us know as soon as possible, and then shred the unused child profile to ensure the child’s privacy is protected. We’ll ensure they are connected with a sponsor as quickly as possible.
Countries in the spotlight: India, Ethiopia and Dominican Republic

Whether you’re planning a culturally themed event or not, focusing on one specific country will allow your guests to gain a deeper understanding of the way children live around the world, and the unique challenges they face.

Celebrate a country’s unique culture by cooking a traditional meal, share country facts and statistics and explain how your guests can help see children from that particular country released from poverty in Jesus’ name.

We have included recipes, facts and statistics from three countries below; however, feel free to focus on any of the 26 countries in which Compassion works. Perhaps you would like to choose your sponsored child’s country, or another country that is close to your heart.

CHECK OUT THE RESOURCES PAGE WWW.COMPASSION.IE/VOLUNTEER-RESOURCES FOR A RANGE OF SHORT, ENGAGING CLIPS ABOUT COMPASSION’S MINISTRY AND CHILD SPONSORSHIP.
With a population of more than 1 billion, India is the second most populated country in the world (behind China). India’s beauty and mystique can be glimpsed everywhere: from the ancient farming villages that dot the countryside, to snow-capped mountains looming overhead and sun-drenched beaches that offer a recluse from the bustle of the cities.

While travellers are drawn to images of India’s exotic spice bazaars, Bollywood sets and spectacular scenery, India is also home to some of the most impoverished people in the world.

**Compassion in India**

Compassion International began working in India in 1968 and a second office was opened in East India in 2002. Together, over 130,000 children participate in Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme across India. Compassion’s Leadership Development Programme, Child Survival Programme and RESPOND Initiative also operate throughout the country. As of April 2013, around 350 Indian students are enrolled in the Leadership Development Programme and around 63 Child Survival centres are in operation in India.

**Fast facts**

- Over 80 per cent of Indians practise Hinduism, while the remaining 20 per cent are primarily Muslim, Christian or Sikh.
- In India, 20 per cent of children aged six to 14 are not in school, due to issues of ‘social distance’ which deny children equal opportunities.
- More than 2 million people in India live with HIV/AIDS.
- Many children, particularly girls, are forced to drop out of school to work in order to supplement the family income.
- The secondary status afforded to girls within a family often denies them the basic right to an education, and if a family has to choose between educating a son or daughter, the son will usually be chosen. The rationale is that an educated son is an investment as he will care for his aging parents, whereas a daughter will marry and live with her in-laws, meaning that her parents will not benefit directly from her education.
- Around 25 per cent of India’s population lives on less than US$1.25 per day.
- Approximately 30 per cent of Indian children under age five are underweight. India has the largest number of impoverished children in Asia, many of whom live in slums in major cities and find themselves sleeping on the streets or forced into child trafficking or prostitution.
Kara kolumbu (Aubergine curry)

Ingredients
1½ onions
2 tomatoes
2 aubergines
Handful of rice
1 tsp pepper
Small piece of ginger
5 cloves of garlic
1 tsp red chilli powder
10g tamarind
1 tsp turmeric powder
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp urad dal (split black lentils)
1 tsp cumin seeds
Salt to taste
Oil
Water
Boiled rice, to serve

Preparation
Heat oil in pan and add mustard, urad dal and cumin seeds. Chop one onion and add it to the pan; fry until brown. Cut aubergines into pieces and add to the pan with some water. Dry roast the rice and the pepper and grind it with half an onion into a smooth paste and keep it aside. Smash ginger and garlic and keep aside. Chop tomatoes and mash them well. Add ginger and garlic paste as well as chopped tomatoes to the pan. Add chilli powder and turmeric. Add a cup of water and bring it to boil, then add the tamarind extract, cover with a lid and simmer for about eight minutes. Add the ground rice paste and salt as needed. Cook until the curry becomes thick. Serve with boiled rice.

Meet Princy
This is Princy with her brother Pritish and her mother Beulah in the family’s kitchen, holding their food supply for the week. Along with Princy’s father, who works as an auto rickshaw driver, this family of four lives in a one-room hut with no door in southern India. Kara kolumbu, a spicy south Indian curry made with vegetables and served with rice, is one of the family’s usual meals.
Sambar (spicy vegetable soup)

Ingredients

- 8 – 10 drumsticks (a vegetable, also known as murungakkai)
- ¼ cup mustard seeds
- 2 tsp sambar powder (made from ¼ tsp ground turmeric powder, 1 tsp red chilli powder and 2 tsp coriander powder)
- 1 cup toor dal (yellow split peas)
- 1 tbs tamarind paste or pulp
- 1 tomato
- 1 onion
- ½ tsp asafoetida powder
- ¼ tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp oil
- 1 red chilli (optional)
- 1 tsp oil
- Salt to taste
- A few curry leaves, plus extra curry and coriander leaves to serve
- Water
- Boiled rice, to serve
- Other vegetables if desired

Preparation

Boil toor dal with ¼ tsp turmeric powder and oil in a pressure cooker. Allow the mixture to cool, then mash and put aside. Chop drum sticks, chilli, onion, tomato and curry leaves. In a pan, cook the mustard seeds with oil until they pop. Add two cups of water, the chopped drumsticks and other chopped vegetables (if desired). Add sambar powder, salt, asafoetida and tamarind paste. Boil the mixture until the vegetables are soft and, if necessary, add more water. Add mashed toor dal and cook the mixture for five minutes. Season with curry leaves and serve hot.

Meet John

John Wesley lives with his parents in south India. John’s father, Venkatesh, earns around Rs 300 per day (€4) painting buildings and homes in the community. However, work is seasonal and Venkatesh can be jobless for months at a time. In the picture, John’s mum, Jesse, is serving the family sambar and rice for lunch, as she does most days. Since joining Compassion’s programme, John Wesley and his family have started praying before they eat.
Ethiopia

Ethiopia is located in eastern Africa, in a region sometimes referred to as ‘the Horn of Africa’. Diverse terrain in this landlocked country extends from the dizzying heights of the Ras Dejen—standing 4533m above sea level—to the depths of the Danakil Depression.

Labelled the ‘cradle of humanity’, Ethiopia is a country of natural splendour. The landscape includes the spectacular volcanic peaks of the Simen and Bale Mountains, stunning alpine lakes and rocky gorges. Though Ethiopia is undoubtedly one of Africa’s poorest countries, it’s also the oldest and one of the longest-standing in the world.

Compassion in Ethiopia

Compassion International began working in Ethiopia in 1993. Over 85,000 children participate in Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Program in Ethiopia. Compassion’s Leadership Development Program, Child Survival Programme and RESPOND Initiative also operate throughout the country. As of April 2013, 240 Ethiopian students are enrolled in the Leadership Development Program, and 35 Child Survival centres are in operation in Ethiopia.

Fast facts

- The capital of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa.
- Amarigna is the official language of Ethiopia. Other spoken languages include Oromigna, Somaligna, Guaragigna, Sidamigna, Hadiyigna and English.
- The Ethiopian Orthodox Church (known as Tewahdo) is one of the longest-standing organised Christian bodies in the world. Today, 60 per cent of Ethiopia’s population is Christian: approximately 43 per cent Orthodox and 19 per cent Protestant. However, tension exists between Orthodox and Protestant Christians, and many Protestant Christians face persecution from the Orthodox Church.
- In 2011, more than 13 million people in East Africa were affected by drought. The drought was the region’s worst in 60 years, and affected Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.
- Around half of Ethiopia’s population over the age of 15 is illiterate. More than 24 per cent of the adult population is unemployed.
- Ethiopia’s economy is based on agriculture, which accounts for 85 per cent of total employment.
- The life expectancy for males in Ethiopia is around 53 years; for females, it’s approximately 59 years.
- Around 30 per cent of children under the age of five are underweight.
- Around 30 per cent of the population lives on less than US$1.25 per day.
Dinich wot (potato stew)

Ingredients

- ¼ cabbage, cored and chopped
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 2 carrots
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 stalk of celery
- 500g potatoes, cubed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp turmeric
- ½ tsp curry powder
- Salt to taste
- Énjera (traditional flat bread), to serve

Preparation

Chop the onion and fry in oil over medium heat until the onions soften. Add the garlic, ground ginger, turmeric and curry powder, and cook until fragrant. Add the prepared cabbage, carrots, celery stalk and potatoes to the pan, cooking until they start to soften. Finally, add three to four cups of vegetable stock, season with salt and cook until vegetables are soft. Serve with Énjera, or flatbread.

Meet Mekdes

Mekdes Fekadu is eight years old and lives with her mother in a one-room house in a slum known as Lafto Wondimamch Sefer in Ethiopia. Her mother earns just 15 birr (about €0.65) per day as a labourer. A dish of rice or pasta with a tomato and onion sauce with bread, like the meal pictured here, is a common meal for the family and costs about 20 birr (€0.86). Dinich wot, a kind of potato stew, is another usual dish. Through Mekdes’ sponsorship, the Compassion child development centre supports the family with rice, pasta, cooking oil and grain.
Ingredients

- 500g of pasta (macaroni or spaghetti are most commonly used in Ethiopia)
- 2 medium onions
- 3 or 4 medium tomatoes
- 1 cup oil (palm oil or olive oil)
- 1 tsp berbere (a spiced power prepared from chilli peppers, garlic, ginger, dried basil, white and black pepper)
- Water
- Salt to taste

Preparation

First, prepare the sauce by cooking two onions over medium heat, with one cup of oil, until soft. Add a teaspoon of berbere and stir to combine. Add water in small amounts until the mixture thickens. Add salt to taste. Set aside the sauce. Next, boil the pasta until soft. Drain and set aside. In another pan, boil enough water to cover three to four whole tomatoes. Boil the tomatoes until soft and the skin begins to split. Peel the tomatoes and chop with a knife until they are a soup consistency. Add the tomatoes and pasta to the sauce mixture, stir until heated, and then serve.

Meet Hawi and Helen

Twins, Hawi and Helen, are six years old and live with their parents in a slum in Ethiopia. Their house is small; their bedroom, kitchen and sitting room form the home’s only room. The twins are both sponsored through Compassion and receive dried macaroni from their Compassion centre. Their parents have little money for food so Hawi and Helen eat macaroni nearly every day. It costs around 20 birr (€0.86) to make the sauce on the macaroni pictured here—nearly a whole day’s pay.
The Dominican Republic covers the eastern two-thirds of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The western one-third of Hispaniola is occupied by the country of Haiti. It is one of the Caribbean’s most geographically diverse countries, boasting hundreds of miles of coastline, desert scrublands, mangrove swamps and stunning mountain scenery, including the highest point in the West Indies: Pico Duarte. The Dominican Republic has both African and European influences, which can be seen in the country’s architecture, music, art and literature.

Compassion in Dominican Republic

Compassion began its ministry in the Dominican Republic in 1970 as a relief program donating food, medicine and money for children selected by the local churches. In the 1980s the programme became a school programme in which children gained access to education through the local church. In 1994, the Child Sponsorship Programme was started. The Leadership Development Programme began in 2004, and the Child Survival Programme began in 2006. More than 49,000 children participate in Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme in the Dominican Republic. As of April 2013, around 140 Leadership Development students are studying in the Dominican Republic and 26 Child Survival centres are in operation across the country.

Fast facts

- The capital of the Dominican Republic is Santo Domingo.
- More than 90 per cent of the country’s population is Roman Catholic.
- Dominican Republic has a population of more than 10 million.
- Almost 35 per cent of the Dominican Republic’s population—more than 3 million people—lives below the poverty line.
- High unemployment, which currently sits at around 14 per cent, and underemployment remain important long-term challenges for the country. Those who are educated are more likely to obtain the most desirable and higher paying jobs. Therefore, education has become more valued in the last 20 years. However, many families cannot afford the cost of education, particularly higher education, which can be a significant percentage of their budget.
- The infant mortality rate in the Dominican Republic is 20 deaths for every 1000 live births. In Ireland, it’s around three deaths for every 1,000 live births.
- The richest 10 per cent of the country’s population, overwhelmingly the white descendants of Spanish settlers, own most of the land and benefit from 40 per cent of national income. The poorest peasants are people of African descent—including an estimated 800,000 of Haitian immigrant origin.
Moro de guandules (rice and green pigeon peas)

**Ingredients**

- 3 cups rice
- 1 ½ cups boiled green pigeon peas
- 2 tbs oil
- 1 ½ tbs sliced onions
- 1 tsp mashed garlic
- 1 cube chicken stock
- 1 tbs tomato paste
- ¼ cup finely chopped coriander
- ¼ cup capers
- ¼ cup chopped green chillies
- ½ tsp fresh thyme leaves
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup stuffed olives
- 5 cups hot water

**Preparation**

Place a thick-bottomed pan over medium heat. Pour in the oil. Add the onion and simmer for 30 seconds. Add the garlic and stir for 15 seconds. Then add the tomato paste and the chicken stock; mix. Add the green pigeon peas and mix. Add the rice and mix. Pour in the water and add salt to taste. Add the coriander, green chilli and the olives and mix. Put the lid on the pan and turn the heat up. Five minutes later, stir the mixture. Replace the lid and simmer until the mixture has absorbed all the water. Stir mixture, replace the lid and turn heat to low. Cook for around 20 more minutes. Remove from heat, add the capers and thyme leaves and mix. Serve hot with salads, meat and tostones (fried plantains).

Meet Kendry

Kendry Vargas Salvador is 12 and his sister Ignabel is nine. They live with their mother Kenia, their older brother, their younger brother, and their father Ignacio in Las Matas de Farfan, in the south of the Dominican Republic. Ignacio works as a cabinetmaker and earns between RD$6000 (€38) and RD$15,000 (€251) a month. A typical meal for the family is moro de guandules, a bean and rice dish, which costs about RD$300 (€6) and is pictured here.
Arroz con leche (rice pudding)

Ingredients

- 3 cups rice
- 4 cups water
- 2 cups evaporated milk
- 1 cup condensed milk
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 tsp cloves
- Lemon rind
- 1 tbs butter/margarine
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ tsp nutmeg

Preparation

Place a thick-bottomed pan over medium heat. Pour in water, and then add the cloves and the cinnamon stick. Increase the heat to high and boil for half an hour. Extract the cloves and the cinnamon stick. Reduce the heat to low. Add evaporated and condensed milk, salt, sugar, lemon skin, raisins and rice. Stir to combine. Increase heat to medium. Leave for five minutes, then stir. Add butter and vanilla extract. Leave for five minutes, then stir. Top with nutmeg, and serve either hot or cold.

Optional: Soak the rice in 4 cups of water before cooking.

Meet Wellington

This is 11-year-old Wellington, with his mother, aunt and siblings in their home in the Dominican Republic. Wellington’s father abandoned the family many years ago. Wellington’s mother, Keila, works as a police officer. Her single income of around RD$1000 per week (€22) must support the whole family. Rice pudding sometimes forms part of the family’s meal, although it can be expensive to purchase all the ingredients.
Answering the tricky questions

Your event will hopefully give you lots of opportunities to talk to your guests about Compassion, and what makes Compassion child sponsorship an effective response to child poverty.

You are the best advocate for children living in poverty—your own personal stories and experiences of sponsoring a child is the best way to show your guests that child sponsorship really works.

We understand that you might get some tricky questions—and to be honest, we hope you do! Because Compassion child sponsorship really works. Through child sponsorship, over 1 million children have been educated, cared for and released from poverty in Jesus’ name. These children go on to become adults making a difference in their communities as mums, dads, pastors, teachers, doctors, even members of parliament.

Use the below information, as well as your own organic experiences of sponsoring a child, to answer your guests’ questions about Compassion child sponsorship, and encourage them to join you in changing a child’s life forever.

Why should I become a sponsor?

By becoming a sponsor, you have the unique opportunity to invest in the life of a child.

Your sponsored child will have one sponsor: you. Your role in their life is vital. If a child knows they are loved and supported by you it will help them grow in their faith, develop self-confidence and dream big for their future. That’s why Compassion will encourage you to write to your sponsored child—we see the impact your words of hope can accomplish in the life of a child.

Child sponsorship is one child, connected with one sponsor. By being an active part of a child’s life through sponsorship, you are equipping them to transform their life, community and maybe even their nation.

How much does child sponsorship cost?

Basic sponsorship costs €30 per sponsored child per month. This funding allows children to receive individualised care and attention through trained staff who:

- Know the children by name and advocate for them
- Are trained in child protection standards and policies
- Monitor and assess individual child development and educational progress, including the provision of school uniforms and supplies, enabling children to attend a local school
- Ensure the children receive annual health screenings, including any required vaccinations, dental and other necessary health care
- Provide age-appropriate Bibles or Scripture portions and introduce children to the gospel in a non-coercive and culturally relevant way
- Provide a photo and update for each sponsor every two years
- Provide meals/nutritional supplements as required
How much of my donation will directly benefit my sponsored child?

For every €1 given to Compassion Ireland:

- 80c is granted to Compassion International to directly benefit your sponsored child
- 5c is spent on supporting the relationship with your sponsored child
- 15c goes towards getting the next child sponsored, administration and governance costs

TAX RELIEF

- At least 80% of the Tax Relief refund from the Revenue Commissioner is used to support children living in poverty through RESPOND Initiatives, specific grants and child ministry.

CHILD, FAMILY AND PROJECT GIFTS

- 100% of child, family and project gifts go to the beneficiary. Our local project staff and church leaders will help choose a gift that will really make a difference to those receiving it.
How do I know I can trust Compassion with my money?

Here at Compassion we want to do things well, which naturally includes the way we manage our finances. From our fundraising activities to our programme activities, we’re accountable for every cent we spend. Our field offices have both internal and external audits regularly and our own office here in the Ireland is audited externally each year.

In addition, we have a global internal audit function that routinely monitors financial and operational integrity at child development centres and field offices across the globe.

Will I be able to write to my sponsored child?

Yes! Your sponsored child will love receiving letters from you, and will write to you in return.

A relationship is a two-way street. The letters you receive from your sponsored child can open your eyes to life in different parts of the world, inspire you and broaden your understanding of what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God.

But the impact on your sponsored child can be even more profound. The emotional, social and spiritual boost that your encouragement gives can be pivotal to their development. It can inspire them to study harder at school, to be more confident in their relationships and to draw closer to God. Over and over, graduates from Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme point to their sponsors’ letters and prayers as the two things above all others that gave them hope, courage and the belief that they could overcome their circumstances.

To write a letter to your sponsored child online, go to www.compassion.ie and select myCompassion from the menu at the top (you will need to sign up to a myCompassion account if you haven’t already).

Will I be able to send gifts to my sponsored child?

Yes! There are two ways you can send a gift to the child you sponsor:

1. Compassion: By sending a financial gift to the child you support, Compassion can ensure that the child is given the opportunity to choose a suitable gift for themselves in consultation with their family member or centre worker. Where possible, gifts are bought within the community to support the local economy. Unfortunately Compassion is unable to send non-monetary gifts to children due to the high cost of postage and customs duties and the risk of theft and damage. Unless otherwise
stated, 100 per cent of gifts directly benefit the child you support and their family.

2. You can send a small gift of paper or cardboard attached to your letters: We can deliver anything flat, up to an A4 size and up to 6mm in thickness, made of paper or cardboard, such as postcards, bookmarks and photos. Please ensure you write the child’s Compassion number on any item you attach to your letter. Due to potential postal and customs restrictions we can’t deliver* balloons, magnets, ribbons, teddy bears, dolls, sporting goods or anything made of metal or fabric.

* Items not meeting the mailing criteria will be donated to a relevant Irish charity

Will my donations really help to release a child from poverty?

Absolutely! Compassion child sponsorship works. But it can only work with the support of people like you: sponsors who believe every child deserves to eat nourishing food, drink clean water, go to school and have hope for the future. Through child sponsorship, you have the unique opportunity to show a child living in poverty they are loved and cherished. Compassion’s approach to child sponsorship is simple: focusing on individual children. The programme is designed so that staff members ensure that each child is known, cared for and protected. But meeting a child’s physical, socio-emotional, economic and spiritual needs can be complex.

Check out the icons below to discover more about how Compassion child sponsorship works, and how your donation will help a child be released from poverty in Jesus’ name.

Sponsor and child: Your sponsored child will have one sponsor: you. Your role in their life is vital. If a child knows they are loved and supported by you it will help them grow in their faith, develop self-confidence and dream big for their future. That’s why Compassion will encourage you to write to your sponsored child—we see the impact your words of hope can accomplish in the life of a child.

Chicken: Livestock, such as chickens, goats, cows and pigs, are a great way to assist sponsored children and their families to generate much-needed income and additional food for the family. The cost of these initiatives often exceeds what is provided through child sponsorship contributions and is therefore covered through RESPOND Initiative and financial gifts to individual families from sponsors. Staff members at the local child development centre are best equipped to determine which families will benefit from initiatives like this.

To find out more about RESPOND Initiative visit www.compassion.ie/respond
Bowl and spoon: Children receive a meal or snack when they attend their local Compassion child development centre. In more urgent situations, such as natural disasters or when an individual family is severely lacking food, Compassion will use additional funds raised through Critical Interventions to meet their urgent needs.

To find out more about RESPOND Initiative visit www.compassion.ie/respond

Medical: Every child registered in the Child Sponsorship Programme receives regular medical checkups by qualified health professionals—a minimum of twice a year for younger children and once a year for older children—as well as access to medical care whenever necessary. Compassion’s curriculum also focuses on issues like healthy lifestyle choices, disease prevention and hygiene, which are taught at an age-appropriate level to all children.

Shirt: Compassion provides clothing and shoes whenever necessary to sponsored children, including school uniforms. Every child registered in the Child Sponsorship Programme receives a Christmas gift and clothing can sometimes form part of this gift.

Church: Compassion International partners with over 6000 local churches of many Christian denominations around the world in agreement with a Statement of Faith. These churches deliver Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Program to children through trained staff and volunteers who are part of the local community. The church provides safe areas for children to learn and play.

Children are registered for sponsorship based on greatest need and are not required to be of Christian faith.

Water drop: Lack of access to clean water causes direct problems like disease, and indirect problems such as lost schooling for children who have to walk long distances to collect water. Compassion not only teaches sponsored children about clean water, but provides access to safe water using the most appropriate method. This can range from safe water units for individual children and their families, to large-scale boreholes that can benefit an entire community. The cost of these initiatives often exceeds what is provided...
through child sponsorship contributions and are therefore covered through RESPOND Initiative. To find out more about RESPOND Initiative visit www.compassion.ie/respond

Letters: Letters can be of great importance to a sponsored child and help to strengthen the relationship between sponsor and child. Letters let a child know that someone is thinking of them and praying for them, and are often treasured and re-read. For some children, letters from their sponsors may be the only written words of encouragement they receive aside from those given by child development centre staff. Each sponsored child also writes at least twice a year and these letters can be a great blessing and encouragement to a sponsor.

Toothbrush: Classes on health and hygiene help teach children basic skills, like the importance of brushing teeth. Compassion may even provide children with toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Child development centre: As well as attending school, sponsored children attend their local Compassion child development centre a minimum of once a week (48 weeks of the year) for between four and eight hours. At the centre, children are taught valuable life skills through age-appropriate curriculum that help equip them socially, physically and spiritually. Vocational training is also provided for teenagers, equipping them with the skills to be economically self-supporting.

Vaccination needle: All children registered in the Child Sponsorship Programme receive access to medical care, which includes regular childhood vaccinations. If a situation arises where children need additional unanticipated injections, such as in the event of a disease outbreak, Compassion will ensure that this is provided.

Cross: Compassion child sponsorship works because of Christ. He is the reason Compassion exists, and the reason Irish people nationwide give generously and faithfully so that children can be released from poverty. Through Christ, lives are transformed. While children do not need to be Christian to be sponsored, the church-based nature of the programme means that each child is shown and given the chance to respond to the love of Christ.

Clock: Compassion child sponsorship has been around for a long time because it works. For over 64 years Compassion has been there for children living in poverty, beginning in South Korea and extending to over 1.7 million children today.
Thought bubble: From the age of 12 each child completes an annual booklet called My Plan for Tomorrow which allows them to outline their goals for the future and the steps needed to achieve those goals. This booklet helps staff members tailor the programme to further meet the needs of sponsored children wherever possible.

Heart: Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme assists in every aspect of a child’s development—including emotional development. The program framework ensures that staff members know each child by name, care for them and teach them, through age-appropriate curriculum, that they are valuable and have unique gifts and talents.

Bible: All children registered in the Child Sponsorship Programme receive an age-appropriate Bible or portion of Scripture. While children do not need to be Christian to be sponsored, the church-based nature of the programme means that each child is shown and given the chance to respond to the love of Christ.

World: Compassion partners with local churches in 26 developing countries across Africa, Asia and Central/South America. Compassion’s international programme framework allows for contextualisation to ensure that it is culturally appropriate and addresses local needs.

Pencil: Formal education at a local school is a key part of the Child Sponsorship Programme. By providing uniforms, books, pens, pencils, bags and shoes, Compassion works to ensure that each child completes at least primary education. In instances where secondary schooling may not be available nearby, Compassion can assist in organising special transport and/or board for sponsored children enabling them to attend high school.
How do you know Compassion child sponsorship works?

New independent research confirms that Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme is highly effective as a long-term solution to help release children from poverty.

The research results reveal that Compassion sponsored children, in comparison with their non-sponsored peers, were more likely to finish school, have salaried employment and become community and church leaders as adults.

The research—carried out from June 2008 to August 2010—was conducted by Dr Bruce Wydick and a team of researchers from the University of San Francisco, University of Minnesota and University of Washington.

The research focused on six nations (Bolivia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, the Philippines and Uganda) and involved studying more than 10,000 people, including 1860 adults who were registered in Compassion’s Child Sponsorship Programme between 1980 and 1992.

Compared to non-sponsored children, former Compassion sponsored children were more likely to excel in the following areas:

School: Compassion assisted children stayed in school an average of 1.46 years longer than their peers.

Primary school: Compassion assisted children were 13.3% more likely to finish primary school than their peers.

Secondary school: Compassion assisted children were 27-40% more likely to finish secondary education than their peers.

University: Compassion assisted children were 50-80% more likely to complete a university education.

Employment: Compassion assisted children were 14-18% more likely to be a salaried employee as an adult.

Leadership: Compassion assisted children were 30-75% more likely to be community leaders as adults.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE COMPASSION.IE/VOLUNTEER-RESOURCES TO FIND THE IT WORKS VIDEO. THIS explains exactly what the research results mean for Compassion sponsored kids.
RESOURCES

We have a variety of great resources available to you on our website. There you’ll be able to download helpful PDFs such as ‘How to Share Compassion with your Church’ and ‘Compassion F.A.Qs’. You’ll also find further information about Compassion Child Sponsorship and some inspiring videos of children who are sponsored through our programmes.

If you would like to do a presentation at your church, we have additional resources available on the website too.

Check out www.compassion.ie/volunteer-resources for all you need! If you need anything else, please feel free to get in touch at info@compassion.ie or call 01 287 2618.
Thank you for hosting A Taste of Compassion event, and sharing your experiences of child sponsorship with your friends, family, work colleagues and church family. Together, we can continue to see children released from poverty, and given the chance of a bright future.

As you start planning, please don’t forget to post your event feedback, photos and videos on social media:

@CompassionIRE
Compassion Ireland
info@compassion.ie
www.compassion.ie

Not only would we love to hear all about your event, but we know your event will be a huge inspiration to other Compassion sponsors!

If you have questions about planning your get-together, or would like additional copies of any of the resources in this pack, please contact us on info@compassion.ie or call 01 287 2618.

Good luck!

WHY NOT CREATE YOUR OWN THANK YOU CARDS USING PHOTOS FROM YOUR EVENT?
A Taste of Compassion is an initiative of Compassion Australia's CAN (Child Advocate Network).