

Sun Child Sponsorship (SCS) Program

Every child in this world deserves a life of dignity and hope. Because DCI is fully committed to helping children and their families, we have created the Sun Child Sponsorship (SCS) Program. The SCS Program is designed to give the poorest and most vulnerable underprivileged children of Bangladesh the opportunity to become independent and productive citizens by reducing school dropout rates, providing quality education and healthcare, and protecting and promoting child rights.

The SCS Program operates through monthly contributions from American sponsors (US\$12 a month, US\$144 per year). We encourage young American children to become co-sponsors along with their parents. This enables them to better understand the causes of world hunger, and encourages them to be empathetic toward others and to be more appreciative of their life.

Providing the opportunity for education is the principal goal of our sponsorship program. We focus on the core developmental stages and needs of children's lives. In the long run, we aim to provide opportunities for young people to become aware of their civil rights; to learn how to maintain their health, nutrition, and security; and, through training, to acquire useful skill sets that lead to well-paying jobs.



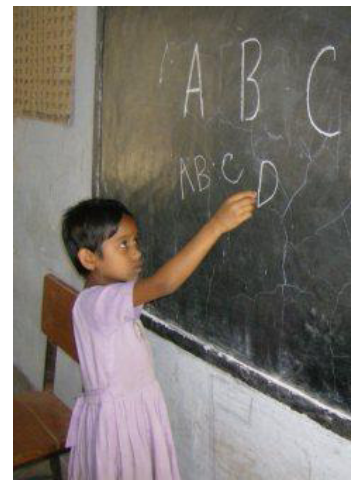
Working Child



Before DCI Support



After DCI Support



DCI Sponsored Child

SCS Program Goals

- Prevent children from dropping out of school, and ensure they have the resources they need to complete their education.
- Provide children with medical, dental and eye care, vitamins and medical supplies, and any emergency surgery, if required.
- Promote children's emotional and intellectual development.
- Provide material assistance for the child in the form of books, other study materials, uniforms, clothes, blankets, shoes, eye glasses, etc.
- Enable the child's family to become economically independent through income generating activities.
- Support school improvement by providing training in modern teaching methods and supplying up-to-date educational materials.
- Support community development, including safe drinking water and life skill education for adults.
- Teach children their civil rights.
- Help children find job training and gainful employment after completing school.
- Provide clean water and nutritious food during emergency situations such as floods or cyclones.
- Encourage American children to be co-sponsors with parents. This involvement helps to build friendships between Bangladeshi children and American children through direct communication with each other.

SCS Program Procedures

- Survey and select a location of extreme socioeconomic hardship.
- Select a government-run school in the area with pre-existing infrastructure.
- Set up a small local field office close to the school, hire a local field officer and provide him with training to manage the program in that area.
- Form a 7-9 member advisory committee with teachers from the school and other respected members of the community. The committee identifies the most vulnerable children in their community. These children generally have never attended school or have dropped out; they often work instead of going to school. Many of them have been abandoned or orphaned. They may be street children or from poorest of the poor families. They range in age from six to twelve and come from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds. The committee creates a list of children who have already dropped out of school during the last few years, and a second list of students of high academic caliber who are in danger of dropping out soon due to poverty.
- Field Officer visits individual households and convinces the parents to bring the child back to school.

- Make a formal written agreement with the parents to bring their child back to school.
- Find a sponsor in the USA, and send information and photograph of student to the sponsor.
- Provide child with basic life necessities, including health care, and help the family to establish income generating activities, such as a small business, so that the child has the time and means to go to school.
- Supervise and monitor each child via the local field officer and the local advisory committee. The field officer is responsible for providing regular academic and health reports on the child, as well as a report on the overall progress of the sponsorship project site to DCI's main offices in Dhaka and the US.
- Establish contact between American children and the child/children their parents are sponsoring in Bangladesh through letters, drawings, and greeting cards.

SCS Program Effects on an American Child

One of the goals of DCI is to educate American children about world hunger and poverty. Through the Sun Child Sponsorship program, American children have a unique opportunity to develop friendships with children in Bangladesh. Our hope is that these exchanges will promote cross-cultural understanding. We also believe that these children are more likely to become empathetic leaders in the future.



US Sponsoring Child



Sponsored Child in Bangladesh

The Cost of Sponsorship and the Fund Distribution System

The SCS program provides education and health care to children through contributions from American sponsors of only \$144 a year (\$12 a month). Our approach is based on the idea that a helping hand is far more effective than a handout. So, instead of giving money to the child, we provide children with basic necessities:

ITEM	TIMES PER YEAR
TEXT BOOKS	1
NOTEBOOK (3)	4
PENCIL (2)	4
PEN (2)	4
ERASER (1)	4
SHARPNER (1)	4
RULER	1
DRAWING BOOK	2
ENGLISH WORD BOOK	1
COLOR PENCIL BOX	2
PENCIL BOX	1
SCHOOL DRESS	2
SCHOOL SHOES (1 PAIR)	1
SOCKS (2 PAIRS)	1
SCHOOL BAG	1
WARM CLOTHES (1set)	1
SOAP (2 KINDS)	4
COMB	1
SANDALS	2
TOOTHBRUSH	4
TOOTHPASTE (200 GM.)	4
NAIL CUTTER	2
HEALTH CHECK UP by DOCTOR	2
MEDICINE Supply	2

- We provide direct support for the child's family and community development
 - Income generating activities - fishing, farming and livestock.
 - Create healthy living conditions - clean water (tube well), health care camps for community.
 - School improvement and modernization
 - Adult education and skill development training.

The decision to allocate funds in this manner was made based on previous experience; these families are extremely poor so if money is given to the child's

parents it is used up for family needs, instead of being used for the child's development or for life improvement.

It is obvious that \$12 per month or \$144 per year does not cover the cost of the services we provide. Only through cooperation with other organizations we can fulfill the wide range of the child's needs. Many kind-hearted people and organizations are providing free services and/or donations for our cause, enabling us to provide complete support to the sponsored child and his/her family and community. DCI is very grateful to the following organizations for their support:

Rights and Sight for Children; Diabetic Association of Bangladesh; Eye Surgery Associates, USA; Connecticut Retina Consultants, LLC, USA; Ispahani Eye Hospital and Institute of Ophthalmology, Bangladesh; Bangladesh Eye Hospital, Bangladesh; Momotaz Eye Hospital, Bangladesh, Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands, Shishu Shashthoy Kendro, Bangladesh; Recovered Medical Equipment for the Developing World (REMEDY); Yale University, USA; Families for Children (FFC), USA Canada, Bangladesh; Bangladesh Medical Association of North America (BMANA), USA; Federation of Bangladeshi Associations of North America (FOBANA); AGAMI, USA; Syhet Sadar Thana Association, USA; Manikganj Association, USA, BADHAN (A Voluntary Blood Donors' Organization), Bangladesh; Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) Hospital, Bangladesh; Department of Social services (DSS), and Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW), Government of Bangladesh; The Social Agriculture Ministry of the Government of Bangladesh. We receive free technical support, staffing, and other logistic support from these organizations.