



Dear Sponsors,

December 2017

At the end of this year I will be handing over the administrative work of Help A Child USA to Bethany Sherstad in Wisconsin. She will be sending you a letter of introduction in the near future and will also send you notice of our address change when the time comes. For now, you may continue using our Flourtown PA address (below).

It has been an honor to work for Help A Child for the last 25 years and to witness the continued growth of this wonderful organization begun by Anky Rookmaaker 50 years ago! Thank you for your support through the years. I hope that you will continue supporting Help A Child as we go through our transition to Wisconsin.

David Hanson

### General Information

Through the child sponsorship program a sponsor provides support for a child living with his or her own family and within their own native community. This program tailors the support for each child according to their individual needs. The basic necessities such as food, clothing, education and medical attention are provided for each child. However we also work on structural solutions to poverty. An important element of child sponsorship involves working on ways to improve the standard of living for the community as a whole. Each year you will receive an updated photo and information about your sponsored child. **The cost of sponsorship is \$35 per month. Checks should be sent to: Help A Child, P.O. Box 203, Flourtown PA 19031.**



We encourage sponsors who do not already do so to consider setting up your monthly, quarterly or annual donations to Help A Child as an **automatic or recurring check payment** with your bank. This will result in a more regular and dependable flow of support for Help A Child. The checks can be sent in any frequency desired. Most banks don't charge anything for the service. For those sponsors who prefer instead to continue sending a regular check, please feel free to do so.



**Correspondence with the child** is possible at the following address:

*Red een Kind  
Attn: (name of child / ID # of child)  
Postbus 40169  
8004 DD Zwolle  
The Netherlands*

The children love to receive your letters which will be forwarded from the above address to your child. We ask that you not send any packages directly to the children. These often get lost or stolen, and the recipient may be charged import taxes. If you send anything directly it should be able to fit in a flat envelope, such as photos, stickers, etc.

**Inspiration:** At Help A Child we derive our inspiration from the Bible. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says: "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25: 37-40)

P.O. Box 203, Flourtown PA 19031

215-859-7092  
info@helpachild.us

www.helpachild.us  
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# Family

**Family is the motto of this year's annual report. For very many people, their family is far and away the most important network in their lives. It provides the safe base from where they can discover the world. That is why we focus so much time and effort on strengthening that base.**

**Every child needs a safe and loving home. Help a Child restores and reinforces the cohesion and resilience of families, so that they can stand around their children, full of self-confidence, and give them a good start in life.**

We believe that every child is a unique gift from God, a gift He knows and cherishes. Every child has family relations, even when the family is broken. Unfortunately, many children are born in such difficult – and sometimes appalling – conditions that you wonder despairingly how it can ever be set right. That is why we believe this is where our task lies. Our name says it all: Help a Child. That is why we strive to help deeply impoverished people – mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles – so that they can give children the best of care. Not by taking over their responsibility, but by empowering them to take that responsibility themselves.

Over a decade ago we resolved that this would form the driving principle behind our work in the communities. Over the years we have reached out to tens of thousands of families and helped them nurture their children into independent adults in a healthy and

balanced manner. We have developed countless family-centred methods and strategies to tackle the specific problems that confront children growing up in their challenging circumstances.

In the meantime, we have built up vast experience and can point to many splendid results achieved with this approach in various African countries and in India. Hundreds of thousands of children and youth have reaped the fruits of our work. How we went about our work in 2016 is set out in this annual report.

Our work continues. The challenges are immense. The abolition of the co-financing system at the end of 2015 took a toll on our resources in 2016. The resulting gap in our funding has not yet been closed, but we have good hope that we will manage to do this in the coming period.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement from our loyal supporters. They too form part of the Help a Child family. Our sponsors are committed and keep us focused. And, as ever, we know that our work is dependent on God's blessing.



**Leo Visser**

*Leo Visser was Managing Director of Help a Child until the end of 2016. In the autumn he announced his departure effective from 1 January 2017. For over twelve years he devoted himself with great success to the growth and professionalization of Help a Child.*



**Andries Schuttinga**

*Andries Schuttinga was Operations Director of Help a Child until the end of 2016. On 1 January 2017 he took up the position of Managing Director.*