



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP



**BY BECOMING A SPONSOR, YOU GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO A CHILD TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**

WHO ARE WE?

Mission Enfance is an international solidarity organisation
founded in 1991, whose objective is
to bring help to children in distress in the world.

Our **operational objective**, beyond creating or strengthening local school
systems, is to **make schooling effective for children in difficult regions.**

THE COUNTRIES

In Vietnam, Lebanon, Armenia and Burkina Faso,
access to school is often difficult for children.

The economic situation of parents, the distance between schools and their
homes, the labour that children sometimes represent for families,
all these reasons keep children away from school.

Mission Enfance, thanks to its local
partners, **identifies the most
vulnerable children
and the structures that can
take care of them.**

Thanks to sponsorship,
these children are welcomed
in schools, in homes or
in after-school activity centres.

They live their childhood!



EDUCATION IS THE DOOR TO THEIR FUTURE...



Your sponsorship will **allow a child to continue his/her education** in good conditions and in his/her own environment.

This donation will allow him/her to go to school but also be clothed and fed.

Your godchild receives **all the necessary conditions to grow up in a reassuring, stable and fulfilling environment.**

Through your relationship as sponsors,
you discover their world while sharing yours!

...YOU ARE THE KEY!

The sponsor commits to paying **€35 per month, €105 per quarter or €420 per year for at least one year.**

For a **child or student sponsorship**, throughout the year, you exchange letters, you receive school reports, he/she shares his/her life with you.

For a **project sponsorship**, the people in charge of our literacy centres or our nurseries send you an annual report on the living conditions of the children and babies you sponsor.

Once a year, our sponsorship manager visits each of the godchildren in the field **to ensure that your sponsorship is effective, to see how the children are progressing and to forward your letters.** This mission also allows us to send you **a precise report on your sponsorship and to give you updated news on your godchild.**

**After
tax reduction
your sponsorship
amounts to
12€
per month**

**To turn this key towards the future, contact Marie Vauban
at +377 92 05 32 03 / parrainage@enfance.org**



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IN ARMENIA



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A BIT OF HISTORY



The history of Armenia spans several millennia, from prehistoric times. The Armenians, after settling there, developed an original civilisation despite being situated at the crossroads of great empires - Persian, Seleucid, Parthian, Roman, Sassanian, Byzantine, Arab, Turkish Seljuq, Mongol, Turkish Ottoman, Sefevid, Russian - which competed for its territory. In the face of these invasions, the Armenians have always shown a fierce determination to preserve their national identity. The Armenians drew from a national version of Christianity rooted in their language the strength to overcome the worst trials, especially at the beginning of the 20th century with the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian culture (a unique script, a 1,500 year old Christianity) is perpetuated in the Republic of Armenia but also all over the world in the Armenian diaspora. In 1918, after the Russian revolution, the non-Russian countries declared their independence, which led to the establishment of the democratic republic of Armenia. In 1920, the country was incorporated into the Democratic Federal Republic of Transcaucasia, which became a founding member of the Soviet Union. In 1936, the Transcaucasian Republic was dissolved, leading to the emergence of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.

FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS OR SO...

In December 1988, an earthquake destroyed the cities of Gyumri and Spitak in the north of the country, killing 30,000 people. It was difficult for international aid to intervene in a Soviet country with sealed borders. Containers ("domiks") were delivered urgently by the USSR in which many families still live in misery today in Gyumri.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IN ARMENIA

The Republic of Armenia voted for independence in 1991 when the Soviet Union disintegrated. The Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, did the same. The Azeris refused to see their country split up and a conflict broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan until the ceasefire in 1994. This first war gave the advantage to the Armenians.

Karabagh is linked to Armenia by the Latchin Corridor. But the Minsk agreements, intended to enforce the sharing of land, under the aegis of France, Russia and the United States, are powerless to prevent regular clashes between Karabagh and Azerbaijan. On 27 September 2020, the conflict resumed with a better armed Azerbaijan backed by Turkey and jihadist supporters.

On the other side, Armenia can only oppose its young conscripts and an obsolete armament. Almost 7,000 Armenian soldiers were killed in this second conflict.

In 2023, the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh is still landlocked and the conflict continues.

RECENT HISTORY

A country landlocked between two hostile states, Turkey and Azerbaijan, which exercise an economic blockade on its borders. Complicated relations with Georgia to the north and a relatively friendly, narrow border with Iran to the south. Armenia's neighbourhood is complex...

In this context, Armenia, which has few natural resources, has never developed an economy worthy of the name since the end of the Soviet years. Successive governments, in the hands of Armenians from Karabagh, have favoured budgetary support for the Karabaghti enclave in Azerbaijan, neglecting its Armenian population. The political class, particularly corrupt, has never worked for the economic or social development of the country, quite the contrary...

The Armenian people have been in a state of survival for thirty years. Pensions of \$50 per month for the elderly, 20% of the unemployed receiving no benefits, poverty is now the major issue in Armenia. Many heads of household leave to work in Russia, mostly leaving their wives and children behind. The streets of Yerevan, the capital, offer a modern vision of the country with its recent buildings, its luxury shops, its hotels etc. But behind these facades, the misery of the people is still present. The Armenian diaspora supports as best it can the families who cannot cope with the abysmal increase in prices (rent, electricity, food).

This situation has repercussions on the physical and psychological health of the children. We can see their distress in their eyes and attitudes. It is important to provide educational and psychological support to these young people traumatised by the recent history of their country and the despair of their parents. Our presence and support is fundamental for the Armenians: through your school sponsorship you help them to build a better future for their children.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP IN ARMENIA

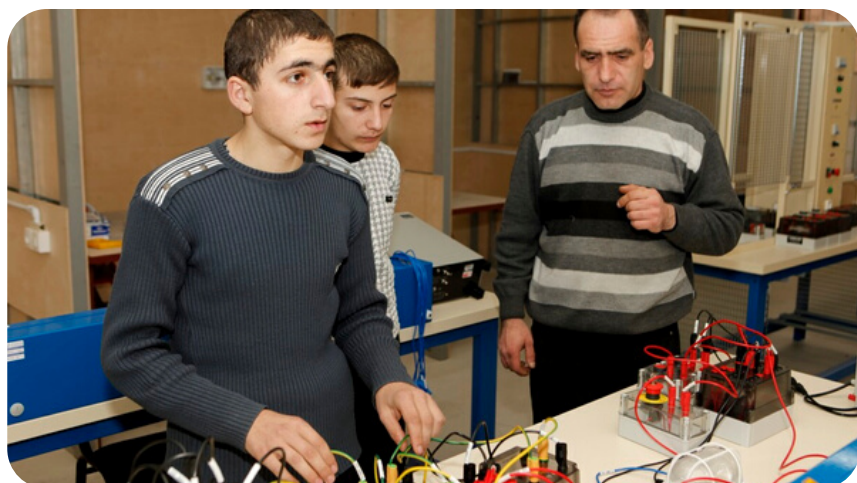
YOUR GODCHILD'S CENTRE

In Armenia, Mission Enfance started its support with an emergency action of fuel distribution in the orphanages during the winter of 1994. During this mission, the need to continue our action in this isolated country became apparent.

The centres that welcome your godchildren are located in the town of Gymri, in the north of Armenia. This city, almost totally destroyed during the earthquake of 1988, is gradually being rebuilt. 80% of the population is unemployed. Life in Armenia is a daily struggle. The average monthly income is €250, but 65% of the population earns less than €130 per month. In these conditions, it is difficult to feed the children properly. Winter is very harsh, especially in this part of the country (often down to -20°) and heating is very expensive...

1- The "Endanik" educational centre was created in the aftermath of the earthquake by Arthur and Gnarik Minassian, both survivors of this terrible tragedy.

This school offers manual, artistic and cultural training to children from 4 to 18 years old, outside of their schooling. Some twenty workshops are offered. The children come three or four afternoons a week in well-equipped and heated premises (a new centre was built in 2007). Thanks to the sponsorship, they all receive a hearty snack to compensate for the frugal meals they eat at home. Since 2022, the centre has been equipped with a state-recognised vocational high school and a social entrepreneurship project funded by Mission Enfance, enabling young people to enter the world of work and set up their own jewellery or leather goods business after completing their studies.





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2- The "Boghossian" educational centre was created in 1996 by Sister Arousiag, from the Congregation of the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Composed of 4 nuns and 8 educators, this centre welcomes 50 poor (and often orphaned) children aged 7 to 17, all from Gyumri.

Sister Arousiag's goal is to prepare responsible adults for the Armenia of tomorrow. The centre provides an atmosphere in which children can develop their intellectual, moral and social skills. The vast majority of the children who sleep at the centre are children who have been abused by their families, or who have been abandoned, or who come from families that are too poor. Others, more fortunate, are welcomed daily from 8am to 7pm. The children receive high quality school support and education at the centre, which their families, struggling for survival, are unfortunately unable to provide. The centre organises art, music, sports, computer and language activities, in addition to the curriculum that the children follow in public school. Camps and cultural visits are part of the programme every year. The children are also provided with food (3 meals a day) and clothing. School supplies are provided by the centre. The centre is truly adapted to the educational needs of today's Armenia. The sponsored children are very disadvantaged but have the qualities and abilities to receive a quality education: hope for their future, that of their families and of Armenia...



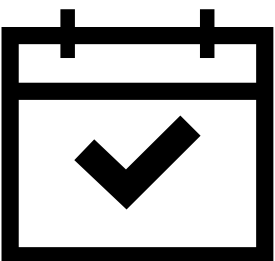
SCHOOL IN ARMENIA

In the Armenian school system, children enter school at the age of 7 for 12 years of study (from grade 1 to grade 12). School hours differ from school to school, but schools generally operate from 8.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The school system provides for compulsory and free enrolment of the child, but does not provide books and school materials. Successful completion of grade 12 is the gateway to university. University studies are essential for a job, but they are often very expensive. This is why it is essential for these young people sponsored for school to be supported in their university life afterwards.

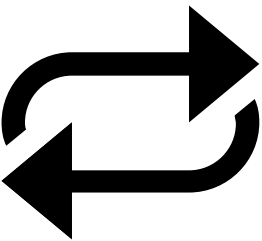


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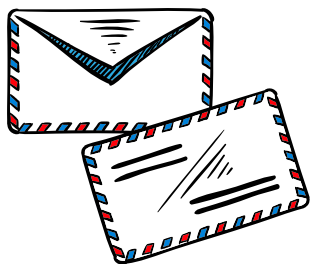
YOUR GODCHILD AND YOU



You have agreed to pay **€35 per month** to contribute to your godchild's school fees. This does not mean that we will take full responsibility: your godchild's family will also contribute, according to their means, to the school fees. Sponsorship implies continuous and regular action, which is why we have proposed a commitment over a minimum period of one year. But for this education to be effective, it would be preferable that it be financed and conducted for 3 years.



The sponsorship normally ends when your godchild leaves school. It can also happen that a child leaves the centre prematurely, because he/she changes region or for any other reason. Mission Enfance does not have the possibility to continue helping children individually, outside the centres. Therefore, when the case arises, we will inform you and we will propose you to postpone your support to another child.



At least twice a year, your godchild will write a few words or make a drawing for you. This letter will be attached to a report on the school evolution of your godchild, his/her progress, his/her difficulties. This mail, transmitted to Mission Enfance by its local correspondents, will then be sent to you. All mail goes through our intermediary in order to be sure of its routing. A first letter from your godchild will be sent to you in a few weeks: this delay is necessary to start the correspondence system.



Your godchild will be very happy to receive mail from you too... Beyond the pleasure they will give him/her, your letters will be a real encouragement! Like all children in the world, your godchild will need to feel supported in his or her efforts: congratulate him or her on his or her progress and you will help him or her to do better in his or her studies. You can also send your godchild small gifts that you enclose with your letter.



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YOUR GODCHILD AND YOU

→ SOME RULES TO FOLLOW :

- ★ All mail goes through Mission Enfance.
- ★ The reference number of the child's file will appear on each letter.
- ★ Your address does not appear on the mail intended for your godchild (some parents would not hesitate to write to you to ask for help or a gift, which is contrary to the Mission Enfance approach).
- ★ The small presents do not exceed 200 g and the size of an A4 envelope (we must not create new inequalities or injustices between the children we help). Moreover, your gifts will be transported by a member of the Mission Enfance team who can only carry 20 kg of luggage). If you want to "do more", send us your donations to our address, specifying that it is an additional donation for your godchild.

→ SOME ADVICE:

- ★ Write simple words and phrases about your everyday life. Many things that seem commonplace to you are completely foreign to him/her and will be of great interest to him/her. Your godchild will particularly appreciate receiving photos or postcards that will introduce him/her to our country.
- ★ Be patient... it will take some time for your mail to arrive. At the headquarters of Mission Enfance, we have to check the references of the letters, group them by country... When a control mission leaves Monaco for Armenia, we take the mail with us which is distributed individually and directly to the children by a member of Mission Enfance. During the same mission, we will take back the letter written by your godchild. This is why it may take some time before you receive an answer. But you can be sure that your efforts to correspond will always please your godchild.
- ★ Meeting your godchild: It is difficult to bring your godchild to France: used to his or her village and to a certain way of life, such a trip must be carefully considered. On the other hand, if you go to Armenia, you can visit your godchild, preferably during the school period. In this case, we thank you for contacting our association and we will inform our local representative of your visit: he will be able to welcome you better.



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MISSION CHILDHOOD AND YOU

Given the standard of living in Armenia, the sums you pay for your godchild allow us to benefit many more children from your generosity.

You pay 35 € per month for your godchild, that is 420 € per year:

- ➔ If the child is enrolled at the Endanik Centre
 - ★ 254 € is an aid to the child's family, for schooling but also for food and/or heating.
 - ★ 130 € are allocated to the running of the centre, in particular the expenses linked to the various activities offered to the children on a daily basis.
 - ★ 36 € covers management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and on-site monitoring missions.
- ➔ **If the child is enrolled at the Boghossian Centre :**
 - ★ 384 € are allocated to the sponsored child via the head of the centre for his/her schooling and daily life.
 - ★ 36 € covers the management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and the on-site control missions.
- ➔ If he/she is at university (whether he/she depends on the Endanik centre or the Boghossian centre):
 - ★ 384 € are allocated to the studies, accommodation and food of your godchild.
 - ★ 36 € cover the management costs (stamps, telephone, sponsorship mail, etc.) and the control missions on site.

All the sums indicated are sent directly to the centres and to the families by a member of the association who controls the good functioning of the centre, the school and health status of each sponsored child.

For the sake of your godchild, please send us your payments regularly so that we can send them without delay. If you have opted for direct debit, we thank you for funding your bank or post office account to avoid any problems. **Each unpaid direct debit costs the association 7€, i.e. 1/4 of the sum of one month's sponsorship.**



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MONITORING MISSIONS

The money paid by the sponsors is entirely used for the children. Mission Enfance establishes an aid programme and carries out control missions to ensure the good use of the sums paid. **The association meets each sponsored child in order to follow his personal situation and to report to you.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT

It is a team that welcomes you to its premises and answers all your questions:

Marie Vauban, sponsorship manager
Charlotte Giannola, assistant

Do not hesitate to contact us from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 17:00:



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