



PATH MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7931
Bend, OR 97708

Phone: 541-318-3494

PATHUSA@bendbroadband.com

Otino Waa Children's
Village

POP Center
School of Vocational
Studies

Otino-Waa Primary

GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS AND PACKAGES TO OTINO-WAA

Many sponsors enjoy sending letters and small gifts to their sponsored children. The kids love to receive correspondence and small, inexpensive items. Please keep in mind that the following guidelines have been created to ensure that this experience is a happy one for you and your sponsored child.

What can I send?

Small, flat items are best. Gifts should fit within an 11x14 envelope. Be sure to include your name and your sponsored child's name and number to help expedite the handling. **Often the most treasured gift that you can send is a photo of yourself and your family.**

soccer balls (deflated with a pump, please)
small plastic cars
soft dolls or stuffed toys
art supplies such as crayons, paper, colored pencils (**NO markers**, please)
notebooks and pens
stickers
school bags
jump ropes
nature scenes and wildlife cards, books, postcards from your own state or from your travels
small plastic animals
hard candy
small purses
puzzles
coloring books
stencils
pencil-cases
balloons
small games
kaleidoscope
Frisbee,
small sewing kit.
wind up flashlight
disposable camera
key ring

Please do not send the following:

Money, however small the amount. It may go missing and encourages corruption.

Perishable items such as food, seeds, gum or soft candy

Liquids or fragile things that might break, leak, melt or spoil

Videos, tape cassettes and CDs. (unless you are sending to the library).

Items requiring batteries.

Second-hand clothes.

Large or expensive items. These can create jealousy and resentment. Expensive-looking items are also more likely to go missing on route (for which we cannot accept responsibility).

Colored markers, Sharpies, etc.

Anything sharp.

It can take up to 3 months for your gift and letters to reach your sponsored child. It may take up to the same timescale to hear back as your sponsored child's letter makes a similar return journey. If you intend to send a gift to your sponsored child in time for Christmas we recommend that your gift is sent in September or early October.

How should I send things?

Unfortunately, there is only one way to send anything at this time, and that is normal US Postal Service. UPS, FedX, DHL, etc., are not available in northern Uganda. You should be aware that it is very likely that the expense of the postage will far exceed the contents of your package. Envelopes and boxes should be securely taped and all address information secured on the outside. Including postal insurance for the contents is **not recommended**, in that as soon as the item leaves US boundaries, insurance is not honored.

Note: it has been suggested that the following process COULD be used to send boxed items and further insure that the contents not be tampered with.

1. On the outside of package write: "contains educational materials and feminine hygiene products.
2. Put at least one, or more (each) of those items inside. Yes, it sounds silly, but why not?

Where do I send my gifts?

All items must be sent directly to the Uganda address:

**Otino-Waa Children's Village
PO Box 117
Lira, Uganda, East Africa (note: there are no zip codes in Uganda)**

Please DO NOT send items to the Bend, Oregon address.

How often can I send gifts to my sponsored child?

Gift giving to your sponsored child is limited to two items, per sponsored child, per quarter year.

Can I send a letter along with my gift?

Yes.

Do you have any hints on letter writing?

Try to keep letters simple. The content of your letters is a personal decision, but below are some suggestions.

Encourage students with their schooling.

Describe your family and include a family photo if possible.

Share information about your favorite hobbies and sports.

Describe where you work or go to school.

Share details about your family holidays and customs.

Provide general information about the state or country where you live, omitting any address information.

Please do not ask your sponsored student if he or she needs or wants anything from you or that you have the ability to send expensive or large items. If you have specific concerns about your sponsored child's needs, please direct them to our U.S. Sponsorship staff.

Avoid elaborating on your material possessions.

Please do not suggest that your sponsored student visit you in your country

(We reserve the right to edit content that is culturally inappropriate.)

Will my child send a letter to me?

Yes, but you need to be aware that letter writing is a new concept, especially for the newer kids. They have to be encouraged and supervised in the process and therefore there is usually a "correspondence Saturday" when many letters are written and organized for distribution. This will be done as staff is available to help. The children are always eager to hear from anyone and will cherish all papers and pictures. If there are delays in response from your child, don't be discouraged. Your letters to them are an important part of their growing and encouragement.

Can I send emails?

Yes. Address all email to the children as: otwkids@pathministries.net

I have questions regarding my sponsored child, what should I do?

Contact the US office of PATH Ministries. 541-318-3494 or PATHUSA@bendbroadband.com