



Adopt-a-Mother FAQs

Who are the mothers?

The mothers are pregnant beneficiaries of Calcutta Kids living in the slum of Fakir Bagan. Many mothers are migrants from the states of Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, and are living with their husband's family, sometimes very far from their native villages. The average age of our mothers is 24.2, and the majority of them do not work outside of the home.

How does my donation directly reach the mother?

Your donation will reach the mother through the services of Calcutta Kids. During her pregnancy, the mother will receive our comprehensive pregnancy care program. After delivery, the mother will receive postnatal care, home visits, and the child will receive critically important immunizations and other care from the doctor and health workers as needed.

Is there any chance that the mother I adopt will not receive the funds I donate?

Because Fakir Bagan is a migrant population, there is a chance that the adopted mother will relocate or return to the village during or after the pregnancy. We do our best to keep track of all of the women in our area. If the woman you sponsor leaves the area, we will reassign another mother to you.

If a mother is not adopted, will she go without services?

No. We work hard to make sure that all of the women and children in our area are covered by Calcutta Kids' comprehensive services. Your donation ensures the continuity of high quality care.

Does the mother I adopt get something over and above the services given to the other mothers in your program?

No. We do not believe it would be fair or responsible if our program provided additional services or benefits to some mothers and not others. All of our women receive all of the services associated with the programs, and there is no discrimination or favoritism.

Does the mother I adopt know that I am adopting her?

No. For the purposes of being equitable to all of the women, and so that sponsored women do not expect more than everyone else, we do not notify mothers that they are adopted. We do our best to make sure that all of the women in our area feel special and that they know their individual needs are important to us.

Can I visit the mother I adopt?

You are welcome to visit Calcutta Kids, and we can arrange for you to go into the community and meet either the specific woman you have received updates on, or another beneficiary.

Can I send a gift for the mother or child?

The best gift you can give is your generous contribution by adopting a mother, or donating to the Calcutta Kids General Fund. In order for us to be equitable to all of the families in our area, we ask that you do not send individual gifts to one particular mother or child.

If the funds aren't really going directly to an individual, why should I "adopt a mother", rather than just give to the general fund?

We are truly grateful for your donations, whether they are to adopt a mother or to the general fund. By adopting a mother, you know that your donation will go directly to the Maternal & Young Child Health Initiative (MYCHI), and you will receive proofs from us about the status of a real mother in our area. Your funds will support her, and women like her, in having a healthy pregnancy, and provide her child with a healthy start. By supporting the general fund, your donations may be used for diarrhea treatment, purchasing medications, or further supporting MYCHI in a variety of ways, but the proofs you receive will not report on a real mother in our area.