

It's your sponsored child's  
birthday!



everyone's family



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176684  
Ms Mandy Van  
Rotary Club of North Ryde  
PO Box 6171  
NORTH RYDE NSW 2113

Smith Family ID: 176684

10 August 2021

## Soon it will be Michael's birthday!

Dear Ms Van,



I have some exciting news about your sponsored student, Michael. In October he will turn 12. Thank you for being Michael's sponsor – it's so special to share these milestones together!

It's wonderful that you've sent birthday wishes in the past. And I would like to invite you to wish Michael a happy birthday this year. It's easy using the enclosed birthday card. You'll just need to return it to us by 8 September 2021 to be sure it reaches him on time.

We would also just like to remind you that while we do encourage students to write back, sometimes students are too shy or embarrassed to respond. But they're always grateful to hear from their sponsors.

Some sponsors also enjoy surprising their students with a gift voucher. This is not expected or required, but for disadvantaged students, being able to shop for themselves can be a real treat. If you choose, you can include a gift voucher for Michael by completing the enclosed form.

If you have any questions, you may find the answer on the back of this letter. Or you can call our Supporter Care Team on 1800 633 622.

Again, thank you for sponsoring Michael. Your life-changing support will continue helping him to achieve great things over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Barraclough  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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Artwork by Laila, Year 2

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What happens if I miss the deadline to send my birthday wishes?**

Our team of volunteers need to review all correspondence for privacy reasons. They do this as quickly as possible, but if you miss the deadline, we can't guarantee delivery to your sponsored student before their birthday. Either way, we will always forward on your card and any gifts.

### **What type of gift voucher will you send to my student?**

Disadvantaged students often can't travel far, so we look for major stores that are in their local areas. This gives them plenty of choice, no matter their age or gender. When you order a gift voucher using the enclosed form, we purchase a gift voucher to the exact value you selected. So the full amount of your birthday gift is passed onto your sponsored student.

### **Is a gift voucher for my student tax-deductible?**

Vouchers are a gift purchased on your behalf rather than a donation. For this reason, they are not tax-deductible and won't appear on your receipt. However, we will send you a letter or email confirming that your gift voucher was purchased and sent.

### **Can I send other gifts to my student?**

It can be a unique and fun experience for disadvantaged students to be able to shop for themselves. But you can send a different birthday gift if you prefer. Please check the age guidelines on toys and books. Due to potential allergies or special diets, we can't accept food items of any kind, including chocolates. And we ask that you avoid heavy or fragile objects as they can be expensive to post and may get damaged. Find out more at [www.thesmithfamily.com.au/correspondence](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/correspondence)

### **Will I hear back from my student?**

We do encourage students to respond to sponsors so they can express their thanks. But some students are shy or feel self-conscious about their literacy skills. This can prevent them from replying. Please don't take this as a lack of gratitude. We do know that receiving any correspondence from their sponsors is really special for disadvantaged students. Many tell us they hold onto birthday cards and letters from their sponsors for years to come!

### **What should I write in the birthday card?**

This is an opportunity for you to write your own personal message. Along with the birthday wishes, you may want to include something inspirational. Or you could share a happy memory from when you were that age. You can also check out our conversation starters at [www.thesmithfamily.com.au/conversation](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/conversation).

