



HOSTING THE *Watoto* CHILDREN'S CHOIR

**Coordinator's
Information Pack**

Accommodation & Hosting

Guidelines for Selecting Host Homes

Thank you for hosting the Watoto Children's Choir at your church/venue and partnering with us to bring hope, healing, and love to vulnerable babies, children, and women in Uganda and South Sudan. Host homes are an incredibly important part of tours, as they provide a place for the choir to connect, play, and rest. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn life skills, experience cross-cultural exchange, and build confidence and communication skills.

The choir consists of 12 children and 10 adult chaperones. As a hosting venue, we kindly request your support in finding suitable homes to accommodate members of our choir team. Each child is paired with a designated guardian or adult chaperone of the same gender. As the key coordinator, you will be responsible for sourcing nine (9) suitable homes - homes with warm, caring, trustworthy hosts.

Host families must:

- Have completed appropriate screening processes to ensure they are suitable to work with children and young people. It is highly recommended and preferable that they hold a current state-relevant Working With Children Check (WWCC) or equivalent.
- Not have other adults residing in the home who do not hold a Working With Children Check and have not completed screening.
- Provide a safe environment, free from domestic or family violence and without current AVOs.
- Provide separate sleeping spaces for the children and the adult chaperone.

For the Choir Team Leader and drivers, we kindly request you book three motel/hotel rooms with breakfast included. Booking.com is a helpful way to source reasonably priced accommodation in your area.

1. Team Leader: Joel Kibalama
2. Bus Driver
3. Truck Driver

Working With Children Check

Watoto relies on the due diligence of our partners to ensure host homes are safe and appropriate for the choir's needs. It is preferable that host families hold a current Working With Children Check and have been reference-checked by your church leadership.

Please note that an adult guardian or chaperone accompanies each child. These adults act as the children's legal guardians during their tour in Australia.

Safeguarding Policy and Welfare

Protecting and supporting our children throughout the tour is of utmost priority to Watoto. To read our full Child Safeguarding Policy, [click here](#).

As part of the choir team, we have members trained in first aid, pastoral care, and education. This ensures the wellbeing of all choir members is always at the forefront of our work. All adults receive extensive training in child protection and safeguarding, both in Uganda and upon arrival in Australia.

Host Homes

Please ensure accommodation is arranged and the online form completed two weeks prior to your concert date. This is a vital part of our planning and itinerary. This information is imperative for our planning and adherence to our child safeguarding policy.

The form will request:

- Contact information for the hosting family, including address, email, phone number, full name, and Working With Children's Check number.
- Confirmation that the host homes have received the hosting guidelines and signed the self-declaration form.
- Details of the motel/hotel reservations for the Team Leader and drivers.



Host Home Form

Please complete the host home form online through [CLICKING HERE.](#)

Group One

Aunty Carol & Regina

Group Two

Aunty Moureen & Patience

Group Three

Aunty Tracy, Rebecca & Mackenzie

Group Four

Aunty Kezia, Stella & Leticia

Group Five

Uncle Sam & Peterson

Group Six

Uncle Byron & Eric

Group Seven

Uncle Roland & Daniel

Group Eight

Uncle John, Edward & Benard

Group Nine

Uncle Denis & Gabriel

***Please also ensure you arrange suitable accommodation for our
Choir Team Leader, Bus & Truck Driver***

Guidelines for Host Homes

For host family distribution

Thank you for opening your homes and hearts to Watoto by hosting the Watoto Children's Choir. Your hospitality is deeply appreciated.

To ensure a safe and enriching experience, we kindly request hosts adhere to the following guidelines:

- All household members refrain from alcohol, smoking, or drug use during the choir's stay.
- Ensure inappropriate content (media, movies, internet) is not accessible to choir members or chaperones and is not viewed within the home.
- Choir members and chaperones are not provided access to the internet, phones, or devices, except when needing to contact the Tour Manager.
- Adults must not sleep in the same room as choir members.
- Choir members must be provided privacy for bathing and changing.
- Choir members and chaperones should be transported together to and from venues. Please do not travel alone with choir members without their chaperone present.
- If there are concerns about behaviour, health, or wellbeing, please alert your church coordinator.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the choir coordinator at your church. We trust hosting will be a blessing to you and your family.

Night of the Performance

Guests can be collected approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes after the performance concludes. This allows time for pack-down. We understand you may wish to spend time with the choir after the performance (which we love); however, rest is paramount for the children.

Meals

We are grateful for the provision of meals during the choir's stay. Please prioritise balanced nutrition.

Suggested options include;

Breakfast: Eggs, toast, cereal, yoghurt, fruit.

Packed Lunch: Sandwiches or wraps with spreads, meat, or salad.

Dinner: Meat (chicken, beef, etc.), vegetables, rice dishes, pasta.

Snacks: Fruit, crackers and dip, baked goods (muffins or biscuits).

Drinks: Tea, juice, water, hot chocolate, milk.

There are no known dietary requirements. Please avoid high-sugar items, including soft drink and lollies.

Rooms & Bedding

The choir does not travel with bedding or towels, so we kindly request these be provided. Two children may share a double bed if necessary; however, an adult and child must never share a room or bed.

Some children may experience bed-wetting. Whilst this is not a common issue, the chaperone travelling with the children is equipped to manage this. If concerns arise, please reach out to the Watoto Australia Office or the Choir Team Leader.

Personal Care

The adult team member of the choir will be responsible for all personal needs of the children, including hygiene, personal care, and discipline. We request that choir members are provided with privacy for bathing and changing. The choir also travels with all necessary toiletries and personal care items.

Laundry

It would be a great blessing to the choir team if you could provide laundry facilities, if requested.

Following Morning

We kindly request that you provide the hosted choir members with breakfast the morning after their performance, as well as a packed lunch. We also request that the choir members are assisted with transport to their requested pick-up point.

Please confirm with the choir team leader the designated time and drop-off location for the choir members. We request that the choir members do not travel in a vehicle without their designated guardian/chaperone.

Pets

The Watoto Children's Choir team is not accustomed to pets, as this is not common in Uganda. If you have a pet and are hosting a member of the choir team, we kindly request that you advise your coordinator (in case of allergies).

Gifts

We appreciate that you may wish to bless the choir team with a small gift. The Watoto Children's Choir adheres to Watoto's gift-giving policy, and any physical or monetary gifts will be pooled and distributed evenly among all choir members. If you wish to provide a specific gift to a choir member, please contact either the choir team leader or the choir tour coordinator.

Technology

Watoto children are not permitted to use host home telephones or computers; we kindly request that you do not offer these services to them. Children in Watoto are not accustomed to watching television except on rare occasions. We kindly request that you limit television usage and exercise discretion regarding any material viewed. Please always consult the child's guardian.

Cultural Sensitivity

In African culture, children are taught to be very respectful of adults and therefore may appear shy or reserved. Please keep this in mind in your interactions with the choir members.

Day Off

Monday is the choir members' day off from performances. Generally, the choir team prefers to have a quiet and restful day and appreciates the opportunity to sleep in. It is not expected that you, as a host family, facilitate sightseeing or activities for the day. However, if you wish to arrange an outing with members of the choir, please confirm this with the choir team leader or the guardian in your host home prior.

Self Declaration

I hereby declare that:

1. I have read, understood, and agree to fully comply with the Host Home Guidelines and all applicable child safeguarding and child protection requirements of Watoto Australia.
2. I confirm that there is no known reason why I would be unable to meet or uphold these guidelines and safeguarding standards.
3. I declare that I have no criminal convictions, charges, pending investigations, or outstanding allegations or litigation that would affect my suitability to host or work with children and young people.
4. I affirm that there has never been any substantiated concern, finding, or disciplinary action regarding my conduct with children or young people.
5. I understand that the safety, wellbeing, and protection of children is paramount, and I commit to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive home environment at all times.
6. I confirm that I hold a current and valid Working With Children Check (WWCC) or relevant state/territory child-related screening clearance where required, and I agree to provide evidence of this clearance upon request.

I make this declaration truthfully and understand that any false, incomplete, or misleading information may result in disqualification from hosting responsibilities.

Name:

Signature:

Date:



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