



# PRESS KIT

## Ambassadors of Hope for the Voiceless and Invisible Children of the World



*"Our World's  
Treasure!"*

— Disneyland

*"The greatest voice  
for our world's 600  
million orphaned and  
at-risk children"*

— David Reichert, Former Congressman

*"The best representatives for  
the strongest program to  
prevent child trafficking"*

— Isaac George, Ministry of Justice – Child Trafficking Liberia.



# Facts:

## **What Is the Matsiko World Orphan Choir (MWOC)?**

Since 2008, the Matsiko World Orphan Choir has brought together our world's orphaned and vulnerable children to share their story of turning the pain of loss, hunger, and hopelessness into personal empowerment through music, dance, storytelling, and the importance of a complete education to break the cycle of poverty. We believe every child has dignity and worth no matter their background.

## **What Is the Mission of Matsiko Children International?**

Matsiko is a Ugandan word that means hope. The purpose of Matsiko Children International is to provide Hope through Education. Our mission is to transform the lives of our world's most vulnerable children through a complete education which helps them become whatever they want to be and grow in wisdom, character, and opportunity.

## **What Are the Benefits of Being in the MWOC?**

Matsiko World Orphan Choir uses the unifying power of music to uplift every child, bring joy to all who listen, and to inspire generosity that provides a complete education for vulnerable children. Choir members receive a full tuition scholarship through college or university in their home country, and while on tour receive 1:1 school tutoring, improvement of their English language skills, and a cross-culture experience.

## **Who Is in the Choir?**

All choir members come from families stuck in the cycle of multi-generational poverty and may have lost one or both parents. Their determination, talent, and positive spirit have won them a place in the MWOC to represent all children around the world who face a similar plight.

## **Where Are the Children From?**

Our choir is usually composed of children from all the countries we serve – India, Peru, Uganda, Nepal, Liberia, and The Philippines. But some country's COVID restrictions prevented choirs from meeting, but not Liberia. These Liberian students are honored to represent other Matsiko children from around the world, and be ambassadors for the world's 600 million at risk or orphaned children.

## **Why Are They Touring the USA?**

Our primary purpose is to raise awareness of the plight of orphans around the world and win financial sponsors to help thousands more children to have an opportunity to get a complete education and become doctors, lawyers, mechanics, engineers, or whatever they want to become!



## **How Are Matsiko Children Supported Financially?**

All children are sponsored by caring individuals, or sponsors, who give \$40 per month to pay for each child's school tuition and fees from kindergarten through their nation's highest university or vocational levels so they can become doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, or many other professions.

## **Where Does Matsiko Children International (MCI) Work Around the World?**

Matsiko Children International currently has child educational programs in Peru, Liberia, The Philippines, India, Uganda, and Nepal. Our work is amongst the poorest of the poor, often in rural areas, where trafficking of children for labor and sex makes them most vulnerable, and where educational resources are greatly needed.

## **What Difference Does Sponsorship Make?**

Children receive a complete education, making them less vulnerable to being trafficked by their own families, or destined for a life of poverty. Sponsorship instills hope and optimism for the future as children receive their education and aspire to overcome their circumstances. Sponsors give children a hand up that transforms their life, gives them opportunity, builds character, and the agency to make better choices. Sponsorship provides a relationship with a child from childhood to early adulthood by providing:

- Educational needs (tuition, uniforms, supplies, etc.)
- Growth activities including arts, music, sports, etc.
- Consistent encouragement and friendship through correspondence
- Most importantly placing their sponsored child's futures in their own hands for the first time in their family's history!

Sponsors make children feel cared for and accountable as they achieve their educational goals.

## **Where and When May I Hear Them?**

Matsiko World Orphan Choir will perform at churches, schools, festivals, fairs, sports games and other private and public venues from October 2022 to August 2023.



# Ten Successful U.S. Tours

## Below are a few tour highlights:

### SPORTS

Sports fans applauded MWOC as they performed at Los Angeles Clippers playoff and regular season games at Staples Center (now Crypto.com Arena), Seattle Sonics at the KeyArena (now the Climate Pledge Arena), UCLA basketball, St. Louis Cardinals, and football at the Rose Bowl, along with a sold out Nebraska women's volleyball game. They also performed at the Dallas Cowboys stadium and at a US Men's World Cup Soccer team private practice.



### POLITICAL GATHERINGS & LEADERS

Matsiko World Orphan Choir was the special guest of the governors of Utah and Washington States, the Vice President of Liberia, and the Consulate of Peru in Seattle.

- Called *"The greatest voice for our world's 600 million orphaned and at-risk children"* by former Congressman David Reichert.
- *"The best representatives for the strongest program to prevent child trafficking"* Isaac George, Ministry of Justice – Child Trafficking Liberia.

### ENTERTAINMENT

- Disneyland referred to MWOC as a *"world treasure"* on their global blog and Facebook page after their performance in the park.
- Was invited by Garry Miller to sing back up on an album to raise funds for the nonprofit *"Rock Against Trafficking."*
- The choir children enjoyed vocal sessions with American Idol voice coaches.
- As a gift to MWOC, SeaWorld San Diego invited the choir to enjoy the park and take part in backstage activities with the dolphins, Shamu, and the trainers.



### CHURCHES & SCHOOLS

They've performed at countless elementary, middle, and high schools, universities, and churches throughout the country.

### CORPORATE CONFERENCES

Performed at the Google, Inc., corporate conference as well as at Microsoft, and many other wonderful corporations throughout the USA!

### MUSEUMS & NATIONAL PARKS

Matsiko World Orphan Choir has performed at presidential libraries, the La Brea Tar Pits, Mount Rushmore, The White House, House of Congress, Rose Bowl, Cowboy Stadium, the Museum of Making Music, the Grand Ol' Opry, the Grand Canyon, and Mt. Rushmore.





“We can’t wait  
to see you.”

— Matsiko World Orphan Choir

## 2022-2023 USA TOUR

### SEPTEMBER

Portland, OR  
Bend, OR

### OCTOBER

Eugene, OR  
Sacramento, CA  
Concord, CA  
Santa Cruz, CA  
Capitola, CA  
Monterey/Seaside, CA

### NOVEMBER

Tehachapi, CA  
Palmdale, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Orange County, CA  
LaJolla/San Diego, CA  
Barstow, CA

### DECEMBER

Henderson, NV  
Prescott, AZ  
Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ  
Blythe, CA  
Riverside/Hemet, CA  
Anaheim, CA  
Idyllwild, CA  
Phoenix/Chandler, AZ

### JANUARY

Las Cruces, NM  
Albuquerque, NM  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Dallas, TX  
Houston, TX  
Shreveport, LA  
Jackson, MS  
Montgomery, AL

### FEBRUARY

Bonaire, GA  
Tallahassee, FL  
Tampa, FL  
Orlando, FL  
Miami, FL  
Jacksonville, FL  
Savannah, GA

### MARCH

Charleston, SC  
Summerville, SC  
York, PA  
Etowah/Saluda, NC  
Greensboro, NC  
Norfolk, VA  
Virginia Beach, VA  
Richmond, VA

Washington DC  
Baltimore, MD

### APRIL

Newark, DE  
Dover/Millsboro, DE  
York, PA  
Philadelphia, PA  
Willingboro, NJ  
Long Island, NY  
Boston, MA  
Jamestown, RI

### MAY

Jamestown, RI  
Hartford, CT  
Woodstock, NY  
Springfield, MA  
Hanover, NH

Portland, ME  
Portsmouth, NH  
Albany, NY  
Syracuse, NY  
Prospect, NY  
LeRoy, NY

### JUNE

Aurora, OH  
Cranberry Township, PA  
Toronto, OH  
Westerville, OH  
Dayton, OH  
Cincinnati, OH  
Indianapolis, IN  
St. Louis, MO

### JULY

Kansas City, KS  
Central City, NE  
Julesburg, CO  
Evergreen/Denver, CO  
Palisade, CO  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Park City, UT  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Butte/Helena, MT  
Coeur d’Alene, ID  
Sandpoint, ID

### AUGUST

Seattle, WA  
Covington, WA  
Kent, WA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Don Windham** – Founder & President, Matsiko Children International

**MAILING ADDRESS:** Post Office Box 7695 | Covington, WA 98042

**EMAIL:** don@matsiko.org **PHONE:** 253.217.7531

[www.matsiko.org](http://www.matsiko.org)