



Evie and her Dad sponsor Oche, who lives in the Philippines

THREE DAYS APART, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY

“Dad, Dad, there’s a girl from the Philippines and she’s the same age as me.”

When 11-year-old Evie Bright found out about Oche from the Philippines after a child sponsorship talk after church one Sunday, her mind was made up. “I just knew that I wanted to sponsor her,” she says. The photos were of children either much older or younger than her. “I wanted to see if there was anyone my age,” she says, so Tearfund’s Wayne Mortenson helped her look online. That’s where she found Oche.

Evie says. “There’s literally a three-day difference in our birthdays.”

Her dad, Michael, remembers the moment. “It was really lovely that Evie was wanting to reach out and help somebody,” he says. “I just thought that was really sweet.”

Since then, the girls are getting to know each other through letters and discovering they have plenty in common. They both enjoy reading, dancing and drawing. “She sounds a lot like me,” says Evie.

One of the things Evie enjoys most is learning about Oche’s life and family. A drawing Oche sent helped her picture what life is like on the other side of the world. “Even that drawing just made me realise how different our worlds can be,” she says. At the same time, the friendship has shown her how much they share. “I think the most important thing is being able to connect with someone who’s the exact same age as me and learn what our different worlds are like.”

For Evie, supporting Oche is about more than helping another young person. It’s about building a friendship across cultures and countries. “I know that I’m just 11 years old, but I still know that the world isn’t right,” she says. “There’s a lot of bad stuff going on in the world and every little bit that we can do helps.” And if another family was thinking about sponsoring a child? “I really recommend it because it can make such a big difference, not only to their lives but our lives as well.”

Find out more about child sponsorship at [Tearfund.org.nz/sponsor](https://tearfund.org.nz/sponsor)



Evie sends letters and drawings to Oche, and loves receiving letters back

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