

childvoice

FALL/WINTER 2016

Harvesting HOPE

Community
gardens nourish
Nicaraguan
families

Personal transformation

A sponsored
child's story



**THE 2016
ANNUAL
REPORT**

Christian
**Children's
Fund**
of Canada

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Alliance

ccfcanada.ca

PM 40065713

Change: it's a good thing



For many people change is difficult. After all, it's about adjusting to the unknown, which can be scary. So, when I visit children and families in the developing communities where we work, I wonder how they feel about the support provided through our projects in water, health, education and more.

Is change from tradition always welcome? In my experience, the response is positive once people see how their community has improved due to Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC).

I want you to see that, too. So, we've devoted this issue to the theme of change. You'll meet Joro, a 30-year-old father in Ethiopia, who's learned about the importance of engaging with his children (see p. 9). You'll meet children, as well. There's Reine whose community is now more self-sufficient

and has graduated from CCFC assistance (see p. 10) and Jackson who helps his father tend a garden — one of many that has transformed a community (see p. 5).

We'll also show you what Sharon Caddy, journalist and CCFC ambassador, learned about herself and her world after visiting maternal health centres in Ethiopia, which have become beacons of hope for expectant mothers, new mothers and infants (p. 17). On that same page, we'll update you about CCFC's emergency response to the Ethiopian drought.

This Annual Report issue will provide you with the stories and the financial information to show you how your donations are helping nearly 400,000 people annually. CCFC couldn't extend any help without a commitment from local and international teams, our partners and *you*. But, I'll let you read on, so the children can thank you themselves.

Blessings,

Jim Carrie
V.P. of global operations & child sponsor
Christian Children's Fund of Canada

P.S. To learn more about our work:
facebook.com/ccfc
instagram.com/ccfcandada
twitter.com/ccfcandada



On the cover

Photographer, Picasa, captured Nahomi, 1, enjoying fruit from her neighbourhood gardens in Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua.

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ACCESSIBILITY

We seek to recognize and remove the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities. All communications are available in alternative formats upon request.



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CCFC IS EVOLVING

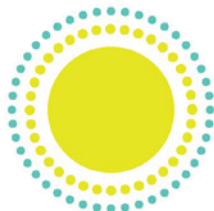
There are many ways to tell a story. At Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC), we've conducted research to see how well we connect with donors. We've learned trust is a big part of why people engage with us. Our supporters are inspired to hear we've been helping children, families and communities gain access to clean water, health, education, job training and more for 55 years. Thanks to this commitment, CCFC assists nearly 400,000 people in developing countries each year, and we'd like to do more. We want to ensure more children feel safe and empowered to reach their full potential and more communities become self-sustaining. To do that, we are considering new ways of telling our story. At all times we are staying true to our mission to do as Christ did — serve the poor — but we want to build a more welcoming corporate identity and enhanced donor experience to inspire others to join our cause. We value Canadians who have opened their hearts, transforming children's lives. We look forward to engaging with you more deeply on our mutual journey of change and hope. Stay tuned. — *Sandra Upeslakis*



Photo by Philip Maher

Get 'appy

Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) sends a warm thank you to Toronto's Akasha Meditation, an organization helping our cause and the overstressed world with the introduction of the meditation app, Akasha: Open Your Heart. It features evidence-based mindfulness exercises based on clinical psychology. A portion of user fees will be donated to CCFC. For more details, visit akashameditation.com. — *Bonar Bell*



Small change, BIG IMPACT

For more than 10 years, Bob Manuel, a veteran of the Canadian armed forces, encouraged residents of Elliot Lake, Ont., to make a difference with their loose change. Through his Koins for Kids fundraising program, Manuel has raised \$5,000 for some of the world's most vulnerable children. Congratulations and thank you to our valued donor. — *BB*



YAHOSKA SAYS THANK YOU



"If it wasn't for my sponsor, my parents wouldn't have the chance to educate me," says 18-year-old Yahoska, from Nicaragua. "Now ... I have the skills to complete a professional career. I can't imagine a better way to change the life of a child than to provide an education." To find out more about how your dollars are changing lives for the better, watch bit.ly/CCFChange. — *BB*

OUT-OF-THE-BOX GIVING

There are many ways to positively impact those in need. For many Canadians, this means becoming a child sponsor through Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC). For others, the digital world has opened up new possibilities. In fact, through eBay's unique Giving Works program, sellers can now donate up to 100 percent of their profits to CCFC. — *BB*

Sowing seeds of change

CCFC helps families in Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua cultivate backyard gardens, giving them an income and a brighter future

By Giselle Alemán | CCFC communications manager, Nicaragua

The Alexis Arguello neighbourhood was born as a result of a 2010 land takeover organized by families from Estelí and other areas of Nicaragua, mainly in the west. Times have been tough, but the sun, seeds and some dirt are creating new hope.

Thanks to an initiative promoted by Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC), residents in Alexis Arguello don't go to the freezer for an onion or a fruit, they go to their backyard and cut vegetables and fruits from a tree. In fact, almost 80 families from the area now plant and harvest their own food.

The objective of the project was to establish sustainable change. "People must live the benefits and have a desire to continue," explains Tomas Donaire, CCFC program manager. "Participants understand their backyard can provide significant nutritional value to their families."

The learning process is ongoing. "We share with our neighbourhoods — not just what we harvest but also the experience," says Juan who tends to his avocados, peppers and spinach daily with his son Jackson (pictured). "Having a yard implies a learning process, and we exchange information about agriculture."

Families are even finding solutions



to environmental problems. "I learned how to prepare the land, reproduce and take care of the plants, transplant and [make] organic fertilizer," says Irene Pravia of the project.

The novice gardeners estimate the fruits and veggies they grow have a market value of almost \$30 per month, which is helpful since most families in the region make \$2 per day. "I can produce enough food and [save]," adds Pravia.

Ligia Martinez is happy, too. She can cultivate a pesticide- and

chemical-free bounty. "My biggest saving, [besides] money, is knowing the food we are consuming is organic," she says.

Jackson has been inspired professionally by the project, which has touched more than 4,000 lives in his village. He dreams of becoming an agricultural engineer. "I love to help my father, I love nature, and I know I will achieve my dream one day," says the 16-year-old. "It's been a huge change," adds his dad. "The yard makes me and my family feel happy and safe."



Turning over a new leaf

Gardening changed the lives of so many in Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua. Before they sowed seeds, many ate food high in chemicals and devoid of nutrients. Meanwhile, poor management of domestic wastewater in backyards was a breeding ground for mosquitoes, fungus and disease. Today, residents are taking pride in their land, cultivating fruits, vegetables and cleaner, safer environments for their families and neighbours.

Opening the door on a new community

There's so much potential for positive growth as CCFC launches a program in Namonsa, Ghana

By William Anim-Dankwa | CCFC communications manager, Ghana

The Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) team arrived in Namonsa mid-morning. We were launching a child-sponsorship program in the community of 600, and a neighbourhood tour illuminated the need for change.

Dry fields were proof of difficult times as local peasant farmers were forced to make meagre yields sustain through the year. Without alternative sources of income, parents couldn't afford school fees, which was leading to high dropout rates and early, forced marriages. In fact, according to a 2014 report from Women in Law and Development in Africa, half of the community entered into early, forced marriages in this region — the highest incidence in the country.

That said, townspeople recognized the importance of education. Children were enrolled in school, but the community was beset with poor educational infrastructure. The sparsely furnished primary school was old and run-down with dirty floors and cracked walls; it leaked when it rained, and many students stopped attending classes during the four-month long rainy season.

Then there was the problem of water, which was collected from one borehole — a source that often



evaporated during the dry season. Sanitation facilities were nearly non-existent and open defecation was common. Such poor sanitation left the townspeople susceptible to cholera, malaria and other illnesses, but it was 10 km to the nearest health facility, and transportation was limited. "The situation is so bad I thought nothing good will come to Namonsa," said Emmanuel Apemju, head teacher of Namonsa, District Assembly primary school, earlier this year.

But, now there's renewed hope. Soon schools will be equipped with furniture, books and uniforms, and teachers will have access to updated training. The nearby dilapidated health facility will be renovated and equipped with tools

and services. Committees will be formed to improve sanitation and hygiene, and training courses will offer youth a chance to learn vocational skills. An evolution is underway, thanks to a partnership with local organization Tuma Kavi.

At first, the children of Namonsa were uncertain. Standing at the front of their crumbling classroom a few months ago, they were probably wondering what good would come of our initial visit. Today, the mood is different. Joseph Awenbaninapo, whose son attends the local school, is looking ahead. "From the way CCFC and Tuma Kavi have conducted themselves in the last few months, I am now confident they will help change this community," he says.



Health matters

A renovated and well-equipped health centre will be a beacon for hope in Namonsa, Ghana where Christian Children's Fund of Canada started working this year. Soon residents will have better access to health care in their region so they can inoculate their children, get dental check-ups and address their reproductive health concerns.

A world of change

CCFC helps toddlers in rural Paraguay develop social and motor skills

By Rosanna Menchaca | CCFC communications manager, Paraguay

A song about an elephant sleeping may sound silly, but it's engaging young minds in rural Ypane, Paraguay and beyond as part of the Travelling Little Carpet project. The idea to engage pre-schoolers stemmed from the successful Travelling Backpack initiative Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) launched to address developmental challenges in rural communities.

Early-childhood stimulation is a new concept in many Paraguayan homes, where families believe education starts in primary school. So, infants and toddlers in rural areas are often starved for activities that encourage brain stimulation and motor coordination. But that's changing.

Now, twice a week, a pre-school teacher packs coloured paper, crayons, glue, clay, puzzles, abacuses and toys into a backpack and travels to rural areas to engage toddlers (up to the age of five) in their homes. The eager students gather in groups of eight to 10 for approximately two hours to advance their social and motor skills. "It is part of a community process, which allows us to continue building child-centered development in a decentralized manner," explains Diego Martínez, program manager at CCFC's Paraguay office.



The community is a big part of the process. In fact, parents help with the activities and prepare snacks, while learning how to advance their children's development. "Now more families are aware of the importance of early stimulation," explains Eduarda Ibarra, a pre-school teacher from the Ypane project. "It helps the children, families and the school community."

"There are a lot of changes in the children," confirms Marilina Lezcano, a teacher of Divino Niño Jesús school, where the project operates in the district of Troche. "They behave better, and their

psychomotor ability is improved."

It's providing a brighter future, as only 16 percent of children between the ages of zero and five receive primary care in Paraguay, according to UNICEF. Jennifer, 7, can attest to its importance. "I learned to draw, the colours, to do puzzles, and when I started school it was easier," recalls the former student of the Travelling Backpack project.

Hear the children sing at bit.ly/CCFCSong



Learning in motion

The Travelling Backpack project, which began in the district of Troche in Paraguay, preceded the Travelling Little Carpet and Early Stimulation House by House projects. The mobile early-childhood education initiatives have been implemented in six areas in Paraguay through Christian Children's Fund of Canada partner organizations Dequeni and Crecer.

Waste not, want not

CCFC helps transform Surangudi, India by joining with a local partner to provide clean water and sanitation to thousands

By Lipi Jobson | CCFC communications manager, India

The serene village of Surangudi in the Tamil Nadu region of southern India is earning a good reputation among neighbouring communities. Locals are talking about how the rural hamlet has been transformed. Thanks to Christian Children’s Fund of Canada (CCFC) donors, and local partner People’s Action for Development (PAD), 4,000 lives have been impacted.

Earlier this year, the outlook was grim. More than 25 percent of villagers walked a kilometre for clean water; many were suffering from disease due to waterborne illnesses and a poor diet. This was having a long-term negative impact on children’s growth, their education and their psychological well-being, so CCFC/PAD stepped in to help.

Water tanks, which each hold 3,000 litres, were installed in five areas — three by CCFC and two by the town council (or *panchayat*); more than 200 households are already benefiting. And an old water-harvesting tank, which collects rain, has been repaired. “Now we have safe drinking water,” affirms Paanchaali Muniasamy, a resident.

Meanwhile, vitamin deficiency was another problem in town. The answer? Bio-intensive kitchen gardening. Tomato, pumpkin and other vegetable seeds were provided to 100 households, and villagers

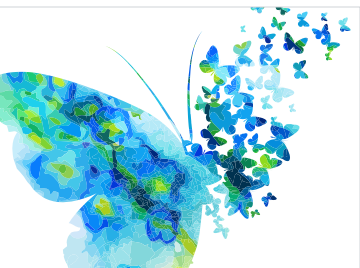


were taught how to prepare seed beds and keep soil nourished with natural fertilizer. “The kitchen garden gave us access to vitamin-rich vegetables and saved us money,” explains Maariah Thiruvetri who sowed seeds provided by CCFC/PAD.

Nutritious food was in place, but improper sanitation was an issue, too. Open-air makeshift toilets left females vulnerable to attack and created a breeding ground for infection. CCFC lobbied the Panchayat to make use of government subsidies to install 100 (so far) individual toilets in the village. “Thanks to CCFC/PAD for

making us aware of the issue and motivating us to build our own individual toilets,” says Muthumari Lingasamy, a Surangudi resident and local government field coordinator. “Open defecation has been drastically reduced in our village.” Garbage was also a problem, as it blocked drains, which caused flooding and disease during rainy season. So, 680 households were each given bins for non-degradable and degradable waste, the latter of which is converted into compost for gardening.

“Now our village is litter-free and hygienic,” sums up Selvaraj Sarkarai, president of the Surangudi Panchayat.



Transforming lives for the better

Christian Children’s Fund of Canada’s Transform Communities project in Surangudi, India had a huge positive impact, especially since the village is comprised predominantly of Dalits who are on the bottom rung of the Indian class system.

Playing for keeps

Learn how a CCFC early child-development project in Ethiopia supports brain development and family relationships

By Semereta Sewasew | CCFC communications manager, Ethiopia

I would never play with or touch my children as infants,” confides Joro (*pictured*), a 30-year-old father from the Arsi Negelle district in Ethiopia. He was raised to believe that if a man touched a child it would stunt their development and negatively impact their growth.

To compound the issue, due to low awareness and poverty, children aged zero to three were not receiving the stimulation and psychosocial support they needed. As a result, many children in Arsi Negelle had delayed fine-motor skills.

So, Christian Children’s Fund of Canada, with the help of a local partner, launched a project developed by Toronto’s Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, a renowned children’s mental-health treatment facility. The goal was to nurture early-child development in rural Arsi Negelle communities where literacy rates were low. That meant training frontline workers to educate parents about how to spur early brain activity in their children.

The Saving Brains project, funded by Grand Challenges Canada, consisted of two educational pillars, informing 2,500 households. A calendar distributed in the local language plotted a child’s growth with images and text, and a small audio-visual projector, carried village to village, shared video messages about child health, nutrition and more.



Bontu Irkiso learned how much more she could do to nurture her children’s physical and mental development. “When I raised my two children I did not know about the importance of play and the role play has in making my children confident adults,” she confesses. “The training [showed me how I] should engage with each child. I have also helped my husband understand the bad sides of physical punishment. Now he ... engages positively with his children.”

Children are now being allowed time to play, and parents like Irkiso and Joro, have even made toys for

their children from available materials. They’re creating a sustainable way to encourage development, curiosity and creativity.

“The change we are seeing is beyond what we expected,” confirms Maharu Mathewos, the local project coordinator. “We are witnessing changes in the way parents and children relate to one another, the communication they have and the growing attachment that is developing.”

The positive impact is undeniable. “My children are very happy,” affirms Joro.” No doubt that makes this father happy, too.



Learning through play

Families who have benefited from Christian Children’s Fund of Canada’s Saving Brains project in the Arsi Negelle district have built creative toys to nurture their children’s motor and cognitive skills. The handmade innovations include everything from a T.V. with changing screens to a car made from a water jug with two steel cans for wheels.

From despair to self-sufficiency

In 15 years, CCFC has helped create a sustainable environment for citizens of Koupéla, Burkina Faso

By Patrice Zongo | CCFC communications manager, Burkina Faso

Most teens dream of graduating from high school when they're 18 or younger, but Reine (pictured, right) had her mind set on another graduation this year. This spring marked Christian Children's Fund of Canada's (CCFC) graduation from Koupéla, Burkina Faso, a community where Reine grew up with eight siblings.

It's been a long journey. "Life was not easy for us; my family faced problems and had no farm to garden," she says, recalling how her father's income was not adequate enough for her family of 11. School was another issue, supplies were needed; teachers, students and parents were frustrated. That's when CCFC and its local partners stepped in to help.

"The school supplies we used to receive were composed of basic, but very important, material," says Reine, explaining how supplementary supplies CCFC provided to teachers enabled them to educate effectively. With all these tools, many students who never expected to complete primary school could graduate to secondary school and further.

Beyond standard education,

Reine and her peers were empowered to stand up for their rights. In 2014, youth developed the children's Free Charters, influencing the inception of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, which have put the need to protect children from harm on the global agenda. Locally, the young minds helped prove the value of vocational training to the new government, which is working on integrating it into standardized education.

That was all after another change that visitors to the local school may not even recognize. The transformation happened years ago, but Reine and her classmates still remember how their community struggled with water and sanitation. "CCFC built boreholes that provide water for us. Many households benefited from family latrines and public latrines," she explains. In fact, 100 households were given access to toilets, reducing open-air defecation, which increases vulnerability to attack.

Before CCFC engaged with Koupéla, parents struggled to afford school entrance fees and other related costs, which meant many children could not complete school.



Reine was lucky. She had a Canadian donor who sponsored her so she could finish primary school. Now she's in high school preparing for a bright future.

After approximately 15 years, the community is managing its own change based on skills learned through CCFC. The future is full of possibility.



Metamorphosis

The community of Koupéla has been transformed since Christian Children's Fund of Canada engaged with members of the rural village approximately 15 years ago. Here's what collaboration has brought:

- 85 percent of adolescents who dropped out of school were enrolled in vocational training
- 1,780 children were provided with school kits in the past three years
- 2,000 children and adults were trained in child protection and child rights
- 3,000 children and adults were trained to plant trees to preserve the environment
- 1,240 community members were given access to safe, clean water and family latrines

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Our vision

We dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

Our mission

Christian Children's Fund of Canada creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and pursue justice. For more than 50 years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural and ethnic background.

Making a tangible difference

A MESSAGE FROM CCFC'S BOARD CHAIR



The best part of my volunteer Chair position at Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) is seeing how donor dollars are making a difference in the lives of so many children, families and communities in developing countries around the world.

Last year, it was a joy to visit Carlos — the boy my wife and I sponsor in Nicaragua — for the second time and learn how the support we are offering is impacting his life every day (see bit.ly/CCFCCarlos).

This year, I saw how two special donors helped transform the village of Horakadho, Ethiopia. Thanks to a generous gift from Brian and Bernice O'Neill, nearly 5,000 people are benefiting from a Transform Communities project. As a result, 20 people were given the tools and skills necessary to raise money through beekeeping; 40 local women were encouraged to save and loan money through a group that also offered daily personal support; more than 500 fruit trees were distributed to

farmers; and a new early childhood development centre was built. And, that's just a sampling of the positive changes I witnessed.

Now imagine that type of effect, times six. CCFC also engages with communities in Burkina Faso, Ghana, India, Nicaragua and Paraguay, helping them become self-sustaining and positively transforming the lives of nearly 400,000 people.

Without donors like you, this would not be possible. Your devotion to children and families in developing communities brings hope, dignity and the prospect of a brighter future to many around the world. Thank you for your commitment.

Yours truly,

Dr. Douglas Ellenor
Chair of the Board & child sponsor
Christian Children's Fund of Canada

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to the Board

AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

CCFC FINANCIALS



- 38%** Education
- 23%** Health and Nutrition
- 17%** Strengthening Community Organizations
- 8%** Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- 7%** Emergency Response
- 6%** Sustainable Economic Development (previously Sustainable Livelihood Development)

Note: The above amounts exclude medications

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year-ended March 31, 2016 (in thousands of dollars)

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Sponsorship and other contributions	27,340	27,863
Donated medications/gifts in kind	8,658	6,196
Contributions from Global Affairs Canada	1,590	2,211
TOTAL REVENUE	37,588	36,270
EXPENDITURE		
Program services		
Health and Nutrition	13,248	11,223
Education	7,548	8,460
Strengthening Community Organizations	3,475	3,211
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,638	1,533
Emergency Response	1,471	1,115
Sustainable Economic Development	1,253	1,376
Fundraising	5,813	5,838
Administration	3,355	3,397
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	37,801	36,153
Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure (Expenditure over Revenue) for the year	(213)	117

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31, 2016 (in thousands of dollars)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current assets	1,386	1,632
Investments	5,002	5,047
Capital assets	5,685	5,694
TOTAL ASSETS	12,073	12,373
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	2,404	1,837
Deferred contributions	2,137	2,631
Long-term portion of obligations	1,006	1,166
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,547	5,634
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	1,647	2,011
Internally restricted - emergency response reserve	200	200
Invested in capital assets	4,679	4,528
TOTAL NET ASSETS	6,526	6,739
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	12,073	12,373

For CCFC's detailed independently audited Financial Statements, visit:
ccfcandada.ca/about-us/financials



Photo by Philip Maher

SHINING A LIGHT

Families, schools and communities



were taught how to cultivate

1,600

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDENS for healthy food, income-generation and environmental benefits

GAVE 12,632

PREGNANT MOTHERS

and children nutritional supplements



TRAINED 9,780

parents and community members in **life skills, early-childhood development** and **inclusive education**



BUILT OR RENOVATED

5 COMMUNITY CENTRES IN **FOUR** COUNTRIES



PROVIDED

60,228

children at 547 SCHOOLS

WITH 330,967

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES



BUILT AND RENOVATED 35 71

educational facilities, classrooms, child-friendly spaces and **LIBRARIES**



TRAINED 1,952

community members in **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE** best practices

*Statistics are based on Christian Children's Fund of Canada's last fiscal, ending March 31, 2016



In this year in review,* see examples of how donor dollars are creating self-sustaining communities in Christian Children's Fund of Canada's countries of operation, where **47,951** children were sponsored and **394,375** children, youth and community members benefited from support.

Increased awareness about

CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION, reaching



285,554 people **EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS** through



Health-awareness campaigns reached

145,968 people



Provided

8,707

people with pre- and post-natal care, including training in infant-feeding

After-school activities attracted

80,354

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Conducted annual medical **CHECK-UPS** for **27,482** children



Built or enhanced



82 WATER FACILITIES in communities and schools

PROVIDED

549

TOOLS, SUPPLIES

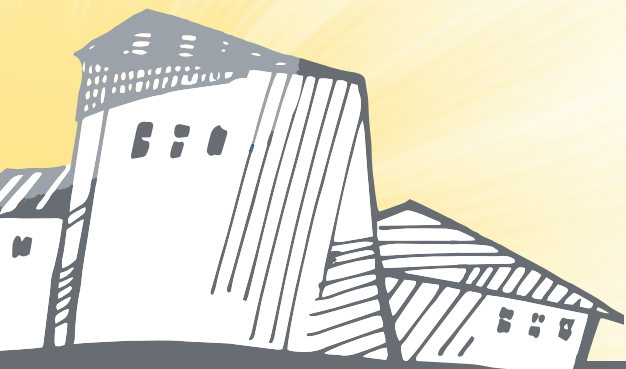
AND EQUIPMENT FOR VOCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



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PARTNERING FOR CHANGE

Find out about how more than 30 organizations work to deliver CCFC programs in six countries

Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) works with local partners who understand the communities where they work and are committed to making long-lasting change in our six countries of operation. That connection helps CCFC make an impact in the lives of nearly 400,000 people. We are grateful to the following invested teams.

PARAGUAY

- Fundación Dequeni
- FortaleSer
- Fundación Alda
- Global Infancia
- Crecer

NICARAGUA

- Movimiento Infantil Luis Alfonso Velázquez Flores
- Centro de Apoyo a Programas y Proyectos
- Asociación Casa Ave María
- Instituto de Promoción Humana (INPRHU-Estelí)
- Instituto de Formación Permanente, Estelí
- Instituto de Promoción Humana (INPRHU-Managua)
- Ayuda a los Niños en la Escuela y en la Calle

BURKINA FASO

- Assembly of God
- Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité - Caritas Fada N'Gourma
- Organisation Catholique pour le Développement et la Solidarité Caritas - Koupéla
- Association Cri de Cœur pour les enfants déshérités
- Eglise Evangélique de la Société Internationale Missionnaire

INDIA

- Society for People's Education and Economic Change
- People's Action for Development
- Integrated Rural Community Development Society
- Rural Organisation for Poverty Eradication Services

GHANA

- Markaz Al Bishara
- Tuma Kavi Development Association
- Presbyterian Farmers Training - Child Development Program
- Baptist Child Development Programs
- Assemblies of God Development and Relief Services

ETHIOPIA

- Alem Children Support Organization
- Arat Kilo Child Care and Community Development
- Bole Bible Baptist Church
- Emmanuel Development Association
- Ratson - Women, Youth and Children Development
- Wolaitta Kale Hiwet Church

An ambassador's message



Hi,

I'm Rachel, a FOX Sports' host and volunteer ambassador for Christian Children's Fund of Canada's (CCFC) online monthly giving program, Community Rise. Thanks to initiatives like this, CCFC has helped children and families in developing communities through health, education and water projects.

On my recent trip to Ghana, I met villagers benefiting from a new local health clinic provided by CCFC, thanks to caring donors like you. Now pregnant women no longer have to walk nearly 50 km to the nearest hospital when complications arise during pregnancy.

For more details, visit bit.ly/CommRiseRachel for videos from my trip.

Yours truly,

Rachel Bonnetta
CCFC volunteer ambassador

Safely delivered

Sharon Caddy, CCFC ambassador and journalist, witnesses the success of maternal-health IMPACT project in Ethiopia

By Brianne Binelli | managing editor, *ChildVoice*

The birth of Sharon Caddy's first child was memorable for more than one reason.

The Canadian media personality and Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) ambassador was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia 20 years ago during her pregnancy with her eldest daughter, Jennie. The condition that could lead to high-blood pressure, organ dysfunction or even death was monitored closely. "With attention from doctors and staff at a modern hospital, I knew medical staff would be ready to deal with any emergency that presented itself," recalls Caddy. But, the journalist was surprised to see first-hand how lucky she was 20 years ago. During a recent trip to Ethiopia, she learned the idea of giving birth with the help of trained professionals is new in some rural regions of the country.

Caddy met expectant mothers who now have better access to health care, thanks to CCFC's IMPACT project, funded in part by the Government of Canada. "In the

past, mothers usually delivered babies at home with the assistance of traditional birth attendants," Caddy explains. "In this scenario, unforeseen medical issues could and, in too many cases, did result in the death of the infant, the mother or both."

But there's been amazing developments for these women and children. Thanks to IMPACT, medical staff have been trained, equipment and medical facilities have been updated and motorcycle ambulances are available so women don't have to walk many kilometres — as they did in the past — to have their baby delivered by a professional.

Now, after the project has been completed, the ongoing positive impact is undeniable. Just a few years ago, health attendants at the Kelo Health Post in the Arsi Negelle district used to deliver three babies a month — today trained midwives are delivering 100 babies per month. In the words of local community members, "our young women aren't dying anymore." And, townspeople are also being educated about the



value of family planning, so they have three to four children instead of 10 to 12.

"This will mean a stronger, healthier future for generations to come," says Caddy. That's especially true since a new maternal-health project, funded through Global Affairs Canada, has launched in Kemissie, Ethiopia. Now hundreds of thousands more women and children will have the chance at a brighter future.



Sharing freely, giving generously

More than 10-million people in Ethiopia have been suffering from the worst drought in 50 years, but thanks to generous donors, Christian Children's Fund of Canada raised more than \$125,000 this past spring and summer to help. We've been working with the Ethiopian government to provide aid to those who need it most. So far, in-country teams have provided the following:

- four rounds of wheat, pulses and oil to 2,400 people
- books and other educational materials for more than 20 drought-affected elementary schools, supporting 3,800 students
- salary coverage for 13 elementary teachers so learning can continue
- wheat and bean seeds for more than 850 farmers



LETTING CHILDREN BE CHILDREN

A family bonding activity evolves into 42 years of giving more than 20 youngsters in developing countries a chance at a brighter future

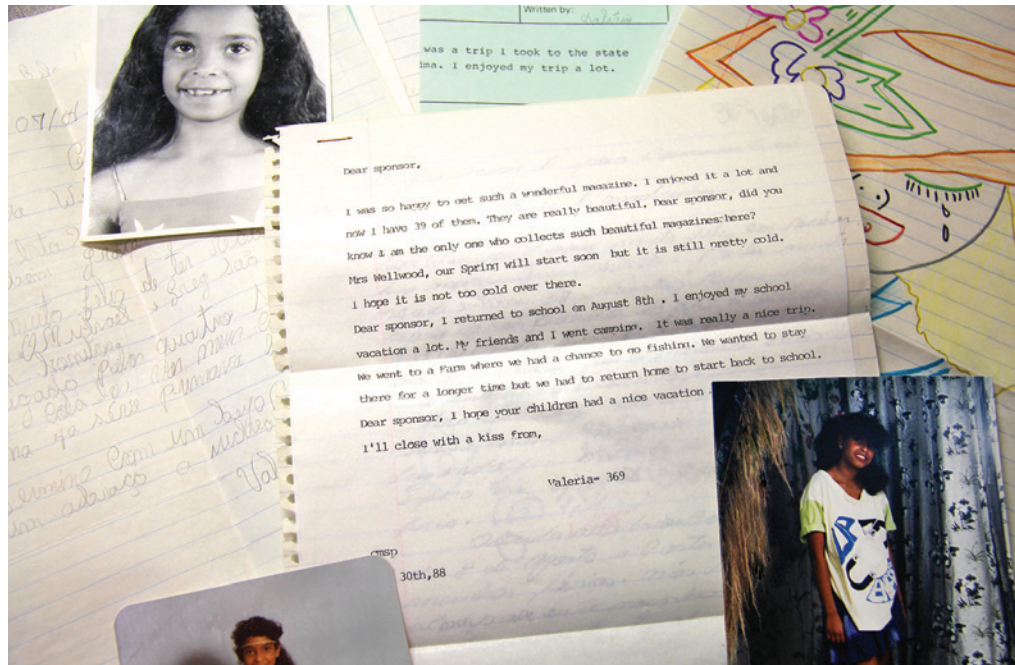
By Brianne Binelli | managing editor, *ChildVoice*

More than 40 years ago, while the world was sporting mood rings, singing “Love Will Keep Us Together,” and being collectively terrified by *Jaws*, a couple in the historic city of Nelson, B.C., was marking a milestone.

“Our family was complete by then, so we figured the natural thing to do was to sponsor children, and so we did,” says Frances Welwood, a mother-of-two, who along with her husband, Ron, was anxious to help at a time when child sponsorship was in its infancy.

For the two librarians, the decision has made perfect sense. “We appreciate the historical and social background you get from communicating with someone across the world. You [form] an emotional attachment,” she explains. The Welwoods appreciate the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada’s (CCFC) commitment to providing a personal touch with a donor-relations team with whom she can connect.

Through the years, the photos of CCFC-sponsored children on the Welwood’s fridge changed, but their commitment hasn’t wavered. There was Khadija from Kenya, Valeria (pictured) from Brazil, Lariza from Paraguay — more than 20 children altogether. “The pictures have always been on the fridge, on the mantles, as they are in most families,” Frances explains. “They’ve



been there throughout our children’s lives, so our boys are still interested.” Even today, the Welwood’s adult sons ask about the sponsored children when they visit Nelson.

It’s little surprise that these retired archivists, with hearts for helping others, kept, recorded and shared with CCFC the years of correspondence with their sponsored children. The stack of letters, photos and hand-drawings overflows with memories of little ones fishing with friends, visiting relatives and treasuring monetary gifts meant for new sneakers and school supplies.

“You’re helping a child be a child,” says Frances. “If you can help a child enjoy their childhood, their family and take pride in [their] country, that’s the biggest thing.”

To learn more about how you can help give children the chance to live, learn, laugh and play, visit ccfcandca.ca.



SMALL GESTURE LEADS TO BIG LIFE CHANGE

CCFC catches up with Rakesh Gayen, a former sponsored child now working in the church

Interview by Lipi C. Jobson | CCFC communications manager, India

Rakesh Gayen's life took an unexpected turn 20 years ago, heralding a season of change for the then toddler, his family and his community. Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) had begun to work in his village of Choradakatia, and staff were going door to door inviting children to school. The importance of education was drilled into his mind from the start, and it eventually led him to ministering God's word. We sat down to catch up with Gayen, now 28, and chatted about the influence CCFC and his sponsor had on his life.



ChildVoice: Do you remember your sponsor?

RG: I remember my sponsor well. What I am today is because of her. Her noble gesture, benevolent help and compassion won my heart and made me humane. I remember her every day and feel her presence in every good thing I do.

ChildVoice: How did being a sponsored child affect your day-to-day life?

RG: Being a sponsored child has had a great impact on my life. I was able to understand the meaning of life and the value of education. Every gift and assistance offered by my sponsor meant a lot to me and my family. I had a great feeling someone was there to care for me. I felt more secure each day and [eventually] decided to work hard and serve the poor.

ChildVoice: How did being a sponsored child affect your life path?

RG: The life I live and service I do is inspired by CCFC's child-sponsorship program.... There were kind teachers who taught me moral values [as well as] education. Naturally, after some time, I was attracted by the charm and glory of the adolescent age and worldly life; I committed many mistakes and led a [troubled] life. The education and values I learned helped me realize my faults and correct myself. Now, I reciprocate the good things I received from CCFC. I teach and help poor children thrive through education. I teach them to sing and play guitar.

ChildVoice: How did you land your current job?

RG: Touched by a book titled *The*

Bishop's Candlestick, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and gave my life to him.... Subsequently, I joined the Buntain Theological College, Kolkata and pursued a Bachelor of Theology program, which I completed in 2014. Now I am an independent worker doing God's ministry in the Maldwa district. I wish to pursue a Master's degree in Theology and Divinity in the future.

ChildVoice: If you could tell other sponsored children one thing, what would it be?

RG: We are all very special to God; that's why he appointed sponsors to take care of our earthly needs and shower their love and affection upon us. This privilege should not be misused. Instead, we should make all possible efforts to help others like sponsors did for us. A small kind gesture can bring great change.

Even the playing field for girls

Girls in developing countries face tremendous hardships. Due to improper sanitation facilities and hygiene practices, they are frequently unable to attend school. You can help by offering gifts, which are matched up to five times, giving girls hope for a brighter future. Visit ccfcanada.ca/GiftsforGood to purchase one of the following much-needed gifts today.



▶ **Send a girl to school for a year - \$100**

Equip a girl with a year's worth of school supplies and a chance to have equal access to education. Your gift will truly change a life. **Your donation will be multiplied four times for a \$400 impact.**



▶ **Girl's hygiene kit - \$35**

Personal hygiene is often challenging for girls in the developing world and is one of the main reasons they drop out of school. Your gift will provide essentials such as soap, dental supplies, supplements and a wash basin. Help a girl thrive with this gift.

▶ **Sanitation facility (share in) - \$150**

Give the gift of dignity and good health. Help finance the construction and installation of a sanitation facility such as a latrine, septic tank or waste-water management system. Your gift will make a difference, especially to girls and women. **Your donation will be multiplied five times for a \$750 impact.**



Visit ccfcanada.ca/GiftsforGood, or call 1-800-263-5437, to purchase a gift today!



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