
CHILD VOICE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

Overcoming barriers so girls achieve their dreams

Pandemic response
An urgent reply



Children Believe

childrenbelieve.ca

Championing equality

Access to education is key

Advocating equality between boys and girls is central to Children Believe's work. Thank you for all you do to support what we do.

Because of caring people like you, more girls in vulnerable communities are accessing education and achieving their dreams. They are learning

in schools that are welcoming and safe, that value their contribution, and where they can feel protected from violence, forced early marriage and other obstacles. Girls face many barriers, and this is where your help is making a difference.

Educated girls are less likely to marry young. They are more likely to lead healthy lives. They earn higher incomes, participate in decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves and their families.

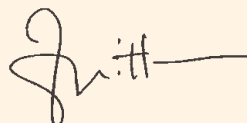
Boys and men are part of this positive change, and through education are becoming advocates for fair treatment and equality.

Inside this gender-themed annual report issue of *ChildVoice* you will meet girls who are busy chasing their dreams. Read about eight-year-old Carolina in Paraguay who wants to be a doctor (p. 8). Pavritha (p. 9) and Abibou (p. 12) have overcome barriers to school in India and

in Burkina Faso related to forced marriage. Then there are men in Nicaragua who are leaving behind harmful attitudes that undermine equality (p. 7). Finally, see how your donations, to keep kids safe through COVID-19 (p. 5) are helping protect Children Believe-supported communities.

Thank you for believing in the potential and possibility of every girl, and for believing in children and in us, too. We're deeply grateful.

Sincerely,



Fred Witteveen, CEO
ceo@childrenbelieve.ca



☺ Fred Witteveen, CEO

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Cover: Growing up in Nicaragua can be challenging for girls, due to the societal barriers they face. But there is reason for optimism, thanks to your support. (Photo by Juris Kornets)

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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

Children Believe creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For 60 years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

OUR VALUES

Across our work, we aim to uphold the values of results, respect, integrity, teamwork and excellence.

Member of
ChildFund
Alliance

ACCESSIBILITY

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

What's happening

Protecting children from dangers of irregular migration in Central America

"My nation is in my heart" is the slogan of a new public awareness campaign promoting opportunities for youth in Central America and Mexico.

The campaign seeks to prevent and inform people about the risks of irregular migration. It also provides youth involvement with entrepreneurship programs and community leadership opportunities. The campaign is part of the Preventing Irregular Child Migration in Central America and Mexico project, funded by the Government of Canada, led by Children Believe, and implemented with ChildFund International and EDUCO.

The testimonials and voices of youth are the stars of this initiative and it encourages youth to dream without limits. To believe that they can achieve the extraordinary.



Ⓐ The "My nation is in my heart" campaign will reach more than 126,245 young people at national and regional levels in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador.



Ⓐ Daniella Asare recently volunteered at a centre in Ghana where technicians in orthotics and prosthetics manufacture artificial limbs for 'differently' abled children. There, in a camp, she introduced children to emerging technologies, applications and robotics.

A heart for volunteering

Daniella Asare, a Children Believe volunteer Youth Ambassador from Ghana, exemplifies our commitment to breaking barriers to education.

Daniella was recently chosen by the MasterCard Foundation for a scholarship to a one-year accelerated Masters program at Arizona State University. She studies Biomedical Engineering.

The talented young woman represents Children Believe's values both in her community and as a youth ambassador she lends her time and ideas to helping create stories, social media content and connections with local businesses.

To learn more about our youth ambassadors, visit childrenbelieve.ca/youth-ambassador-program.

A young gender activist in India

Sumanth and his peers have stopped three child marriages in his village, and before the COVID-19 lockdown they rescued seven child labourers (four of them girls) so they could return to school. Living in a remote Dalit (lowest caste or society class, excluded) community in India, he has a unique perspective, compared to others.

"Like other boys, I used to think men are superior and I always wanted to show off as a man," he says. "But when I learned about equal rights, I realized I was wrong."

At 16, Sumanth is a leader in a youth club organized by a Children Believe partner in his village. The club and his peers speak out to stop violence against girls. Sumanth says there is more to do to break gender norms and change the minds of men, as well as women, when it comes to equality.

Learn more about Sumanth in the 'Blogs' section of childrenbelieve.ca.



Ⓐ Sumanth is a leader in a youth club dedicated to breaking gender norms.

Pandemic response

Helping children weather COVID-19

COVID-19 has been devastating for children, families and communities where we work. As case numbers climb in Africa, Asia and the Americas, adults cannot work, children can't go to school, and shortages of food and critical supplies are rampant. Thanks to your support, we have been able to support 572,000 community members so far through our efforts to mitigate the effects.

ONE: Stopping the spread

We have been engaging Children Believe-supported communities with COVID-19-relevant educational and community information. Provided in local languages, messages about how to keep safe have been transmitted through TV, radio, automobile loudspeakers, cellphone apps and texts, flyers and posters.

Personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, including masks, gloves, body covers, and sanitary kits with soap and hand sanitizer, have been given to 92 educational and 70 health facilities. Three hundred and fifty health care workers have been trained on protocols and testing for COVID-19.

TWO: Ensuring children are nourished

With your donations to COVID-19 relief, Children Believe has mobilized our partners to deliver dry food rations to families at risk of malnutrition due to lockdowns, lost income and inability to work. So far, more than 72,000 family members (35,080 children and 36,943 adults) have received food packages.

THREE: Keeping children safe from violence

During lockdowns, mental health can suffer. This increases the risk for women and children, in particular, to be victims of abuse. We have engaged community leaders, caregivers and children to act together to identify issues, and to contact proper authorities when needed. There are 61,392 children (33,674 girls and 27,718 boys) who have been helped. And 78,404 adults (38,893 women, and 39,511 men) who have received support.

FOUR: Helping children continue learning

Despite school closures we are keeping children learning. More than 15,670 children (7,678 boys and 7,992 girls) have been provided with creative art and craft materials and learning aids, such as workbooks and printed materials to help them learn when COVID-19 lockdowns keep them out of class.

You can read more stories about how we are helping. Visit childrenbelieve.ca/covid-19.





Girls deserve equal opportunities

Thanks to you, Children Believe provides children with the tools and training they need to access education, overcome barriers and be a voice for change.

One way we make this happen is to create equality for girls.

In this section, learn how we support training and awareness campaigns on gender equality; promote the benefits of education for girls; and enhance girls' knowledge and confidence through girls' clubs and youth groups.

We also boost income-generating activities for women's economic empowerment and engage boys and men as champions for change.



In the following pages, read about the girls and women who are overcoming barriers to achieve their dreams.



☺ Maria del Carmen sewing pillows at her home.

Hope replaces violence

Nicaragua's new entrepreneurs change old harmful attitudes

By Enmanuel Castro

"There you go again to training, you should stay home cooking!"

This is a typical reaction by men in Nicaragua when women try to improve their skills by attending training and classes. But change is coming to communities thanks to a project called Organized Women Making Changes for their Personal and Social Empowerment. Organizers say to break a culture of male chauvinism and violence, men and women have to work together to end harmful attitudes formed over generations.

For 30 years Maria del Carmen has been a volunteer leader in the program. She says "*machista*" culture, male dominant thinking, restricts women from achieving their dreams. Many women suffer from different forms of violence: domestic, verbal, emotional, and economic. This abuse of power in relationships causes many women to lose hope and feel trapped, often affecting their children, as well.

"Sometimes we need that someone who believes in what we can accomplish to cheer us on so we can achieve it," Maria del Carmen says. This is where Children Believe has made a difference.

The project has helped 50 women to improve their lives and support their families. Of these, 19 started business ventures thanks to seed capital from Children Believe. Of great significance is the fact that 30 men have participated in workshops with a goal to ending machista culture.

"Sometimes the levels of violence are strong, and I don't mean only physical violence, but psychologically," explains Maria. "There is a belief that women cannot achieve more, that they won't have the needed support to start something new like entrepreneurship, and that's hard. The workshops have changed this for these men."

Through the program, the female participants are experiencing higher self-esteem, learned self-care, entrepreneurship and business strategies. Workshops on new masculinities have made men understand the rights of women. Now husbands are joining their entrepreneurial wives in the adventure, supporting them and seeing them with new eyes for what they can achieve.

"We are capable and we are an inspiration for change," Maria concludes.

Children Believe helps women develop entrepreneurial skills, not only through this project but in all of the countries where we work. Through Village Savings and Loans programs and other projects and training, we work to boost women's economic empowerment and engage boys and men as champions for change.



Doctor dream

Undaunted by the pandemic

By Rosanna Menchaca and Javier Mendoza

“When I grow up I want to heal people who get sick,” eight-year-old Carolina states.

It’s a daring statement for a girl living in rural Paraguay, where education is not strongly encouraged for girls, and less girls than boys do postsecondary studies. Through Children Believe child sponsorship, however, costs related to Carolina’s schooling to the end of high school are covered.

“One of the barriers Paraguay girls face is the stigma that women have to stay at home and men go out to work or even to study,” says Carolina’s teacher, Estela. “At the end of high school, boys are prioritized over girls to access higher education as women are expected to help at home.

In Carolina’s community, access to doctors is scarce because of the long distance to urban areas and treacherous road conditions. The only physician

works weekdays, providing basic medical attention. For specialized or weekend care, the nearest option is a hospital, 30 kilometres away. Along with poor roads, transportation is difficult to arrange.

COVID-19 school closures caused major disruptions to Paraguay’s education system. Remote learning is out of reach for many, as home internet is scarce. Carolina’s mother has cell phone service, which is being shared among her three children, ages 12, eight and six, as they take turns participating virtually in school.

“I miss my classmates and playing with them,” Carolina says. “I do my homework. It’s easy except for math,” she adds with a smile.

Carolina’s family is among the 5,539 in Paraguay to have received emergency food packs from Children Believe during COVID-19; and among the 4,289 given hygiene kits (as of late August) along with pamphlets explaining the importance of hygiene to prevent the spread of the virus.

Through the support of Children Believe sponsors and donors, Carolina and others like her won’t lose the school year, and she will be one step closer to realizing her dream of being a doctor.



Ⓐ Carolina is learning at home with help from her mother Rafaela.



⊕ In a meeting before the pandemic, Pavithra spoke to a youth group about child rights.

Overcoming discrimination

One girl's dream to stay in school

By Stephen Paulcruz and Lavanya Kesavaraj

Unfair treatment always feels bad. For Pavithra, a 15-year-old girl living in India's patriarchal society, opposition to her staying in school was far worse because it happened at home.

"It is not easy to grow up in a poor household and face discrimination in my own family," Pavithra explains.

Her father is a daily wage labourer and her mother has a physical disability, leaving the family in a precarious financial state. Pavithra was forced to drop out of school and work in the home. She was forbidden from playing with friends and told to do household chores and care for her mother.

"I was made to feel that because I am girl, I have to act like an adult," she says.

A volunteer at a Children Believe-supported Creative Learning Centre in Pavithra's village learned she had dropped out of school in grade nine. Through a Children Believe partner, program leaders talked to Pavithra's family about the rights of children and the importance of education for girls. With their support, Pavithra was able to return to school and she joined a children's club through Children Believe, which

helps children learn about their rights and work with community leaders and local authorities to improve protection services for children.

Sadly, Pavithra's troubles did not end there. Speaking to a male friend over the phone, her father accused her of a love affair and used the situation to arrange for Pavithra to marry a 35-year-old uncle.

"At that moment I asked myself, 'why did I have to be born a girl?'" she says.

Once again the Creative Learning Centre volunteer and children's club members intervened. They warned Pavithra's parents that child marriage was against the law and they would face prosecution if the marriage was conducted. Pavithra has now completed grade 11 and continues her studies.

"I am so grateful I was able to overcome these barriers and pursue my education," she says. "I am determined to complete school and pursue higher education."

While schools in India have closed since March 2020 due to a COVID-19 lockdown to prevent the virus' spread, Pavithra is making use of the time to learn tailoring. Thanks to Children Believe supporters, she is one of many girls in India helped to stay in school and escape forced marriage.

Children Believe created a centre for excellence in India, on gender and social inclusion, to inform our work on child marriage around the world.

From sponsored child to devoted teacher

Support made all the difference in Amidu's life

By William Anim-Dankwa

Amidu remembers the day her name was called and she was asked to step forward to have her photo taken for a child sponsorship program in Ghana.

"From that time on, school became fun," she says. "I received a school uniform, textbooks and other school materials."

Today, the 28-year-old graduate of the University for Development Studies in Tamale, asks, "Where would I be without Children Believe? I have come a long way."

In many parts of Ghana, girls face obstacles accessing and staying in school. Amidu is a teacher today, but achieving that goal meant overcoming adversity, including being forced out of school at an early age and maintaining the desire to learn after losing her mother.

Amidu left primary school because her family could not afford the fees. Staying home was difficult for the eager student, but her life forever changed when Children Believe told her a Canadian wanted to sponsor her.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the end of Amidu's struggles. As a teenager, she didn't have feminine hygiene products; this prevented her from going to school.

"For other girls, it wasn't so difficult," Amidu says. "Having the products gave them confidence to attend school every day. I also had the added challenge of walking a long distance to get to school. During junior high I was always arriving late."

Fortunately, thanks to donors, Children Believe was able to help. Apart from providing feminine hygiene products, a new bicycle helped Amidu get to school on time.

Ghana, like many other countries, gives boys preferential treatment to attend higher grade levels. Amidu, along with other sponsored girls in her community, was able to qualify for and pay admission to attend senior high school.

Amidu says the impact Children Believe and her sponsor made in her life, and other girls like her, has been tremendous. Donor support encourages girls to dream and to achieve. She says it's what motivated her and other female classmates to overcome discrimination.

Amidu's success, thanks to child sponsorship, is applauded by Ghana government officials who point to her and her peers as role models to young girls.

"I will forever be grateful to Children Believe," Amidu concludes, smiling humbly.



Ⓐ Amidu

From the slums to a dream job

Thriving in Ethiopia

By Gezahegn Gebremariam

Gazing out her sunny office window in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Redeat Tilahun sees a bustling city with mountain ranges in the distance. It's a long way from the shantytown where she was born to a poor single mother.

Redeat smiles with pride, reflecting on how hard work and help along the way, made it possible for her to achieve her dream of having a career where she can advance gender equality in society.

"Poverty is among the key barriers to education, especially for children from low-income families, and without the support of Children Believe throughout my schooling, my life would have ended in misfortune," 22-year-old Redeat explains.

Redeat is the communications manager for Akaki Sub-City in Addis Ababa, overseeing communications for the local government.

Akaki's slums are where Redeat's mom raised her, a significant feat for a woman to be the sole provider in Ethiopia. Her mother wanted Redeat to enjoy a life beyond poverty, so she was eager to accept the help of social workers in 2002, who explained Children Believe's program.

Redeat completed all levels of schooling, including a university degree. Sponsorship provided schoolbooks and materials, medical and nutritional support, counselling and financial assistance for nearly 6,000 girls in Ethiopia last year. Without it, Redeat says her dream at age 12 to have a fulfilling career would never have entered her mind.



© Redeat, as seen through her years as a sponsored child, and today in her office in Addis Ababa.

"Education saves and improves the lives of girls and women, ultimately leading to more equitable development," Redeat says. "An educated woman has the skills, knowledge and self-confidence needed to be a better parent, worker and citizen."

After university, Redeat's career began fruitfully as a team leader for the Akaki women, children and youth affairs department. Along with promoting gender equality, Redeat advocated to end gender-based violence, including sexual, physical, and emotional abuse against women.

Through child sponsorship and access to education, Redeat was able to achieve the extraordinary. "I'm so grateful, I made it. My dream came true," concludes Redeat, her eyes teary with emotion.

Away from violence

Safe haven helps Burkina Faso girls

By Patrice Zongo

In a remote village in Burkina Faso, a nondescript building is a haven for 96 girls and young women who have escaped gender violence. Here they are safe from forced marriage and other dangers. Abibou, youngest among them, discovered a new life thanks to the Children Believe-supported boarding school and training centre.

"My uncle insisted I marry one of his friends who already had six wives and many children," the 13-year-old says. "I would prefer to die than to live that way."

Abibou's fear of forced marriage was exacerbated by what she had witnessed. In her home village, she often saw her cousin beating his wife and children. She watched her older sister forced into marriage by her uncle, which was traumatic.

"She is living with her husband but is not happy," Abibou says. "I didn't want to be like her."

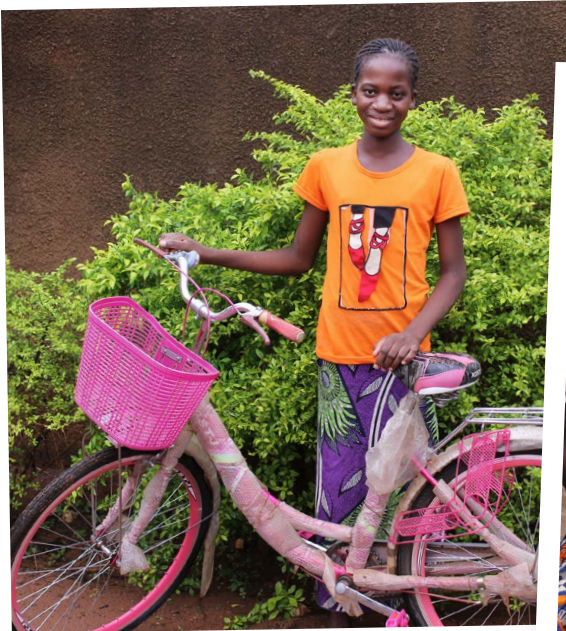
Abibou's sister attempted suicide by swallowing pills, but while she survived, remains trapped in the marriage. For Abibou, a brother who had moved to another town for work intervened when he learned of the situation.

"He threatened my uncle that the police would be called if he forced me into marriage," Abibou explains. When her uncle would not relent, her brother brought her to the boarding school and training centre.

The learning centre was created in 1951 and is run by five nuns who care for and train the girls. Children Believe, with help from a European Union grant, is helping fund the learning centre so that girls can get an education, study to cook, care for a home, and acquire trades such as sewing, knitting, soap making, and hairdressing.

The Children Believe project provides food, hygiene kits, healthcare, and occasional security in the centre when girls need protection.

For now, Abibou is preparing to start training in sewing and to continue her education in class. Through generous donors, Abibou received a new bicycle to help her and other girls at the centre have a form of transportation.



Ⓐ Abibou has education and safety at her boarding school.



⦿ Francesca had an opportunity to visit the Clinic of Hope in Ghana and meet some of the women and children who benefit from the facility.

Inspired to help

Loyal supporters, like Francesca, a donor since 1971, are the reason we've been able to make progress for the equality of girls and boys, and will continue to in the future. Here's some thoughts of how she's helped... and why she remains committed to Children Believe.

Three ways to describe yourself?

A creative thinker, a problem solver, adventurous.

When did you first become a child sponsor?

In 1972. In 2001, while coping with multiple family deaths, I decided to change focus from my own situation, to those less fortunate than myself. By doing this, it changed my life. All in all, it grew into 21 sponsored children and several funded projects.

Why do you continue to sponsor?

I saw a great need and knew I could help. As I became more familiar with the organization's work, I realized I could make a greater impact than just sponsoring a child.

The most basic needs of life are missing in certain parts of Africa – such as clean water. This inspired me to fund rainwater harvesting tanks in memory of my late parents.

At the same time, I sponsored a child in northern Ghana, but never received his first letter. He was tragically bitten by a snake while helping his parents in the field. I tried to visualize how the child died, presuming there was no medicine or access to care. Confirming this, I envisioned a small clinic would help this need, and thus began the idea for the Clinic of Hope.

Where have you travelled in connection with being a sponsor?

First Jamaica, then twice to Ghana.

How have you been involved in supporting children through Children Believe other than sponsorship?

Paying for children's education; providing six rainwater harvesting tanks; and constructing a medical

clinic over nine years. I resigned after 17 years as a member of the corporation. I have less energy now, but will help in other ways as I can.

Over the years I also encouraged other people to sponsor children. I gave them creative ideas on how to do so when they could not do it on their own.

What stands out as most memorable?

My sponsored child, Ricardo, in Jamaica. When I pulled a soccer ball from a bag as my gift to him his whole body began to shake. He could not speak. It was so emotional. I realized what I had brought was like a dream for him. Later he wrote to say it was the very first time he was able to play ball with his siblings.

Advice for someone considering child sponsorship, or supporting Children Believe another way?

Being a child sponsor is amazing. It helps a child get an education they might not otherwise have had and it helps the child's family and most importantly gives hope to the whole family that the cycle of poverty will eventually be broken.

There are many ways to support the charity. One example is when we started building the clinic. A donation came from some northern Ontario doctors with specific suggestions for how it should be used. That donation helped fund some of the clinic's medical equipment.

Another is the *Gifts for Good* catalogue. Whether it's chickens or a goat, children love watching them grow and earning income for the family.

Finally, hope is the priceless gift you receive when you sponsor. When you read a child's letters and see they are healthy and happy to be learning, you understand the full impact of your donations.

60 years of love

Donors give children hope

Children Believe celebrates a special milestone this year. It's been 60 years since we helped the first of hundreds of thousands of children with the support of caring Canadians like you. Through many challenges over the years, including the current global pandemic, our supporters have been exceptionally loyal. We couldn't be more grateful!

Through your generosity we continue to empower children to dream fearlessly, stand up for what they believe in —and be heard. And as we look ahead, we will continue to create a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice.



⊙ Doug Ellenor with his sponsored child Carlos.

We recently reached out to three longstanding donors to get some insight on their experiences with Children Believe over the years.

Peter Harris of Toronto, our CEO from 1980 to 2000, is still a devoted child sponsor.

"During the civil war in Nicaragua, on a visit to a program outside Managua, we came across a forest," Peter recalls. "Struggling along a winding path at the forest clearing was a boy – perhaps eight years old – whose foot had been destroyed by a landmine. Children and their families are the first victims of violence and war."



⊙ Peter Harris enjoyed visiting sponsored children in his time as CEO.

⊙ June Tink, with two of her grandchildren, Summer and Liam.



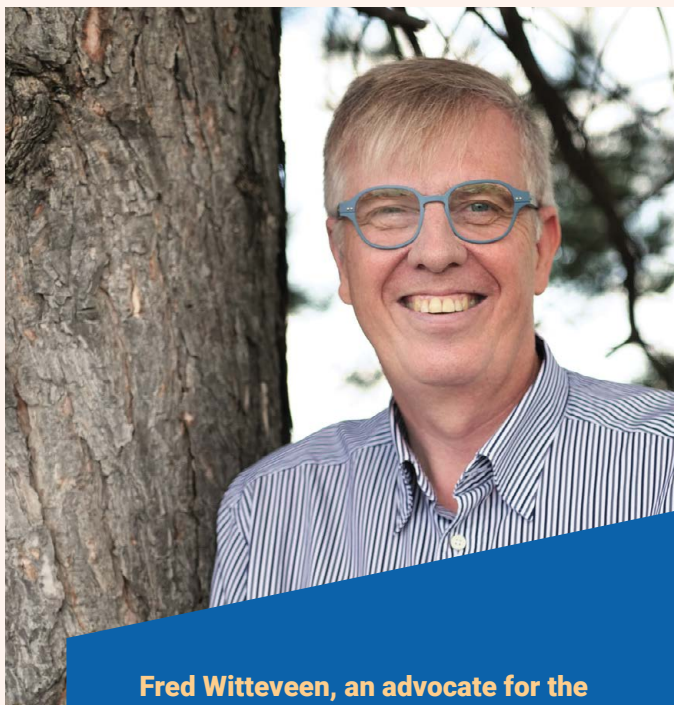
Doug Ellenor, former Chair of our Board of Directors, and his wife, Jo-Anne, have been sponsoring children since the 1980s. From his home in Vancouver, Doug recounted seeing the impact one sponsor can have on the life of a child, their family and community.

"It was the early 2000s when I met our sponsored child, Carlos, and his extended family in Nicaragua. I saw him again five years later. It was evident in his happy, smiling face, and the positive change in his family condition, that life was good for Carlos and those around him. So we're proud to be sponsors."

A connection forged through years of letter writing to and from her sponsored children has been a treasured experience for June Tink. The Mississauga woman, who started as a sponsor in the 1990s with her husband, the late Rev. Peter Donald Tink, has sponsored several children including two today: Kiara in Paraguay, and Abdul-Hak in Ghana.

"I know there is poverty in Canada, but we are blessed and have so much," she says. "I am trying to teach my grandchildren this, so I share the letters I receive."

Meet Fred Witteveen, our new CEO



Fred Witteveen, an advocate for the world's most vulnerable communities, became Children Believe's CEO in June. Here we sit down with the global humanitarian leader to give you a chance to get to know him better.

Q: Why did you join Children Believe?

I'm so excited to lead Children Believe! I wanted to be part of this global movement for change that is breaking barriers to education. Having seen the organization's work, I knew it aligned with my life's work of helping the world's most vulnerable children. We have to be there for these kids. We have to make a difference. And, thanks to our generous donors and supporters, Children Believe is making significant impact.

Q: What is your motivation?

I am in awe of what children can achieve when we believe and invest in them – when they feel safe and protected and have permission to dream big. Children are not only inspiring (and fun) to be around, but they also challenge adults to make the world around them better.

Q: What are your personal goals as CEO for Children Believe?

My whole career has been about creating flourishing communities.

The Children Believe team, our partners, and the communities we come alongside, work together to bring massive change to the lives of the most vulnerable children. I want us to enable children to claim their voice and believe they can do the extraordinary. If they truly believe it, that belief can take them anywhere.

Q: When did you realize this field of work is where you belong?

I have worked globally with amazing people helping to improve the lives of so many people in crisis. From individuals to large groups of refugees, at every turn I have been proud to be involved in humanitarian work.

One of the most challenging and heartbreaking experiences came during the Rohingya Refugee crisis in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. It was there I learned that if you deeply believe something is right, even if it's very hard to do, you must be prepared to do what it takes. I still believe that.

Q: What would you like Children Believe donors to know about you?

I cannot stress enough the gratitude I feel for those whom make a donation toward a need, such as our current pandemic response, or those whom commit to sponsoring a child through a monthly gift.

Gifts from our donors are creating real change for children in the communities where we work. I don't take that lightly. We simply wouldn't exist if not for the tens of thousands of individuals, and the granting agencies, whom support Children Believe's work to impact the lives of children around the world. Thank you to everyone who has opened their heart to those in need.



Chair's note
Investing in girls
grows economies

The World Bank recently published a series of reports on investing in girls' education. One found that globally the cost in lost lifetime earnings from girls not finishing secondary school is \$30 trillion. Another, conducted with the Government of Canada and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, concluded that realizing gender equality in earnings could provide a 'gender dividend' of up to \$172 trillion in terms of higher lifetime earnings for women.

In low-income countries girls lag behind boys in education due to social norms that place less value on girls than boys. Girls are forced into early marriage and early pregnancy; many are illiterate or do not finish primary school. Improving education for girls, delaying child marriage and early childbearing, dispelling misconceptions about what girls can or cannot do, and engaging boys and men in backing positive change, will lead to gender equality.

Thanks to generous supporters like you,
Children Believe is making change happen.

While schooling has been a particular challenge in recent months due to COVID-19 restrictions around the world, we have continued our commitment to help children learn and stay safe (p. 4).

As we celebrate 60 years of helping children (p. 13) overcome barriers to accessing education we will continue to strive to reach even more children.

Thank you for helping girls and boys realize their dreams.

My heartfelt gratitude,

Gabriel Ollivier
Chair of the Board

THANK YOU

TO OUR 2020 BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND COMMITMENT
TO CHANGE



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As of September 1, 2020



OUR MISSION

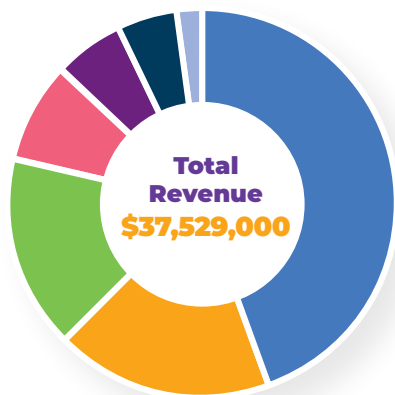
Children Believe creates a future of hope for children, families, and communities by helping them develop the skills and resources to overcome poverty and injustice. For 60 years, we have followed the example of Christ by serving the poor regardless of their faith, cultural, and ethnic background.

OUR VISION

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

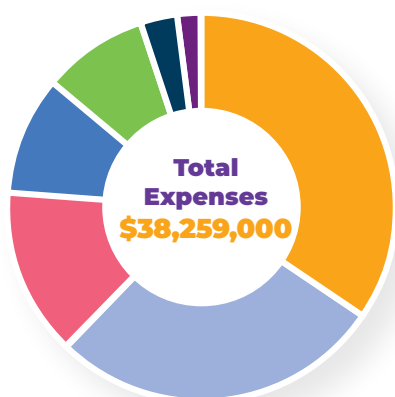
Your generosity raised **\$37,529,000** — sparking change across communities and countries. **THANK YOU!**

2020 REVENUE



- 44%** Child sponsorship
- 18%** Donated goods
- 16%** Global Affairs Canada
- 8%** Other income
- 6%** Specific project appeals
- 5%** Special gifts for children
- 2%** General contributions

2020 EXPENSES



- 35%** Health and nutrition
- 28%** Education
- 14%** Fundraising
- 10%** Administration
- 9%** Strengthening community organizations
- 3%** Sustainable economic development
- 2%** Water, sanitation and hygiene

Summarized Statement of Operations

For the year-ended March 31, 2020 [in thousands of dollars]

	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Sponsorship and other contributions	24,705	26,576
Donated medications/gifts in kind	6,664	8,523
Contributions from Global Affairs Canada	6,160	6,585
TOTAL REVENUE	37,529	41,684
EXPENDITURE		
Program services		
Health and nutrition	13,389	15,397
Education	10,640	10,317
Strengthening community organizations	3,526	2,858
Sustainable economic development	1,141	1,897
Water, sanitation and hygiene	574	774
Emergency Response	19	48
Fundraising	5,247	4,681
Administration	3,723	3,877
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	38,259	39,849
Excess of revenue over expenditure (Expenditure over revenue) for the year	(730)	1,835

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

For the year-ended March 31, 2020 [in thousands of dollars]

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current assets	4,713	6,248
Investments	5,834	5,794
Capital assets	4,711	4,916
TOTAL ASSETS	15,258	16,958
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	3,984	3,879
Deferred contributions	3,554	4,427
Demand loan	201	403
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,739	8,709
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	3,009	3,736
Internally restricted - emergency response reserve	—	—
Invested in capital assets	4,510	4,513
TOTAL NET ASSETS	7,519	8,249
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	15,258	16,958

For Children Believe detailed independently audited Financial Statements, visit: childrenbelieve.ca/accountability.

Children Believe is an independent and autonomous organization and, unlike many other Canadian International development registered charities, Children Believe does not flow funds through international governing bodies or regional offices. Instead, funds donated to Children Believe are distributed directly to countries of operation for program activities. Further, as part of our social impact strategy, Children Believe does not employ expatriates in our field offices. We are committed to hiring nationals.



Thanks to your generosity... together we broke barriers to education. Here's how...



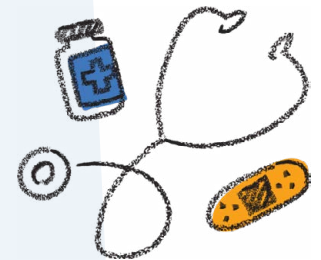
1. You support thriving communities

466,000 children, teachers, caretakers and parents benefited from greater access to inclusive, quality education

254,300 community members benefited from access to maternal and child healthcare services

More children could learn and play due to **189** newly constructed or renovated classrooms and libraries

313,901 school supplies (pencils, uniforms, and books) made it possible for **45,894** children to attend and stay in school



See how education is at the heart of Children Believe's work: bit.ly/ChildrenBelieveEducation.



2. You advance child rights and protection



Awareness campaigns helped **122,238** people better protect their children and other families' health

Education campaigns helped **164,170** people learn about child rights and protection

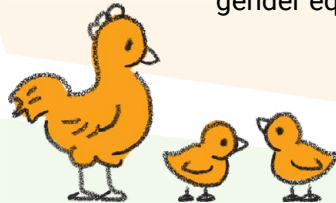
Advanced child-rights training helped **95,372** community members, **549** teachers and education workers, as well **108** government departments, become advocates for change



3. You help promote equality for girls

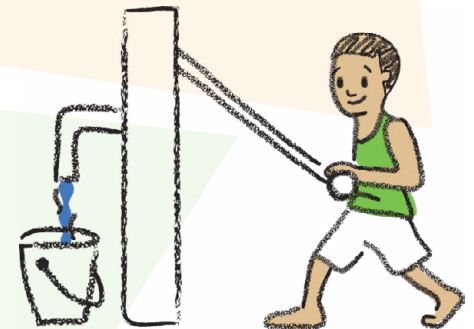
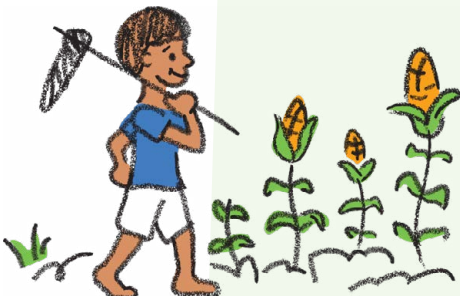
17,077 young women directly benefitted from vocational and business skills development training and accessed saving and credit associations to improve their wellbeing

52,000 community members, leaders and local administrators were trained and supported to promote gender equality, including women's rights

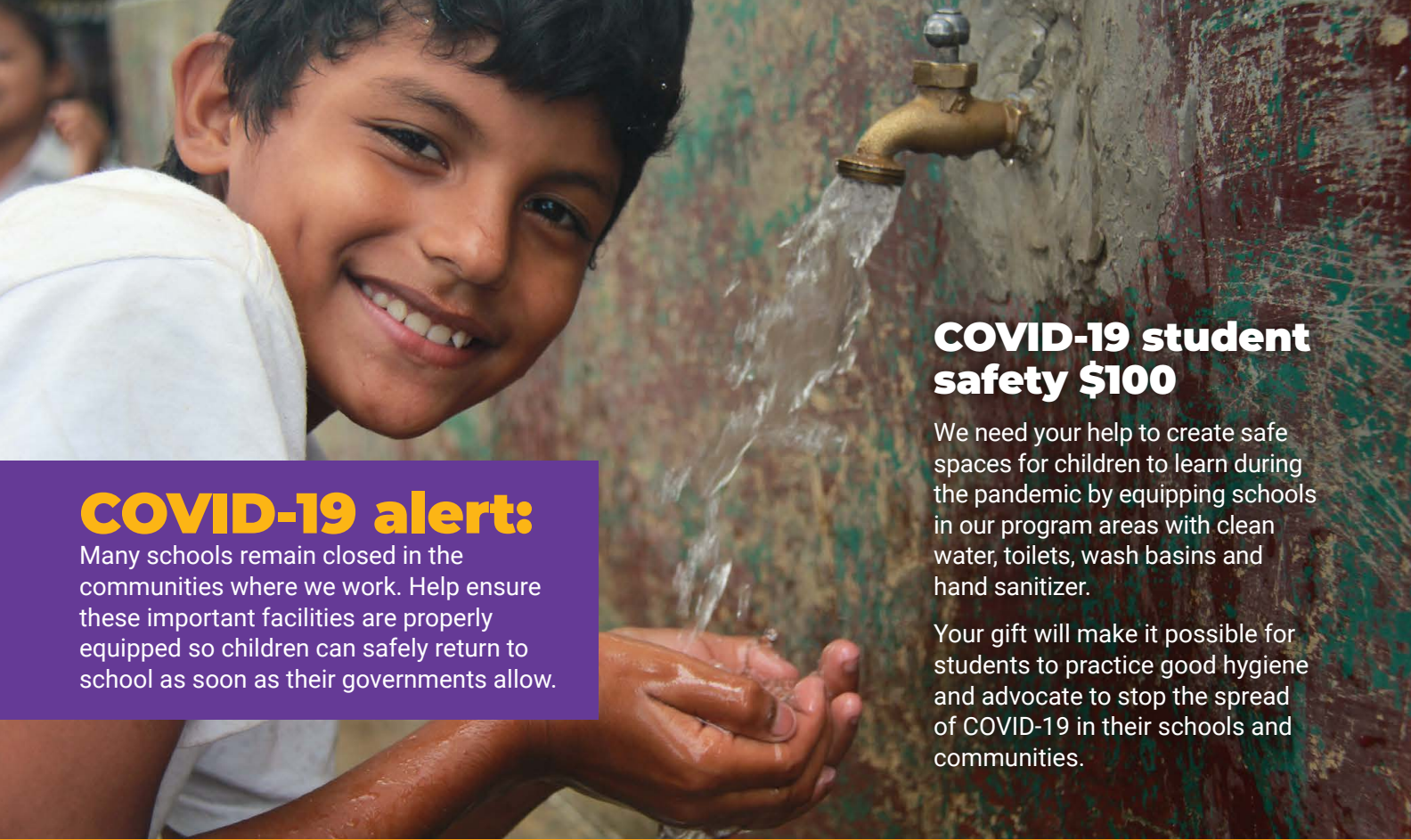


4. You help us partner with children for change

77,000 children and youth-led platforms were supported to promote meaningful participation of children in decision-making that affects their future



Statistics are based on Children Believe's last fiscal year (April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020). For more annual report insights, visit childrenbelieve.ca.



COVID-19 alert:

Many schools remain closed in the communities where we work. Help ensure these important facilities are properly equipped so children can safely return to school as soon as their governments allow.

COVID-19 student safety \$100

We need your help to create safe spaces for children to learn during the pandemic by equipping schools in our program areas with clean water, toilets, wash basins and hand sanitizer.

Your gift will make it possible for students to practice good hygiene and advocate to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their schools and communities.

VISIT childrenbelieve.ca/covid-19-student-safety, OR CALL 1.800.263.5437

GCATFY21/DMH/CVFALLFY21



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