

child voice

SPRING/SUMMER 2014 | ISSUE 17

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Children share
how you are
changing
their lives

SMALL VOICES, BIG DREAMS

Views on violence,
heroes and happiness

6 WAYS YOU
ARE HELPING
CHILDREN

Christian
Children's
Fund
of Canada

A member of ChildFund
Alliance



www.ccfcanada.ca

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

What can your generosity change? The answer is: everything.

The name of this magazine, *ChildVoice*, is a thoughtfully chosen one. For more than 50 years, supporters like you have helped Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC) be a voice for children – and you've helped children discover their own voice.

At the core of our child-centred development work are our efforts to empower CCFC-supported communities to provide a safe, supportive, and secure environment for children to learn and grow, and to instill in each child the confidence to use their voice.

In this issue you will learn about two vitally important initiatives that are helping the voices of children be heard around the world – our global campaign to protect children from violence and exploitation, and the results of our *Small Voices, Big Dreams* survey, one of the most comprehensive polls of children's opinions in the world.

You will also discover the voices of children throughout the magazine sharing how your generosity is impacting their lives. Whether you've helped fund a school, sponsored a child, or made a selection from our gift



catalogue, each way of giving is essential to achieving our dream of a world where every child has a voice and the ability to achieve their full potential.

To a vulnerable and impoverished child, your generosity truly changes everything. Thank you.

MARK LUKOWSKI
CEO and Child Sponsor
Christian Children's Fund of Canada

FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

Join our global campaign to protect the world's children

Hundreds of millions of children experience violence and exploitation every day around the world. This will not change unless we all take action.

CCFC, as a member of the ChildFund Alliance, is giving children – and you – a chance to help make child protection a global priority in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

To bring the experiences of children to

world leaders, the ChildFund Alliance held over 50 focus groups with more than 1,000 children in 41 countries. Children shared stories of shocking abuse, including forced early marriage, child labour and violence, and called on world leaders to take action.

Today, you can join their voices by supporting our *Free From Violence and Exploitation* campaign. By signing our petition, you become part of the butterfly effect, a movement led by all 12 members of the ChildFund Alliance to let governments and the United Nations know children must be better protected.



PLEASE SIGN OUR PETITION AND HELP US PUT CHILD PROTECTION ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA. VISIT: FREEFROMVIOLENCE.ORG

childvoice

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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.

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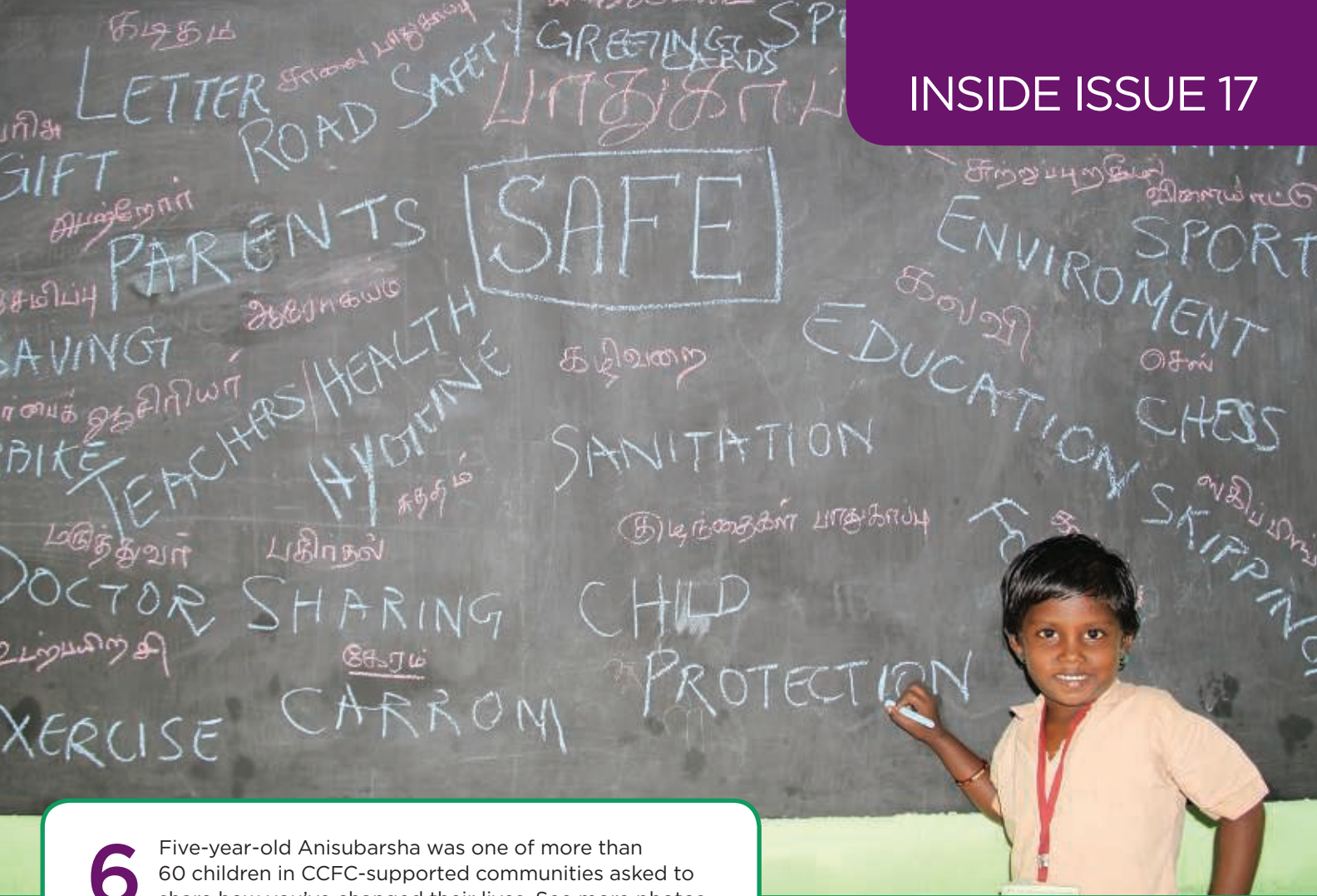


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ACCESSIBILITY

As part of our commitment to excellence, we seek to recognize and remove the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities and are always open to suggestions on how to improve our services. Please contact us by telephone at 1-800-263-5437 or by sending an email to AODA@ccfcanada.ca.



6 Five-year-old Anisubarsha was one of more than 60 children in CCFC-supported communities asked to share how you've changed their lives. See more photos.

INDIA

on the cover

The cover photo features 10-year-old Jesús from Paraguay. A kind donor selected Jesús' bicycle from CCFC's gift catalogue in 2013, and he continues to ride it daily to school and the community centre.

“This bike is very useful for me. Thank you very much. This was a long dream and I am happy that finally I got one!”



www.cfcCanada.ca

2013 global survey

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SMALL VOICES, BIG DREAMS

Views on violence, heroes and happiness

The voices of children are passionate, insightful and heartbreakingly honest – sometimes revealing painful truths.

“I was often beaten at least twice a week,” shared 11-year-old Tinh in Vietnam, one of almost 6,500 10-to-12 year olds surveyed in 47 countries, including 400 children in Canada. The fourth annual *Small Voices, Big Dreams* survey revealed children, despite their tender age, are acutely aware of violence and its causes in their country.

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY ARE AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

In Asia, one in four children said alcohol was the main cause of violence. Meanwhile, in Africa, children see poverty as the root cause, and in the Americas, one in five children mentioned domestic abuse – significantly higher than any other region.

CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO FEEL A SENSE OF SAFETY FROM SCHOOLING

Although children worry about violence, many believe some problems can be addressed by including more laws (30%), improving education (12%) and addressing poverty.

The survey also reminded us of the importance of childhood heroes – people who make children feel loved, secure or inspired.

Children around the world were most likely to report family members as their heroes (46%), followed by political leaders or activists (11%). In developing countries, children are more likely to view their teachers as heroes than in developed countries, and are five times more likely to derive happiness and a sense of safety from schooling.

The results of the survey, administered by ChildFund Alliance members, including CCFC, were shared in participating countries – helping children’s thoughts, ideas and concerns be heard globally.



“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.”

Kofi A. Annan
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

AFRICAN NATIONS | Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia
THE AMERICAS | Bolivia, Brazil, Dominica & St Vincent, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay
ASIAN COUNTRIES | Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

PARTICIPATING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Sweden, Taiwan, USA

CHILDFUND ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Barnfonden, Sweden; Børnefonden, Denmark; ChildFund Australia; ChildFund Deutschland; ChildFund International; ChildFund Ireland; ChildFund Japan; ChildFund Korea; ChildFund New Zealand; Christian Children’s Fund of Canada; Taiwan Fund for Children and Families; Un Enfant Par La Main, France

“ ” ...from kids



LOAN, 10, VIETNAM

VIOLENCE

“If I were a president, I would advise adults not to drink wine and beat children. The main reason of violence in my community is being overdrunk.”

CHILD PROTECTION

“Men and women, boys and girls should not be treated differently.”

PEACE

“Children’s lives without war, without being beaten and no one being drunk.”

VIOLENCE

“In my opinion the main reason for violence in India is the caste system. It puts some high on the social ladder, while it makes the lives of others miserable by branding them as low-caste people ... we can stop this by treating everyone equally.”

CHILD PROTECTION

“I would make sure all children, especially girls, have a bicycle to go to school. I would also ban corporal punishment in school, making studying a joyful affair.”



RACHNA, 11, INDIA

HAPPINESS AND SAFETY

“I feel safe and happy when I am with my family, especially with my parents. I feel secure also at my school as my teachers love me and care for me.”



BISHOP, 10, CANADA

VIOLENCE

“The main cause of violence in Canada is gangs.”

CHILD PROTECTION

“To protect children I would give all kids security guards.”

HAPPINESS AND SAFETY

“What makes me feel safe and happy is my home, my school, my family and my friends.”

VIEW SURVEY

ccfcanada.ca/smallvoices2013

SUMMARY OF 2013 SURVEY RESULTS

Developing Countries | Developed Countries

What do you think are the main causes of violence in your country?

	Developing Countries	Developed Countries
Bad behaviour	26%	33%
Poverty	21%	10%
Alcohol	13%	21%
Drugs	8%	18%
Social conflict	13%	8%
Domestic abuse/violence	11%	9%
War/fighting	10%	9%
Lack of education	12%	2%

What would you do as leader of your country to protect children from violence?

	Developing Countries	Developed Countries
More law/order	28%	33%
Improve education	17%	6%
Guarantee child safety	13%	11%
Provide safe shelter	6%	8%
Stop violence	6%	4%
Stop abuse/violence	6%	2%
Build schools	5%	0%
Ban guns	0%	6%

What makes you feel happy and safe?

	Developing Countries	Developed Countries
Being with family	50%	65%
Being with friends	14%	31%
School/education	25%	5%
Being at home	9%	19%
Playing games/sports	14%	7%
Basic needs met	6%	4%
Not in trouble/beaten	5%	2%
Peace/no more war	4%	1%

Who is your hero?

	Developing Countries	Developed Countries
Family	44%	48%
Political leaders/activists	16%	5%
Fictional characters	4%	6%
Teacher/coach	7%	1%
Athletes	4%	6%
Religious beings/figures	6%	3%
Artists and entertainers	2%	4%
Friends	2%	2%

Six ways YOU are helping children

Sponsorship | Child Essentials | Leadership Giving
Legacy Giving | Disaster Response | Gift Catalogue

Because of your generosity, this year many children will go to school for the first time, receive their first vaccination at a health clinic, or take their first drink of clean water. Your commitment to CCFC helps empower communities to raise healthy, educated and inspired children, and encourages children to discover their

voice – and use it! In the following pages we’ve highlighted six ways of giving that empower children and communities, and invited children to share how your support is helping them be safe, healthy, happy and free from violence and exploitation.

Children in CCFC-supported communities were asked by staff in our field offices about how donors help them and their communities. Children were happy and eager to voice their thoughts!



Burkina Faso

Sitta, 12, Josaphate, 11, and Léon, 14, met with three other friends in a classroom on their day off school. “They raised their hands to answer,” shares CCFC’s Inge Jacobs. “Shy at first, after a few minutes many hands went up at once because they were so eager to share their thoughts!”



Paraguay

“Love,” “protection,” “hope,” and “dreams,” are four of the words Yenifer, 10, and her friends wrote in Spanish at their community centre. “Children used red, white and blue chalk, the colours of the Paraguayan flag,” says CCFC’s Rosanna Menchaca.



Ethiopia

“It was a happy event,” says CCFC’s Semereta Sewasew. “Children had fun calling out words, not knowing the English name, and enjoyed lowering the blackboard and having their pictures taken.” The exercise took place after school in a classroom that CCFC built.



Ghana

“This photo was taken during school break time in the morning,” says CCFC’s William Anim-Dankwa. “The students were so excited to answer, it became like a fun competition. The rest of the children were hovering around wanting to be part of the exercise.”

did you know? The voices of children are reflected in the community programs and projects you support! We partner with child and youth groups, listen to their voices, and engage them as active participants in community development.

1 SPONSORSHIP

It takes a healthy community to raise a healthy child. For this reason, sponsor donations are pooled together to help construct classrooms, stock health posts, build wells, and support many other projects that benefit not just one child – but all children in the community.

Children in the community receive:

- ▶ Clean water
- ▶ Nutritious food
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Medical care

Visit: www.ccfcanada.ca/Sponsor-a-Child
Call: 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610
Email: donor-relations@ccfcanada.ca

2 CHILD ESSENTIALS

Each month, CCFC combines your gifts with the contributions of other Child Essentials donors. Your gifts help fund vital community projects that support the basic needs of children and adults alike.

Donors help fund projects that:

- ▶ Increase access to clean water
- ▶ Provide food and treat malnutrition
- ▶ Help with preventative care to reduce illnesses, and treatments for those who are sick
- ▶ Improve education and job training

Visit: www.ccfcanada.ca/child-essentials
Call: 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610
Email: donor-relations@ccfcanada.ca

3 LEADERSHIP GIVING

We are embarking on a great campaign to end poverty in entire communities. Your partnership will *Transform Communities* through life-changing education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and skills development projects.

We invite you to:

- ▶ Work closely with us to create tailored projects that will help improve the life of every child, youth and adult in a community
- ▶ Learn more about our exciting *Transform Communities* initiative

Visit: www.ccfcanada.ca/leadership-giving
Call: Layla at 1-800-263-5437 ext. 525
Email: lvelasquez@ccfcanada.ca

4 LEGACY GIVING

Remembering CCFC in your Will ensures you can continue to improve the lives of children for generations to come – and leave a powerful legacy of your own.

Ways you can leave a legacy gift:

- ▶ Bequest or gift by Will
- ▶ Gift of securities
- ▶ Gift of life insurance
- ▶ Charitable gift annuity

Visit: www.ccfcanada.ca/legacy-giving
Call: Layla at 1-800-263-5437 ext. 525
Email: lvelasquez@ccfcanada.ca

5 DISASTER RESPONSE

Your donations assist those affected by earthquake, flood, or drought to rebuild their lives and recover. We invest in emergency preparedness training in more than 100 communities, and as a member of the ChildFund Alliance, we are part of critical emergency relief efforts around the world.

Your generosity funds:

- ▶ Emergency relief (e.g. food aid, shelter, medications)
- ▶ Disaster recovery (e.g. drought resistant seeds, fertilizers, goats, chickens)

Visit: www.ccfcanada.ca/disaster-response
Call: 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610
Email: donor-relations@ccfcanada.ca

6 GIFT CATALOGUE

Supporters select from more than 40 locally-sourced gifts that can help lift a child and their family out of poverty, ranging in price from a \$10 bag of rice to a \$5,000 rainwater harvesting tank.

Popular gift items include:

- ▶ Warm blanket (\$20)
- ▶ Fruit trees (\$25)
- ▶ Child's first books (\$30)
- ▶ Five chickens (\$50)
- ▶ Goat or sheep (\$100)

Visit: www.ccfcatalogue.ca
Call: 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610
Email: donor-relations@ccfcanada.ca

SPONSORSHIP

Children use their voice for change

Thirteen-year-old Akkammal sits on the floor of the CCFC children's library in India making entries in the book lending register. The bubbly seventh grader is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of nearly 400 books in a library run entirely by children. What makes this story so remarkable is the incredible transformation the library has brought to the community. Caring child sponsors helped make it possible.

“As soon as I open the door, the children will rush in to select books!” grins Akkammal. “We children never actually had a place to call our own and we did not know that books could be so interesting!”

About 121 families live in Akkammal's remote agricultural village. Before the library was built, most of the parents, not having been to school, weren't supportive of their children's education, preferring them to work or do chores.

“After the school hours we used to take care of our cattle and fetch firewood,” says Akkammal. “Now, not only the children but also our school teachers use the library whenever they are free. This is the only recreational and knowledge haven in the whole village for all of us!”

Children at the library talked of how the books have changed not just their lives, but the attitudes of parents, too.



“My father is a farmer and he cannot read or write,” shares 13-year-old Devisakkammal, “so, when I read a story



EXCITED CHILDREN HOLD UP THEIR LIBRARY BOOKS

on the consequences of contamination and poisoning from insecticide, I told my father that whenever he finished spraying insecticide for the crops, it was vital for him to wash his face, hands and body with soap before he touched water or food. Thanks to that book I was able to caution my father, and now I know our whole family will be safe from such contamination.”



“I love nature and get very upset when people make our village dirty,” shares 13-year-old Pappasakkammal. “One evening when we were having dinner, I told my parents a story I had read in one of the books about a beautiful tree that had lost all its leaves and branches because the people of the village kept dumping plastic bags near its roots.” She says that from that day forward, her entire family stopped using plastic bags.

“THANKFULLY, NOW THERE IS A SENSE OF SECURITY AMONG MY FAMILY AND THE ENTIRE VILLAGE!”

“The book helped me realize that we must protect our surroundings to be able to feel safe from environmental hazards,” says Pappasakkammal. “Thankfully, now there is a sense of security among my family and the entire village.”



AKKAMMAL RETURNING A BOOK

did you know?

Once a year you'll receive a Child Progress Report to update you about your child's achievements. It includes a photograph of your child so you can see how much they've grown!

Each Saturday, a group of 25 children and youth meet at a local community centre in Paraguay to discuss issues that impact children – helping foster leadership and community engagement. The topic of “criadazgo” is one that struck a chord with many in the group.

Criadazgo is the cultural practice of child labour where families living in poverty send their children to work as domestic servants in exchange for room, board and schooling. The reality is that many children become the victims of sexual exploitation, and often lack access to education.



Verónica, a participant in the community centre’s weekly gatherings, had a chance to educate other children about child labour when she played the lead in Anita’s Diary, a play about a girl “criadita” (domestic servant).

“I really enjoyed playing the role of Anita in Anita’s Diary. She was a teenager, like me, living in poverty, and travelled to the city to work. Interested in improving her and her family’s life, she found a very different reality, where she couldn’t find an exit. She couldn’t find the courage to run away, she was really afraid of the situation. If I were her, I will try to call my family and let them know what happened, or I will run or fight to escape. Anita’s Diary was a unique experience. Not only because I started to act and learn how to do it, but also, because Anita’s story is part of a reality of a lot of children in Paraguay that I didn’t realize before.”

VERÓNICA, 13, PARAGUAY

CHILD ESSENTIALS

Mother and daughter freed from fear

The importance of toilets in developing countries rarely makes headlines. Yet, poor sanitation contributes to 1.5 million preventable child deaths each year*, and chronic diarrhea leaves many more children underweight and malnourished – vulnerable to illness and disease. Lack of privacy, or nearby facilities, also places children, particularly girls, at risk of being targeted by predators.

Maharasinandhini, age 8, is from a small agricultural hamlet in India. Her village, home to nearly 100 families, has just 26 houses with toilets. Thanks to Child Essentials donors, the lives of 20 families have been transformed by this simple, but critical investment that has brought safe sanitation practices, dignity, and privacy to their lives.

“I AM NOT AFRAID ANYMORE!”

“My parents are used to going to the bathroom in the open fields and taught me to do the same. Now we have a toilet at home. We don’t have to go outside. Every time I needed to use the open field my mother would go with me. She was afraid somebody would kidnap me. We would never go out at night, fearing the worst. I am very thankful that CCFC has built us a comfortable toilet, and both my mother and I are not afraid anymore. We feel safe because it is private and walled off from the outside. Also, I learned from school that going to the bathroom in the open can spread diseases. I don’t want to fall sick and not be able to go to school, so a big THANK YOU to CCFC for our toilet!”

MAHARASINANDHINI, 8, INDIA



MAHARASINANDHINI (FAR RIGHT) AND HER FAMILY STANDING PROUDLY IN FRONT OF THEIR TOILET

*Source: UNWater.org

did you know? Three times a year, we’ll send you the Child Essentials *Inspiring Change* newsletter providing you with updates on how your gifts are improving communities around the world.

LEADERSHIP GIVING

600 miracles take root

With the help of generous leadership donors, nearly 600 moringa tree saplings can be seen poking out of the earth in six dry, dusty villages in Ethiopia, eagerly watched by 200 families and nearly 2,000 school children.

The special nutrition project is helping transform a community – bringing greater food security to Langanu, a drought prone area in Ethiopia that has resulted in a high rate of malnutrition among children.



“My father planted the moringa tree. I have been helping him with watering the plant. He has told me the leaves of this tree can be cooked and eaten.” Dale, 10, Ethiopia

The moringa tree has earned its nickname, “the miracle tree,” by its powerful role in fighting hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

Able to grow in harsh climates, the leaves of the tree contain more vitamin A than carrots, more vitamin C than oranges, more calcium than milk, more potassium than bananas, more iron than spinach, and a protein quality comparable to milk or eggs. It also contains medicinal properties, and can be used to heal hypertension, stomach pain, intestinal worms, and skin diseases that are rampant in the Langanu area.

Two hundred farmers, and select teachers from five schools, are learning about the moringa tree’s nutritional value, ways it can be prepared and eaten (including as a salad, or added to vegetable dishes, soups or bread), and how to care for the trees to help ensure their survival.

Dale and Gemedu are two of the children eagerly watching the trees grow.

INVESTMENT IN
COMMUNITY PROJECTS
IN ALL SECTORS
IS ESSENTIAL FOR
IMPROVING THE LIVES
OF CHILDREN



“I know if you are sick the moringa tree can be used to heal you. Last time when I was not feeling well my mother picked a few leaves to make me tea. I drank the tea and was soon feeling much better. Thank you for giving us this medicinal tree.”

Gemedu, 9, Ethiopia

did you know?

Tackling the deep roots of poverty requires transformational thinking, and investment in all five sectors: education; health and nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene; sustainable livelihood development; and strengthening community organizations. For years, compassionate donors have generously partnered with CCFC to help build infrastructure projects that are life-altering for everyone in the community for generations to come. We call this: **TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES.**

You have the ability to create new, healthy roots in a community with transformational gifts, such as:

- ▷ Planting 600 moringa trees (\$15,000),
- ▷ Building a rainwater harvesting tank (\$5,000),
- ▷ Stocking a medical clinic (\$4,000), or,
- ▷ Supplying a maternal health clinic (\$1,500).

To make a major investment in the lives of children, call or email Layla at 1-800-263-5437 ext. 525, 905-754-1013, or lvelasquez@ccfcanada.ca.

LEGACY GIVING

Children taught in a “real” classroom

Thanks to thoughtful donors, legacy gifts to CCFC helped fund a new early childhood development centre, a rainwater harvesting tank, and a playground in a Ghanaian farming community of nearly 600. Today, 347 children benefit, including Hamdia and Walmana.

“The church room we used to be taught in was very small and dark so sometimes some of us were asked to go and learn under a tree nearby. The sun was too hot sometimes, and when it rained we went home. When people passed or there was a noise we all turned to look.

Learning in the new classroom is different. We are not crowded and we enjoy sitting in our chairs – one for everybody! We also enjoy the play equipment that was brought here. It is enclosed so the goats don’t go there and it is clean. I like the swing and the seesaw. I am able to swing freely and it makes me very happy.”

HAMDIA, 11, GHANA



HAMDIA SITTING ON THE PLAYGROUND SLIDE IN FRONT OF HER NEW SCHOOL

“I remember clearly what it was like having to sit in a small crowded church. Because we were so many, the teacher would ask me and my friends to go and sit under the tree next to the church. We made so much noise outside, that the teacher would come out from the church and ask us to keep quiet.

“THE NEW CLASSROOM IS VERY NICE. THERE ARE DRAWINGS ON THE WALLS AND THE CLASSROOM IS SPACIOUS AND AIRY.”

At other times the sun would drive us from under the tree. Over there, it was too hot and often we would be sweating. Sometimes I did not want to go to school.

The new classroom is very nice. There are drawings on the walls and the classroom is spacious and airy. We no longer have to leave the classroom when it is about to rain. In addition there are enough teachers to teach all the classes and we have a playground, too.

Before the new playground, we played soccer with plastic balls or old socks rolled into a ball. Now, I enjoy the swing and seesaw. It is fun having to compete with friends about who can swing the highest. We can move from one game to another within a protected fence. God bless all the donors.”

WALMANA, 12, GHANA



WALMANA, HAPPY HE'S NO LONGER TAUGHT UNDER A TREE



WALMANA, ENJOYING A SWING

did you know?

We can help you create a lasting legacy that reflects your own interests, whether you have modest or significant means. Bequests, gifts of securities, and gifts of life insurance are three of the ways our supporters choose to leave their legacy of love.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Little sister gets a second chance

A little shy, but quick to smile, Sonia lives in the Central region of Burkina Faso, one of the areas frequently hit by drought and food insecurity for the past 10 years. During the most recent drought, CCFC provided emergency food aid to 4,124 and 3,300 families in two rounds, and lifesaving support to 51 children. As part of the recovery phase to increase self-sufficiency, families received seeds and fertilizers, goats and sheep, and training on improved nutrition.

did you know?

We believe emergency preparedness and risk management are key to ensuring the resiliency of a community in the event of a disaster. That's why in addition to emergency aid, we invest in emergency preparedness training with people living in 100 communities within our six countries of operation.

10-YEAR-OLD SONIA SHARES HER STORY...

"I have two brothers and one little sister of one year and a half. Her name is Elodie. When the rain went away and we had no food, she got very sick. I remember eating only one meal a day and feeling hungry all the time.

After [CCFC-trained] community volunteers met Elodie and saw she was sick, my family was given oil, sugar, flour, dry fish, rice and beans every month. We got two goats, seeds and fertilizer to help make our vegetables grow better.

We have many more crops this year and the goats have had two little babies. Best of all, the people who wanted to help us kept my little sister from getting sicker and helped her get better. We are happy my sister is well and we are safe."



SONIA AND HER SISTER ELODIE

GIFT CATALOGUE

Learning at play

Kind donors, passionate about giving children a chance to learn at play, helped purchase 86 sports balls through the CCFC Gift Catalogue. The basketballs, volleyballs and soccer balls were distributed to five primary schools, two secondary schools, a community centre, and two police stations in Managua, Nicaragua earlier this year. The youth group, JUPAC (Youth Thinking and Acting), organizes sport leagues among the local schools and neighbourhoods to help children, like Steven, learn about fair play, teamwork and cooperation to promote a culture of non-violence.



JUPAC MEMBERS PLAYING SOCCER

"In my neighbourhood, we play football (soccer), basketball and volleyball. In football, we learn to work together and play as a team because we are many, and we should all touch the ball to score a goal. Playing football also teaches cooperation, because we pass the ball to each other. When we play we have fun, no matter who wins or loses. What I learn with sports I put into practice in my home. For example, when I clean my house I do it with my sisters and my friends. I would like to say thanks to the donors for the balls, because before we did not have balls to play. If we did not have the balls we could not play, and we would spend our time doing drugs and drinking alcohol."

STEVEN, 11, NICARAGUA

did you know?

Your donations to select items in our gift catalogue are multiplied through Canadian government contributions. This means that your gift will go 4 TIMES further!

**SEE WHAT GIFTS HAVE
4X THE IMPACT | ccfcatalogue.ca**

SUPPORTER Q&A

Answers to your questions about more ways to give

Q: Are there any different or new ways of supporting children in need?

A: If you're looking for a different way to change a child's life, consider making a general donation. Your support will be put to use in the area of greatest need. To learn more, call 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610 or email donor-relations@ccfcanda.ca. Later this year, CCFC will be sharing a new way of helping children that will let you choose where you direct your monthly gift! Stay tuned for more details.

Q: Can I do my own fundraising?

A: Yes! We are happy to help your fundraising efforts in whatever way we can. Whether you want to organize an activity, such as a walk, bake sale or golf fundraiser for a community project close to your heart; engage your child's school in helping equip a classroom overseas; or match employee gifts at your company to build a well, we're here to help you. Call 1-800-263-5437 or email info@ccfcanda.ca.

MILES FOR SMILES

Pedalling for a purpose

Last year, John Parkinson, a Montreal-based pharmaceutical research director, embarked on a 2,500-kilometre cycling challenge to raise \$5,000 for mothers and children in Ethiopia. Below John shares what inspired him to hop on his bike and start pedalling for CCFC's IMPACT project (Improving Maternal and Child Health: Partnership and Action for Community Transformation).

I was inspired to start Miles for Smiles ... after I started commuting to work in Laval from my home on Montreal Island during the summer of 2012. I thought to myself, "Why not just try to do that at a higher level and see if I can raise money for a charity?" I kept friends abreast of my progress through *Miles for Smiles* updates in 2012 and 2013.

What made me excited about supporting the IMPACT project ... was the chance to make a real difference. Every minute, around the world, at least one woman dies from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth, and about one million children are left motherless. The additional multiplying funds from the Canadian government, which means a donation has four times the impact, was a huge additional motivator.

I was stunned ... at the donation amounts that were chipped in to the effort by my colleagues and connections through my health club. Generosity is an amazing thing! The highlight of the year was a 55+ mile ride down by Lake Champlain from the New York state side to the Vermont state side. This was the last ride of the year in beautiful fall weather with a colleague from



JOHN TAKING A BREAK PEDALLING DURING A WEEKEND RIDE

work which took me over my 1,600 mile target. The sunshine was spectacular and the ride ended with a ferry trip back across the water.

My advice to others ... is know what you want to do, tell everyone you can, break it down into accomplishable sub-goals, and keep them updated on progress. Be transparent, courteous – don't be too pushy – and report back on final outcomes. Positive outcomes and feedback will stand you in good stead for the future.

My wife and I, and our network of donors, raised ... \$5,006. With the federal government contribution, that will come to \$20,024!! I am riding again for *Miles for Smiles* in 2014 to help more children and families.

VISIT MILES FOR SMILES

ccfcanda.ca/miles-for-smiles

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

We gave six children in CCFC-supported communities a camera, and asked them to take a picture showing what makes them feel safe. Below are their photos and stories.



MY HOUSE



SAHADA

"I feel safe when I am in my house with my mom and dad. My house is small, but when I am scared, I go inside and I feel protected."

Sahada, 12, Burkina Faso



OUR MURAL

"This is the mural at the community centre. I like the mural because it says that we live without violence. Thanks to CCFC, it has created a space without violence for us."

Elimar, 12, Nicaragua



ELIMAR



ARSI



MY FAMILY'S GRAIN PILE

"I took a picture of the grain pile on my family's farmland. When I see the grain pile, I know that me and my family will have enough food to eat this year. This makes me safe."

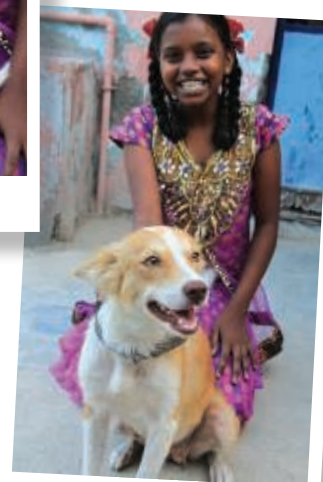
Arsi, 8, Ethiopia



MY DOG JIMMY

"This is Jimmy, my dog! Jimmy is very brave and barks at anyone who passes our home. I love Jimmy and feel safe and protected when she is around. Jimmy only trusts me, so I had to hold her while someone else took the photo!"

Nivedha, 13, India



NIVEDHA

WORDS OF THANKS

EVERYDAY HEROES



MAINA



ALIA AND FATIMA IN OUR CLASS

“These are my friends, Alia and Fatima. They are always there for me though sometimes they rebuke me if I’m naughty. I like them because we share things together and they are kind to me. When we are together I feel very safe.”

Maina, 15, Ghana



ROBERTO



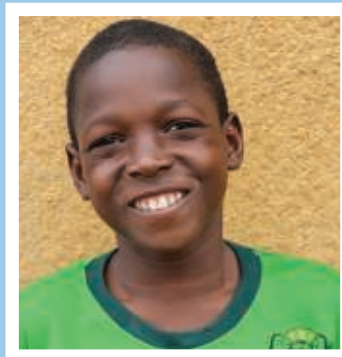
NADIA, MY TEACHER

“I feel safe and happy with my teacher, Nadia, because I do homework with her and we also play soccer.”

Roberto, 12, Paraguay

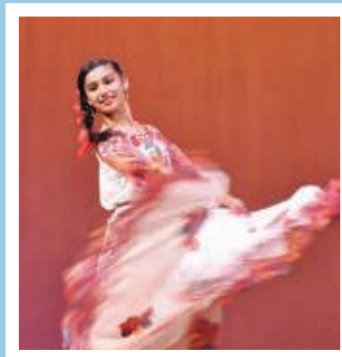


CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO YOU



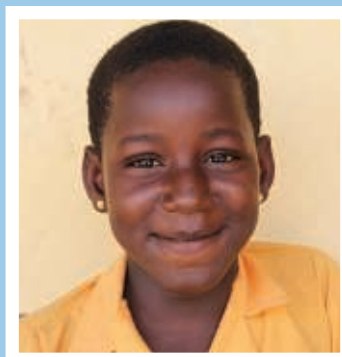
“The CCFC sponsors in Canada are my heroes because it’s thanks to them that I am now studying in secondary school. I’d like to be a teacher later, so that I can serve my community and the children and be their hero one day too!”

Lassané, 14, Burkina Faso



“Thank you!!! For everything you do to help me and the children of my community. Thank you for your gifts, for what YOU do for us, and for helping us have the opportunity to go study and to dance.”

Arania, 14, Paraguay



“As a child with a disability that makes it difficult to walk, I find it interesting for somebody I do not know to care and be willing to improve my life. This support is an inspiration to me to work hard in spite of my present circumstance. I hope to progress to the next stage of my education and to become an important personality. I am grateful to my sponsor and CCFC.”

Aisha, 13, Ghana

YOU CAN HELP IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN NICARAGUA FOR CHILDREN LIKE FLOR



ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD FLOR IS HEALTHY
THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT OF CCFC

Lifesaving medical care should be within reach of every child and family. But sadly, in many of the communities that CCFC serves, it is not always the case.

In Nicaragua, when eight-year-old Flor became dangerously ill, the nearest doctor was hours away. Her grandmother had to carry her in her arms for seven kilometres to the nearest health clinic. And then, they had to wait all day for the doctor to see Flor to try and save her life.

Thanks to the generous support of our CCFC donors, we were able to raise funds to repair and build a new health clinic in Flor's neighbourhood. She and her grandmother can now walk just a few minutes to reach the clinic. Her life is forever changed, because of the generosity of donors like you.

But, there is still an urgent need for two new medical clinics in Nicaragua, so that children, mothers, fathers and grandparents do not have to go through the kind of hardship that Flor and her family did.

We need your help today.

Please visit www.cfcCanada.ca/buildclinicsnow or call a donor relations associate toll-free at 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610 to help save another child's life.




You have the power to bring lifesaving healthcare to many other children like Flor!



A member of **ChildFund Alliance**

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www.cfcCanada.ca | Charitable Registration # 10691 8543 RR0001

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