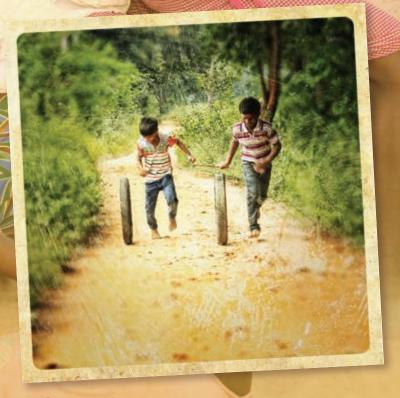
Child V/O I CE 2015 SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE



ccfcanada.ca

HOW CHILDREN
PLAY AROUND
THE WORLD

Because of YOU children realize their rights

Christian Children's Fund of Canada

A member of Ch*IdFund

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

A chance to play: Helping children realize their rights

One of the most endearing sounds heard by Christian Children's Fund of Canada (CCFC)-supported communities is the giggles and laughter of children as they kick a soccer ball, sing and clap to a favourite rhyme, or race around in a frenzied game of tag.

In the middle of poverty, the importance of play to a child's health and development can easily be forgotten. Yet, it is one of more than 50 rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally accepted human rights treaty in history.

Despite a global commitment to advancing children's rights, and progress to celebrate, much work is vet to be done to ensure children's rights are upheld. Millions of children are denied access to safe water and sanitation, adequate food, primary health care and basic education. And many more feel their voices are not heard, or taken seriously, by adults.

In this issue, we share what children think about their rights through our fifth annual Small Voices, Big Dreams survey, one of the largest polls of



children's views in the world. We also share how your generosity - and our work - together, is advancing the rights of children and bringing joy to their lives. Thank you for all you do to help every child be safe to grow. laugh, learn - and play.



Mark Lukowski CEO and Child Sponsor Christian Children's Fund of Canada



ON THE COVER (left to right) Mireille, 10, and 11-year-olds, Germaine, Hampouguini and Emeline, play Group Strength in Burkina Faso. Each team tries to pull the opposing players across a dividing line to join their team - until all players are on one side. Photo by Patrice Zongo

Inset: Charan, 9, and Banu, 11, "motor race" in India by rolling old tires with a stick. Photo by Lipi Jobson

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

To create 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.

ACCESSIBILITY

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



SMALL VOICES, BIG DREAMS

To mark the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 6,040 children ages 10 to 12 in 44 countries were asked for their views on child rights. The most disturbing discovery in the fifth annual *Small Voices, Big Dreams* survey is the worldwide concern children have that they are not being protected from harm.





CCFC hosted a Children's Panel in Toronto, Ontario to discuss child rights. Charlotte, 11, featured in the *Small Voices, Big Dreams* report, was one of six children who shared their letters to politicians with the news media.



Dear World Leaders: My name is Charlotte and I am here to make a difference. I am here to make you believe that children all around the world need your help. They have the right to be heard..."



Meet Charlotte bit.ly/CCFCSVBD

3,635 children from 34 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas + 2,405 children from 10 developed countries were surveyed

What do child rights mean to you?



52% of children associate child rights with **DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**, such as access to education, followed

by **PROTECTION RIGHTS (27%)**including safety from violence and abuse, and **SURVIVAL RIGHTS (27%)**, such as food, water and health care



In Timor-Leste, **77%** of children think of play as a child right vs **3%** of children in Canada

36% of children in Afghanistan say their right to play is not being met vs 0% in Canada

Which rights for children are not being upheld in your country?

The top answers given by children surveyed included:

- ▶ PROTECTION RIGHTS (32%)
- ▶ DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (28%)
- ► SURVIVAL RIGHTS (20%)
- ► PARTICIPATION RIGHTS (15%)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that children have additional rights and need special care and protection. Rights that were previously negotiable are legally binding. Children have the right to give their own opinion and for adults to take it seriously. How often do you think this is happening in your country?

> Globally, only 11% of those surveyed say children in their country have the right to express an opinion, and that adults take it seriously, always children from Africa are most likely

to say their opinions are RARELY OR NEVER HEARD (35%) vs 12% in Canada

Children have the right to be protected from being hurt or mistreated, in body and mind. How often do you think children in your country are being protected?

24% of children in developing countries say they are rarely or never protected from harm or mistreatment vs 2% in Canada



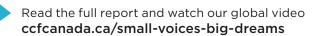
If you were the leader of your country. what would you do to improve the lives of children?

Improving education and learning topped



results in India (72%), Burkina Faso (61%), Ghana (59%), Nicaragua (53%), Ethiopia (27%) and Canada (22%),

whereas providing food, clothing and shelter is a priority for children in Paraguay (58%)





Small Voices, Big Dreams is a global initiative by ChildFund Alliance members, including CCFC, across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia.



BAYARDO, 11, is from Nicaragua where 32% of children surveyed reported never being protected from being hurt or mistreatment.

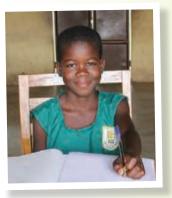


Adults mistreat children and many times even humiliate them. That is worse than physical blows, because it really affects the children and does not allow them to move forward."

Children have the right to protection from work that harms them and is bad for their health and education. How often do you think children are being protected from harmful work in your country?

62% of children from Nicaragua, 61% of children from Mali, and 55% of children from Paraguay are most likely to think children are RARELY or NEVER protected from harmful work vs 2% in Canada





AYISHA, 10, is from Ghana where only 3% of children surveyed said they are always protected from harmful work.



Not every child is protected from harmful work. Some children are made to work day and night to earn a living for the family."











CCFC, and other members of the ChildFund Alliance, have continued to engage world leaders to put child protection on the global agenda. Key to our Free from Violence and Exploitation campaign is children's participation. Together, we're helping children understand their rights, and ensuring their voices reach government and United Nations decision-makers. Below are a few examples.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL IN PARAGUAY

Children and families enjoyed stilt walkers, theatre, balloons, puppets and kite-making in an event celebrating community participation in Free From Violence activities the past year. For most children, it was their first visit to Asunción. Paraguay's capital.

CHILD FEST IN INDIA

More than 350 children took part in Child Fest. Activities included a Free From Violence balloon release, a workshop on child protection, a children's march where children raised their voices about the need for child protection, and a potato sack race.

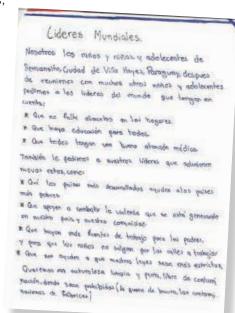
THE FREE CHARTERS

CCFC and other members of the ChildFund Alliance brought together children in 40 countries to write to world leaders,

outlining their aspirations, priorities and vision for the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. More than 2,300 children participated. In 82 percent of all participating countries, children made specific calls for ending bullying, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and other abuses.

Read The Free Charters report, see the video, and join the campaign freefromviolence.org

> Letter written by children in Paraguay



How you help

children realize their rights

Currently, 195 countries are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This has led to an enormous increase in national legislative frameworks aimed at protecting children. It acknowledges that all children have the right to:

- **Basic necessities** including an adequate standard of living, health care and education;
- Protection from exploitation and abuse; and
- Participation in family, social, and cultural life with their views and abilities respected.



THE CHALLENGE

In developing countries, much work is yet to be done to ensure children's rights are upheld. Poverty, natural disasters, political unrest, and systemic discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, age, caste, race, and ethnicity are part of a complex web of barriers slowing progress.

57 Million+

children continue to be denied the right to primary education1

2.2 Billion

people live on less than 2 (U.S.) a day - a commonmeasurement of deep deprivation²

Almost 1 Billion

children live without even basic sanitation - as a result of poor sanitation, every 20 seconds a child dies3

Participation

is one of the strongest aspirations of children - currently they are frustrated they are not included in decision-making that affects them4

6.3 Million

children under age five died in 2013 - more than 17,000 every day

about 45% of all child deaths are linked to malnutrition5

YOUR SUPPORT

is invested in five key sectors that are critical to fulfilling the rights of children at every stage of their growth and development.











THE RESULT

is improved living conditions; greater equality; healthy, educated, confident children active in their community – and more opportunities for kids to BE kids.

Sources: 1UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2013; 2WorldBank.org; 3UNWater.org; 4ChildFund Alliance, 2013 (Voices of Girls and Boys in Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda), 5 World Health Organization, 2014



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

IN GHANA

Eight-year-old Edmund takes a pass from his brother, weaves the soccer ball around his friends, and kicks it hard between a makeshift goal of two twigs. As he scores, he raises his left arm in triumph. His father watches nearby, smiling. He'd almost lost hope his son would ever be able to play with his friends like this.

Edmund was only five when he noticed swelling on his right hand. What started as a small bump grew into a painful sore covering his arm. He was terrified the day he learned his arm had to be amoutated, and when he spotted a sore on his face. Buruli ulcer was the diagnosis. The tropical disease destroys the skin of its victims, typically children, and can lead to disability, disfigurement, and death. Thanks to ChildFund Korea and caring CCFC supporters, a special Nutrition and Feeding centre is helping infected children recover. Awareness campaigns are increasing early diagnosis and treatment, and surgery funded by CCFC donors removed the ulcer on Edmund's face. Your generosity has transformed his life.



I was five when I had to stop going to school. The pain was so bad and I was not able to play. Some of the children shunned me completely. Others made funny noises, held their noses or shouted at me to go home. Sometimes it made me cry. My dad was sad because he could not afford to pay for my surgery. He even had to leave his work to be with me at the hospital, and my brother had to stop school because of the school fees. I felt sad for him, though he was happy to be around to play with me. At the nutrition centre. I learned I am not alone. The other kids were nice to me. They also had their sores, but they were willing to come closer. The surgery has really changed my life. I am happy that I can go to school and play. I like playing football [soccer]. It is tiring but full of fun. I hope to study well so I can support others and my dad."





Edmund (holding ball) with his brother (left) and friends

40°

children in the Buruli endemic area of Greater Accra Region are currently affected with the Buruli ulcer in its advanced stage



children ages 5 to 16 have received healthy food to boost their immunity at the Nutrition and Feeding Centre since it opened three years ago



of cases detected early can be cured with a combination of antibiotics*

INVESTING IN HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION MEANS BETTER HEALTH FOR CHILDREN, IMPROVED SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, GREATER LIFE EXPECTANCY, AND FEWER CHILDHOOD DEATHS.

*Source: who.int/buruli/en/



EDUCATION IN INDIA

Arunadevi, 16, yawns drowsily as she scoops green leaves and vegetables into a bucket for her family's goats to eat. Once her chores are done, she dresses carefully in her school uniform, slips her schoolbag onto her back, and joins her friends outside. Together, they walk the fourkilometer route to school, over paddy fields and mud roads, laughing and chatting.

India struggles with the largest number of illiterate adults in the world - 287 million.* Illiterate parents are often reluctant to send their children to school, particularly girls, and keep them at home. Many children drop out of school before they've completed their education to work in mines, fields, or factories, or enter early marriages. To boost school enrolment, and help children return to school, CCFC started school enrolment and awareness campaigns in 27 villages. The generosity of CCFC donors helped provide one-to-one counselling to children and parents, facilitated educational loans through self-help groups, initiated ways for parents to develop a sustainable livelihood, and encouraged parents to sign an oath to support their child's education. For girls like Arunadevi it has made a world of difference.



After my father died and my sister separated from her husband, my mother instructed me to stop going to school and go for work. I worked in a cotton mill. Many times I got night shifts because young people like me do more work without rest. Whenever I saw my friends going to school I remembered when I went to school. I felt angry about my family's situation, and frustrated. I asked my mom to readmit me to school. She was upset and explained about our family debt. Now, thanks to CCFC and community intervention. I'm back at school and my mom is happy about my performance. I feel happy my dream has come true. I told my mom I will finish my higher education in government college so my fees will be low, and do a part time job to pay my tuition fees. I would like to become a teacher to help other children."

- ARUNADEVI



"There is a saying in Tamil: if a person is not educated, she or he is blind even though they have eyes. I strongly believe education is the utmost right of every child."

> - Arunadevi (far right) and her friends walking to school

CCFC school enrolment and awareness campaigns have contributed to 100% of children ages 4-10 in 27 CCFC-supported villages in India now going to school, and 59 children that dropped out of school re-enrolling



INVESTING IN EDUCATION MEANS CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE. IT ALSO HELPS CHILDREN **GROW CONFIDENTLY AND KNOW THEIR** RIGHTS - MAKING THEM LESS **VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION AND BETTER PREPARED** TO BE LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

*Source: UNESCO 2013/4 (EFA Global Monitoring Report)



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN NICARAGUA

Alex, 11, turns the tap. Cool, clean water pours into his pot. He smiles and brings the pot to his mom to wash rice for the family dinner in their makeshift kitchen. Tonight, she's making "Gallo Pinto," a traditional Nicaraguan dish prepared with rice and beans.

Alex's home is one of 62 houses located at the top of a steep hill in Nicaragua, where for years, narrow pipes and a faulty water system meant families had access to water for just an hour or two in the morning or at midnight – or sometimes just once a month. Dirty homes, clothes, and dishes exposed families to diseases. Children unable to clean their school uniforms or take a shower missed school. Children and parents spent hours each day walking to costly private wells to fill buckets and bottles. To help alleviate their struggles, CCFC donors provided water tanks, and in 2013 helped purchase and install a new and improved pipe system to allow water to reach the houses.



One time we did not have water to our home for six months. We had to get water from a well four blocks away. It took us about an hour to walk. My mother, brothers and I filled buckets and bottles at night or in early morning, because by 8 a.m. the well was dry and there was no water left. I missed many days of school because my mother could not wash my uniform. We could not prepare food properly or take a bath. The house was not clean. We got diarrhea and other illnesses. Now, we have a water supply all day long. My mother used to do the laundry near the well, and now my mother can do the laundry every day. I don't miss school or need to walk long distances carrying water! We do not get sick. Our bodies, house and kitchen utensils are clean. Now, I can be clean and happy going to school and I look forward to studying. Thank you so much!"

— ALEX



Alex enjoying water in the family's kitchen/living room, which includes a shelf, three plastic chairs and a hammock

Before the new pipe system was installed, **62** houses had intermittent access to water and spent hours each day fetching water from private wells

Today, more than 125 children are benefiting from direct water access to their homes

INVESTING IN SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION MEANS CCFC CAN HELP REDUCE DISEASE AND SICKNESS, AS WELL AS THE LONG HOURS IT TAKES TO GET WATER FOR COOKING AND CLEANING.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

IN BURKINA FASO

Miasiéla, 17, bends down next to a small, brown and white spotted goat. Gently she strokes her back and smiles. Another goat, white with bits of brown, nuzzles his face under her hand, eager to be stroked too.

Secondary school student, Miasiéla, has six brothers and sisters. The last few years, the rainy seasons have made it difficult for her father, a farmer, to provide for his wife and children. To help Miasiéla earn her own income, last year she received two goats thanks to a CCFC donor. Miasiéla committed herself to taking good care of the unexpected gift. She did it so well that her animals increased in number, and today she has a flock of eight. At the beginning of the school year she sold three of her animals and used the money to pay for her younger brothers' school fees. Owning goats has changed her life in many ways.



Miasiéla with one of her favourite goats



I'm a school girl. My parents are farmers. Life is not so simple for us. Within our family, there are many people, but having enough money for family needs is not easy. Before, our father was responsible for all the expenses. With these animals, I am able to have my own estate, and when I sell my animals, I can pay for my brothers' and sisters' school fees, and our medical care. I'm proud to be able to help my family. These animals have made me another person. I love to watch the goats eating good grass and holding the smaller ones or stroking them. At home, people respect me more than before. Even my father sees me as more responsible. Our father is happier and so are we. Thank you for this gift. It is a very meaningful action for us and we are really grateful. The support we've received is helping us to become independent and to improve our living conditions."

- MIASIÉLA







The amount Miasiéla earned selling three goats could be used to:

pay the school fees of (6) children in public school, buy 3 50 kg bags of rice, or purchase 3 100 kg bags of millet

HELPING ADOLESCENTS, YOUTHS AND ADULTS BUILD SMALL BUSINESSES AND PARTICIPATE IN BASIC SKILLS TRAINING MEANS CHILDREN DEVELOP GREATER CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

IN ETHIOPIA AND PARAGUAY

Tigest*, age 13, stands in front of a room filled with adults seated quietly in rows. She looks at them for a moment, silently, and then starts to talk. With a clear and confident voice, she speaks from her heart and shares her own story.

Three years ago, Tigest lived her life in fear – frightened to walk to school. A 21-year-old man stalked the young girl, repeatedly threatening to abduct her for early marriage. That's when Tigest approached the community's Girls' Club, a group of 43 youth established by CCFC five years ago to help raise awareness about harmful traditional practices. As a result of their intervention, the offender was confronted by elders, and warned by police. Today, Tigest is safe to go to school, and is an active member of the club. The group has had a huge impact in their community. Their collective efforts have helped children return to school, saved girls from abduction and genital mutilation, and taught youth how to become strong leaders in the community – giving them an opportunity to use their voice.



The Girls' Club saved my life. They have prevented my abuser from kidnapping me. Since I witnessed what the Girls' Club did for me, I joined the club. In the club, I have been involved in teaching about child rights. Our club does a lot of drama and dance to entertain those that hear our message. I have been involved where we have taught our elders about the need for our community to stop harmful traditional practices such as forced early marriage and genital mutilation. At first, I felt very frightened to stand in front of parents to talk about the rights of girls and all children. Through time, I have been able to overcome my fears. I have learned that girls have the right to live without fear, to speak their mind, and to learn without any intimidation. The community at first did not accept what we did. But through time and seeing that we are able to encourage children in our community to not engage in wrongful acts, they have accepted us."

- TIGEST



As a result of the Girls' Club reaching out to community members, including students, teachers, religious leaders, and police

5 girls were saved from abductions for early marriage

1 girl was protected

from female genital mutilation/cutting



* Name changed to protect privacy



Liz, 11, pushes her feet against the ground and goes soaring up in to the air. Her friend, balanced on the other side of the seesaw, plummets to the ground. As Liz sails upwards, she throws back her head laughing.

Children were running and clapping with joy the day playground equipment was installed in 11 communities in Paraguay. Most of the children had never seen a playground in real life. The project arose as a result of talks and workshops that increased awareness of the importance of play and fun activities in children's lives with CCFC and parents, teachers, community organizations, and school principals. CCFC donors helped fund swings, an arched ladder, slide, carrousel, seesaws, and a playhouse with slides. Each community worked on fundraising activities to add such things as fences, lighting, gates, small gardens, and sandpits. As part of the project, children attended workshops to learn what it means to be "rights holders." One of the most easily recognized rights for children was the right to play.



Liz on the seesaw at the new school playground

1,664 children from 11 communities in Paraguay are enjoying 11 new playgrounds installed at schools

Nearly all

of the children had only seen playgrounds on television

STRONG COMMUNITIES THAT WORK TOGETHER CAN ACHIEVE POSITIVE AND LASTING CHANGE. EMPOWERED **COMMUNITIES ARE SAFER FOR CHILDREN** TO GROW, LAUGH, LEARN AND PLAY.



I remember seeing the truck with the playground on it as it arrived at the school. All of us got out of classes and ran to watch it screaming with happiness. We laughed a lot and stayed in the garden until all the equipment was installed. I laugh a lot when I play, and I make everybody else laugh. I feel "contentísima" (more than happy - extremely happy)! I like playing with my school classmates, and with my girlfriends. Now, I come to school more excited to play and learn new things. I love the seesaw. I love it because when I am up it seems like flying. I play on the playground at noon, when I come to school and before the start of my class. I thank sponsors for the playground of my school. Now, we have a place to play. I would like all children in the world to have playgrounds."

- LIZ



Meet our new **AMBASSADORS**

JAMES DUTHIE, host of the award-winning *Hockey on TSN*, is among the most talented stars in sports broadcasting today – winner of three Gemini Awards. Inspired by our work, in 2014 he became a volunteer CCFC Child Sponsorship Ambassador. Below he shares his thoughts about his family, children, and helping CCFC.

66

Watching my kids – Jared, 15, Darian, 13, and Gracie, 11 – play sports is my favourite thing in the world. I've gone to the biggest sporting events on the planet, but I'd take watching my son in a big hockey game or my girls playing soccer over any of them. What I love most about kids is the way they see the world...anything is possible. As a CCFC Ambassador, I hope to spread the word that every sponsorship does have a real impact. I want to tell people what I saw visiting Paraguay – unbelievable children who are so motivated to learn and so grateful they have been given tools to do that, new schools, health care, and so much more. Meeting my sponsored child, José, was incredible. He lives with his mom and seven siblings in a tiny tin shack. They have nothing, and were so grateful. I am incredibly thankful as a sponsor I can do something to improve their lives."





James teaching José how to play football



See James' sponsorship visit **bit.ly/CCFCJose**



Iconic designer and artist, LINDA LUNDSTRÖM, has stepped forward to support the 'Campaign to One Million' for child protection. In her new role of Honorary Patron, Lundström advocates for the critical need to protect children from harm and abuse, and supports the campaign's goal to raise \$1 million by March 2016. Below she shares why this role is so important to her.



The news of strife and desperation are around us every day. We see the images of families trying to protect their children, and even more heartbreaking, children alone. I support CCFC's work to safeguard children, particularly young girls, from harmful practices like early and forced marriages, harmful work, exploitation and abuse. As a mother, I feel a connection to mothers everywhere who are protecting and providing for their children. It is difficult to imagine a situation so desperate that a child's most basic needs are not met. I strongly encourage Canadians to give generously to this important cause, the 'Campaign to One Million' for child protection."

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO ONE MILLION

SPONSOR A CHILD

ccfcanada.ca/onemillion Contact Layla to learn more: lvelasquez@ccfcanada.ca or 1-800-263-5437 ext. 525 (toll free) ccfcanada.ca/sponsor-a-child Learn how sponsorship helps: ccfcanada.ca/learn-more or 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610

The gift of



"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD."

- FRED ROGERS

Your generosity helps children realize their basic human rights - food, clean water, health care, and quality education. Along the way a wonderful thing happens, you protect the right of kids to be kids.



(left to right) Markina, Louta, Welloré, Mouniratou and Taladi play 'Linco' in Burkina Faso. Each time the player jumps without touching the rope, the rope is raised higher and greater points are earned.

> Eliezer, 5, loves to get his wheel spinning fast by running, a much-loved activity by children in Paraguay, especially those living in the countryside where toys are not always available.

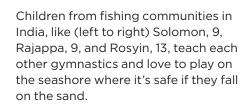




Four-year-old Anabell plays 'El anda,' a popular game of tag, on the streets of Managua, Nicaragua with her friends.

> In Ethiopia, Tizita (left) and Workenesh enjoy playing 'Etmete,' a local clapping game sung in Amharic about a girl's coming of age.





In Ghana soccer is a popular pastime sometimes played with makeshift balls made of plastic materials, old cloth or twine rolled into a ball; round fruits; or anything that rolls.







Watch the children play bit.ly/CCFCPlay



GIVING ACCORDING TO PASSION

A new way to support children in developing countries

CCFC's new monthly giving program, Community Rise™, lets Canadians quickly and easily choose where their money goes. Donors can select from among three priority program areas for CCFC, including health, water, and education projects to help grow children's futures.

Community Rise™ provides simple choices for Canadians interested in helping achieve positive and lasting change for children and families, and offers three levels of monthly giving. Donors will receive regular updates about how their gift is achieving change in the lives of children and communities in need.

To learn more, visit **CommunityRise.ca** – or call a donor relations associate toll-free at 1-800-263-5437 ext. 610.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



WATER AND SANITATION



EDUCATION



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