
CHILD VOICE

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

GROWING HOPE

**Creative innovations
bear fruit**

**COVID-19 recovery
and resilience**



**Children
Believe**

childrenbelieve.ca

Imagining the possible

Innovating through COVID-19



☺ Fred Witteveen, CEO, Children Believe

Turning ideas into practical reality is what we do every day at Children Believe. This has never been more important than during the current global pandemic.

Caring people like you make innovation possible. Thank you for your support!

Whether educating children through mobile apps when schools are closed, bringing water to drought-prone farms through drip irrigation, or sharing pandemic prevention messages through a public address system in a remote village, the world cannot advance without innovation.

Inside this innovation-themed issue of *ChildVoice* you will meet people who are benefitting from doing things in a new way, thanks to your help. Young Sofia in India had psychosocial support to help her heal during her COVID-19 illness (p.11). Feyissa and her family are prospering thanks to agricultural training in Ethiopia (p.8). And, Fatima in Paraguay was able to quickly adapt her cooking business to the new pandemic normal thanks to a savings and credit group in Paraguay (p.12).

Thank you for all you do to support children around the world. We are so very appreciative.

Sincerely,

Fred Witteveen, CEO
ceo@childrenbelieve.ca

Inside

- 4 What's happening
- 5 Breaking education barriers in Africa
- 6 Taking action on COVID-19
- 8 Growing hope
- 10 Overcoming trauma
- 11 Mental healthcare critical to surviving pandemic
- 12 Cooking up a new business
- 15 A lasting gift

CHILDVOICE

SPRING/SUMMER 2021 | ISSUE 31

CHIEF MARKETING
& DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Aki Temiseva

DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
Sandra Upeslakis

MANAGING EDITOR
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
Dave Stell

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
eyetoeyedesign.ca

CONTRIBUTORS
Syed Sahil Ali, Nancy Anabel, Christina Beeston,
Elizabeth Brown, William Anim-Dankwa,
Abdoulaye Diallo, Emmanuel Castro, Gezahegn
Gebremariam, Lavanya Kesavaraj, Juris Kornets,
Siju Mathew, Rosanna Menchaca, Karen Núñez,
Feleke Tadele, Patrice Zongo

YOU ASK. WE ANSWER. HAPPILY.

Children Believe

1200 Denison St., Markham, ON L3R 8G6
905.754.1001 | Toll free: 1.800.263.5437
childrenbelieve.ca | askus@childrenbelieve.ca



Charitable Registration # 10691 8543 RR0001
Canada Post Mail Reg # 40065713



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.



Cover: A young boy displays the results of a crop grown in Ethiopia using drip irrigation. Read more about this innovation on page 8. (Photo by Juris Kornets)

What's happening



🕒 Narmadha, 17, received the 2021 State Award for Girl Child Empowerment.

Protecting peers garners award for teen

Narmadha, a young leader from one of our India programs, won the 2021 State Award for Girl Child Empowerment for her dedication to leading change. The award included a cash prize equal to \$1,650 CDN.

At 17, she's already helped stop four child marriages, enrolled four children back in school and mentored younger peers through online learning during COVID-19. The daughter of a daily-wage earner, Narmadha is a Grade 12 student in her village in Tiruvallur district.

Through a children's group, run by Children Believe partner IRCDS, Narmadha learned about children's rights.

Project helps Nicaraguan youth gain career skills

Children Believe recently launched EMPUJE, a project to improve the life-skills, well-being and job prospects of 12,000 Nicaragua adolescents and young people aged 15 to 30, of whom 7,200 are women.

Funded by the Government of Canada and Children Believe, EMPUJE supports youth in nine Nicaraguan provinces. The project will increase employability among young people by providing them with technical knowledge and skills relevant to today's work environment, as well as to encourage entrepreneurship.



🕒 The Empuje project slogan is "Closing the gender gap in youth employability in Nicaragua", translated from Spanish.



Digital ChildVoice coming soon!

We were happy to learn in a recent maru/matchbox survey of a cross-section of Children Believe donors, that 76 percent regularly read *ChildVoice*. Another interesting finding was that 56 percent would prefer to receive a digital-only copy of the magazine.

So watch for our digital option of *ChildVoice* coming soon!

As we know, many donors still like to receive the print version of *ChildVoice*. Rest assured, a print version of *ChildVoice* will still be mailed to our donors this fall, and for those whom generally prefer a printed magazine to digital, you'll continue to get one. Happy reading!

Breaking education barriers in Africa

Girls from Ghana, Zimbabwe tell leaders what hinders their progress



Two young students' voices stood out at a virtual panel recently held by Children Believe and Graça Machel Trust. The event brought together leaders from the Government of Canada, United Nations Women and other NGOs to talk about barriers to education for girls in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Daniella Asare, a Children Believe youth ambassador and biomedical engineering student in Ghana, and Tanaka Chikati, a Graça Machel Program Area representative and an African Leadership Academy student in Zimbabwe, shared concerns about a digital divide harming girls. They agreed that the international community needs to **act now to address a problem that is keeping girls, in particular, out of school.**

"There is a gap between stakeholders and adolescent girls," Daniella said. "If we are able to bridge that gap, then we can empower girls."

"We've seen a rise in gender-based violence during COVID," Tanaka added. "Policies can only go so far. It's about implementation. What action will people take?"

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 47 percent of out-of-school children worldwide, and more than half of these children are girls. Despite efforts from policymakers, gender inequalities persist, with socio-cultural, economic and political challenges creating barriers to education. **Africa is home to 308-million girls under 18 years of age, and three-in-10 girls under the age of 18 face early, forced marriage.**

As part of our COVID-19 relief efforts, Children Believe has been working with 19 local partners and supporting 131 fragile, vulnerable and marginalized communities in Africa to increase access to inclusive and quality education for more than 400,000 children.

"I cannot overstate that the closure of schools is an education emergency," Children Believe CEO Fred Witteveen said at the panel. "Before the pandemic, schools provided a means to prevent and mitigate violence against children. Staying at home in hard to reach regions has put many girls and boys at an increased risk of violence."

"It is unfortunate how the pandemic has not only amplified existing challenges, but has also threatened much of the gains which we have made in girls education," said Leila Akahloun, senior advisor to Madame Machel. The discussion pointed to the need to build infrastructure for learning, create holistic policies and allow girls and young women to be heard.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, executive director, United Nations Women, added, **"Once [girls have] an education on their side, they have something to use to defend themselves... something that truly belongs to them."**

Go to youtube.com/childrenbelieveCA to learn more about the event.

THE VIRTUAL PANEL



Fred Witteveen,
CEO, Children Believe



Susan Ormiston,
CBC, Panel Moderator



Leila Akahloun,
Senior Advisor,
Graça Machel Trust



Leslie MacLean,
Deputy Minister of International Development,
Government of Canada



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
Executive Director,
United Nations Women



Antoine Chevrier,
Director General,
Pan African Branch,
Global Affairs Canada



Daniella Asare,
Children Believe Youth Ambassador,
Ghana



Tanaka Chikati,
representative of the Graça Machel Program Area in Zimbabwe

Taking action on COVID-19

Recovery and resilience

By Dave Stell

More than a year into the global pandemic, Children Believe has been able to continue helping children and families overcome the challenges of COVID-19. This has all been made possible through your continued generosity and care for the children through the pandemic. Thank You.

We are focusing efforts on ensuring the safe return of children to schools; preventing violence against children and women; restoring livelihoods, and helping communities recover from economic shocks. We're working to stop the spread; ensure children are nourished; keep them safe from violence; and help children continue learning, despite the fact that many schools remain closed.



⊕ Students in Ghana have received face masks and hand sanitizer to help ensure student and teacher safety in class.

Thanks to donor support, work continues to keep children learning and help families to be safe:

Burkina Faso: To ensure a COVID-19-free school environment and enhance public education, necessary materials are reaching people in need. And livelihoods are being restored through economic support, especially for families in displaced communities which have grown rapidly due to internal conflict in the country. More than 9,900 children and families have received financial support.

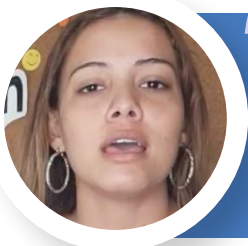
Ethiopia: Hygiene education is at the top of efforts to help rural and semi-urban schools and communities avoid the spread of the virus. So far this year, 31,756 students have been reached in schools with awareness messages to help stay safe from COVID-19.



⊕ In Paraguay, some students receive assistance to connect to online classes, when needed, when Internet or computers become a barrier to learning.



COVID-19 has made a huge impact on my life. We stayed at home for almost six months. Children Believe has provided my community with PPEs, which have helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19.” —Kingsley, Ghana



Sometimes we didn't have the necessary resources to spend on the Internet connection and that kind of thing. So it was like a 360° turn shifting to online classes because it wasn't the same anymore. And, much worse, because I was just in my first year of post-secondary studies, when I really had to do my best, that kind of thing was a barrier.” —Janeth, Nicaragua



“Because of the COVID-19 lockdown suddenly schools have been closing. But due to a lack of smartphones and TVs, I have struggled a lot to attend online classes. At this critical time, ROPES and Children Believe have supplied tablets for creative learning centre teachers in my village, which have become very useful for us to study and attend online classes.” —Harika, India

Ghana: We’re promoting awareness of the vaccine roll out and COVID-19 prevention among parents and caregivers. And new classrooms have been built in rural communities, supplied with furniture, that are safer for returning students.

India: Thanks to your **Gifts for Good** donations, we’ve given computers and accessories to 66 creative learning centres. The laptops help teach children how to stay safe and have resources for academic lessons. A total of 2,650 families have received food rations, from the start of 2021 to March, consisting of a variety of types of rice and vegetables. **And more than 88,000 children and women have taken part in sessions teaching ways to stay safe from violence with the use of Children Believe’s GO-CARE innovative android-based application.**

Nicaragua: A campaign in Managua encouraged the importance of education, school enrollment, and prevention measures during COVID-19. Over 4,800 children received educational materials.



“We prepare our meals every other day...and our interest to reach the most deprived families. Our job is to reach the children who need the most—to provide them with a little food. Many times what they have is not enough, so we provide them with a good meal, thanks to the organization (Children Believe and partner Crecer).” —Idalina, Paraguay

Paraguay: More than 12,000 children have received hygiene kits and 15,000 children have received food rations. Children Believe continues to deliver biosecurity kits and one partner has supplied 11 schools alone, to ensure the safe return of more than 2,000 children and youth.



Hear from youth on our YouTube channel bit.ly/CB-covid19-update



Ⓐ A health clinic in India received thermometers and other PPE to help staff provide better care for the community.

Up to the end of 2020, more than **680,000** children and family members received care in some form from Children Believe’s COVID-19 response.

More than **42,000** children received educational materials and learning support.

Nearly **300,000** children and women were protected from violence.

Through food or cash-for-food, more than **110,000** children and families received help.



Ⓜ Feyissa Eshu has experienced great success with his crops, thanks to new irrigation techniques.



Ⓜ Dereja Doshi says farming success has been very empowering for women.



Ⓜ Tigist, 12, Magaritu, 7, and Kenenesa, 9, work together on homework.

Growing hope

Simple irrigation lifts family from poverty to prosperity

By Gezahegn Gebremariam

Feyissa Eshu crouches to pick weeds from a lush vegetable garden on his half-hectare farm in a remote Ethiopian village. He smiles as he moves between rows of crops, proud of the carrots, onions, green peppers and cabbage flourishing under the hot sun.

Not long ago, Feyissa's farm produced crops only once a year. With eight months of sun and four of rain, water was inconsistent. Now, thanks to training and drip-irrigation equipment provided by Children Believe local partner Bole Bible Baptist Church, Feyissa and 25 other local farmers have enough vegetables and fruit to feed their own families and to sell good portions to other villagers, as well. The family's income has grown 26-fold.

Feyissa's wife, Dereja Doshi, marvels at the dramatic change in her family's life. **"There is nothing like breaking out of poverty, becoming a role model, and making your own decisions," she says. "We are now able to send our kids to school, feed them, satisfy their needs and protect them."**

The increased income for farmers made it possible for Dereja and other women in the community to have greater influence on family decision-making. Dereja says this reduced her depression, helping her gain life satisfaction and higher self-esteem.

Drip-irrigation is an effective but underused practice in Ethiopia. Helping farmers with small-scale irrigation is a boost to agricultural production in rural areas. Farmers overcome rainfall and water constraints with a steady supply of water for cultivation and livestock. This strengthens the base for sustainable agriculture, increases food security in communities and contributes to improved nutrition.

Children Believe provides training to farmers on the benefits of using innovative irrigation technology, child nutrition, financial management, and diversifying at a small scale, such as beekeeping, poultry and other types of farming.

Feyissa and Dereja have seven children (five daughters and two sons). They use as much space as possible on their farm to grow food. Apart from vegetables, they have mango, papaya, coffee, and avocado trees and plan to double their production next year.

Listen up!

Pandemic information system becomes crucial community support

By William Anim-Dankwa

It's early evening in the community of Pusuga, Ghana. At precisely 7 p.m. horn speakers mounted high on a pole crackle to life and community members stop in all corners, collectively listening for what's to come.

"All new mothers are expected at the health facility to inoculate their children against measles," a voice begins. "The Ghana Education Service is distributing school materials to children aged six to nine years," is next, and concludes with, "All caregivers are requested to be present in the morning at eight o'clock."

This is the new information service implemented with the support and guidance of Children Believe in the community of 3,466 people. It replaces 'gong-gong beaters' and town criers, who until recently provided such services. It's a simple upgrade, not sophisticated, but recognized as highly effective for sharing important news. It's also a cost-conscious innovation solving a critical need, lauded by the people and government alike.

The Community Information System was born during the early days of COVID-19. To help educate communities on pandemic prevention, protection and hygiene, Children Believe employed mobile vans with speakers, as well as gong-gong beaters and praise singers. Radio broadcasts were also used, but all of



⌚ Tanko, a volunteer, makes announcements to the public from his studio.



these methods were too expensive to use long-term. That's when a public address system and speakers were fashioned to advance the sharing of information for Pusuga, Binda, Dakpam and Tali, in central Ghana. In total, about 15,000 people benefit, thanks to Children Believe local partner AG-CARE Ghana.

Madam Ayi, a resident of Pusuga, says, "My greatest pleasure was the location of a child who had been reported missing. Within minutes the whole community was up and about and found the child."

Others, like Enoch Tetson, Officer in Charge of the Pusuga Health Centre, says the information system helps manage visits for maternal and newborn health clinics. This includes announcements on the availability of vaccines for babies for inoculations.

"School re-opening dates are also announced on the system," adds Maapare, a 17-year-old student in Tali.

Looking ahead, it may be used to organize educational programs for students re-sitting exams as well as reading programs for children, and quiz competitions.

After only a few months, the new announcement system has become so effective it is now used by The Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Services, The Ministry of Agriculture and other development agencies.

⌚ Some students do schoolwork while listening to announcements.



Overcoming trauma

Soap-making helps Aminata mend

By Abdoulaye Diallo

Sometimes, simple innovations can have a big impact. Take Aminata, for example.

"Soap making is a good thing for us young girls and me, in particular, to learn because it will allow me to be independent," she says. "I like it because the process is less time consuming than other trades and soap is easily sold on the market."



The goal is to help Aminata continue her studies, but living with her family in a host community has made this difficult, for now. Together, the family is overcoming terrible tragedy, having fled their home community in the North Central Region of Burkina Faso. In June, 2019, their village was attacked. Aminata lost two of her older brothers, who were shot and killed in front of the family.

"Before the attack on my village, I was a grade four student at the Franco-Arabic school," she says. "I wanted to finish my studies and have a good job that would allow me to be independent."

Currently, Aminata attends a child friendly space project set up by Children Believe in partnership with UNICEF. It's a new program helping children overcome trauma. **Aminata, her siblings, and other children, benefit from psychosocial and psychological care provided as part of an effort to help 40,000 people affected by the humanitarian crisis.**

According to project leaders, when Aminata first arrived at the space she was withdrawn, spoke very little and was afraid of the slightest noise. After participating in psychosocial care activities, since June of 2019, **Aminata now always has a smile on her face.**

In the project, youth are trained in soap making, dyeing, macramé and knitting. With soap production, Aminata is able to help her family and she's proud to keep her community safe from COVID-19 through her soap, which helps prevent the spread of the virus.

Aminata participated in a vocational training course, initiated by Children Believe, for the benefit of 1,200 young girls aged 12-17.

© Aminata holding some of the soap she makes.

Safeguarding pandemic mental health

Program helps those in greatest need overcome challenges

By Nancy Anabel, Lavanya Kesavaraj and Siju Mathew

India is among the countries most affected by COVID-19. Lockdowns and restrictions of movement have paralyzed economic activities. The impact has been devastating for many, but Children Believe is taking action to meet critical needs.

Witnessing children and elders in a family starving or poorly fed has led to feelings of powerlessness and anger, resulting in family conflicts. In answer to this, Children Believe in India developed a psychosocial support program to bring telephone counselling and mentorship to communities where we work. And it's making a big difference.

Creative learning centres engaged 3,595 children in creating safe opportunities for children to express, share and learn with their peers.

Staff from our partners were provided with the techniques, skills and processes of counselling, and made this knowledge available through children's clubs. In addition, mental healthcare professionals, including counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists, agreed to help. A referral system was established with the District Mental Health Program, linked to the government hospital's psychiatric department so that psychologists could support the teams as volunteers.

Among the many helped, nine-year-old Sofia is an example of how important this support has been. A sponsored child, she tested positive for COVID-19



Ⓒ Hema is among the staff members who provide psychosocial support online through phone calls and messaging.

More than 200 community-based organizations have supported more than 100,000 people who lack basic needs and preventive measures.

and was gripped with fear. But thanks to counselling, she was helped to focus on positive activities like creating arts and crafts. She is now recovered and the experience was made less fearful, thanks to the support program.

For Sathya, who successfully completed grade 12, she was forced to work in a fish processing unit to help her family, who lost most income due to economic changes related to COVID-19 measures. Frightened this would end her dream of attaining higher education, and even mean forced marriage, she benefitted greatly from Children Believe's psychosocial support program. Her parents were counselled and now Sathya has been admitted to higher studies.

"I am very happy because I can continue my studies like other children. I'm relieved now that I am free from both child labour and child marriage".

In India, since the start of the pandemic, Children Believe has supported 6,859 families with food baskets, 26,070 with masks and sanitizer, and helped families access social-protection measures and mental healthcare.

Cooking up a new business

Loans help women overcome pandemic problems

By Karen Núñez

Fatima Isalda Benítez knows what it means to overcome COVID-19 challenges. She's thriving today, despite having to shut her business when economic problems arose.

"The pandemic forced me to reinvent myself," she explains. **"Online classes were a dream I had, but the pandemic accelerated my decision to do virtual teaching. And now I have 30 students in paid virtual classes."**

Fatima, 36, is from Blas Garay, Paraguay. She used to give cooking classes in different communities and sell pastries from her home. When the pandemic hit, she could no longer offer her products or classes.

This is where donors like you made a difference. As a member of one of six savings and credit groups coordinated by Children Believe local partner, Crecer, Fatima had the skills and financial assistance to rebuild and advance her business. **The groups help women in vulnerable communities learn about the importance of banking and healthy finances.**

☺ *Fatima participates and has benefitted from participating in her savings-and-credit group.*



☺ *Fatima Benitez makes and sells pastries from her home, and even conducts baking classes online, thanks to a loan to get her business running again after a lockdown.*



"Our savings group decided to continue during the pandemic," she says. "We were able to obtain credit without too many restrictions and supported each other a lot. That was very important to me."

Thanks to the loan, Fatima could buy the ingredients she needed to keep cooking and started selling pastries again. She also began teaching online cooking classes to help families spend time together, prepare foods for their own consumption, and sell some of what they made.

Fatima continues training and inspiring others. "I feel super happy and proud of the ladies who have passed through my classes," she says. "That fills the emotional salary I need as a person and, in addition, the economic salary, too."

Amado Candia, the savings groups facilitator, emphasizes that clear rules and methodology, designed to support the members' success, generate confidence and build trust among the whole community.

"I have seen the empowerment of the groups and the spirit of solidarity, at all times, but especially during this pandemic," Amado says.

The six savings groups have 116 members (up to 19 in each group) and one group is entirely composed of children. Crecer plans to increase the number of groups, thanks to the strong results achieved and the positive impact on communities.



Virtual school

Tech tools help Nicaraguan youth learn

By Enmanuel Castro

For most children in Central America, a classroom is currently out of reach. It's not because schools are closed; many parents simply can no longer afford the fees. COVID-19 restrictions have stripped families of their regular source of income.

But for Katherin, 18, and other youth like her, technology is bridging a crucial gap, allowing students to keep learning during the pandemic.

The middle child of five in her family, Katherin is a member of a Children Believe-supported community adolescents network in Managua. Using WhatsApp on her phone, she connects with other youth and continues learning. The group offers a safe way to virtually engage and connect to workshops, online talks, and educational resources. It's helped Katherin thrive in difficult circumstances.

"Thanks to the adolescents network, educators also teach us how to stay safe during COVID-19 and explain ways to protect ourselves from violence against women," Katherin says.



☺ Katherin uses her phone to access WhatsApp to connect with other children who are not in school to stay engaged and learning.

Katherin hopes she can take her education further and become a psychologist.

Although Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America, access to cheaper smart phones has increased exponentially in recent years. As part of our COVID-19 response, Children Believe is providing Internet access to young people so they can connect from their phones to workshops, online talks, and educational resources via WhatsApp.

"I want to understand human behavior and help people," she says. "When I came to the adolescent network and saw how the program technicians here worked, it motivated me to choose psychology as a professional career."

Children Believe, along with local partners, is improving the way youth access digital tools to keep them connected and educated, so children like Katherin can achieve the extraordinary.

According to data from UNICEF, COVID-19 has deprived 97 percent of students in Latin America and the Caribbean from continuing their regular education.



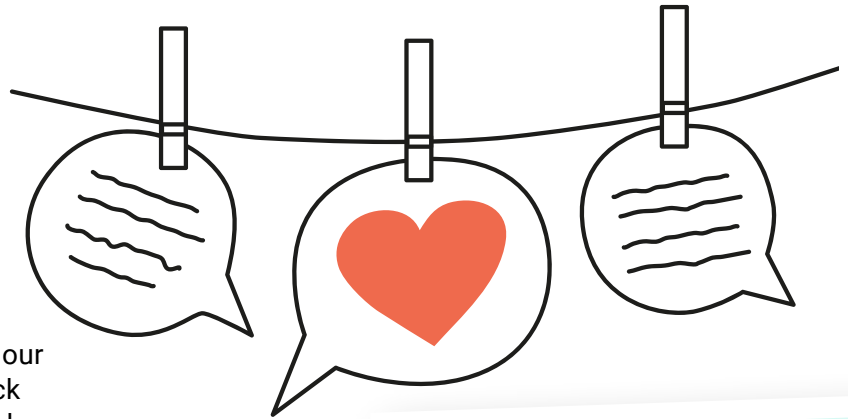
 YouTube

Meet Katherin and some of the team from our Nicaragua office:
bit.ly/Nicaragua-WhatsApp

Cherished thoughts

You can now email your sponsored child

By Elizabeth Brown



We love to hear from our donors. Your feedback has inspired us to make it possible to get to know your sponsored child even better. Our new webpage childrenbelieve.ca/email-sponsored-child makes it possible to quickly and easily email your sponsored child.

The past year has been difficult for many. Now, more than ever, a letter to your sponsored child will help them feel loved and cared for.

Consider becoming a pen pal. Imagine your sponsored child's excitement when they receive your letter—and the smile it will put on their face!

Letters are cherished keepsakes for many children and families our donors support.

Can't think of what to say? No problem!

"I was happy to read your letters. I liked the tracing of your hand and I enjoyed it."
—Wendkouni (10 years old) Burkina Faso



"I help my mother fix the rooms, do the dishes and help with the home chores and clean. Then I have free time to play. I can tell you that I like basketball."
—Allyson (10 years old) Nicaragua

Consider writing about:

- your favorite hobbies, sports or foods
- your family, friends or even pets
- describe the changing seasons in Canada
- words of encouragement for the child and their family

Your sponsored child may also have a hard time knowing what to write back. Try asking questions, such as, "What games do you play?" Or, ask about their best friend and what career they may want to pursue when they grow up.

Visit childrenbelieve.ca/email-sponsored-child to send a message. Due to COVID-19, expect delays in responses.

Elizabeth Brown is manager of donor relations at Children Believe.



☺ Malcolm Manzer, with his wife Gail, now sponsor 10 children.



A lasting gift

Meet child sponsor Malcolm

Malcolm Manzer has been a Children Believe child sponsor for over a decade, but he wishes it could have been even longer.

"I've always wanted to sponsor, my whole life," he says.

What started as a hand up to one child, **gradually grew to five, now 10** and possibly more in the future, he adds. Malcolm sees the positive impact on the lives of children, and wants to help not only today's generation, but the next.

"In the countries where we're sponsoring, there will probably be large groups of people benefitting (from child sponsorship)," Malcolm says. "The ones we're helping directly will grow up and have kids of their own and they'll be in a better position to help them, as well."

That concept carries over to his own legacy. Malcolm is leaving a gift in his Will to Children Believe, to help even more children when he passes.

He did so through a "free Wills" campaign Children Believe provided him with, and it couldn't have come at a better time.

It's important to help others, Malcolm says, because of his personal convictions. As a Christian, he says he follows the example of Christ, in assisting those in need. And he chose Children Believe, due to its Christian roots.

"Jesus said not to worry about tomorrow, what you are going to eat or where," he says. "He looks after the birds and the flowers and he will do the same for you."

And so Malcolm uses his gifts to help others.

The child he's sponsored the longest is a girl in Ethiopia, Edlawit, now 11. A student in Grade 3, Edlawit walks to school each day and enjoys math and science. That will come in handy to accomplish her dream to be a doctor some day.

When Malcolm learned how the children cherish the letters and pictures he sends, it was a surprise to him. That inspires him to continue to write when he can.

Retired from the drywall industry, Malcolm lives in Toronto with his wife of 42 years, Gail. They have two adult children, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



☺ Edlawit, 11, in Ethiopia, is Malcolm's first sponsored child, and he still supports and writes to her.

To include a legacy gift for Children Believe like Malcolm did, and create your Will online for free, please visit: childrenbelieve.ca/planned-giving



Creating a Will doesn't have to be complicated.

Planning your family's future today will give you peace of mind tomorrow. No matter your age or life stage, creating a Will allows you to protect the ones you love and also support causes that are important to you.

Children Believe has partnered with Willfora, a resource to help you create a legal Will in 20 minutes or less, free of charge.*

The confidential, secure Will-writing platform makes it easier than ever to create or update your Will from home and leave a lasting legacy of hope for children.

Willfora

*Offer not available to residents of Quebec.

Visit childrenbelieve.ca/planned-giving for information on how you can create your Will at no cost to you.



1200 Denison Street, Markham, ON L3R 8G6
tel 905.754.1001 | toll free 1.800.263.5437
childrenbelieve.ca | Charitable Registration # 10691 8543 RR0001

CANADA		POSTES
POST		CANADA
Postage paid		Port payé
Publications Mail		Poste-publications
40065713		

childrenbelieve.ca

