

World Vision

Today

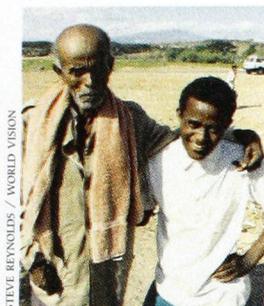
SPRING 1999

Romania

Pro Vita: for the born and the unborn

Child Sponsorship

And the lame shall walk



STEVE REYNOLDS / WORLD VISION

Ethiopian sponsored child Addissu Habibe with his grandfather.

More than 1 million boys and girls were sponsored through World Vision in 1998—children with hopes and dreams, each one of whom is special. Children like Addissu.

After a crippling accident, Addissu crawled on his hands and knees for the first 10 years of his life. As an infant, Addissu had fallen through his decrepit crib mattress, cutting his legs on the metal

springs, severely damaging the nerves in both limbs.

Addissu received medical attention after World Vision began a sponsorship project in his village. Doctors thought there was a good chance Addissu could walk again with the aid of leg braces. With sponsorship funds, World Vision purchased the braces which Addissu's parents could not afford. Addissu began physical therapy and within three days he was walking. Addissu, now a confident student, and his family have also benefited from the many World Vision-supported development activities in his village, including health services and agricultural training.

"I used to think I was less than everybody else," says Addissu, standing tall. "Now I know I can do anything anyone else can do."

Emergency Relief

Something to eat—every day



JOHN WARREN / WORLD VISION

Dr. Joel Smith holds a recovered Ayal Akec.

World Vision doctor Joel Smith has clear memories of his first meeting with 5-year-old Ayal Akec in southern Sudan. Ayal and her brother Mangok were among the first of more than 200 dangerously malnourished children Joel encountered during initial relief assessments in the famine-

Child Sponsorship promotes positive and lasting change by using sound community development principles with programs in nutrition, education, health care, agriculture, and vocational and skills training for children, parents, and their communities.

U.S. Field Operations focuses on needs within the United States, working with churches, volunteers, and community organizations to provide help for homeless families, affordable housing, jobs and job training, small-business development, volunteer mentoring and tutoring, leadership development, donated gifts-in-kind, and programs for children and youth at risk.



All gifts to World Vision are tax deductible.

stricken land. Ayal "could hardly stand," he recalls. Mangok's condition was similarly grave.

Ayal's widowed mother had lost hope that her malnourished children would survive. The family fled an attack of their village, Panacier, and lived for months on wild nuts and grain hand-sifted from anthills. After returning home, Ayak and her family were found during a food-scavenging expedition by World Vision staff and taken to one of eight World Vision emergency feeding centers.

After months of intensive care and nutritious meals, Ayal and Mangok have fully recovered. The usually shy Ayak cannot suppress her joy: "I'm so happy my children are no longer hungry. That's why I go around laughing."

Sudan is one of many countries where World Vision is providing emergency relief. This year, World Vision assisted 6.7 million people devastated by war, famine, and natural disasters.

Gifts-In-Kind

Practical care

Following efforts to rally humanitarian support early in 1997, World Vision continued to help the famine-stricken population of North Korea by providing a gift-in-kind (GIK) shipment of clothing, shoes, and woolen fabric to help 2,400 children survive the upcoming winter. These and other efforts led to an agreement with the government to distribute food in Hamhung City to children, the elderly, and families not being served by other programs. Additionally, World Vision is providing supplies to help four cooperative farms increase their output of rice, corn, and vegetables by 40 to 50 percent. World Vision supplies gifts-in-kind to needy people in more than 36 countries, a practical expression of Christ's love.

—With reporting by Denise Koel



North Korean children receive

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Public Awareness and Education promotes awareness and understanding of global issues through various communications, including television, magazine speakers' bureau, and various educational materials. Public Awareness Education also supports World Vision's role as an advocate for the world's poor and vulnerable.

Grants to Other Ministries includes gifts-in-kind and cash gifts distributed to other ministries with which World Vision is partnering or which share World Vision's



World Vision

Stewardship in focus

"... From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48 (NIV)

Jesus instructed each of us to help the poor and needy. In 1998, record numbers of caring friends came alongside World Vision and responded to Christ's command by ministering to children and families suffering from poverty, war, famine, and natural disasters. Individuals, church groups, and corporations—people from all walks of life—came together with one common goal: To serve others in the name of Jesus. Here is a look at how God faithfully blessed the gifts of these servant-friends in 1998.

World Vision U.S. Fiscal Year 1998 Overview

Support and Revenue

50.3%	Private Contributions From individuals, churches, corporations, and foundations	\$180,329,000
32.6%	Private Gifts-In-Kind (GIK) Includes clothing, blankets, seeds, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, building supplies, and other goods received from corporations and other private donors	116,876,000
15.4%	Public Cash and Public Food Commodity Grants Cash grants, and bulk grains, and other commodities primarily from U.S. government agencies	55,130,000
1.7%	Other Income Primarily annuity and investment income	6,016,000
100.0%	Total	\$358,351,000

Expenditures

76.1%	Ministry Services Child Sponsorship Relief and Rehabilitation, Community Development, and Christian Outreach and Leadership Projects Gifts-In-Kind (GIK) U.S. Field Operations Public Awareness and Education Grants to Other Ministries	\$272,645,000 66,368,000 73,623,000 40,742,000 34,677,000 4,577,000 52,658,000
11.0%	Fund Raising Represents the cost of World Vision fund-raising efforts in the United States	39,406,000
7.7%	Management/General Represents the cost of administrative support for operations in the United States	27,478,000
4.1%	Committed to Future Program Expenditures	14,628,000
1.1%	Retirement of Debt	4,194,000
100.0%	Total	\$358,351,000

1998 Ministry Results

	1998	1997	1996
Number of U.S. donors	666,343	656,535	639,423
Children sponsored worldwide by World Vision partnership	1,383,218	1,306,076	1,164,410
Children sponsored by U.S. donors	565,733	526,694	500,359
Beneficiaries worldwide	73,129,645	60,105,512	50,179,047
U.S. groups (churches, schools, other) participating in 30 Hour Famine	7,536	7,012	6,439
Churches and ministries partnering in U.S. programs	7,163	4,858	3,889
U.S. Gifts-In-Kind Dollars in Thousands	\$116,876	\$110,740	\$97,600

President Richard Stearns
Publisher Dorene Young
Managing Editor Shelly Ngo
Art Director Janet Dahring
Senior Editors Karen Homer
Jane Sutton-Redner
Photo Consultant Jon Warren
Production Manager Kris Baldyga

CORRESPONDENTS

Sanjay Sojwal (Asia), Nigel Marsh, Winnie Ogana (East Africa), Kevin Cook (Eastern Europe), Margaret Jephson (Southern Africa), Kate Scannell (West Africa)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jon Warren (Cover)
Juan Manuel Alsina, Todd Bartel, Jim Newton, Steve Reynolds, John Schenk, Sanjay Sojwal

On the cover: Abandoned babies find a safe haven at Father Tanase's center in Valea Ploplului, Romania.

World Vision Today, a quarterly publication, shares the stories of children, their families, and communities as they experience the tangible hope of the Gospel in a world of suffering and injustice. In hope that our relationship and conversations will grow deeper and increasingly meaningful, **World Vision Today** aims for the highest standards in accuracy, practicality, and stewardship, and is our gift to you for your commitment to modeling Jesus' life-giving compassion.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, home address, and daytime telephone number, and should be sent to: The Editor, **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, Washington 98063-9716, faxed to (253) 815-3445, or e-mailed to WVToday@worldvision.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Submitted photos will not be returned. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

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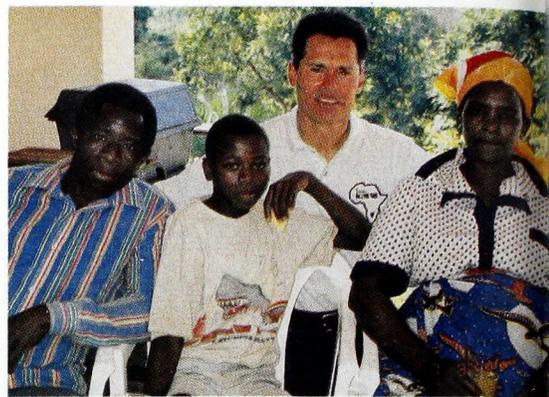
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Letters

Life-changing opportunity

I wanted to tell you about the wonderful experience I had in Malawi, East Africa meeting my sponsored child, Juma Willison. I have been a fire fighter with the City of Los Angeles for 21 years and a Christian for 16 years. I am just a regular person whom God has smiled upon and granted this once-in-a-lifetime privilege.

George Negrete
Los Angeles, Calif.



George Negrete with his sponsored child, Juma Willison (center), mother, Mary, and an uncle. With church, Hope Chapel, George raises funds for clean water wells and help send medical and teaching teams assist families in Malawi.

Praying for Sudan

I saw pictures in the newspaper, but I first read about the famine in Sudan in **World Vision Today** ["Sudan: I was hungry, and you fed me." Winter, 1998]. When I learned about the many thousands of starving people, especially children, I wanted to cry. But then I read about your staff workers, and I wanted to shout a praise. I am deeply moved by what you are doing and will pray for Sudan.

Sarah Louise Freeman
Acworth, Ga.

Caring for millions of people in trouble seems like an impossible task. God bless your efforts. We cannot all be there with you but we can pray, send money, and press our government and the United Nations to bring an end to this unnecessary suffering.

Frank Koreck
Rock Hill, S.C.

I was feeling sorry for myself because I could not afford to go out to a fancy dinner when I heard [World Vision nurse] Karen Easterday interviewed on National Public Radio. I immediately called the 800 number to find out how could help. I gave about as much as the dinner would have cost. It good to get a sharp reminder of exactly how lucky we are.

Kate Rothwell
Frederick, Md.

Editor's note

*In the center of this magazine is a special advertisement for Power and Glory, the Christian music division of Columbia House. From time to time, **World Vision Today** will accept advertisements for products we believe might interest you. Power and Glory will donate a percentage of proceeds from new memberships to support World Vision's ministry.*

passionate about life

I have stood in the hospital room beside my wife, Reneé, after the amazing, joyous births of our five children. Few experiences match the moment when your much-awaited child enters the world. However, sadly, nearly half the world's children born each year are delivered into lives of poverty, malnutrition, and disease.

They are the children of 14-year-old girls in Thailand forced into prostitution to support their families. They are the children who will be diagnosed HIV-positive before they even learn their ABCs. They are the children who will die of preventable diseases such as measles, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Faced with these facts, some people believe population control is the answer. They think: "Why subject children to such appalling conditions? If we want to reduce poverty, then help parents reduce the number of children they bear." World Vision strongly disagrees with this philosophy.

Certainly, for those who request it, World Vision provides education and counsel regarding family planning, but because we believe that life begins at conception, we never recommend any birth control methods known to be abortifacient. We have learned from decades of development work that the best way to

address poverty is not by focusing on contraception, but by helping people improve their living conditions.

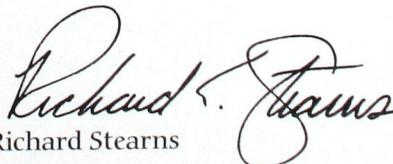
The fear of losing children to famine and disease often compels parents to have

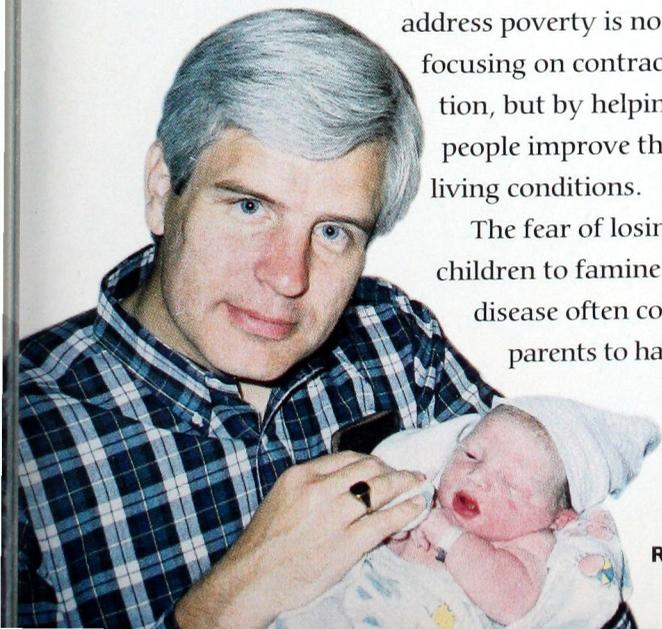
more children. However, studies confirm that as women's literacy and education increase in a community, parents begin to have smaller families. That is why our sponsorship programs, which help keep young girls in school and provide vital opportunities for their families, are such a positive solution to ending the cycle of poverty.

When we supply practical help such as immunizations, infant mortality rates are reduced. And when we teach farmers how to increase crop yields, parents are in a more secure position to support the children they decide to bring into the world.

World Vision cares passionately about children, both the born and unborn. Our cover story profiles the work of Romanian Orthodox priest Father Nicolae Tanase, who finds homes for unwanted babies and cares for single mothers in his village who choose to keep their children. Our support for such ministries and our work to solve the problems that contribute to poverty demonstrate our commitment to being pro-life in a practical way, from the womb to the grave.

As we approach the Easter season, let us consider how we can creatively celebrate the new life we enjoy as children of a risen Savior. Maybe this will mean supporting a girls' literacy project overseas, volunteering at a local crisis pregnancy center, or helping a single mother or father you know to shoulder their burdens. However we seek to serve, may we do it in the shadow of the Cross and in the hope of the Resurrection. 🌐


Richard Stearns



Rich with Peter, his fourth child, born in 1988.

Pro Vita

In Romania, World Vision supports the work of Orthodox priest Father Nicolae Tanase, 41, who models how community care can help prevent abortion and child abandonment.



We are family: In return for their room and board, single mothers and homeless teenagers staying at Father Tanase's center agree to care for abandoned babies who have been left in Valea Ploplui.

"Hristos a înviat," shouts Eugenia Neagu, her breath feathered on the crisp morning air as she greets a passing neighbor. "Christ is risen!"

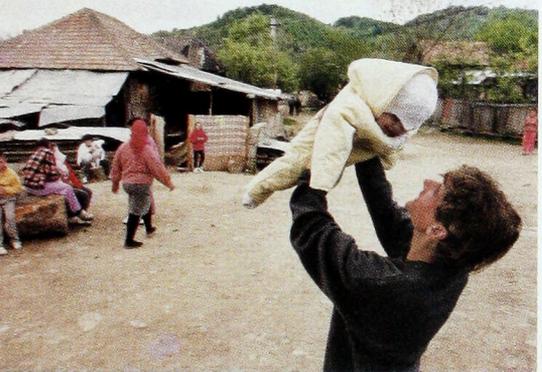
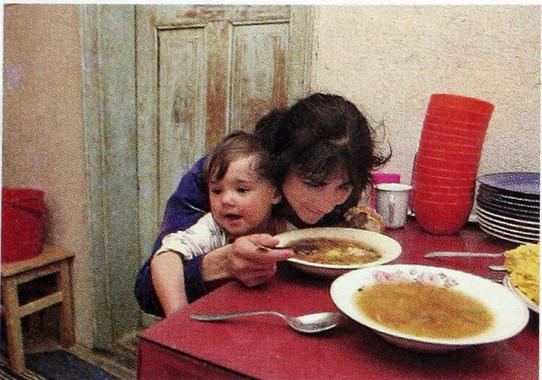
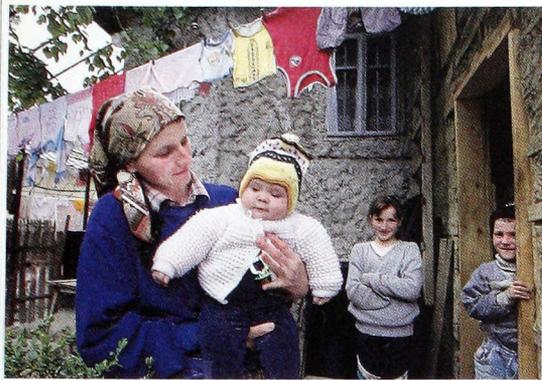
The kerchiefed farm woman, threatening her immobile oxen mired in the muddy path, waves back sheepishly. *"Adevarat a înviat.* He is risen indeed."

These sacred words have echoed through this Romanian village, Valea Ploplui, for more than a thousand years. Christians in Romania exchange this traditional greeting between Easter and Pentecost Sunday to celebrate their risen Savior. This Easter holds renewed hope for Eugenia Neagu, 15, and her 3-month-old daughter, Andreea Iasmina. Abandoned and rejected by her family and her child's father, Eugenia found a home in Valea Ploplui, a huddle of gingerbread-trimmed cottages tucked below the Carpathian mountains, 60 miles north of Bucharest, Romania's capital.

r the born and unborn

Kids caring for kids: Eugenia Neagu, 15, refused to abort or abandon her daughter, Andreea Iasmina, despite pressure from her family. "Eugenia is still a child herself. She calls out for her mama in her sleep," comments Eugenia's roommate. "But she takes better care of her child than some mothers here. Most girls her age would have abandoned the baby."





Village of refuge:

(top) "Our home is not beautiful, but it is open," says Valea Ploputui resident, Vasilica Popescu, with her foster child, 8-month-old Gabriela.

(middle) A young, single mother enjoys a warm welcome at Father Tanase's center, and a hot bowl of *ciorba*, a tangy Romanian soup.

(bottom) "I like to make the babies laugh," says Bucharest volunteer Marc Tudose, 22. He came to Valea Ploputui to hear his musician father perform a charity concert one night and stayed for a month to care for the children.

Eugenia is one of 10 single mothers and their babies cramped into two bungalows with no indoor plumbing. But the women do not complain about the crowded conditions. They are only too glad to be in this safe haven run by Father Nicolae Tanase, an Orthodox priest and founder of Pro Vita, a national organization of believers, doctors, and priests committed to caring for single mothers and abandoned children. World Vision has supported this practical, pro-life ministry since 1993.

"I was three months pregnant before I even realized I was expecting," Eugenia giggles with embarrassment while awkwardly diapering Andreea. "My mother took me to the doctor and offered him a lot of money to abort the baby late. I was glad he refused to do it."

When Eugenia was seven months pregnant, her mother abandoned her and her three younger brothers. The landlord evicted them from their one-room apartment when they failed to pay the rent. Eugenia's boyfriend, who left town for military service, offered no moral or financial support. Eugenia delivered her baby by Caesarean section in a Bucharest hospital with no family or friends beside her.

With nowhere to go, Eugenia stayed in the hospital for three months. Doctors tried to persuade her to give the baby up to an orphanage. "I ran out on the balcony and threatened to jump if they took Andreea from me," says

Eugenia, smiling defiantly. Finally, the hospital staff referred her to Father Tanase's center. The priest drove to Bucharest himself to bring Eugenia and her baby back to Valea Ploputui.

Eugenia's decision not to abort Andreea or commit her to an orphanage is significant in Romania, where more than 1 million abortions are performed annually. A decade after Romania's revolution, the country still suffers the fallout from birth control practices entrenched during the former Communist regime.

A restrictive 1966 law permitted modern contraceptive use only for very limited medical and social reasons with the goal of rapidly increasing Romania's population and work force. Without access to birth control, many women sought illegal abortions often performed by untrained practitioners. From 1979-1989, Romania's maternal mortality rate was 10 times higher than any other European country. Most of these deaths were abortion related.

Even after contraception was legalized in 1991, Romanian women, suspicious and ill-informed about alternative methods, continued to use abortion as a family planning method. By 1993, Romania reported the world's highest rate of legal abortions—almost 200 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44—a rate seven times higher than that of the United States.



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Under communism, women who chose not to abort but who struggled to adequately care for their large families, were encouraged to place their children in state-run orphanages. Hundreds of thousands of unwanted and abandoned children were warehoused in understaffed, underequipped Dickensian institutions.

Today, the number of institutionalized children exceeds that of pre-revolution Romania. While basic conditions in these centers have greatly improved thanks to the continued investment of personnel and resources by World Vision and other agencies, orphanage care is no substitute for a family's care.

Economic analysts point to poverty as a source of Romania's social woes, including child abandonment and abortion. As many as one in five Romanians live below the poverty line while the country transitions to a free market economy. An average salary here is just \$100 a month—barely enough for families to cover rent and food.

However, Father Tanase, married with five children of his own, is convinced that a spiritual malaise underlies Romania's crisis. "Ask 100 people and they will tell you this is an economic problem. That's not true. Doctors abort because they do not have faith in God. Men beat their wives because they do not have the

fear of God in their souls. The root cause is a lack of faith."

Putting feet to his faith, in 1992 Father Tanase decided to tackle the problem. One by one he began bringing single, pregnant women and abandoned children to his parish in Valea Plopului, encouraging the community to care for them.

Twelve-day-old Lucian Cizmaru was his first charge. Lucian's mother, a destitute, single woman, entrusted her son to her village priest who contacted Father Tanase, asking if he could find the child a home. Braving a mountain blizzard, Father Tanase traveled several hundred miles with the infant bundled in a cardboard box in the back seat of his rusting Mercedes,

a donated car held together with bits of wire and wisps of prayer.

The next morning, he brought the baby to church, tucking him in a warm corner of the sanctuary before commencing the Orthodox liturgy.

"As we sang that morning, we heard a baby crying," says Maria Cizmaru, a Valea Ploplui parishioner. "Several people ran to the window because we thought the wailing was coming from the snow banks. Then we saw this child in a box!" Maria was still cradling Lucian after the service when Father Tanase asked if she would take him home. A mother of four, this farmer's

village did not laud Maria's charity. "The men asked my husband how he could raise a stranger's child," says Maria, shaking her head sadly.

Rumors spread that Lucian was the illegitimate son of the couple's 18-year-old daughter. Snubbed in the market and openly ostracized, Maria drew courage from her conviction that Lucian was God's gift.

"When I was young, I had an abortion. I felt very guilty afterward," confides Maria, nervously fingering the collar of her faded cotton dress. "I prayed and confessed my sin for many months, but somehow I didn't feel any better. When Lucian arrived, Father

and acceptance of Lucian eventually sparked a transformation in Valea Ploplui. Today, foster families here care for 97 abandoned children, and provide moral support for single mothers, like Eugenia, who come to stay in the village. Although they receive a small allowance from Father Tanase's ministry, money is not their motivation.

"I would gladly care for one or two more children, but we only have one heated room," says Vasilica Popescu, balancing 8-month-old Gabriela on her hip outside her shuttered cottage. Vasilica, a mother of two young children, took in Gabriela despite her husband's unemployment. "This has been good for Gabriela and for our family. Our village has changed since we began working with Father Tanase. We are united in a common goal—helping these children and the pregnant mothers who seek refuge in our village."

Father Tanase takes heart from the compassion he sees germinating in Valea Ploplui. He prays Christians in other villages will emulate this pro-life model of community care.

"In the beginning, we just spoke out against abortion. We did not plan to bring children here, but the women began leaving their babies," reflects Father Tanase, stroking his voluminous beard as he considers the reasons for his ministry's success. "Then the pregnant mothers came, not for material help, but because they found love here." 🌍

Pots of love: "If your own children can live on what you have, you can cope with one more soul," asserts Maria, a mother of five, including her foster son, Lucian. "What is one more child when you are cooking a pot of soup?" Left to right: Maria's husband, Ion; Lucian, and Father Tanase.

wife was uncertain how her husband, Ion, would react to another mouth to feed. Seven years later, Lucian is still their cherished baby.

Initially, neighbors in this cloistered, tradition-bound

Tanase said to me: 'God has brought you this child as a sign of his forgiveness.' Today, Lucian is our son. I could never give him up. We love him too much."

The Cizmarus' devotion



the babies' revolution

The world watched in fascination as Romania's nine-day revolution culminated on Christmas Day 1989 with the execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, abruptly ending 45 years of communism. However, abandoned children in Romania's state-run orphanages would have a longer wait for freedom and justice. A decade later, they are finally reaping the benefits of new child care and protection reforms that put the responsibility for child care back in the hands of the family and the community. "I call it the babies' revolution," says Christopher Shore, president of World Vision Romania's national office. "The old, communist-era structures of centralized control and control are being replaced with family-oriented, locally-controlled structures. The real promise of these reforms, which we have long advocated, is that work can shift from treating symptoms



dealing with core problems: preventing child abandonment, reducing institutionalization, and breaking the cycle of despair and poverty," enthuses Christopher, a veteran with 15 years of service in Eastern Europe. Rodica and Rudolf Herchi, young parents from an industrial town of Câmpia Turzii, are among the heads of Romanian families World Vision is helping together. They say their participation in a World Vision support group for 80 low-income couples prevented them from abandoning their children to an orphanage.

"In the group, we discussed how to find a job, prepare nutritious meals, and develop good relationships with our kids. Most of all, the group gave me confidence. I don't know how I would have coped with all the problems without their support," says Rodica, 23. She confides that she considered putting her newborn, Flaviu, and her 1-year-old son, Flaviu, in an orphanage when her husband lost his job at the town's wire factory. Hundreds of parents in Câmpia Turzii have consigned their children to orphanages since the factory laid off workers.

The Herchis can barely afford food on the \$35 per month Rudolf earns doing odd jobs. But they are determined to keep their sons at home. "It's best for them to be with us, no matter what our situation," Rudolf says.

To date, no children from the 80 families involved in Câmpia Turzii support groups have been admitted to orphanages.

With help from a grant from the United States Agency for International Development, World Vision

plans to expand such community programs, reducing the total number of institutionalized children in three counties by 31 percent, and the annual rate of new admissions by 67 percent over the next four years. "Our goal is to stop the flow of children into institutions by helping parents to cope and to keep their children at home," says Christopher Shore. "This may not sound like glamorous work, but here in Romania, it's a revolution."

World Vision in Romania

- World Vision began working in eight state-run orphanages in 1991. Teams of expatriate medical professionals provided therapy for hundreds of developmentally delayed children and training for orphanage staff.
- Since 1992, World Vision has helped reunite more than 600 orphanage children with their families and placed 50 in foster care. Some 150 children have been adopted by Romanian families.
- Ninety percent of Romania's AIDS patients are children. World Vision Kids' Club organizes camps and activities for HIV-infected children.
- Combating unemployment, World Vision's \$2.6 million microenterprise development program has created more than 600 new jobs, and sustained another 2,150 by providing loans to small businesses.
- World Vision is helping people regain their trust in the church after 45 years of communism by supporting local ministries which serve the community.

Parents in training: Newlyweds Gabriel and Gabriela Vasilescu, weekly volunteers at Bucharest's Orphanage Number One, moved up their wedding date so they would be eligible for World Vision's foster parent training program. "We know orphanage children do not receive the love of a family," says Gabriel, 18. "We can do something good for at least one of these children."

Karen Homer, who served in Romania from 1991-1992, returned there recently to report on World Vision's progress.

signs of hope resourceful

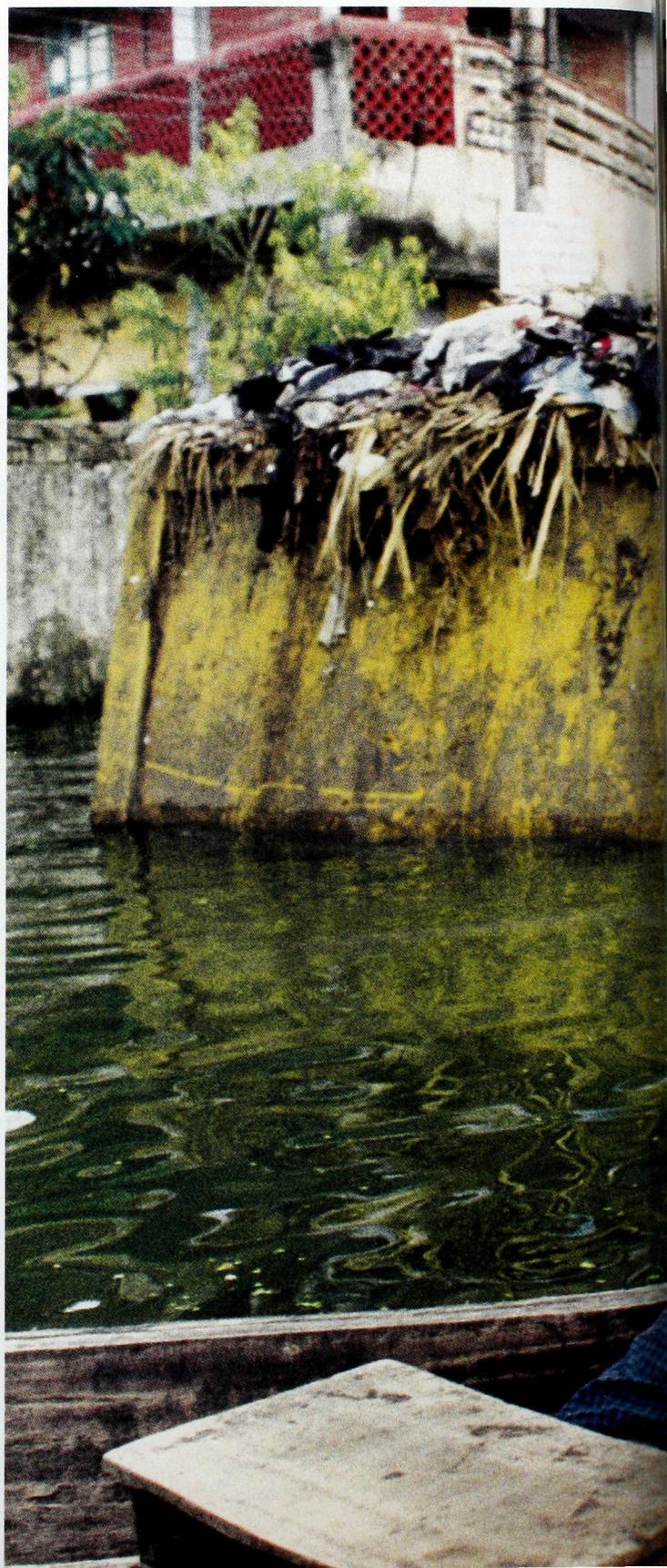
Sponsored child Suhail Rana, 14, launched a water taxi business to support his family after the worst floods in Bangladesh's history deluged his father's fruit stand last fall.

"My father took a loan to purchase this boat for 1,500 *taka* (\$30) to carry our belongings to a safe place. Now I'm plying it to pay back the loan," explained Suhail, who lives in Kamalapur, a slum area of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Suhail earned \$4 a day while his flooded school was closed for several months. This young entrepreneur charged 12 cents per trip—twice the fare of a rickshaw ride—ferrying his clients through the neck-deep, putrid water rife with garbage, snakes, and human waste.

Suhail and his family are still recovering from the catastrophe that engulfed three-quarters of Bangladesh, already one of the world's poorest countries, claiming some 1,200 lives and leaving 30 million people homeless.

World Vision staff worked nonstop, delivering emergency rations of rice, lentils, salt, and water purification tablets to 385,350 people in 40 flood-ravaged areas. More than 73,900 packets of lifesaving oral rehydration solution were distributed to people suffering from diarrhea after drinking polluted water.

Some 81,673 Bangladeshi children are supported by World Vision sponsors worldwide, including 22,260 U.S. donors. World Vision's extensive disaster recovery program will continue to help children like Suhail and other flood victims regain their footing on solid ground. 🌐



**He reached down from on high and
took hold of me; he drew me out of
deep waters.** Psalms 18:16 (NIV)



news

Central America: Hurricane Mitch response

"During the Hurricane Mitch crisis, your response and caring was a true source of motivation for our entire staff," writes World Vision Honduras national director Milagro Piñeda de Castro. "I would like to express my wholehearted thanks."

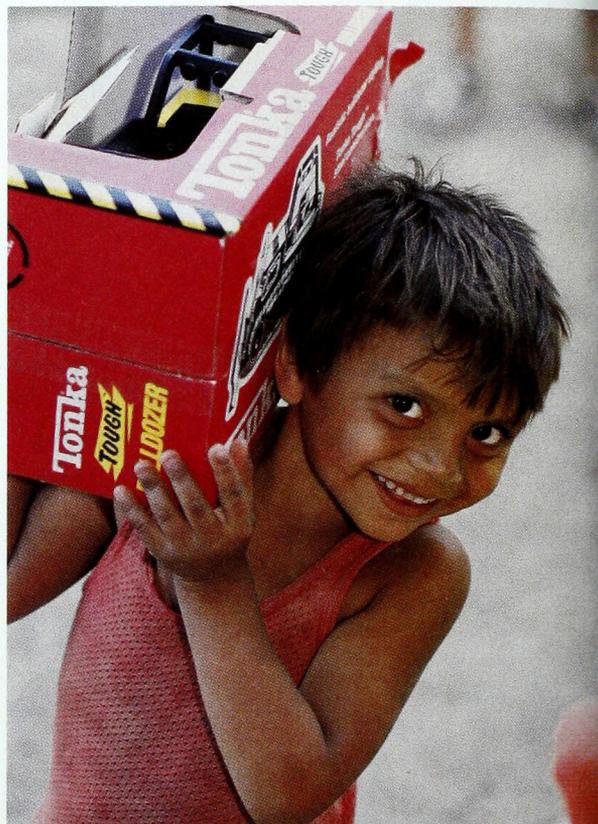
World Vision donors were indeed generous in the wake of Mitch, which affected 2.4 million people and destroyed crops and infrastructure in Central America last October. Corporations, churches, schools, and families across the United States quickly responded with cash donations as well as medical supplies and other desperately needed goods.

- A church in Pasadena, Calif. collected more than \$60,000 in one Sunday offering.
- At several collection centers in U.S. cities, World Vision gathered blankets, some 30 tons of rice and beans, and more than 22,000 personal care kits containing hygiene items, donated by local residents.
- Hasbro, Inc., Nike, Inc., and Weyerhaeuser were corporate partners.
- Carl Lindner, chairman and CEO of Chiquita Brands International, Inc., and his son, Keith, vice chairman of the board, donated \$1.2 million to World Vision's work in Honduras.

The need continues

"With the resources raised during the emergency phase, we have provided food, pots and pans, blankets, water containers, and chlorine for clean water to 7,500 families in 10 of our most seriously damaged project areas," Milagro reports. "Our main concern is the welfare of the children and the families in our care."

"In the rehabilitation phase, a food-for-work program will facilitate the reconstruction of houses, water systems, schools, roads, and bridges," she explains. "We are also providing seeds and fertilizers until the next harvest in August. A comprehensive health plan will focus on the nutritional status of



Play time: A boy in Las Cañas, Honduras receives one of more than 20,000 toys donated by Hasbro, Inc. to children across the Hurricane Mitch-affected country.

children. Finally, but perhaps more importantly, we will provide counseling and educational programs to deal with the trauma caused by this natural disaster."

Central America will require long-term assistance to recover from the devastation. Cash, rather than food and goods, is now most needed. World Vision's U.S. office hopes to raise \$10 million for hardest-hit Honduras as well as programs in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

"World Vision played a vital role in all these Central American countries before the hurricane," says World Vision president Rich Stearns. "Now we are committed to helping people fully recover from this disaster."

—Reported by Sheryl Watkins and Ralph Merriam

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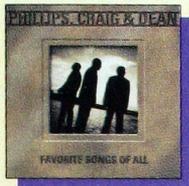
World Vision



Ministry Partners

Contemporary Christian

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- Gold 235861
- Platinum 241661
- Various Artists 245373
- A & A Band 251660
- Chris Rice—Past The Edges (Rockettown) 258475**
- Awesome God: A Tribute To Rich Mullins (Reunion) 266429**
- Amy Grant—The Collection (RCA) 138701**
- My Utmost For His Highest—various artists (Word/Epic) 134551**
- Bryan Duncan—My Utmost For His Highest (Word/Epic) 161943**



- Phillips, Craig & Dean—Favorite Songs Of All (Star Song) 263335**
- Avalon (Sparrow) 177733**
- Iona—Heaven's Bright Sun (Forefront) 214668**
- Point Of Grace—The Whole Truth (Word/Epic) 120618**
- Matt Redman—The Friendship And The Fear (Starsong) 233916**
- Rich Young Ruler (Benson) 237255**
- Chonda Pierce—Havin' A Girls' Night Out (Word/Epic) 242172**
- Jaci Velasquez—Heavenly Place (Myrrh) 162677**



Jaci Velasquez

- Sandra Payne (Daywind) 248724**
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- Pam Thum—Believe (Benson) 227728**
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- Let Us Pray—various artists (Sparrow) 178897**



- Point Of Grace—Steady On (Word/Epic) 255356**

- Phillips, Craig & Dean—Where Strength Begins (Starsong) 215848**
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- Cheri Keaggy—What Matters Most (Sparrow) 222745**
- Aaron/Jeffrey—The Climb (Star Song) 227058**
- WOW 1998—Jars Of Clay, dc talk, Steven Curtis Chapman (Sparrow) 227066**
- Avalon—A Maze Of Grace (Sparrow) 232942**
- Maire Brennan—Perfect Time (Word) 233866**
- Carman—Mission 3:16 (Sparrow) 233932**
- Sierra—Story Of Life (Star Song) 236109**
- Michelle Tumes—Listen (Sparrow) 237313**
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- Wilshire (Word/Epic) 238204**
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- Phil Keaggy (Word/Epic) 261453**
- Watermark (Rockettown) 261461**
- Grateful Hearts—various artists (Spring Hill) 263475**

Kathy Troccoli



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- People Get Ready—various artists (Forefront) 266411**
- Kim Hill—Arms Of Mercy (Star Song) 266437**

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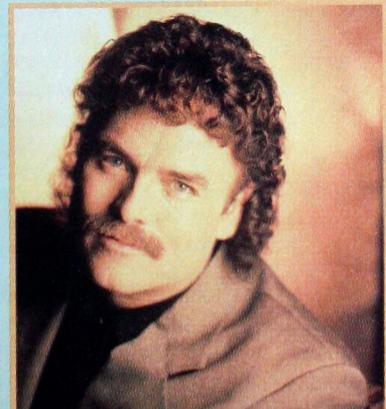
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- Various Artists For Of Life 237362**
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- Clay Crosse—Stained Glass (Reunion) 214684**
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- Renewing The Heart—various artists (Sparrow) 215509**
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- 25 More Sunday School Songs—various artists (Straightway) 240408**

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NEWS



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WWJD—various artists (Forefront) **225920**

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Jennifer Knapp—Kansas (Gotee) **210260**

Petra—God Fixation (Word/Epic) **241893**

Skillet—Hey You, I Love Your Soul (Forefront) **242230**

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Lil' Raskull—Gory 2 Glory (Grapetree)★ **257030**

The Thieves—Water (Tattoo) **257063**

The Normals—Better Than This (Forefront) **257097**

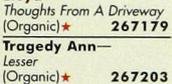
Chris Taylor—Down Goes The Day (Rhythm House)★ **258145**

Reggae Worship Volume Three—various artists (KMG)★ **268490**

Rick Elias—Blink (Pamplin) **267146**

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Karen Clark-Sheard—Finally Karen (Island Inspirational) **227116**

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gospel



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Vickie Winans—Live In Detroit (CGI) **217976**

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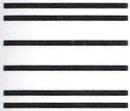
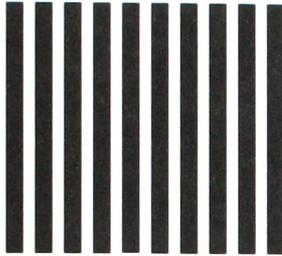
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john schenk / world vision

Just in time: Xhevrije Gara, holding daughter Mihrije, and her husband, Ymer, unpack donated coats and supplies to help them through Kosovo's winter.

and their house destroyed and most of
bins. Soldiers had also discovered Ymer's
ned the clothing.
; their new coats, Xhevrije exclaimed,
beautiful and so warm!"

—Reported by John Schenk

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Mark your calendars for May 6, 1999,
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Prayer. This year's theme, drawn from
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with prayer." For event schedules and
prayer guides, call the National Day of
Prayer's task force at (800) 444-8828.



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12 CD Cassettes

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Mayfair Laundry—
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Human—*Out Of The Dust*
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Dale Thompson & The Kentucky Cadillacs
Testimony
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All Star United
(Reunion) **188383**

Caedmon's Call
(Warner/Alliance)**215237**

dc Talk—*Welcome To The Freak Show*
(Forefront) **220087**

Third Day—*Conspiracy No. 5* (Reunion) **220244**

This Train—*Mimes Of The Old West*
(Organic)★ **267195**

WWJD—*various artists*
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Sixpence None The Richer—*(Squint/Myrrh/Word)* **232850**

Seven Day Jesus
(Forefront) **232959**

Sarah Masen—*Carry Us Through* (Re:think)**237370**

Big Tent Revival—
Amplifier (Ardent) **239426**



Jennifer Knapp—
Kansas (Gotee) **210260**

Petra—*God Fixation*
(Word/Epic) **241893**

Skillet—
Hey You, I Love Your Soul
(Forefront)★ **242230**

Seltzer 2—*various artists*
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Ten: The Birthday Album—*various artists*
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Zilch—
Platinum (Gotee)★**255646**

The World Wide Message Tribe—
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(Warner Resound)**255653**

Curious Fools—*Electric Soul* (Gotee)★ **256941**

GT Compilation Vol. III—*various artists*
(Grapetree)★ **256974**

Lil' Raskull—
Gory 2 Glory
(Grapetree)★ **257030**

Between The Water
(Tattoo)

The Norma
Better Than The
(Forefront)

Chris Taylor
Down Goes The
(Rhythm House)

Reggae World Volume Three
various artists
(KMG)★

Rick Elias—
Blink
(Pamplin)

Lloyd—
Thoughts From
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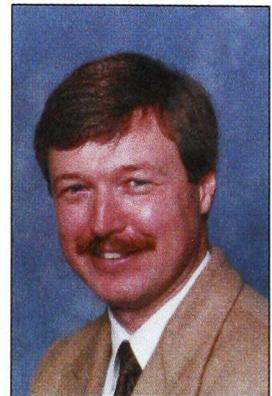
Tragedy At Lesser
(Organic)★



Burlap To
Anybody's Opium
(Squint/Myrrh)



A message from Christopher Shore, national director, World Vision Romania



Christopher Shore

Children are at the heart of all we do in Romania.

Whether we are helping institutionalized children, assisting parents, or supporting Christian ministries serving the community, children are our focus.

Our vision is that one day Romania's orphanages will be empty, and that every child will live in a loving home.

We are proud of the progress we are making toward that goal, but children are still at risk here in one of Europe's poorest countries.

YOU CAN HELP WORLD VISION CARE FOR ROMANIAN CHILDREN.

\$40 assists an at-risk family for a month, by providing aid such as clothing and emergency medical assistance.

\$85 helps a Romanian family support a foster child.

\$150 helps provide a loan for an at-risk family to begin or expand a small business.

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Send a donation to World Vision to help save children's lives.

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The music I like most is: Steven Curtis Chapman, Point Of Grace CeCe Winans, Dottie Peoples

Mr. Mrs. Miss
Print First Name Initial Last Name

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Do you have a telephone? (01) Yes No. If yes, write in number (05) ()

Have you ever bought anything by mail in the past? (27) Yes No Area Code

How have you paid for your mail order purchase? Check below all that apply:
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World Vision

Vision aids refugees



john schenk / world vision

Just in time: Xhevrije Gara, holding daughter Mihrije, and her husband, Ymer, unpack donated coats and supplies to help them through Kosovo's winter.

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they found their house destroyed and most of
lage in ruins. Soldiers had also discovered Ymer's
and burned the clothing.
xamining their new coats, Xhevrije exclaimed,
are so beautiful and so warm!"

—Reported by John Schenk



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prayer guides, call the National Day of
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Help care for Romania's children

Christopher, I would like to help
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a girl a boy living in

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Middle East where most needed

Niger, West Africa, where World Vision
recently began sponsorship programs.

Sponsorship is not available in Romania at this time.)

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Scrub (Organic)***267211**
Human—*Out Of The Dust*
(Organic)* **267229**

Dale Thompson & The Kentucky Cadillacs
Testimony
(Organic)* **269076**

All Star United
(Reunion) **188383**

Caedmon's Call
(Warner/Alliance)**215517**

dc Talk—*Welcome To The Freak Show*
(Forefront) **220087**

Third Day—*Conspiracy No. 5* (Reunion) **220244**

This Train—
Mimes Of The Old West
(Organic)* **267195**

WWJD—*various artists*
(Forefront) **225920**

Sixpence None The Richer—(Squint/Myrrh/Word) **232850**

Seven Day Jesus
(Forefront) **232959**

Sarah Masen—*Carry Us Through* (Re:think)**237370**

Big Tent Revival—
Amplifier (Ardent)**239426**



Jennifer Knapp—
Kansas (Gotee) **210260**

Petra—*God Fixation*
(Word/Epic) **241893**

Skillet—
Hey You, I Love Your Soul
(Forefront) **242230**

Seltzer 2—*various artists*
(Forefront) **246934**

Ten: The Birthday Album—*various artists*
(Forefront)■* **253500**

Zilch—
Platinum (Gotee)***255646**

The World Wide Message Tribe—
Heatseeker
(Warner Resound)**255653**

Curious Fools—*Electric Soul* (Gotee)* **256941**

GT Compilation Vol. III—*various artists*
(Grapetree)* **256974**

Lil' Raskull—
Gory 2 Glory
(Grapetree)* **257030**

Between The Water
(Tattoo)

The Norms—
Better Than I
(Forefront)

Chris Taylor—
Down Goes I
(Rhythm Hou)

Reggae W Volume Th
various artist
(KMG)*

Rick Elias—
Blink
(Pamplin)

Lloyd—
Thoughts Fro
(Organic)*

Tragedy A Lesser
(Organic)*



Burlap To Anybody Or
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CHECK ONLY ONE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN GOSPEL
The music I like most is: Steven Curtis Chapman, Point Of Grace CeCe Winans, Dottie Peoples

Mr. Mrs. Miss

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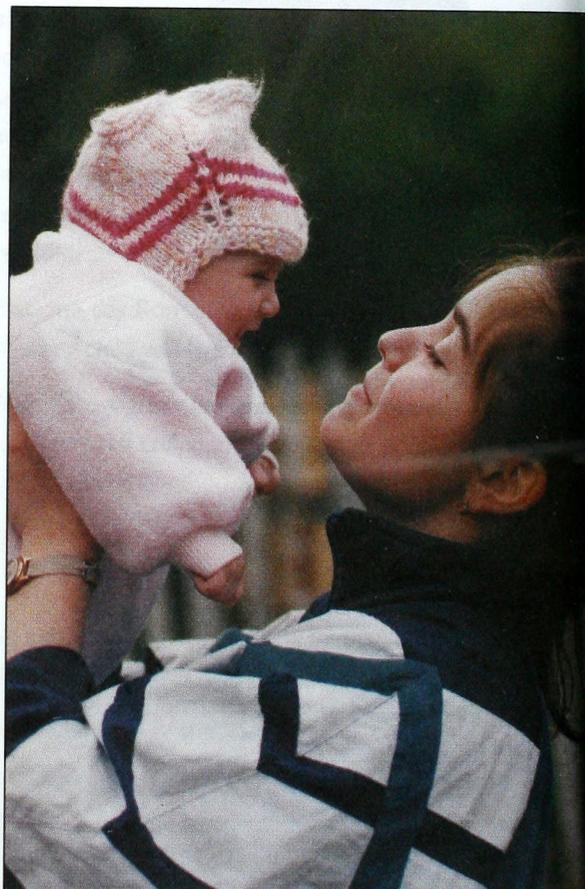
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"Children a poor person's riches"

—Romanian proverb



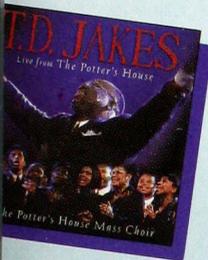
Romanian mom Eugenia and her daughter, Ana, who are assisted through a World Vision-supplied project caring for single mothers and their children.

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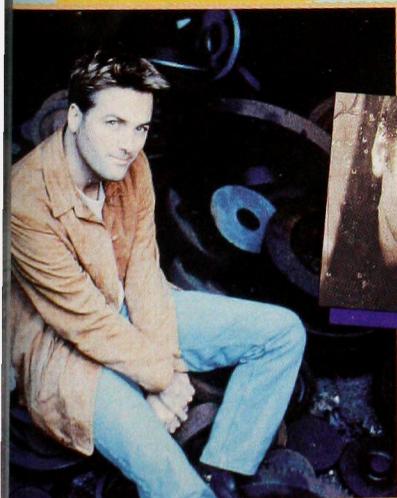


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Live The Life (Reunion) 244541

Vision aids refugees

clothing, wrapped in plastic. Then fighting forced villagers into the Cuka e Rabelit Mountains for two months. When the Garas returned home, they found their house destroyed and most of the village in ruins. Soldiers had also discovered Ymer's trench and burned the clothing.

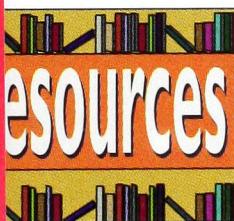
Examining their new coats, Xhevrije exclaimed, "They are so beautiful and so warm!"

—Reported by John Schenk



Just in time: Xhevrije Gara, holding daughter Mihrije, and her husband, Ymer, unpack donated coats and supplies to help them through Kosovo's winter.

john schenk / world vision



pol-age children learn numbers, and colors through singing Bible stories, songs, and cassettes. The audio releases are Chest Surprise recently a Dove Award nomination. Miss PattyCake's videos are sold wherever Christian cassettes are sold.

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National Day of Prayer

Mark your calendars for May 6, 1999, the 48th annual National Day of Prayer. This year's theme, drawn from Matthew 5:14-15, is "Light the nation with prayer." For event schedules and prayer guides, call the National Day of Prayer's task force at (800) 444-8828.

NEWS



Music for the Christian

rock/alter

Delirious?—*King Of Fools* (Sparrow) **243535**

The Insyderz Present Skallelu! (Squint/Myrrh/Word)★ **254169**

Mayfair Laundry—*Scrub* (Organic)★ **267211**

Human—*Out Of The Dust* (Organic)★ **267229**

Dale Thompson & The Kentucky Cadillacs—*Testimony* (Organic)★ **269076**

All Star United (Reunion) **188383**

Caedmon's Call (Warner/Alliance) **215517**

dc Talk—*Welcome To The Freak Show* (Forefront) **220087**

Third Day—*Conspiracy No. 5* (Reunion) **220244**

This Train—*Mimes Of The Old West* (Organic)★ **267195**

WWJD—*various artists* (Forefront) **225920**

Sixpence None The Richer—(Squint/Myrrh/Word) **232850**

Seven Day Jesus (Forefront) **232959**

Sarah Masen—*Carry Us Through* (Re:think) **237370**

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Jennifer Knapp—*Kansas* (Gotee) **210260**

Petra—*God Fixation* (Word/Epic) **241893**

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Seltzer 2—*various artists* (Forefront) **246934**

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Zilch—*Platinum* (Gotee)★ **255646**

The World Wide Message Tribe—*Heatseeker* (Warner Resound) **255653**

Curious Fools—*Electric Soul* (Gotee)★ **256941**

GT Compilation Vol. III—*various artists* (Grapetree)★ **256974**

Lil' Raskull—*Gory 2 Glory* (Grapetree)★ **257030**

Between The Water (Tattoo)

The Norms—*Better Than I* (Forefront)

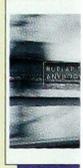
Chris Taylor—*Down Goes I* (Rhythm House)

Reggae Volume 1—*various artists* (KMG)★

Rick Elias—*Blink* (Pamplin)

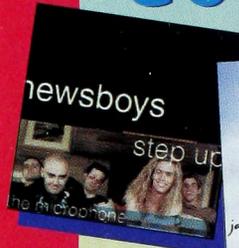
Lloyd—*Thoughts From* (Organic)★

Tragedy A Lesser (Organic)★



Burlap To Anybody Else (Squint/Myrrh)

Share God's love



Newsboys—*Step Up To The Microphone* (Starsong) **261495**



Jaci Velasquez (Word/Epic) **248716**



Veggie Tales—*Veggie Tunes* (Everland) **245381**

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Also send this 13th CD now for which I will be billed an additional \$6.98, plus shipping and handling. This purchase entitles me to a 14th CD FREE!

Also send this 13th CD now for which I will be billed an additional \$3.98. (Shipping/handling charge 1)

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Send a donation to World Vision to help save children's lives

CHECK ONLY ONE
The music I like most is:

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN

GOSPEL

Steven Curtis Chapman, Point Of Grace

CeCe Winans, Dottie Peoples

Mr.
 Mrs.
 Miss

Print First Name Initial Last Name

Address Apt.

City State

Do you have a telephone? (01) Yes No. If yes, write in number (05) ()

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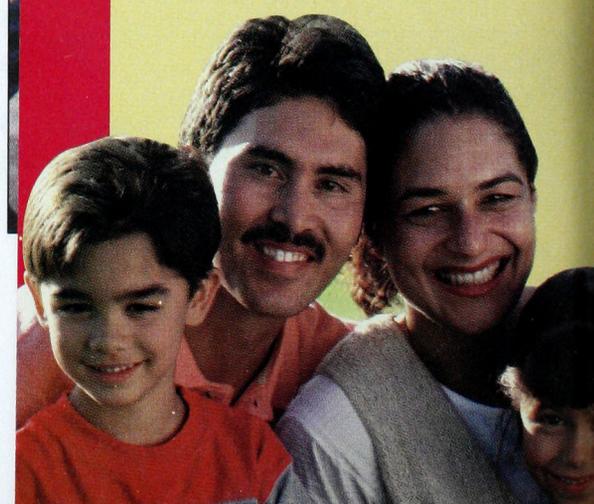
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Kosovo: World Vision aids refugees

This winter World Vision repaired more than 1,000 war-damaged houses in Kosovo, following a tenuous ceasefire brokered last October between Serb security forces and rebel guerrilla fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Tens of thousands of Kosovars remain dependent on food aid and emergency shelter assistance. World Vision assisted 50,000 ethnic Albanian refugees who returned to their villages with few winter possessions by distributing food rations, stoves, parkas, socks, boots, and blankets. The agency is also developing a psycho-social program to help war-traumatized children.

Ymer and Xhevrije Gara and their 18-month-old daughter were among the 1,500 families who received heavy parkas, food, and other survival items donated to World Vision by U.S. corporations. The family had little more than the clothes on their backs. Last summer, when the Serb army advanced on his village, Ymer dug a trench behind his house and buried his family's warmest

clothing, wrapped in plastic. Then fighting forced villagers into the Cuka e Rabelit Mountains for two months. When the Garas returned

home, they found their house destroyed and most of the village in ruins. Soldiers had also discovered Ymer's trench and burned the clothing.

Examining their new coats, Xhevrije exclaimed, "They are so beautiful and so warm!"

—Reported by John Schenk



john schenk / world vision

Just in time: Xhevrije Gara, holding daughter Mihrije, and her husband, Ymer, unpack donated coats and supplies to help them through Kosovo's winter.

resources

Miss PattyCake

Your kids love Barney and Teletubbies, but you may be yearning to hook them on something with more

Christian content. Try Integrity Music's "Just For Kids" videos. The series features Miss PattyCake, otherwise known as singer, wife, and mother Jean Thomason, who supports World Vision's ministry through the Artist Associates program. In *Miss PattyCake and the Treasure Chest Surprise* and *Miss PattyCake Discovers Bubbling Joy*,

preschool-age children learn numbers, shapes, and colors through entertaining Bible stories, songs, and puppets. The audio release of *Treasure Chest Surprise* recently garnered a Dove Award nomination. Look for Miss PattyCake's videos and cassettes wherever Christian music is sold.

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amazing story

rebe

Chalon Lee may hail from Atlanta, Ga., but this veteran emergency relief worker is no stereotypical Southern belle.

No place like home: Chalon Lee, director of World Vision's program in Kosovo, surveys one of 30,000 houses damaged during the Serbian troops' offensive last fall against ethnic Albanian rebels seeking independence for Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia. World Vision is repairing houses so families forced to flee to the mountain woods for safety can return to their communities.

May 1994. Four World Vision trucks inch over rough, hilly roads in this heart of dark, genocidal Rwanda. Armed rebels halt the convoy as it approaches a flimsy bridge. Chalon Lee, a slender, blond American woman, jumps out of the lead vehicle. In fluent French, she explains to a Rwandan commander that the trucks contain food and supplies for thousands of homeless survivors gathered in a town 25 miles away.

The commander reports that retreating government militia attempted to blow the bridge. It will not be repaired until the next morning. Rebel soldiers are busy burying scores of civilians massacred by the militia. A gag-inducing stench rises from the riverbank, strewn with bloated bodies lying on a carpet of possessions: clothing, bedrolls, and a few crumpled pocket New Testaments.

with a cause

Chalon negotiates persistently with the commander, gaining consent for the trucks to cross the bridge—empty. One of the great things about Africa is that there is a lack of available power,” quips Chalon. She dispatches a messenger to recruit 100 men from a nearby refugee camp to carry cargo over the bridge: cooking pot sets; 100 50-pound sacks of high-protein flour; and hundreds of blankets and plastic jerry cans. Three hours later, volunteers deposit the last sack on the far side of the bridge. Chalon holds her breath as the first truck crawls on to the creaking bridge. Cheers erupt and as the driver safely maneuvers across. Reloaded, the convoy starts at about 10 p.m.—slightly late. Chalon briefs the drivers. “If someone jumps out of the bush into the road, don’t stop. It’s likely an ambush.” Chalon’s anxious engineers remain mute. Suddenly she slips a tape into the dashboard player: an African comedian Garrison Njor regales the captive engineers with Lake Woebegon. The tension eases. The trucks arrive safely

at midnight. Exhausted, Chalon and her colleagues bunk in an abandoned house whose owners have probably been murdered.

The next morning, the team discovers hundreds of children hiding in a Catholic school. They have not eaten for days. “We prayed that someone would come to help us,” a nun tells Chalon, who is unloading food sacks.

January 1999. Chalon, now 44, resides in yet another desperate corner of the world serving as program director of World Vision’s relief operation in Kosovo. She chalks this up as the sixth conflict assignment of her 14-year World Vision career, including wars in Chad, Mali, Sudan, Bosnia, and Rwanda.

“I must have rebel blood in me to be working among all these rebels,” jokes Chalon, referring to her distant kinship with Confederate General Robert E. Lee, a great-great-uncle. She credits her family and her faith with preparing her for this challenging work.

“[I grew up in] an environment where you had to confront your fears,” explains Chalon, describing her adventurous childhood in

Atlanta, Ga. Although raised by a refined mother listed in the Memphis social registry, Chalon is no stereotypical Southern belle. Competing with three elder brothers, she developed daredevil skills as a pilot, parachutist, champion motocross racer, marks-woman, and equestrian. Her talents attracted Hollywood scouts who pursued her as a stunt woman. She opted for graduate studies in theology at Wheaton College, preparing for a missionary career. “I guess I made the right choice,” laughs Chalon, a former avowed atheist who became a believer during undergraduate journalism studies.

Graduating from Wheaton summa cum laude, Chalon completed a short-term mission in the former Zaire. She returned there in 1982 as a Peace Corps volunteer to conduct an animal husbandry project.

“I ate, talked, and breathed like an African for two years,” reminisces Chalon, who dined on monkeys she shot by bow and arrow with pygmy jungle hunters. “I listened to my Zairian friends; how they thought, how they approached life, what

motivated them and gave them dignity. This is essential to relief and development work where you have to enter the mind-set of another person and ask, "Will this idea work here?"

In 1985, Chalon joined World Vision on a three-month contract in war-torn southern Chad. The assignment stretched to two years. When devastating drought struck sub-Saharan Africa, Chalon moved to isolated, northern Mali to help herds-men rebuild their decimated stock.

An intellectual with a

The Kosovar women who invite Chalon to share their meager meals remind her of the Southern hospitality she knew as a child.

passion for Russian literature, Chalon thrives in such austere settings by focusing on the positive. "You can't look at what you've been denied—television, cinema, electricity, music. You exploit the environment

for the good. A motorcycle can be a lot of fun on a sand dune in Mali."

Chalon's optimism, coupled with her probing, analytical faith, helps her cope with the extreme suffering she encounters—like the 9-year-old Rwandan boy who survived after having "his throat slit like a goat's.

"That incident was a new dimension of evil that I had not seen before in other wars," laments Chalon, a

soft-spoken woman who maintains a hint of her Georgian accent. While struggling to understand what drives people to slaughter innocent children, Chalon seeks God's grace to avoid despising the perpetrators or developing a "good guy, bad guy" mentality in complex conflicts where right and wrong are rarely black and white. She finds strength by drawing apart to read and pray. "A crisis situation is one where everything has broken down. I can come into the middle of chaos with a rock that I can hang on to, that will sustain me until some sort of order develops."

Chalon often clings to that rock, her faith, in volatile Kosovo, where she directs a \$3.5 million relief operation. As she wrote home in a letter: *I am in Europe again. A civilized place with skyscrapers and educated, progressive people: scientists, lawyers, economists, professors. But again, there are people with throats slit and bodies mutilated. The victims are old men, pregnant women, children lying in death's repose at their mother's side. Again, the inconceivable is occurring.*

"There's nothing innately attractive about this kind of work," reflects Chalon, whose regular routine includes dodging land mines and dealing with hostile check-point guards. "Nothing would have drawn me to this ministry if I hadn't felt God leading me. My purpose is tied up in what he has provided for me in his redemption." 🌐

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FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE
THE MANY COLORS AND PATTERNS OF GOD'S WORLD

did you know? Easter is Romania's most celebrated Christian holiday. On Good Friday, Romanians, some dressed in their native costumes, gather at midnight in churches and light candles and sing songs of praise. Then they fill the streets with light, passing their flame to neighbors and friends as they make their way home. The candles remain lit through the weekend until the day of Christ's resurrection, Easter Sunday.

Try this In this issue of **World Vision Today** we have stories from many countries. Match the flags to the clues about each country listed below. You may need a map or globe to help you. (Answers are at the bottom of the page.)

A. Colombia



B. Niger



C. Philippines



D. Romania



1. The _____ is made up of more than 7,000 earthquake-prone islands and has one of the longest coastlines of any country in the world.
2. Located near the equator, _____ is the fourth-largest country in South America. It borders both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

3. Home to the Carpathian Mountains on the north and the Transylvanian Alps through its central region, _____ also enjoys a beautiful coastline along the Black Sea.
4. Landlocked in West Africa, _____ is a desert country almost twice the size of the state of Texas.

(Answers: 1 C; 2 A; 3 D; 4 B)

where are they now?

Rx for progress

Former sponsored child Pedro Díaz Negrete, a doctor in Colombia, repays the kindnesses he received as a youngster by serving the poor in his hometown.

Of all the opportunities open to highly educated, ambitious Dr. Pedro Díaz Negrete, 28, none are as compelling as serving his hometown, Monteria, some 550 miles northwest of Colombia's capital, Bogotá. Determined to improve health and economic conditions for poor families, he insists that he and his wife, Marla, remain in his old neighborhood, explaining "If I live here, I can know their problems more easily."

Pedro's parents divorced when he was 5. His mother, Nubia Negrete, worked at a cigarette factory and also operated a small grocery store out of their home. Pedro got up at 5 a.m. to buy vegetables for the business. Later, whenever the family needed more money, he made bricks or sold oranges on the street.

The sacrifices did not trouble him. "When you're a child, you don't understand the dimensions of poverty," he reflects. "You see all the difficult things you live with as normal."

Molded by all the best influences—caring teachers, good friends, Christian mentors—Pedro found his greatest inspiration at home. "My mother is the one who made me what I am today," Pedro says. "She taught me good values and put me in World Vision's hands."

As a World Vision sponsored child, Pedro attended a primary school run by Nubia's church. At the Way of Life school, he learned



Family portrait: Pedro with his wife, Marla, and their daughter, Laura Angélica.

about the Bible, and enjoyed art and music. "I'm eternally grateful to World Vision because they opened the education door for me in my early days," Pedro declares.

In high school, Pedro was nurtured by Catholic missionaries who taught him the value of integrating faith and service, and showed him how people can prayerfully address their problems. The seeds of activism were sown. In 1987 Pedro participated in a national Christian conference to discuss violence in Colombia, and began studying social work.

Pedro attended college at the *Universidad Metropolitana* of Barranquilla, four hours from Monteria. His expenses were paid by a foundation associated with his mentor, American priest Steve Adams. "I wanted to do something that could help the community in a more direct way, so I decided to study medicine," Pedro says.

On a bus traveling to his campus, Pedro met Marla, a psychology student. "We found that we were neighbors [in Monteria]," Marla says. Five months later, they married. In 1996, Pedro witnessed the birth of their daughter, Laura Angélica—one of the happiest days of his life.

After seven years of challenging studies, Pedro graduated from medical school. "He went out into the street shouting, 'I'm free, I'm free!'" recalls Marla. While working as an intern, Pedro plunged into politics, campaigning for a seat on the municipal council. He hoped to improve public services and health care for the underprivileged. "I didn't have much time and zero money," Pedro admits. "We were defeated, but we tasted a kind of victory. Many people believed in us—they still do."

Today Pedro finds satisfaction in helping Monteria's poorest families. "What I like best

about my work is dealing with core problems in the community," he says. "[For example,] we don't cure diarrhea; we tell people that if they drink treated water they won't get it in the first place." He juggles community medicine and serving as an advisor to the New Horizon Foundation, which trains single mothers in trades like tailoring and bread-making and helps them market their products.

Pedro spends his precious free time with Laura Angélica. "They play soccer together. They jump on the bed and make a mess of the room," laughs Marla.

Devout Catholics, Marla and Pedro are involved in the Church of the Holy Spirit. Marla says that since they have attended Bible studies on Monday nights, their ability to handle disagreements has improved.

Marla, a psychologist, is proud of Pedro's commitment to his work but objects when he becomes too distracted. "If I wear a different dress or perfume I have to say, 'Hey! Don't you see that I look more beautiful or smell different?'" she says. "He doesn't notice it by himself."

Those who have guided Pedro over the years are proud of this public servant. "I feel very happy about my son becoming a doctor because my efforts weren't for nothing," says Nubia.

Longtime friend Kielvi López, a teacher, considers Pedro especially privileged to have been a sponsored child. "[World Vision] not only gave him free education but a very good moral foundation. He learned about the power of God and how to use it to help poor people."

Pedro remains dedicated to the people of Monteria. "It is a dream for us to find someone like Pedro who receives help and then returns to serve his own community," comments parish priest Father Reinaldo Wijsberg. 🌐

Juan Manuel Alsina is a World Vision photojournalist based in Bogotá, Colombia.

House call: Pedro examines a patient during daily rounds in one of the region's poorest districts, Canta Claro.



Members of a community organization in Consolacion, Philippines, discover the personal and collective rewards of working together.



consolacion prize

Delores Caramihan, 45, once thought she had little to contribute to her community, Consolacion, a coastal city of the Philippine island Cebu. She never finished high school, and she was a “plain housewife,” the humble term in the Philippines describing women who care full-time for their husbands and children.

Then Delores joined a group of parents of World Vision sponsored children who call themselves *Nagkahiusang Guinikanan sa Consolacion, Inc.*—unity among families of

Consolacion. Since 1992 NGCI has assumed management of community programs, with World Vision’s continuing support. Delores (whose son, Jose Eddie, is sponsored) was in good company; many members also once thought that because they were poor or uneducated, they would never make a difference in their community. NGCI’s success proved them wrong.

During her five years with NGCI, Delores earned such respect that she was chosen for a new position: job coordinator, helping poor

Consolacion families find work. Even before the current economic crisis hit Asia, one in five Filipino households lived below the poverty line. Many families in Consolacion subsisted on sporadic income from small farming, street-vending, or bicycle-taxi businesses.

Delores accepted the job coordinator role, though she had no experience in the field. “Although I didn’t finish high school, I felt I had sufficient skills,” she said. “And people trusted me.” Delores worked to overcome her shyness.

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God helped me change so I could meet big people. Before this job, all I met were crabs from the bottom of the sea," Delores laughed, recalling gathering shellfish for her family's dinners.

Delores developed contacts with local companies and met with them to discuss employment opportunities. "I prayed before entering every office," she confided. Sometimes she had to charm building guards and secretaries to gain entrance. Employers were surprised to hear she volunteered her time and drew no commission.

Delores screened community members and helped

and now runs a small general store. Delores believes her children are learning from her experiences. "I hope that when they grow up, they won't feel small, that they can face people," she said.

Children in Consolacion are already learning "not to feel small." When sponsored child Jimalou Vallejos, 12, found out that her friend was a victim of incest, she immediately took action. Jimalou's mother, Lucrecia, was working with other NGCI leaders to protect children from abuse and neglect. The group identifies children at risk and coordinates interventions with *barangay* or village officials, government ministries, and personnel from local churches, schools, and hospitals. On Jimalou's tip, Lucrecia and NGCI reported the case to the provincial welfare agency which placed the girl in protective care.

NGCI encourages children like Jimalou to get involved with community service, seeking to develop their abilities as agents of change. NGCI also puts aside funds for college tuition for local youths, as sponsorship typically ends after high school. Young adults with college degrees are better able to support not only themselves, but family members as well.

Brenda Anciano, 18, in her third year of university, already plans to become an accountant so she can

help her three younger siblings through school. The eldest child of a bicycle-taxi driver and a housewife, her own education was only possible because of World Vision sponsorship, which provided more than just a diploma.

In Bible studies she attended through sponsorship, Brenda learned about the saving grace of Christ. She was 11 when she felt "the Holy Spirit knocking at my heart." After accepting Christ herself, she led her parents to faith. "My father used to be a vicious man," Brenda explained. "He stopped drinking and smoking when he was saved. I have seen a great transformation in him." Continuing to share her blessings, Brenda teaches Bible stories to neighborhood children while also juggling college classes and church activities.

Beyond the ways NGCI helps her, Brenda admires the group's impact in Consolacion. "People have learned how to cooperate, organize, and communicate," she said. "Now my community is a peaceful place." 🌍



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them prepare for interviews. Word spread, and job seekers pursued her day and night, even at home. In two years, she helped 261 people get jobs in manufacturing, retail and grocery businesses, and soft drink companies.

The increasing needs of Delores' six children soon necessitated that she help her husband support the family. Leaving her duties in the hands of other community volunteers, she worked a succession of clerk and sales positions,

fast facts

World Vision in the Philippines

- ▶ Currently more than 37,000 children are sponsored in more than 40 projects which provide education, healthcare, economic development, and Christian nurture.
- ▶ With World Vision's assistance, 43 community organizations currently manage community development projects.
- ▶ Children in World Vision projects gathered with peers for the biennial National Children's Congress last December to share their ideas, dreams, and practical recommendations on national and local issues.



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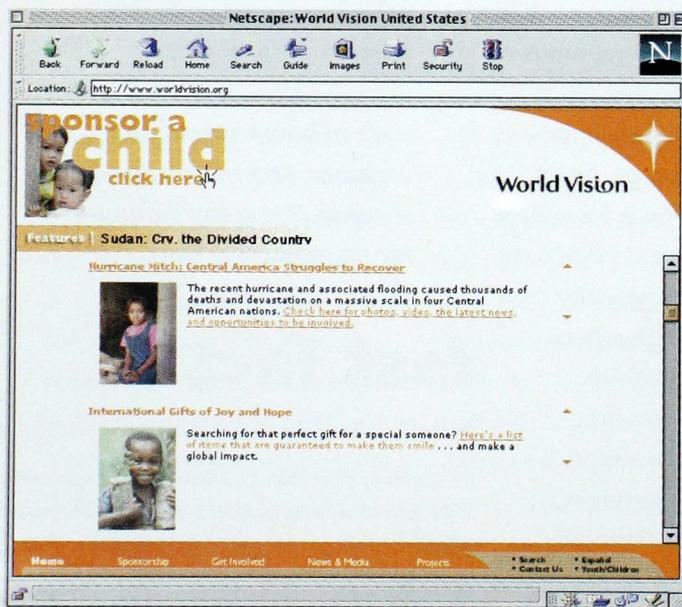
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One of the few to go to school

World Vision recently began offering donors the opportunity to sponsor children in Niger, bringing education, safe drinking water and hope to children in the world's least developed country—a parched patch of desert in West Africa.

Aichatou Magagi fills her rusty, five-gallon bucket from the community well and hoists it onto her head. Shoulders square, she glides gracefully along the sandy path back to her family hut, not pausing to chat with giggling neighbor girls. Aichatou, 5, is anxious to finish her chores so she won't be late for school. She has an example to set. She is one of only 302 children attending school in Mazamir, her village of 6,000 people in eastern Niger.

Encouraging enrollment is difficult in this West African country where parents do not always see the rewards of education. Subsistence farmers who earn less than \$1 a day, they need their children's help in the fields. Few families can afford books and pencils for their children, let alone contribute to building even a simple mud-walled school. And traditionally, it is considered a waste of money to educate girls, who marry as young as 12 and leave the family. As a result, in Niger only one person in 10 is literate.

"We need education for the adults here as much as for the children. It is the only way to change attitudes," declares teacher Magagi Moustapha, one of the few village men with a high school education.

But changing attitudes involves tackling the village's employment problems. As the encroaching desert swallows up their

fields, farmers can only harvest enough food for four to five months. Ninety percent of the men then leave home annually in search of work in neighboring countries during the lean months. "If our village is to prosper, we must find a way to stop this yearly exodus," insists Magagi.

Health care for children like Aichatou is also a dire need. None of the children in her community are fully vaccinated against potentially lethal diseases such as measles and whooping cough. One ill-equipped, understaffed clinic serves all of Mazamni, where one in three children dies before the age of 5. Less than 1 percent of all births are attended by trained midwives, contributing to Niger's staggering infant mortality rate, the world's highest.

To help solve some of these critical problems, last year World Vision

staff began

meeting with elders in

Mazamni and six surrounding

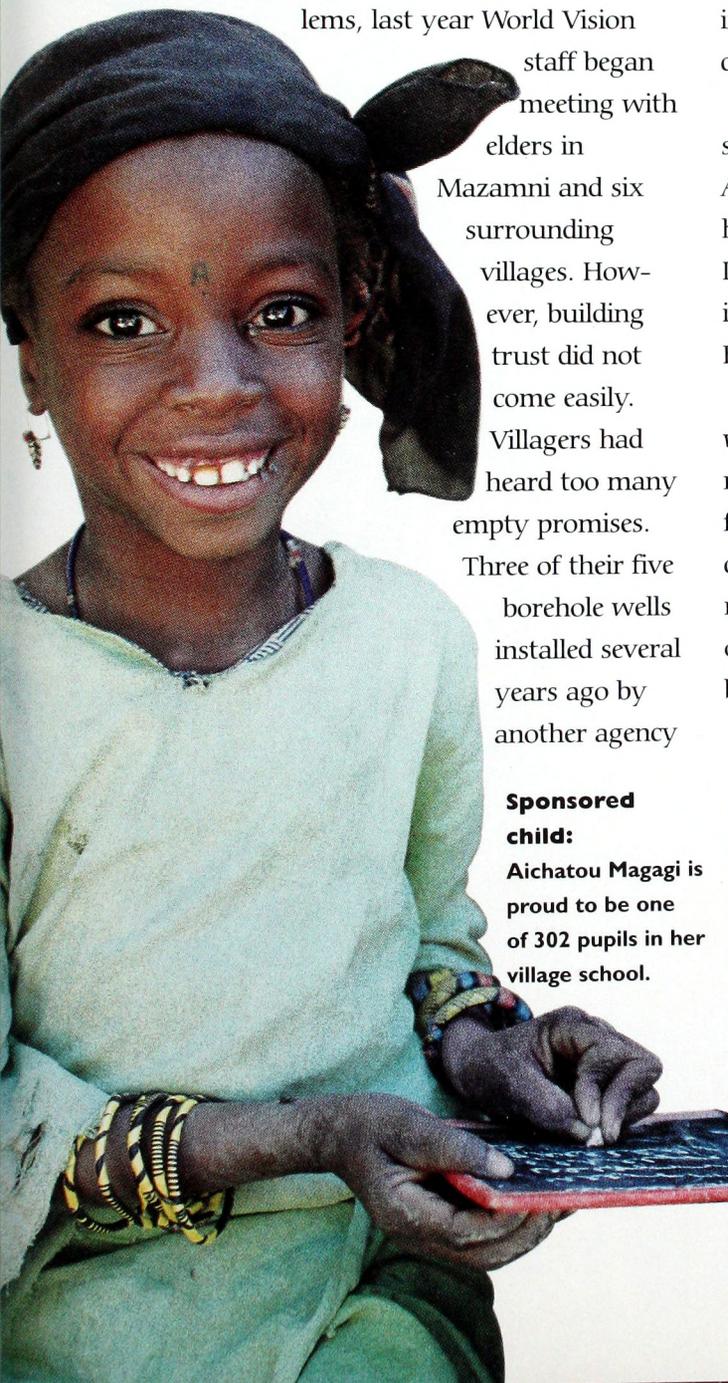
villages. However, building trust did not come easily.

Villagers had heard too many empty promises.

Three of their five borehole wells installed several years ago by another agency

Sponsored child:

Aichatou Magagi is proud to be one of 302 pupils in her village school.



no longer worked. Families and their animals were forced to drink again from the same contaminated stream.

World Vision repaired the handpumps and trained local volunteers to maintain them. Staff also helped villagers organize a water management committee which raises money for spare parts by charging handpump users a small fee per bucket.

The time-saving handpumps allow girls like Aichatou to collect enough water for the family's needs each morning, freeing her to attend class. Using sponsorship funds, World Vision is transforming a dilapidated mud shack into a well-equipped school and plans to train farmers in improved agricultural techniques.

Many parents have enrolled their children in sponsorship, seeing the benefits for the entire community.

"I did not go to school myself, but I can see the importance of it for my children," says Aichatou's father, Magagi Mamadou, 55, as he watches his daughter practice her printing. Impressed by her progress, he is now considering educating his two sons, Mallam, 4, and Habou, 2, in a few years.

"What is my prayer for Aichatou? That she will not know the hardship we have endured," reflects Magagi, a farmer who supports his family on \$200 a year. "I think she has a better chance now that we have a school in our community and clean water. We are pleased with our partnership with World Vision. Nothing but good can come from this." 🌍

How do we compare?

	Niger	U.S.A.
Population	9.4 million	269.4 million
Life expectancy	48 years	76 years
Annual pregnancy-related deaths of mothers per 100,000 live births	1,200/100,000	12/100,000
Population living on less than \$1 per day	62%	(data unavailable)
Number of televisions per 1,000 people	5	817
Population with access to safe drinking water	48%	(data unavailable)
Female adult literacy	8%	99%

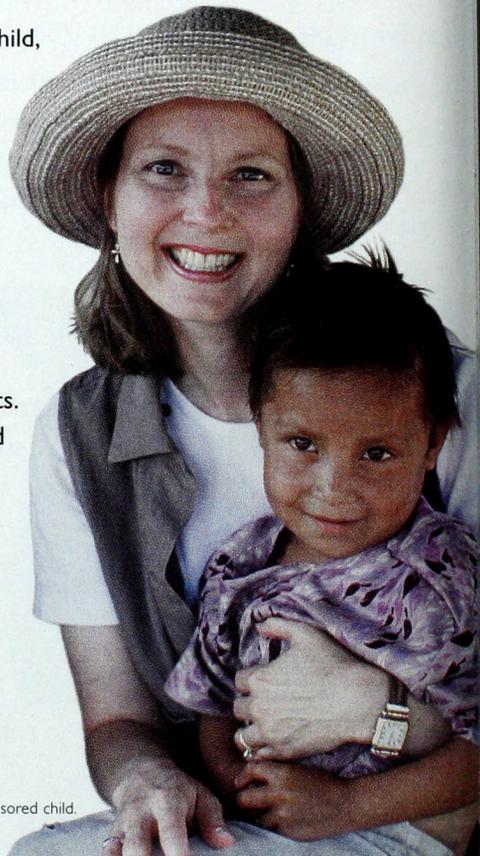
Source: *The State of the World's Children 1998*. UNICEF.

Showing love

is the greatest expression of our belief in Jesus Christ. That's why I sponsor a child through World Vision.

I visited my sponsored child, Helán, in Honduras and saw firsthand the power of sponsorship. With \$22 a month from me and other sponsors, the people of Helán's village benefit from improved health and nutrition, education, and community improvements. And they know that God loves them because of our support.

Sponsor a child today by calling 1-800-448-6437 or by mailing in the coupon below.



Christian artist Twila Paris and her sponsored child.

I want to show a child the love of God

I would like to sponsor a boy girl living in

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Enclosed is my first monthly payment of \$22 to help a needy child and his or her community.

Check (made payable to World Vision).

Bill me later.

Bill my monthly sponsorship payment to my credit card:

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Card no. --- Exp. Date --

Signature _____

Instead of or in addition to my sponsorship, I would like to give a gift of \$ to help children in need. (1400)

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