

World Vision

Today

WINTER 2002

Christmas
Every Day

sponsorship through the eyes of a child

c o n t e n t s



features

6 Barren Land, Fertile Hope
Drought won't defeat these southern African families.

12 on the cover
Sponsorship: Through the Eyes of a Child
For children around the world, sponsorship is like Christmas—every day.

22 Seattle & Tacoma: Kickoff for Success
Soccer camp offers kids a chance to beat the odds.

departments

24 Where Are They Now?
Edith Arevalo can testify to the power of sponsorship—as both a sponsor and a former sponsored child.

26 Amazing Staff: Abraham's Sacrifice
This World Vision worker in India could have had a comfortable life. But he wanted more.

31 Guest Essay: Amy L. Sherman
Agitation can be a gift.

in every issue

3 From the President

4 Glad You Asked

5 Letters

28 News

30 Reader Services

World Vision Today

VOL. 6, NUMBER 2

President **Richard Stearns**
Sr. Vice President **Atul Tandon**
Editor **Shelly Ngo**
Managing Editor **Diane J. McDougall**
Senior Editors **Jane Sutton-Redner**
Kari Costanza
Photo Editor **Jon Warren**
Production Coordinator **Virginia Kolano**
Design & Production **Journey Group, Inc.**

On the cover

Clara, the daughter of Teresa Batz Juarez,
from Patzun Town, Guatemala
Photograph by Jon Warren

World Vision Today, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 35 cents a copy to print and mail.

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, e-mailed to WVToday@worldvision.org or faxed to (253) 815-3340. 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.

All Bible references are from the New International Version unless indicated otherwise.

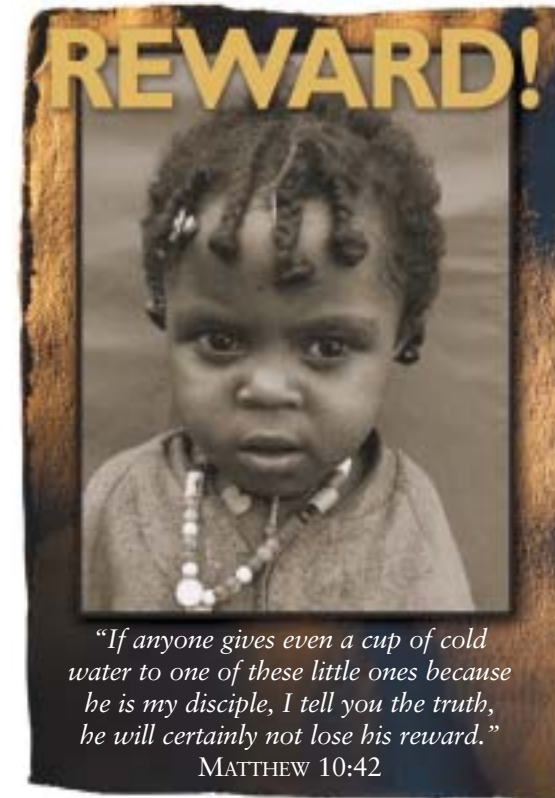


Charter Member, Evangelical Council
for Financial Accountability
Member, Evangelical Press Association

Copyright © 2002 by World Vision Inc.
E-mail address: WVToday@worldvision.org
For employment opportunities at World Vision,
visit our Web site at www.worldvision.org

World Vision

From the President | Richard E. Stearns



WORLD VISION HAS been giving people the opportunity to sponsor children for almost 50 years. We now work in nearly 100 countries, and our goal is a big one: *to tackle the root causes of poverty so that every child can realize his or her God-given potential.*

The sheer magnitude of poverty in our world can be discouraging and even overwhelming. Did you know that 1.2 billion people live on less than a dollar a day; that 1.1 billion people lack access to clean water; that 850 million people are illiterate? One can easily get lost in the statistics, forgetting that behind the numbers are real children with real needs.

That's why child sponsorship works so well. None of us can end poverty. None of us can wipe the tears from every child's eyes—but each of us can reach out to one or maybe two. We can comfort one orphan. We can help one little girl go to school and provide food to one hungry little boy. We can offer one child a cup of cold water in Jesus' name.

Each time I read the Gospels I'm reminded that Jesus always had time for people. He was never too busy to pause and consider the needs of just one. Over and over again we find him ministering to people with compassion in very specific ways.

And Jesus had a special love for children. Angered that his disciples prevented children from approaching him, he said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14). We are then told that he "took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

When World Vision ministers to children around the world, we do it with the conviction that Jesus does indeed love children and that he is "not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (Matthew 18:14).

Today the needs are greater than ever. Thousands

of children in our project areas desperately need someone to help them become all that God wants them to be.

They are the children of southern Africa, now in the midst of a severe food shortage; the orphans of AIDS victims in Zambia, Uganda, and Haiti; the young Brazilians living along the banks of the Amazon River, without medical care.

They are the children of Mongolia, taking shelter in steam vents beneath the streets to keep warm; and the children of the Andes

Mountains, suffering from parasites and disease.

These children all have two things in common: They are poor through no fault of their own, and they are precious in God's sight.

Most of you reading this already sponsor a child through World Vision, and I thank you. I have the joy of meeting these children and hugging them on your behalf as I travel around the world.

As you read the articles in this issue about children in difficult circumstances, perhaps you could help one more by asking a friend or family member to sponsor a child, just as you have. If each of our sponsors found just one more person to join us, we could help another half a million kids! Wouldn't that be something?

I am almost certain that God smiles each time we demonstrate his love to a child. And God's wonderful promise to us is that we will certainly not lose our reward: "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). ■

Belaynesh (child above) and thousands like her are available to be sponsored. To sponsor a child, visit our Web site at www.worldvision.org or call (888) 511-6518.

Can I send a present to my sponsored child for Christmas

IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO SHARE

the season's joy with your sponsored child, even though some sponsored children live in countries that do not celebrate Christmas. You can still send small, flat gifts that fit into a 6-by-9 inch envelope now, or at any time of the year. Your child will treasure gifts such as ribbons, bookmarks, picture postcards, and stickers. But please do not send cash. In some countries it is illegal to possess American currency.

Address your sponsored child's gift to the World Vision national office in his country. (See "How to Send," at right.) Our overseas staff will translate your letters into your sponsored child's language, then deliver the letter, translation, and gift to your child. In some countries, this will mean a trip of several hours—or days—because of limited transportation or difficult access to remote places. Your letter and gift will usually reach your child within a few weeks, bringing many smiles. (To catch a glimpse of the joy that sponsors bring to children, see "Sponsorship: Through a Child's Eyes" on page 12.)

Unfortunately, World Vision cannot accept larger or expensive presents for your sponsored child. Large packages create many challenges after they've left the United States. For example, international postal regulations are complex, and sometimes the recipient must pay extra fees. Due to manual mail-handling systems, packages can be easily lost, damaged, or stolen.

A large package is also difficult for a staff member to carry when delivering it via bicycle or on foot. And, if one child in a village receives a large present when others do not, this could create tension throughout the community. For these reasons, World Vision requests that you only send small



gifts that fit into 6-by-9-inch envelopes.

It's not too late to mail a Christmas gift to your sponsored child. He or she would love to hear from you now, or at any time of the year, as every contact says, "I care about you."

HOW TO SEND

Send letters and small gifts to your sponsored child through the World Vision office in his or her country—not through World Vision's U.S. headquarters. Items received at our U.S. headquarters cannot be forwarded or returned.

1. Write the national country office address on the front of the envelope. (This address is provided on your "Sponsored Child's Personal History" profile. If you've misplaced this, please call World Vision at 888-511-6518 to obtain the address.)

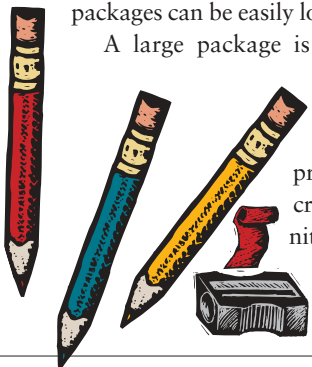
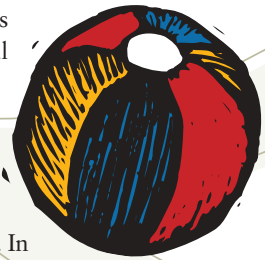
2. Write your sponsored child's name and I.D. number on the back flap of the envelope.

3. Write your child's name and I.D. number at the top of your letter; also, if the letter is separated from the envelope, it will still quickly reach your sponsored child. ■



Q: Between issues of the magazine, how can I keep updated about World Vision?

LOOK FOR "WORLDVISION ENEWS," A NEW online newsletter, in your e-mail inbox. Each month you'll receive the latest news impacting children and families worldwide, along with photos and powerful stories of lives changed, thanks to World Vision donors. The first issue debuted in September. If you haven't seen "World Vision eNews" yet, please call toll-free, (888) 511-6518, to begin receiving the latest information.



TEST OF TRUSTWORTHINESS

As I was reading the article in *World Vision Today* titled, "How can I know that a charity is trustworthy?" [Glad You Asked, Summer 2002], I thought I would send you a little note.



A few years ago, my husband and I, along with the teens in the youth group he leads, were participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. I commute by train to work, and I asked a few of my acquaintances on the train to sponsor me in the Famine. One person [who agreed] said he had never heard of World Vision but decided he would go online to see what he could find out about the organization. He was so impressed by what he learned that he sponsored me that year, and has continued to be a sponsor each time we do the Famine.

Thanks, World Vision, for being a trustworthy charity, and for all the work you do around the world in the name of Jesus.

—Heidi Long, via e-mail

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

I just returned from Brazil on a mission trip on the Amazon River with Christ Fellowship Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and Pastor Nonato from Brazil. It was a wonderful mission, and I want to thank World Vision because they supplied the medical boat we were in. It was a life-changing experience. I was in awe of how awesome World Vision is as an organization, especially [assisting] those who are so lost or forgotten not only in the Amazon [region], but around the world.

—Jorge Cruz, via e-mail

Questions or comments about *World Vision Today*? Send your letters to:
World Vision Today
 PO Box 9716
 Federal Way, WA 98063-9716

or e-mail us at:
WVToday@worldvision.org

Crisis in Southern Africa

Families in southern Africa have been devastated by that region's deadliest food crisis in 50 years. Children are eating tree roots . . . tree bark . . . even grass. They are digging in the sand to find a single kernel of corn.

Without help now, at least 17 million people face death by starvation.

But with the help of friends like you, **World Vision's Emergency Response Team** can provide lifesaving relief to these desperate children, mothers, and fathers.

Your help—sent now—will provide the food that will help keep them alive through this crisis. Your gift will ship lifesaving food immediately.

In fact, your gift of even \$20 will feed one child for an entire month.

Please help them.

To send your gift, call **1-888-511-6569** today or visit www.worldvision.org. Or rush back this reply coupon in the envelope provided.



Yes, I will help save lives in the escalating southern Africa food crisis.

I've enclosed my gift of:

- \$20 to feed one child for a month
- \$40 to feed two children for a month
- \$80 to feed four children for a month
- \$100 to feed a family of five for a month

Check payable to World Vision

Please bill to my credit card:

VISA MasterCard Amex Discover

Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

(____) _____ (____) _____
 DAY PHONE FAX

PLEASE SEND ME E-MAIL UPDATES WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE.

E-mail _____

Rush this coupon to: World Vision • P.O. Box 9716 • Federal Way, WA 98063-9716
World Vision Emergency Response

AN EYEWITNESS REPORT
FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA



barren land, fertile hope

*How do you keep
a drought from killing
your crops, your livestock,
your dreams—
and your children?*

By James Addis | Photographs by Jon Warren

AT THE BROTHERS IN CHRIST MISSION HOSPITAL AT Macha, southern Zambia, 2-year-old Memory Mulhundu is receiving treatment for starvation in the pediatric ward. One of her big eyes peeps out from under a blanket, which is wrapped around her and her mother. When the blanket is lifted, I shudder to see matchstick-like arms and legs.

In the bed opposite, 23-month-old Lushomo Nyimba lies stretched out and shaking. In contrast to Memory, her body is swollen like a balloon. She is suffering from *kwashiorkor*—a condition brought on by a severe lack of protein in her diet, causing a buildup of fluid.

Across southern Africa, 17 million people in seven countries face food emergencies. This year, in southern Zambia, the main staple—the maize crop—failed because of drought. One of the hardest-hit districts is Kalomo (population 167,000), where World Vision works with aid agencies CARE and the Cooperative League of the U.S.A. to rapidly distribute maize in an effort to fend off absolute calamity.

But the quantities are barely enough to keep people alive. Some families must sell their possessions and few remaining animals. Most regularly miss meals. Some go for days without food.



As fields dry up and crops fail, wild fruit—known as “masuku”—is often the only form of food available in Zambia.

World Vision development manager Ndonji Kayombo and nurse Edna Nguluwe offer me a tour around Kalomo. There I find farmers facing their lot with a mixture of faith, stoicism, despair, a certain kind of “gallows humor,” and—most extraordinary of all—a generosity toward strangers.

For example, young farmer Grace Mizinga’s fields did not yield a single cob of corn this year, but she still finds it important to offer me a piece of raw cassava to munch on during my visit to her family’s shack. I note the reddish tinge to the hair covering the heads of her three children—a sign of poor nutrition—so I balk at the offer. “It’s our tradition that whatever we have is shared,” explains her husband, Coventy. “We don’t feel good if a visitor goes away with nothing.”

His words bring a lump to my throat. This is a man whose family is forced to survive on erratic, poorly paid work and by begging from family and neighbors.

I ask Grace how she copes in such tough times. “I have the courage to continue because I believe in the Lord,” she says.

But widow Phyllis Munachoonga is more discouraged. She also must beg from neighbors, who are becoming increasingly irritated by her requests. Most are in similar dire straits. Warily, she mixes up High Energy Protein Supplement (HEPS) on an open fire for her hungry child, Audinatos, 2.

Phyllis shows me Audinatos’ mud-encrusted health-clinic record. It reveals the child’s weight tracking downward toward “severely malnourished” status. Then she carefully removes the blanket to reveal the toddler’s shrunken body. The girl starts to wail. Sores from a recurring skin infection are pasted over with a purple antiseptic provided by the local clinic. World Vision nurse Edna Nguluwe says the infection was probably picked up from the dirty blanket—soap powder is a luxury few can afford.

“Sometimes I go two days without eating, myself,” Phyllis says, “so even my breast milk is very little.”

While the spring harvest was poor, it at least provided a temporary respite. Now, meager food resources are evaporating fast. There are many long, lean months ahead before communities can harvest again.



Phyllis Munachoonga, top, struggles to keep her daughter Audinatos alive. Audinatos’ growth chart, above, confirms she is severely malnourished. Like other villagers, widow Florah Na’ngambo and her granddaughter Lilanda, left, wait for the next food distribution.

But at least Phyllis is not in debt. Mathew Banda, 53, borrowed heavily for seeds and fertilizer that produced nothing. Now, thugs from the money-lenders are after him. Mathew has one week to come up with an initial 100,000 Kwacha (\$25)—an enormous sum he does not have. Village headman Siakakole Fannyvwimbili says 42 farmers in the village are in the same boat. “Most cannot repay, and their hoes and plows will likely be seized,” Siakakole says. “If farmers have nothing to give, they will be beaten.”

Mathew, who is a slight man, simply shrugs his shoulders and grins. His seven children regularly complain about lack of

dipping animals against parasites, leading to an explosion in animal disease and death. “At a time of drought, most can hardly afford to feed their family, so they certainly can’t afford a tin of dip,” says World Vision administrator Fines Muchaili.

Now, most families have no animals left, except a few chickens. Those who previously had the luxury of plowing with oxen must use hoes, with a consequent big drop in production.

But it would be a mistake to imagine that this is a community defeated by their circumstances. David Manyama, 60, and his wife Lucia, 50, spend their days making brooms and mats from dried grass and reeds. Twice a week they walk 12 miles into the nearest town, Choma, to sell the fruits of their labor, which they

carry balanced on their heads. It is a fantastic effort for pitiful returns.

On a successful trip the couple might make 4,000 Kwacha, slightly less than \$1—just enough, at current inflated prices, to buy a 13-pound bag of maize. On a bad day they may only have enough to buy a little bread to put in their empty stomachs before taking the long walk home.

Looking into Lucia’s eyes, I see a woman on the verge of mental and physical exhaustion. “I get so tired,” she says.

Others seek financial security through more desperate means. Seventy-year-old Milomo Siamainda has three daughters—all single mothers. Each abandoned her

child to Milomo’s care and left for the city to try to find a job. Milomo has not heard from any of them for three years. Meanwhile, he must somehow feed and clothe Chipo, 7, Falayi, 10, and Grace, 7, plus orphans Goodwell, 12, and Ruth, 11. The last two are children of yet another daughter, now dead. “They don’t even think about their mothers,” says Milomo of the children. “They just ask for food.”

Alas, Milomo’s fields are bare, and he is completely dependent on relief distributions and begging. “I’ve no time to get angry about it,” he says. “I’ve just got to find ways to feed these children.”

The docile, sleepy children gather

Farmer Grace Mizinga, below, digs for cassava even though it is too early in the season. The severe drought and failed maize crop, bottom, spell little relief for villagers like Felistus Malilive and her young family members, right.





David Manyama and his wife, Lucia, above, barely make enough money selling brooms to survive. Others like Mathew Banda's wife, Eliza, right, rely on emergency food distributions.



around Milomo as he speaks. Nurse Edna's practiced eye notes the lack of muscle on their thin arms and legs.

Similar stories of hardship could be repeated more than a thousand times. When World Vision conducted a nutrition survey in Kalomo district in June, it found almost half the children to be malnourished, and 4 percent in critical condition. But World Vision's Ndonji Kayombo says the survey was conducted only three months after the harvest. Conditions are bound to keep worsening.

Consequently, there is a major battle on to ensure that people get enough to eat. In addition to general food distributions, World Vision undertakes monthly monitoring of 3,094 children sponsored by U.S. donors, in World Vision's Twachiyanda development program.

Nonsponsored children also receive attention. World Vision nurses make regular visits to villages and recommend additional aid when necessary. Hence Grace Mizinga's children, though not sponsored, got relief supplies of beans, maize meal, and fish. In addition, World Vision supports government health services and adds to the government supply of protein supplements for malnourished

children. The government-run Habulile Rural Health Center, where widow Phyllis Munachoonga takes Audinatos for treatment, was built by funds donated by U.S. child sponsors.

World Vision's Ndonji Kayombo is already looking ahead to long-term food security. His plans include providing better seeds, using early maturing seed varieties, and teaching farmers the benefits of diversification and natural fertilization. Sadly, however, because funds are diverted toward the immediate food crisis, the seed program only has enough funding to help 400 vulnerable households. Ndonji would like to extend that to at least 2,000.

Talk of programs to revitalize Kalomo has an energizing effect on Ndonji. He says that, in former years, southern Zambia was famed for its ability to produce plenty. With the right approach, he believes it can prosper again.

So when I ask, after a long and dispiriting day trudging through Kalomo's fields of withered maize stalks, if Ndonji ever loses hope, he laughs. "Never," he says emphatically, "I never lose hope." ■

HOW IT HAPPENED

Droughts happen regularly in southern Africa. But today, the 17 million people who are poised on the brink of famine are victims of more than just bad weather. Bad government, poor economic decisions, internal strife and civil war, and—worst of all—AIDS have created murderous situations.

In Angola, people have been dodging civil war for 27 years, making farming virtually impossible in some areas. A cease-fire signed this year will help, but it will take people time to rebuild their lives, homes, and farms.

In Malawi, floods last year and drought this year have meant no food in this country of 10.5 million. The sale of the country's entire national grain stock has left 3 million people in danger of starvation.

In Zimbabwe, the hardest-hit country, President Mugabe's land-reform policy has thrown the nation into economic crisis and disrupted farming, leaving 6 million people in jeopardy.

In Zambia, policy mistakes have also hurt. In the early 1990s, the International Monetary Fund and Western donors suggested that Zambia try dropping its agricultural subsidies to open up its markets. Zambian farmers couldn't even compete at home with the subsidized food from South Africa and Zimbabwe. Without those subsidies, Zambian farmers have little incentive to produce a surplus, and smaller harvests are proof.

And then there is AIDS. Southern Africa is at the epicenter of the global epidemic. Malnutrition allows the virus to thrive, weakening the body and attracting other diseases. In turn, land goes untilled. Children lose their parents before they learn to farm. Families inherit extra mouths to feed.

Mike Freeman
Ate 27
Hot Dogs
in One Hour
Gave Himself
Heartburn for
a Week

Jennifer Gifford
Ate Nothing for 30 Hours
Gave Thousands of Children
a Brighter Future

Make A Real Mark
February 21-22, 2003
(but you can do it any time!)

World Vision 30 Hour Famine
it's about saving kids' lives

Help your group make a real mark by doing the 30 Hour Famine.
Join thousands of youth groups in this movement to save hungry kids' lives. And as your youth learn about the reality of hunger and begin to understand the needs of hurting people, they'll learn how to change the world one life at a time—beginning with their own.
It's **FREE**. It's **FUN**. And we'll send you everything you need.

Sign me up!
Please send materials for:
h 10 h 15 h 20 h Famine participants.
(We will send you 10 unless you indicate otherwise.)
h I'm not ready to sign up yet. But I would like to receive more information about the 30 Hour Famine.

Name _____ (Mr./Mrs./Miss/Other)
I am a: h Group Leader h Group Member h Other

The following is a: h Church/School/Organization address h Home address
(if possible, we'd prefer to have your organization's address.)

Organization's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Day Phone () _____ Fax () _____
E-mail _____

Mail to: World Vision's 30 Hour Famine
P.O. Box 70094 • Tacoma, WA 98461-0094

www.30hourfamine.org
1.800.7.FAMINE

Free Video!

S P O N S O R S H I P T H R O U G H A

child's eyes

▼ Sponsorship helped transform Sanja Rai's life. Not only does the 7-year-old benefit from health care and education, but her family also received livestock that earns them additional income.

FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN, SPONSORSHIP is like Christmas—every day.

All year long, sponsorship's gifts are tangible and real: the uniforms and school supplies, the medical checkups, the building improvements to schools or homes. A child can taste clean water and nutritious food and touch the goat that is as much a playmate as a source of milk.

Even when some of the benefits are less noticeable to a child's eye—benefits such as agricultural or small-business training—children recognize the results: bountiful harvests, better meals, and good jobs for their parents.

But the best gift of sponsorship, as all sponsored children will tell you, is knowing that someone in another country cares deeply about them. They know their lives are better because of that relationship. As one girl explained, "It seems that my sponsor hears my family's heartbeat."

For the 1.9 million children sponsored by World Vision donors around the world, sponsorship is a year-round blessing. Turn the page to see the hope and delight of sponsorship's many gifts . . . through the eyes of a child.

CALEB HP/PAPE/WORLD VISION INDIA



► *“I want to learn how to treat people suffering from disease. I want Caroline [my sponsor, also a child] to live not just for years, but forever. I pray for her every evening.”*

—Gift Nabayinda, 12, Uganda



► Arman Khachatryan's U.S. sponsor sent him extra money that helped him buy his first camera. "It was my dream," says the 11-year-old from Armenia, "to have a camera so I could send photos of myself and my family to my sponsor." He wants his sponsor to know: "I love him so much."



LOUCINE HAYES/WORLD VISION ARMENIA

JANE NANDAWULA OKUMU/WORLD VISION UGANDA



ISRAEL CARCAHO/WORLD VISION HONDURAS

◀ Sponsorship funds provided a new house for Zulema Bernarda Dominguez Vasquez, 13, from Honduras. "We don't feel cold anymore," Zulema says, "and the rain doesn't make us wet."

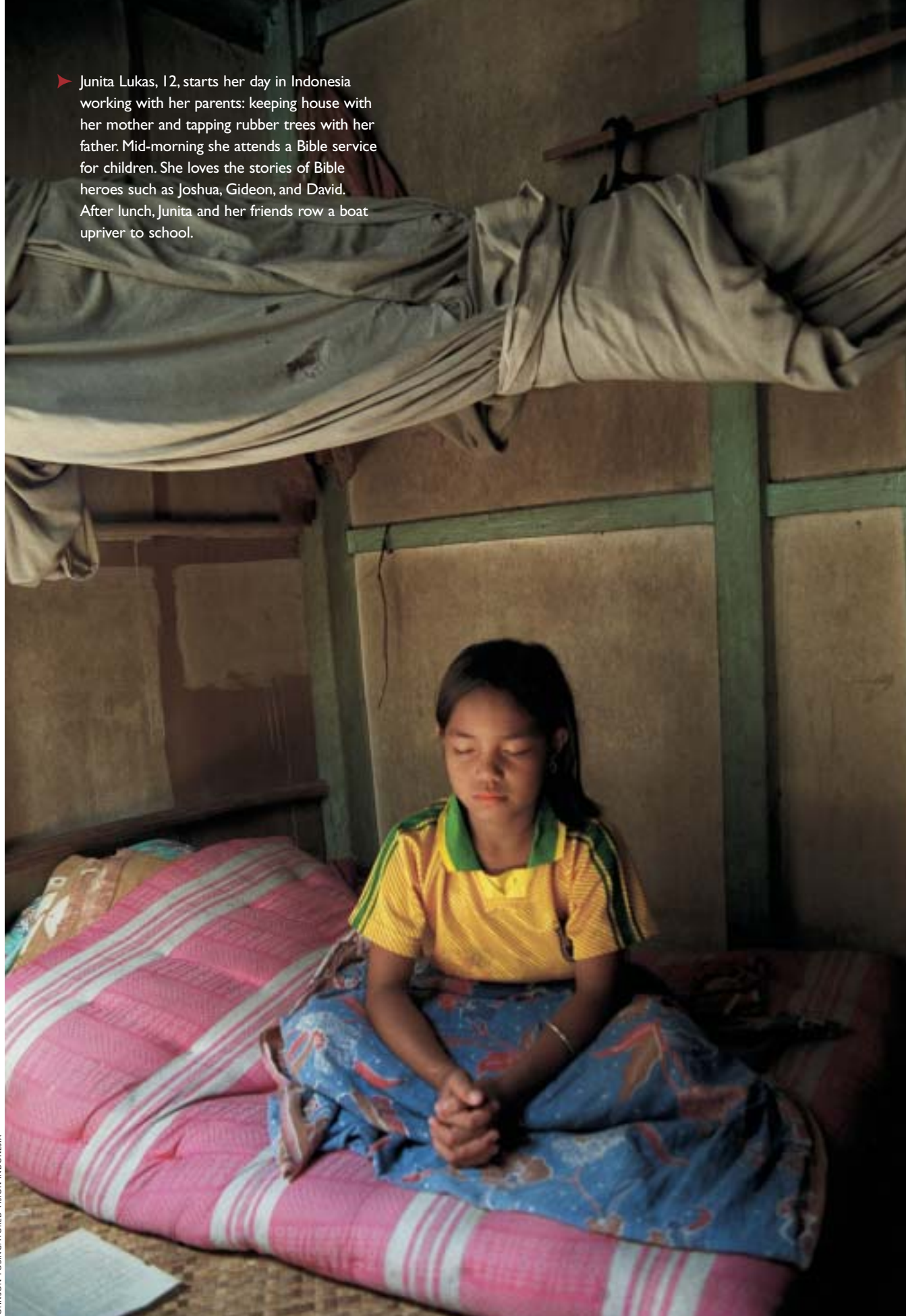


GEBREZIABHER HADEREM/WORLD VISION ETHIOPIA

◀ "I would have either died or remained a shepherd in the rural community had there not been your unfailing support. I have escaped from illiteracy. My education and all the family's blessings were made possible because of you. Thank you so much, for you are the cause of all the positive changes in my family's life. May God bless you abundantly."

—Almaz Alemayehu, 16, Ethiopia
(back row, left)

▶ Junita Lukas, 12, starts her day in Indonesia working with her parents: keeping house with her mother and tapping rubber trees with her father. Mid-morning she attends a Bible service for children. She loves the stories of Bible heroes such as Joshua, Gideon, and David. After lunch, Junita and her friends row a boat upriver to school.



JOHNSON TOBIN/WORLD VISION INDONESIA

MR. PRAKASH/WORLD VISION INDIA



KAFUI AMEHI/WORLD VISION GHANA

▲ *“At first, I could not stand on my feet and walk well. Now I can do everything. I am the happiest child on earth today, thanks to World Vision.”*

—Doris Ekuban Nyarko Amarchie, 12, Ghana (with the book on her lap). Sponsorship helped her get surgery to correct her clubfeet..



◀ *“My family and I have benefited a lot from sponsorship. Each letter brings so much love and concern.”*
—Vidya Vikraman, 16, India (pictured here with her father)

▶ *“I want to become a doctor when I grow up, and look after pregnant mothers,”* says 9-year-old Su Mon Kyaw in Myanmar, modeling her sponsorship-provided school uniform.



KATHEE HLAING/WORLD VISION MYANMAR

“I remember the first day he received a letter. His legs were shaking with excitement, and he was so happy that he could not utter even a word.”

— Susan Khachatryan, nurse and mother of Arman, 11, a sponsored child, Armenia

▶ “Thank you for sponsoring me. May you live 100 years.”
—Erion Tanushi, 13, Albania



JUDY MOORE/WORLD VISION ALBANIA



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



DANG NHAT THANH/WORLD VISION VIETNAM

◀ A sponsor’s gift allowed 11-year-old Tran Thi Lan Huong’s family in Vietnam to drill a well. Now the family drinks clean water. Her sponsor also sends the girl many gifts—colored pencils, hairpins, dolls, and clothes.

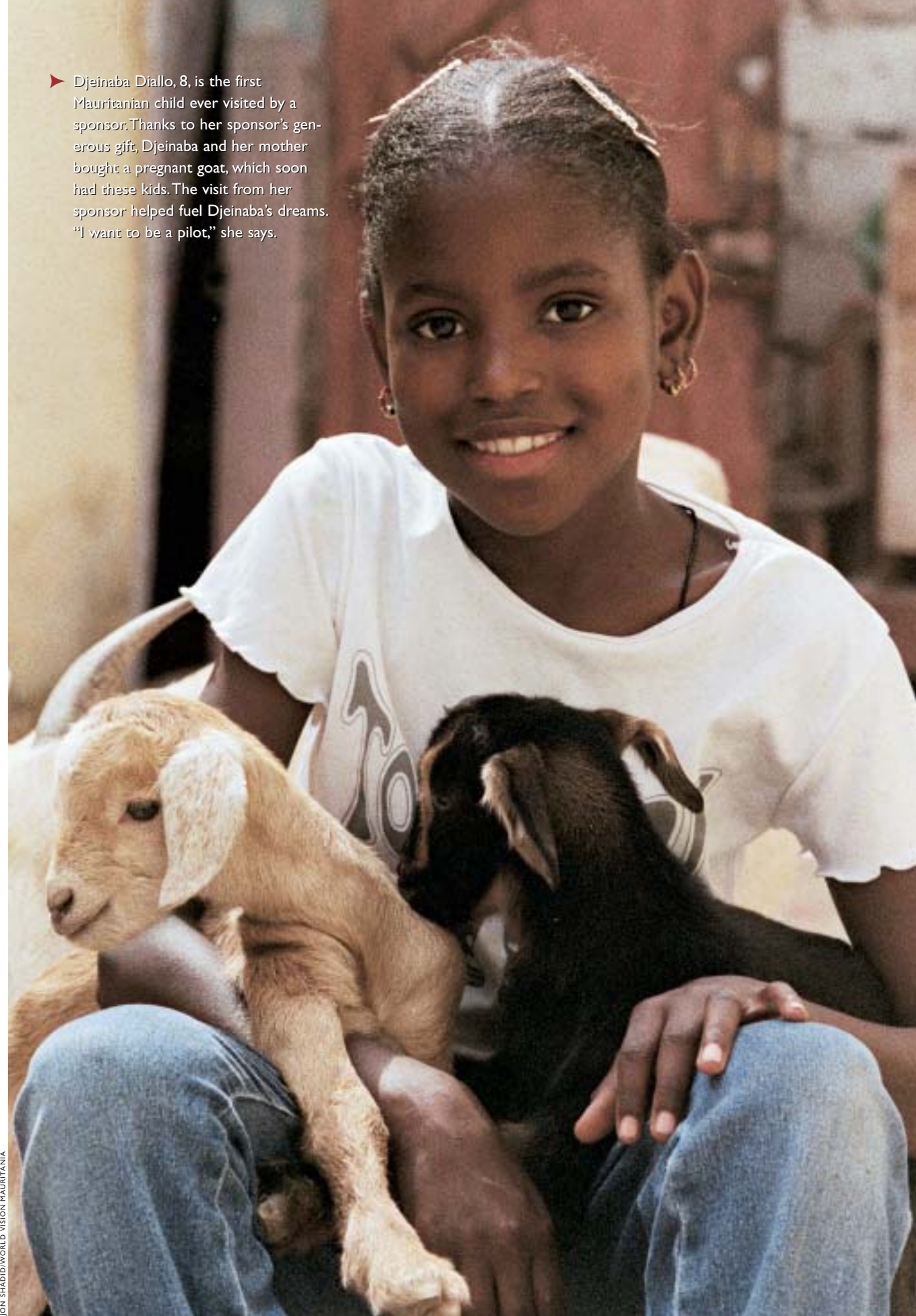


GABRIELA PERAI/WORLD VISION ROMANIA

◀ Madalina Roxana Stefan, 8, in Romania, writes regularly to her sponsor. (Madalina, left, is pictured with her mother and younger sister.)

▶ “When we didn’t have clean water, our meals were dirty. Now we can drink clean water and keep our children clean.”
—Hermenegilda Zea Ccoyori, mother of Walter Churata, 10, Peru (Walter, left, and his family appreciate the water pipe and faucet that World Vision installed at their house.)

► Djeinaba Diallo, 8, is the first Mauritanian child ever visited by a sponsor. Thanks to her sponsor's generous gift, Djeinaba and her mother bought a pregnant goat, which soon had these kids. The visit from her sponsor helped fuel Djeinaba's dreams. "I want to be a pilot," she says.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

GALAU BAWK RA/WORLD VISION MYANMAR



◀ "Dear sponsor, thank you very much for your kindly sponsorship. I would like to be a doctor. Now I have the opportunity to achieve goals in my life."

—Yamin Pa Pa, 8, Myanmar
(seated at right)

◀ "I sleep in a new cement block house [built by World Vision]. I sleep in my own bed by the door. I used to sleep in the kitchen where I didn't have a bed. Now I sleep better."
—Daniel Nemecio, 11, Guatemala



"It is so interesting that a person from thousands of miles away is writing to me without even knowing me."

— Cristina Codreanu, 15, Romania

For more photos and stories showing sponsorship through a child's eyes, see our special feature on the Web at www.worldvision.org/magazine

KICKOFF FOR SUCCESS

Story By Molly Masland Photographs by Jon Warren



Soccer camp offers kids a chance to beat the odds.

WITH GRASS-STAINED SOCKS PULLED UP TO HIS KNEES, 6-year-old Elijah Santiago runs across the playing field as fast as his legs will take him, dribbling a soccer ball. Huffing and puffing, he manages to keep the ball away from a young girl with a long ponytail—a star player for the opposing team—who makes a dash toward him.

Elijah's mother, Maria Santiago, 25, yells words of encouragement in both English and Spanish from the sidelines. She sits in the grass under the hot sun with a small crowd of other mothers, grandmothers and younger siblings, and holds her 1-year-old daughter, Eunice, on her lap.

"Get the ball! Run!" the crowd yells.

With one kick, Elijah slams the ball into the goal. "Score!" shouts Chris Hamilton, the boy's coach. Elijah collapses onto the grass, exhausted and proud, as his teammates erupt in cheers.

It is the third day of the Kent, Wash., soccer camp, cosponsored by World Vision, Run to Win Ministries, and *Liga Hispana del Noreoeste* (Hispanic League of the Northwest). World Vision provides much of the coordination and funding for the camps, which

mainly serve Hispanic children. The Hispanic League helps publicize and run the camps. And Run to Win, an Edmonds, Wash.-based sports outreach organization (operating 22 different, local, sports camps for children) offers technical expertise and assistance.

Through this partnership, also offered in Seattle's White Center neighborhood and in Tacoma, the children gain far more than athletic abilities. They gain *life* skills.

For starters, the camps offer a chance to participate in a ritual of summer that many other children in the United States take for granted.

"Soccer in the United States has traditionally been a suburban, white, middle-class sport," says Alberto Diaz, executive director of the Hispanic League of the Northwest. "For these kids, it's different. Not all the moms have cars, the time to drive the kids around, or money. This is a real opportunity for them."

The Hispanic community in Washington state has nearly doubled in the past 10 years, with thousands of migrant workers moving to the region during the economic boom of the

1990s. In 2000, Hispanics made up 7.5 percent of the total state population, up from 4.4 percent in 1990, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In eastern Washington, many of the immigrants take jobs in seasonal farm work, laboring with their entire families in the fields. On the western side of the Cascades, they work primarily in the service industry, such as restaurants and hotels, putting in grueling hours but earning slightly better wages. Their children face enormous challenges—and little time for the joy of recreational sports—primarily because of the language barrier and a lack of access to resources.

Elijah's parents followed a similar path when they moved to the Seattle-Tacoma area in 1994. Raised in California's Salinas Valley, Maria Santiago was just 15 years old when she had her first son, Joshua, and 19 when Elijah was born. Her husband, Lauro Santiago, was a migrant worker originally from Oaxaca, Mexico. After gaining U.S. citizenship, he moved his family to the Seattle area and found work in Alaska during the summers. Now he has a steady job as a mechanic with a local poultry farm. Maria finished high school and now works as a teacher in a local Christian pre-school.

"I'm hoping the camp will be a blessing for these kids," says Tito Hinojos, manager of World Vision's Hispanic Initiative and a pastor for 24 years. "Some would never have a chance to attend camp."

For children like Elijah, the soccer camp is also a chance to develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments. A stocky boy with a cherubic face and large, brown eyes, Elijah wants more than anything to be like his older brother, Joshua, 10, who plays on his school's soccer team. After Elijah's parents learned about the camp through their church and decided to enroll him, he couldn't wait for the first day. Arriving early in the morning with his grandmother Carmen Ruiz, Elijah was on his best behavior, waiting eagerly in line to get his own T-shirt and red, green, and yellow soccer ball, along with all the other kids.

"My favorite position is playing forward," Elijah says. "But I like it all, especially running." He beams as he signs his name with a black marker across his soccer ball and carries it out to the field.

The camps also provide children with an opportunity to learn discipline in a safe, caring environment free of negative influences such as gangs. Each day at the camp, some 50 children practice hours of drills and exercises under the direction of professional British soccer coaches from Challenger Sports, an organization hired by the camps' coordinators.

The children line up across the field, hopping back and forth



It's more than a game for Elijah. It's a chance to follow in his brother's footsteps.

from one foot to the other and doing deep knee bends over their soccer balls with seemingly endless amounts of energy. After each practice session, the kids, laughing and dripping sweat, race to the sidelines for cold juice and a snack. Soon it's time to return to the field.

"Are you ready?" yells Coach Chris, 23, of Scotland, with a thick accent.

"We were born ready!" Elijah and his teammates shout back in unison.

Maria hopes the discipline Elijah learns from playing soccer will also help him to do well in school. "I tell my boys, 'If you get good grades, you get the privilege to play.'"

Her eldest son, Joshua, is well on his way to academic success and her expectations for Elijah are just as high.

For Elijah, as for each of these children, the game of soccer has become more than just an activity to while away the hot days of summer—it's crucial preparation for the game of life. ■



LIVING PROOF

Edith can testify to the power of sponsorship.

Story by Jane Sutton-Redner Photographs by Greg Schneider

EDITH AREVALO NEVER DOUBTS WHAT CHILD

sponsorship can do for Melish Fekere, her 10-year-old sponsored child in Ethiopia. “I believe in this program,” she says. “So many kids are going through so much. This is a little light that can let them know, ‘Hey, this is going to be OK. You’re loved.’”

She knows because she’s a former sponsored child herself, from El Salvador. “In the most difficult times in my life, I remembered my sponsors’ love,” she says, her voice breaking with emotion. “It fired me up; it gave me strength to know that things would change.”

Today, with the perspective of a 32-year-old mother, devout Christian, and World Vision employee—she works for the organization’s domestic ministry in Los Angeles—Edith can explain sponsorship’s power: “It’s the love of God. That’s how God works.”

PHOTOS AND MEMORIES

A worn photo album, one of the few possessions Edith brought with her to the United States, gives a glimpse into the past. She points out snapshots of a skinny, dark-haired girl with a bright grin: Edith Lorena Arevalo Beltran, about 7 or 8, around the time she was sponsored. “We started in a little cardboard house, then we moved up a bit and we got a house made of wood,” she explains. “It was just one room, and the ceilings were so noisy when it rained.”

Next, she points to a faded Polaroid (shown right) of a couple with 1970s-style clothes and haircuts. Marked just “Keith and Denise,” it’s the only picture Edith has of her American sponsors. She gazes at the image fondly and says, “When they wrote, they would say they cared about me—you know, encouraging things.”

Edith remembers taking a bus with her mother to the World Vision office, where staff would hand out school supplies and uniforms for her and her two older sisters. “It was my day,” she says, smiling as she remembers how special she felt.

Edith says that feeling lasted not just through the lean years, but through turbulent times as well.

“When I think of my childhood, I think mostly of the war,” she says. Between 1979 and 1992, civil war wracked El Salvador, killing 75,000 people. Edith, who was 9 when the fighting intensified, remembers cowering under her bed while gunshots and explosions echoed outside, then walking to school the next day among the carnage: corpses crumpled on the street, bodies hanging from trees. But the worst memory by far was of April 1, 1980.



Edith's children—Martin, 7, and Emilia, 5—know about El Salvador only from Edith's stories and photos.

Edith's father, Jose Brigido Arevalo Umaña, had once been a soldier, and this probably marked him for death. Armed men stormed into his home that night and fatally shot him. “They did it front of me,” Edith says tearfully. “It was horrible.”

Suddenly, many responsibilities fell to the 10-year-old girl. “We had to do interviews with the police,” she recalls. “My mom and sisters, they were crying and crying—the only person who could speak was me. The next day, I had to get on a bus by myself and go tell my relatives about my father. But that’s when I got closer to God. He gave me strength.”

In the aftermath of the tragedy, Edith took comfort in her faith. It was a lonely time: Her mother, fearing for her own life, fled to the United States. Edith also left her community—abruptly ending her sponsorship—and lived with relatives in El Salvador, finishing elementary school and doing odd jobs to help support herself.

Even after the war ended, violence continued to plague the country. In 1985, Edith and an aunt fled to Mexico. After a few months there, they entered the United States and applied for asylum. Edith joined her mother in Los Angeles.

AT HOME IN A NEW WORLD

Edith's smile and cheerful hello—in English or Spanish, whichever's appropriate—greet every visitor to World Vision's Storehouse of Los Angeles. The ministry distributes high-quality goods donated by corporations to needy local groups.

Edith directs job seekers to the racks of business clothes; teachers from low-income school districts to the school-supply shelves; and workers from local ministries to pallets of building

materials. She dispenses forms, bits of advice, and often an affectionate joke or a word of blessing. “Edith is really necessary to the success of this place,” says her boss, Phyllis Freeman.

“God is good,” Edith says, explaining how she landed with the organization that once helped her. Her teenage transition to the United States had been rocky. “The only thing I knew how to say in English,” she chuckles, “was, ‘I don’t speak English.’”

Edith craved attention from her mother, who was busy rebuilding her own life. The girl rebelled, moved out, and drifted away from God. A relationship with a young man failed but produced two beautiful children, Martin, 7, and Emilia, 5.



Old photographs are bittersweet reminders of Edith's past.

Despite some missteps, Edith believes the Lord continued leading her way. At a book publishing firm she worked as a secretary, became computer literate, and even learned to operate a forklift. These turned out to be perfect qualifications for the administrative assistant job at the Storehouse. “Where are they going to find a secretary who drives a forklift?” Edith laughs, recalling how well everything fell into place when she “returned” to World Vision.

Phyllis credits Edith with building a database that tracks the ministry's daily activity—a vital way to tell the story of their success. To Edith, the job's greatest perk is the people she meets, especially pastors and other Christians who frequent the Storehouse.

Edith has come full-circle—from sponsored child to sponsor; from a poor girl living in a developing country to an essential member of a team that serves the U.S. poor. But Edith believes she's still a work in progress. “The Word of God says you move from glory to glory,” she says, “so that’s my plan, just to grow stronger in him and be the woman he has called me to be.” ■



Abraham's *sacrifice*

When Bansiram Hasdah witnessed his 9-year-old son, Prabhu, dying of malaria, the first thought that came to his mind was: *Abraham can do something.* ¶ It was 10 p.m. Prabhu was in a coma and needed



His future was secure as his family's only son, but Abraham wanted more.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KITKUPAR SHANGPLIANG

to be hospitalized. Transportation to town at night is next-to-impossible in his remote village, so Bansiram approached the only man he knew could help—Abraham.

Abraham drove his motorcycle nearly 20 miles with Bansiram hanging on behind, clutching his son, and praying. At the hospital, Abraham waited with Bansiram until daylight, when the doctor arrived with reassuring news: Prabhu had survived.

Abraham Baskey is World Vision's community development organizer in Manichand. For the past five years, he has been the face of World Vision: a social worker who works to implement the programs that the community—with World Vision's guidance—believes will make life better there.

Abraham might have lived a very different life in his native village of Kundatha, in the Indian state of Jharkand. As the only son in a family with a house, a plowing field, and a 4-acre forestland, he could have lived comfortably.

Instead, today Abraham lives in this village with no electricity, no telephone, and no proper roads—people must walk 12 to 18 miles to catch a bus to the next town. Abraham owns the only motorized vehicle in Manichand. So he is often called on in emergencies, and often after hours.

Abraham's role as community development organizer is more than a job—it's a lifestyle. Twice a week or more, Abraham visits all the World Vision-sponsored children in each village he serves. During harvesting seasons, Abraham wakes up before dawn to catch up with villagers before they leave for 12-hour days in their fields. In a month he visits at least nine villages, conducting meetings to strengthen relationships with the community.

Abraham's first job is to reduce the risk of death caused by malaria. He travels from one village to another distributing mosquito nets, monitoring the supply of safe drinking water, and educating people. He has watched a family's savings dry up when any member is hospitalized. "If the malaria problem is solved," he says, "other problems are minor." Abraham's health-awareness programs teach people to seek help as soon as they see symptoms of malaria and other diseases.

When 9-year-old Limuni Murmu was dying of malaria, her family came to Abraham's doorstep for help. Without a doctor close by, Abraham took the little girl and her family to a nearby village where Christian families could surround her with prayer. The situation was nearly hopeless, but Abraham knew that prayer provided her only chance.

Limuni survived that night. The next day she was taken to a doctor, who confirmed that the case was brain malaria and not what the villagers had believed: demon possession. The incident transformed Limuni's parents. "In the past," Abraham says, "the family members used to brew local beer, drink, and fight frequently. Now the father of the family has stopped drinking because God has touched him."

Having heard from neighbors that Abraham had an understanding of traditional Indian medicine, Dual Marandi, 35, also approached him for help. This widow had been suffering from a menstrual problem for 10 years, trying every medicine available without success. Dual eventually lost faith that she would ever be healed. When Abraham saw what was happening, he immediately went to collect wild herbs from the nearby forest, mixed them, and gave the herbal medicines to Dual. And, with his wife, Bibiana, Abraham prayed.

After a week, the remedy started to work. Dual continued with the prescribed course for a month. When she recovered, even Abraham was surprised. It was the most complicated case he had ever seen. *If God can use me to heal a lady with 10 years of sickness, he thought, he has a plan by placing me here.*

At home, Abraham, 26, is a father to one son and a daughter: 3-year-old Vinay and 1-year-old Asakiram. Every morning, he fetches water from the well for his family. "He takes care of filling up the jars, cleaning the utensils, and washing the children's clothes," Bibiana says.

Nighttime is storytime before he puts the children to bed. During his days off, Abraham recites poetry with his son. "Abraham is like a friend and teacher to his children," Bibiana says. Bibiana is more than Abraham's helpmate at home. She is his partner in prayer. She knows that her husband cannot say "no"



Above: Abraham with the village development committee in Manichand. Left: Abraham pitches in to help a mother bathe her son.

to a person in need and she understands. She shares in his sacrifice.

Abraham hopes to see the girls in the village go beyond traditional boundaries. In Abraham's communities, many girls drop out of school to become wives. "In 10 years' time," he says, "my dream is to see at least four college graduates from each village where I work, and that two of them should be girls."

The community commends Abraham for his efforts in running the village school. "The kind of education that our children are getting is praiseworthy," says community member Gaswa Kisku. "This never happened during our time."

And, with his interest in medicine, Abraham hopes to establish a hospital with a doctor and a nurse to serve the needs of more than 30 villages in the area.

"Before World Vision came here, we were a people with no sense of direction," says community leader Devilal Tudu. "But after Abraham's arrival, we came to know how effective we can be as a group. Because of Abraham's faithfulness, villagers are reaching out to learn about life beyond their villages."

How fitting that the man who willingly left behind his own familiar village life would see the ripples of that sacrifice bring about so much good, so much health. ■

News

► Surveys indicate that more than 50 percent of young people in 40 developing countries harbor misconceptions about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted. (“Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis,” UNICEF, UNAIDS, and the World Health Organization)

► The number of poor people in the United States rose last year to 32.9 million, an increase of 1.3 million from 2000. (U.S. Census Bureau)

► Of the 6,809 languages currently spoken in the world, about 3,000 do not have a Bible translation. (Wycliffe Bible Translators)

Good News



MICHAEL McVEIGH/WORLD VISION

GRANDFATHER CYCLES FOR A CAUSE

For 71-year-old Ed McIntyre (above, at right), it's never too late to learn something new. The Los Angeles native traveled to southern Africa to participate in World Vision's AIDS Cycle Relay, an annual event raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in this heavily affected region.

“The main thing that drew me here was that I wanted to learn more about AIDS and HIV,” Ed says. “I want to know more so that from now on I will be better able to help people who have AIDS in my city, and let people know that they can live with HIV.”

When Ed saw a magazine story about the 2001 cycle relay, his pastor encouraged him to get involved. The retired grandfather of three was healthy and up for the adventure. A few months later he traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa, to prepare for the event, which kicked off in August in Quelimane, Mozambique.

Ed enjoyed his status as the elder statesman of the tour that attracted riders from Canada, Australia, Germany, and the United States, as well as Africa. The group captured the attention of communities along the nine-country route and was watched by thousands of viewers on a nightly television news broadcast.

NEWS BRIEFS

STAFF UNDER FIRE

Haiti and Sudan—World Vision staff are grieving the loss of two of their own. Evincs Theogene, a World Vision Haiti manager, was shot dead in August as he drove through Port au Prince, the capital. Police are investigating the murder, which occurred during a rise in criminal activity in the city. Evincs had worked with World Vision since 1988. Just a few weeks earlier, a rebel group attacked World Vision's compound in Waat, southern Sudan, killing Kenyan staff Charles Kibbe and taking three others hostage. Steffen Horstmeier and Ekkehard Forberg of Germany and Andrew Omwenga of Kenya were released unharmed a few days later. World Vision has worked in Sudan since 1970, serving poor families and those affected by civil war.



ALISON PRESTON/WORLD VISION



JAMES ADDIS/WORLD VISION

Freed hostages Steffen Horstmeier (top) and Andrew Omwenga

FISH FARMING CATCHES ON

Malawi—Ponds teeming with fish are the talk of the Chingale area. World Vision introduced a demonstration fish pond there two years ago, and now more than 130 ponds are making good use of local rivers to produce fast-breeding tilapia. Fish farming is a boon to community members, especially as Malawians suffer from drought-induced food shortages. “Thanks to World Vision,” says one community leader, “we not only eat the fish in these ponds, but we also sell some of the catch whenever necessary. This means we are in charge of our own destiny.”



CARLA ANDERSEN/WORLD VISION

ROAD NAMED FOR FOUNDER

India—A 1.5-mile stretch of newly built road has been named after World Vision founder Bob Pierce. The villagers of North Tripura, in northeast India, completed Bob Pierce Road in two months. World Vision paid them for their labor with food. The road will benefit 3,500 people and facilitate children's treks to school, transportation of goods, and inter-village meetings.

HOPE UPDATE

BARCELONA AIDS CONFERENCE BEARS FRUIT

The news out of Barcelona wasn't surprising: HIV rates are still on the rise, especially in parts of Africa and India, China, and Eastern Europe. But World Vision staff who attended the 14th International AIDS Conference in July came away with reasons to hope.

Team members found that World Vision is at the forefront of caring for orphans and vulnerable children. “We are already doing many of the things that I heard presented as best practices,” says Richard Wamimbi, director of World Vision's HIV/AIDS program in Uganda.

The World Vision delegation met with religious leaders and organization officials who will likely become future collaborators in the HIV/AIDS response. In addition, World Vision plans to work with Christian groups to create a stronger voice at the next AIDS conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004. “Churches and faith-based organizations are already making a significant contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS,” says Ken Casey, director of World Vision's HIV/AIDS Hope Initiative. “We need to ensure that their contribution is supported within the overall international response to HIV/AIDS.”

PROVIDE THE WORD AT CHRISTMAS

Have you ever wanted to give a Bible to one of the millions of Christians worldwide who cannot afford one?

World Vision has entered an exciting partnership with the International Bible Society and Zondervan (Bible publishers) to provide Scriptures to children and families in our projects around the globe. You can help share the light this holiday season with a believer in another country. For every Zondervan Bible you purchase through December 2002, a Bible or Scripture portion will be sent for you, free of charge, to a child or family in a World Vision project.*

Look for the “Share the Light” brochures at your favorite Christian retail store. When you purchase a Zondervan Bible, complete the form in the brochure and drop it in the mail. That's all it takes to be part of the Share the Light campaign to send 1 million Bibles overseas.

You'll also have the opportunity to place a bookplate in the Bible that is given away. It's a great way to honor the memory of a loved one, help your children learn the value of giving, or dedicate many copies of the Scriptures on behalf of your Sunday-school class or congregation.

*Bibles will be distributed in countries that request them.



Giving more than food and water

By participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program, your church family can save lives.

Life's essential elements for survival are simple: food, water, and shelter. Yet in many communities worldwide, children and families suffer and die from unclean water, malnutrition, and exposure.

Families in your church can make a difference just by dropping a few bills and coins into a Love Loaf each day.

Contact us today to request your own Love Loaf and begin saving lives—the impact will change your life too! Call 1.877.4LOAVES or visit www.worldvision.org/loveloaf



World Vision

Find out how you can get involved with World Vision

We'd love to share more information with you about our programs and about partnering with World Vision to care for the poor. Check the boxes on the form below, and return it in the envelope provided between pages 8 and 9. For more information, call (888) 511-6518 or visit www.worldvision.org

Share World Vision with your family

1 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

World Vision's newest sponsorship program allows you to break the cycle of poverty by sponsoring an entire family in Ghana, Romania, Sri Lanka, or El Salvador.

2 WORLD VISION GIFT CATALOG

On behalf of your loved ones, give unique gifts such as goats, bicycles, or medical supplies to those in need.

Bring World Vision to your church

3 30 HOUR FAMINE

Get your youth group or school involved in the fight against world hunger by participating in World Vision's nationwide annual famine event. www.30hourfamine.org

4 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Order "Planting Seeds of Hope," a catalog of books, videos, and publications about urgent global issues.

5 LOVE INC

Get involved with a program that's mobilizing the Church to transform lives and communities in the United States.

6 LOVE LOAF

Help your congregation learn more about world poverty as they collect offerings for your church and World Vision.

7 REACHING OUT TO THE POOR

A World Vision staff person will call you with ways World Vision can help your church reach out to the poor.

Expand your world vision

8 EMERGENCY RELIEF RESPONSE

Receive e-mail updates on how World Vision is responding to emergency relief situations. *Must provide e-mail address to receive these updates.*

9 WOMEN OF VISION

Join a volunteer ministry that serves the poor, learning from and advocating for women in developing countries. www.womenofvision.org

10 WORLD VISION'S PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES

Find out what World Vision is doing for U.S. children through tutoring programs, inner-city youth initiatives, and other domestic ministries.

11 WORLD VISION ADVOCACY

Learn how to be an advocate for the poor and those in need around the world. Go to www.worldvision.org/globalissues.

Show World Vision to your company

12 MATCHING GIFTS

Learn how your employer may match your contribution to World Vision.

13 DONATE GIFTS-IN-KIND

Discover how your company can donate new, surplus inventory that can save lives in the United States and overseas.

14 DONATE SHIPPING DOLLARS

Funds for shipping gifts-in-kind can leverage the value of sending products overseas.

15 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Your company can benefit by supporting World Vision.

Share your resources with World Vision

16 GIFT PLANNING

Establish a legacy of hope by including World Vision in your will or learn about other estate-planning options.

17 KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Donate your car, boat, real estate, or recreational vehicle to World Vision and receive a tax deduction for your contribution.

18 LPGA PLAYING PARTNERS

Support World Vision by supporting your favorite top female golf pro, tackling poverty through her game.

Volunteer through World Vision

19 ARTIST ASSOCIATES

Help Christian artists promote child sponsorship by volunteering at a local concert.

Know World Vision's reason for hope

20 WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Simple steps to a personal and lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

WORLD VISION TODAY READER SERVICE

Clip and return in envelope provided in the center of the magazine.

Please tell me how I can:

Share World Vision with my family

1 2

Bring World Vision to my church

3 4 5

6 7

Expand my world vision

8 9 10

Show World Vision to my company

12 13 14 15

Share my resources with World Vision

16 17 18

Volunteer through World Vision

19

Know World Vision's reason for hope

20

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

HBETOC

The Gift of Agitation

Crying out for God to make things right

JOHN PIPER, IN HIS BOOK *A HUNGER FOR GOD*, very helpfully reminds us what the appropriate posture of the Church should be. It is the posture of a longing bride, waiting at the altar for the appearance of her bridegroom. She is tapping her foot and glancing at her watch. The bride is filled with a "holy discontent" over the absence of her bridegroom and is crying out, "Maranatha! Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!"

The New Testament Church exhibited this posture because it was a persecuted church. They could recall Jesus' promise: "Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly" (Luke 18:7,8). These Christians were intimately acquainted with suffering, poverty, and injustice.



COURTESY AMY SHERMAN

Amy L. Sherman is senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, a nonprofit public policy research center, where she focuses on domestic poverty issues. She is also an urban ministries advisor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Va., and has been involved with World Vision Love INC.

They cried out, loudly and often. They were eager for Christ to consummate his kingdom, because they knew that things on earth were not as they were supposed to be.

Unfortunately, this agitated posture is not the posture of the typical American congregation. We do not long fervently for the consummation of Christ's kingdom because we're really rather happy just the way things are. American abundance and affluence anesthetize us.

We are comfortable. We are not crying out night and day for God to bring justice on earth. We forget to shout, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Agitation like this is painful. Last night, for no particular reason, I thought

of an acquaintance—an elderly, low-income widow who lives alone, wheelchair-bound, with agonizing arthritis. I tried to push the thought away. It hurt, it scared me: *Will I end up like that?* It can even anger me: *Why such suffering and loneliness, God?* But God used that agitation to remind me that he alone among the gods titles himself "defender of widows."

I get agitated thinking of the sexually abused first grader in my inner-city community, now bereft of parents. And God's Spirit reminds me, "I am the Father to the fatherless."

I want to turn my eyes from that picture of the Filipino teenager who was abducted into a brothel . . . from that fund-raising brochure for a ministry serving among families living in a Guatemala City dump. And God's Word penetrates: Our God is the rescuer of the oppressed, the comforter of the needy.

Face-to-face ministry among the poor can stimulate within us the growth of an oh-so-needed "holy discontent." We allow ourselves to be touched with the brokenness and pain experienced by our neighbors near and far.

Christ calls us to entangle our lives with those who suffer, and as we do so, we can become rightly agitated with the way things are and more eager for Christ to deliver on his promise to "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

In the process, we are reminded that our Savior has tasted suffering. He, too, is agitated. He sees the hungry crowd, the widow of Nain, the deformed leper. And, as the Gospel writers report, his heart goes out to them (Luke 7:13).

Jesus calls us to share in this deep compassion. And he promises one day to "wipe away every tear." Will we be eager for that if we aren't willing to "taste the salt" in the tears cried by the oppressed and impoverished?

There is a holy agitation we should strive for. Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, put it this way: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." ■

a child's life is different because of you

Thousands of World Vision sponsors

have expanded their hearts—
sponsoring two, three, four, and
in some cases up to 50 children.

Why? It usually starts with seeing
the difference they can make in
one child's life.

Please consider opening the
door of your heart by spon-
soring another child today.

World Vision

1.800.448.6437 • www.worldvision.org



Yes, I want to sponsor another child for \$26 a month.

1. Sponsorship Options

I want to sponsor a: boy girl | living in: Africa Latin America
 Asia Middle East where the needs are greatest

2. Giving Options

Automatic Bank Withdrawal.*
I authorize my bank to debit my account
\$26 each month and send it to World
Vision. Please make the deductions on
the ___ 5th or the ___ 20th day of
each month. (Mark your choice with an "X"
and please include a check marked "VOID" or a
deposit slip from your bank account.)

Gift Enclosed. I've included my first
monthly gift of \$26 to help another
needy child and his or her community.
(Please make your check payable to World Vision.)

Debit/Credit Card. Charge my
monthly sponsorship gifts to my debit
or credit card:



Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

AB2WSW

3. Sponsor Information

Name _____

Signature (required) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

*Our promise to you: World Vision reviews the monthly sponsorship
commitment on an ongoing basis to maintain the quality of its programs and
respond to the needs of the children and communities it serves. As a partici-
pant in World Vision's Automatic Giving Plan, you will receive 30 days advanced
written notice of any future rate changes and will have the option to decline.

World Vision



P.O. Box 78481 • Tacoma, WA 98481-8481 • www.worldvision.org

Published by
World Vision Inc.
P.O. Box 01772
Tacoma, WA
98481-0172

If you have questions, comments,
or a change of address,
you may call toll-free:
(888) 85-CHILD (24453)

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision