



**World Vision**

# Today

Spring 2000

## healing wounded hearts children of war

**10 Urgent Issues  
for the Millennium:  
Experts Speak Out**

page 4

**Is Education for All  
a Reachable Goal?**

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1950 - 2000  
Fifty **50** Years  
Anniversary



**W**e have enjoyed the many warm letters we received from our readers about our Winter 1999 photography issue, "Our Children: Prayers and Possibilities." Thank you for taking the time to write and express your appreciation.

A number of you inquired about reprints of the children's photographs. We have created notecards featuring four images from the Winter issue. For a minimum donation of \$15, we will send you a set of eight cards to thank you for your contribution. Please allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

Thank you for your support of World Vision's ministry.

The Editors

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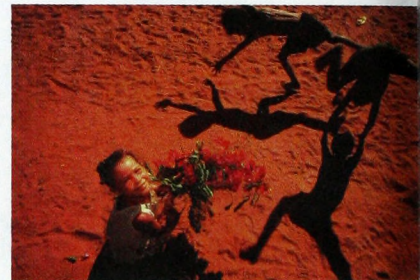
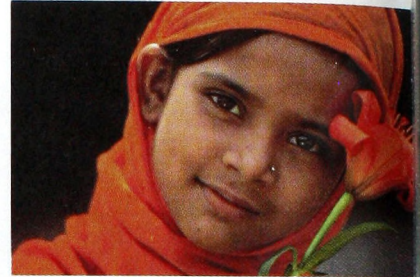
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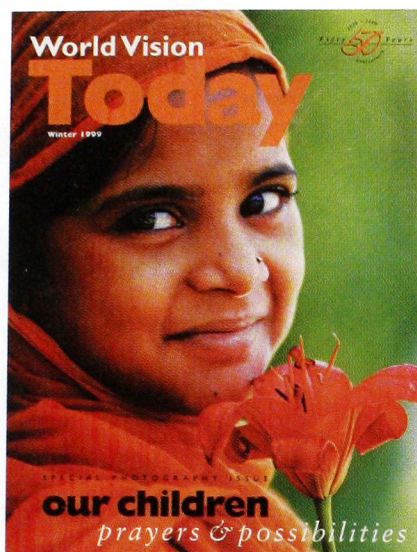
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## Photos of Hope

The photo essay in the Winter 1999 issue is beautiful beyond words. The photography, by any standard, is some of the best I have seen. The text choices are a superb blend of the ordinary human hopes that children all over the world share, artfully juxtaposed with the particular and poignant needs of individual children.

Please send me more copies of this issue. I would love to give a copy to each of my parishioners.

Rev. Kevin Patterson  
West Townsend, Mass.

## Kinkade Prompts Second Sponsorship

I really enjoyed your feature on artist Thomas Kinkade [Autumn 1999]. As the wife of an artist, it grabbed my attention, and I stopped reading only when the pages ran out.

Friends have described the poverty in the Philippines and the wonderful work you are doing there. Our sponsored child is Filipino; hearing about the difference you are making really encouraged our giving. Reading of Mr. Kinkade's commitment exhorted us to do more. I am taking this opportunity to sponsor a second child.

RhuNelle Williams  
Sevierville, Tenn.

## Bare Necessities

The spirit of God gripped my heart through the picture of five Rwandan children eating on a dirt floor [Summer 1999]. I real-

ize a dirt floor is not a major concern in light of much more severe problems, but I have been saving money for a linoleum kitchen floor. I have been too anxious about a silly floor. These precious children need life's bare necessities much more than I need a new floor. Please find my gift enclosed.

I give glory to God for his refining fire in my life and for leading me to help in a small way those who are suffering so severely.

Margie Weinacht  
Muncie, Ind.

## In the News

I saw a World Vision vehicle in East Timor on the "McNeil-Lehrer News Hour" and on the BBC. Congratulations. Your organization didn't waste any time getting to the needy people there.

I am a senior citizen on a limited income, but I am pleased to make your work known. Please send 10 more copies of your magazine to distribute to my friends and neighbors in the hope that your child sponsorship program will increase.

Therese Bauer  
Mazomanie, Wis.

## Money to the Children

Although **World Vision Today** is informative, it bothers me each time I receive it. It costs money that should be used to feed and clothe children.

I have faith in your organization, and I am confident that the money we send each month is spent for the care of our sponsored child. I urge you not to spend money on producing magazines when children are in such dire need of help.

Sara Mante  
Highland, Calif.

**Editor's note:** *World Vision has reduced overhead expenses annually for the past six years. This careful stewardship is reflected in our publications department where World Vision Today costs less than 30 cents per copy for printing and postage. The magazine is an important part of World Vision's ministry as it informs donors about how their money is used, serves as the voice for the poor, and raises additional donations for children. It is also mailed to church and government leaders who are interested in serving those in need.*

# World Vision Today

Vol. 3, Number 3

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On the cover: This ethnic Albanian girl takes  
refuge in a Montenegro camp in June 1999  
fleeing embattled Kosovo.

**World Vision Today**, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to a call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 90 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 30 cents a copy to print and mail.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, 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-mail to [WVToday@worldvision.org](mailto:WVToday@worldvision.org) or faxed to 815-3445. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Submitted photos will not be returned. Please allow address changes at least 30 days before moving. Please enclose the address label clipped from a current issue or return envelope.

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**Y2K | Saying Yes to Kids**

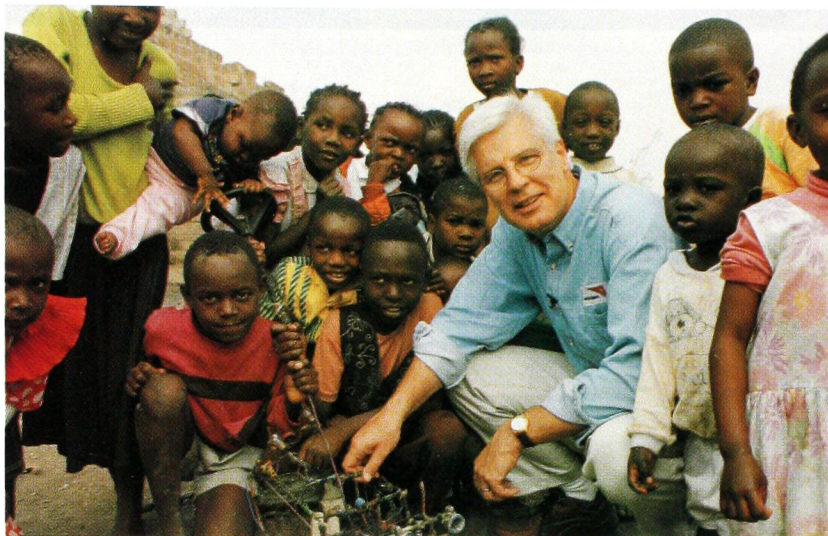
**Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37 (NIV)**

**N**ow that I've survived the millennium's computer viruses and doomsday scenarios, I can focus on my own Y2K bugs: how to eat healthier, have better devotions, spend more time with my family—and a list of other well-intentioned self-improvements. But as a Christian, I must ask myself, "What fresh resolutions have I made to the poor, especially the children, in the year 2000?"

Let's imagine that Y2K stands for "Yes to Kids." How do we say "yes" to the millions of destitute children simply asking for a safe, healthy, sustainable future?

World Vision has embraced the task Jesus has entrusted to us—to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the poor. In keeping with our calling, World Vision has developed a 10-item "to do" list for the next millennium drawing from 50 years of experience as a Christian relief and development organization (see box). We believe that poverty and suffering in the developing world could be dramatically reduced by seriously addressing these 10 urgent issues. In this edition of **World Vision Today** and in future issues, we will be calling your attention to these critical concerns, informing you about what World Vision is doing and how you can get involved.

There are many ways to help. Experts agree that money needn't be the obstacle to resolving these problems. We could substantially transform our world for an additional \$150 to \$200 billion invested annual-



KAREN HOMER/WORLD VISION

ly in development. That's not pocket change. But it's less than a third of what we spend globally on the military each year, and only half what is wasted on illegal drugs. The tab works out to about 30 cents a day for each of us living in the richest nations. Is the price tag too steep or do we just lack the will?

I believe that the first generation born in the third millennium can inherit a much more just, equitable world if we all do our part—international bodies, governments, churches, community organizations, and individuals working together.

Where do we begin? We can hold our elected representatives accountable to deliver the foreign aid our country has pledged to developing nations. And we can take action ourselves. Ron Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action, who writes about eliminating poverty in this magazine, suggests several practical steps to consider: Commit to pray daily for the poor in the United States and abroad. Minister weekly to someone in need for at least one hour. Study monthly at least one article, book, or film about the poor and discuss it with others. Retreat yearly to meditate on whether caring for the poor is as important in our lives as the Bible says it should be.

We need to examine our priorities and budgets in light of this, asking God how to best use our time, money, and influence. Won't you pray about saying "Yes to Kids" this year? ■

Richard E. Stearns

**World Vision's  
10 Urgent Issues**

*for the children of the new millennium*

1. **A livable income**
2. **Food for everyone**
3. **Primary education for all children**
4. **Clean water**
5. **Debt relief**
6. **Peace building**
7. **Girls growing as equals**
8. **A sustainable future**
9. **An end to child exploitation**
10. **Freedom to believe**

**Caring for kids:**

**Children from a slum in Nairobi, Kenya, share with Rich about their lives and families.**



# world vision's 10 urgent

We ushered in the 21st century aglow with the success of space flight, satellite communications, and medical miracles. Yet it nags at our conscience: when we can do so much, why can't we reduce world poverty?

World Vision believes we can. Advances made over the last three decades suggest that it is possible for the world's people to enjoy sufficient income, food, clean water, and other basics. We created this "to do" list addressing 10 issues of urgent concern. **World Vision Today** invited 10 experts to explain why each issue demands a renewed effort on a personal, governmental, or international level.

## 1 A Livable Income

By Ron Sider, President, *Evangelicals for Social Action*

According to the World Bank, approximately 1.3 billion people in developing nations struggle to survive on a mere dollar a day. More than half of the world's people

earn just two dollars a day or less. You and I are probably 150 times richer than the world's poorest 20 percent.

Both biblical faith and long-term self-interest demand that we end this scandal of widespread poverty amidst escalating affluence. Literally hundreds

of biblical texts tell us that God and God's faithful people have a special concern for the poor. World leaders like former U.S. President Jimmy Carter remind us that poverty is the most serious threat to global peace.

The good news is that we have made progress in combating poverty. Since 1970, the percentage of people in developing nations who are chronically malnourished has dropped from 35 percent to 20 percent. The situation is not hopeless. The right combination of microloans, community development, wise government policies, a basic market framework, and spiritual transformation can dramatically reduce poverty.

The cost? According to a 1997 estimate by the United Nations Development Programme, \$40 billion a

year for the next 10 years could close the income gap for families below the poverty line in developing countries. Worldwide, Christians collectively earn an annual income of more than \$10 trillion. We have the money. Do we have the compassion?



## 2 Food for Everyone

By Andrew Natsios, former Director of the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (Bush Administration)

In the 21st century, the world is more than capable of feeding itself. In fact, global food supplies have increased. Access to food, however, remains challenging—especially for the poor. The diet of one-third of the world's population is insufficient or unhealthy.

Food security exists when four conditions are present: people have enough money to buy food; food prices are reasonable; people's bodies are healthy enough to process what they eat; and society either grows or imports enough food to feed everyone. In East Asia and Latin America food security is improving for the poor, but in North Korea, India, Bangladesh, and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, it continues to be a serious problem.

Agricultural programs can help small farmers produce more nutritious crops by introducing improved seed varieties, better storage methods, and fertilizer use. In Mozambique and Ethiopia, where millions of people died from violence and starvation during civil wars and famines, World Vision helped farmers turn wastelands into fertile farms.

Families can also buy food in local markets if they have enough income. Microenterprise ventures such as revolving loans enable families to start small businesses, then turn the profits into capital for more loans. This can transform a community and allow families to feed their



KAREN HOMER/WORLD VISION



# Issues for the millennium

children, educate them, and provide them with health care—all needed to ensure food security.

Supporting programs that provide the poor with the means and skills to feed themselves can tip the balance of food inequality in the new millennium.

3

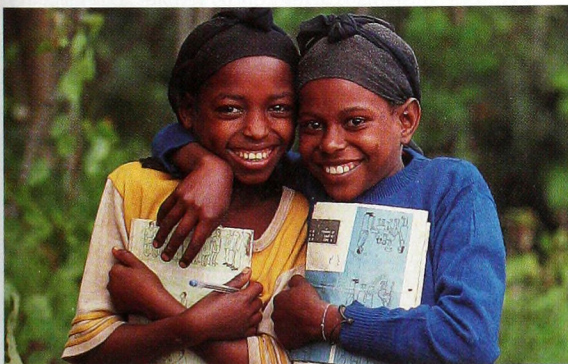
## Primary Education for All

By Serguem Jessui Machado da Silva,  
Executive Director, World Vision Brazil

Primary education is a fundamental human right, essential for developing one's God-given potential. The Convention on the Rights of the Child advocates the right of all children to primary education that will give them the skills to continue learning throughout life. Yet access to education continues to elude members of all societies, particularly girls, ethnic minorities, disabled children, and those living in rural areas. Worldwide, 130 million children aren't in school. Some 150 million children drop out before grade four; the vast majority before they have acquired basic literacy skills.

Education will be even more important in the next century amid such advances as genetic engineering, automation, and computer technology. What about the poor, the socially and economically excluded? Governments, civil society, the church, and non-governmental organizations must work together to provide at least elementary education for these people. World Vision has done this successfully in many countries through child sponsorship, which ensures that even the poorest children can go to school.

Promoting education will continue to be a challenge,



especially as economic readjustments prescribed by multilateral institutions impact social programs. But without primary education for all, there won't be a world of peace, democracy, and opportunity for all in the next millennium.

4

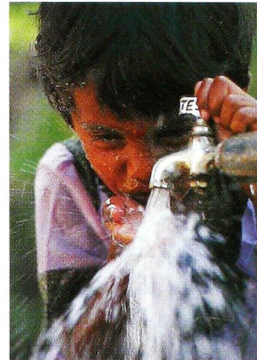
## Clean Water

By Steven M. Hilton, President,  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

It seems so simple: I turn on the tap for a glass of water, fill a bathtub, or flush a toilet. But for the 1.7 billion people in the world without access to clean water, it's not simple. One billion people lack even the basic 6.6 gallons a day needed for drinking, washing, and preparing food. Tragically, 5 million children a year die from water-borne diseases.

I learned what clean, safe water means in a child's life in Ghana, West Africa, where the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation has partnered with World Vision to drill more than 1,100 borehole wells. After a village ceremony dedicating a new well, a little boy said, "I give you an elephant of thanks." He picked the largest object he knew to express his gratitude. This child will likely never know the excruciating pain of Guinea worm whose larvae lurked in the old, unsanitary water supply. His mother and sisters will no longer have to walk long distances to obtain water for the family. His father can work without fear of losing his eyesight from onchocerciasis, a disease contracted from blackflies inhabiting riverbanks. Because his family will struggle less for daily survival, the boy will be educated, and perhaps his children will enjoy even more opportunities someday.

I thank God for what we've been able to achieve in Ghana. I pray that it can be replicated elsewhere through international investment in water technology, providing clean water to all in the next millennium.



ION WARREN/WORLD VISION

5

## Debt Relief

By David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World

The Old Testament book of Leviticus proclaimed a Jubilee year every 50 years, a time of liberation from the oppression of debt, from slavery, from landlessness. All were given a clean slate; no one was to live permanently in want. In that spirit, religious leaders such as the Reverend Billy Graham, Pope John Paul II, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu are calling for debt relief for the world's poorest

**L**earn more  
about these  
urgent issues!  
See page 17 for  
a resource list  
containing Web  
sites and  
publications.





countries as part of the global Jubilee 2000 movement.

Many countries are so burdened by debt that they cannot meet basic needs. In Tanzania, for example, debt payments require nearly four-fifths of the government's budget, leaving roads, health

care, and education sorely neglected. For every dollar spent on debt, only a quarter is spent on health care.

In June 1999, governments of industrial countries agreed on a plan to cancel partial debts for the poorest countries. But if the U.S. government fails to provide funds, others may reduce their commitments.

Many Christians are urging Congress to approve debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Continued citizen action is critical. For up-to-date information, visit Web sites for Jubilee 2000 and Bread for the World [see resources list, page 17].

Debt relief alone cannot solve the problems of hunger and poverty. But without it, human development efforts are blocked. We need to give poor countries a fresh start.

## 6

### Peace Building

By Augustin Ahimana, Manager,  
World Vision Rwanda

In a world of increasing conflict—1998 saw 36 wars—peace building is essential. Serving in post-genocide Rwanda has taught me something about promoting reconciliation in a lacerated land.

Peace building begins by meeting physical needs. People cannot focus on reconciliation when they are hungry, homeless, or ill. World Vision began its ministry in Rwanda during the war by providing emergency food, medicine, and supplies to survivors. As people returned to their land, we equipped farmers with seeds and tools, and rebuilt schools and homes. Among Rwandans, such practical Christian caring renewed hope that they could overcome the carnage and plan for tomorrow.

The Christian church must lead the way. If the compromised Rwandan church is to be cleansed of guilt, forgiveness and repentance must begin with its leaders. We are seeing miracles of grace through our reconciliation workshops that bring pastors together across ethnic and denominational lines.

Peace building takes a generation. The genocide bequeathed Rwanda some 300,000 orphans. Most of them



JACOB AKOL/WORLD VISION

saw family members killed; many still seek revenge. Breaking the cycle of violence means addressing children's practical needs while helping them let go of hatred and prejudice. Our goal is to plant seeds of hope among children and help them create a peaceful future.

## 7

### Girls Growing as Equals

By Linda Tripp, Vice-President for  
Advocacy and Government Relations,  
World Vision Canada

Today's girls are the mothers and caretakers of future generations. The attitudes they develop now will either perpetuate a mindset of subservience and exploitation or spawn a new vision based on better education, improved health care, and greater participation in family and community decisions.

UNICEF's *The State of the World's Children 1999* report confirms that girls' situation has improved little over the last decade. Two-thirds of the 130 million children denied education are girls—the highest percentage in Asia—making them more vulnerable to exploita-



tive labor. Girls in several parts of Africa are forced into combat or sexual slavery. Female genital mutilation continues to kill, maim, or cause lifelong suffering to millions of girls worldwide.

Governments as well as international and indigenous organizations must join with civil society to integrate policies and programs to help girls—and have the long-term vision and commitment of resources to see them through.

Without immediate attention to female abortion, primarily in China and India, the population of girls will continue to decline. Without improved access to education, nutrition, and health care, tomorrow's women will be less able to nurture healthy and productive families. Without more opportunities to participate in decisions about their lives, girls and women will continue to be marginalized and exploited—and our world will lose the creative energy and potential of half the human race.

## 8

### A Sustainable Future

By Gordon Aeschliman,  
President, Target Earth

"Give people a fish, you feed them for a day. Teach them how to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime." On the surface this looks like a sensible idea. But what if the poor have



no lake in which to fish? What if the lake is full of toxins that will poison their children and threaten their very lives?

Unfortunately, world poverty is not a question of whether there is enough to go around. It's about who has access to resources, and what happens to those precious few resources available to the poor. In today's world, it is always those the Bible calls "the least of these"—children, women, the poor—who lose out. They don't have access to clean water or good land. The people with power take their rainforests, their



water, their best farmland, and their minerals, and often leave waste behind in rivers and lakes.

Sustainable development views God's creation as his personal possession: it is to be worked with in ways that honor him. Indeed, anything done to creation that burdens the poor is unsustainable and unchristian.

Christians working for a sustainable environment ask how poor communities can thrive over the long haul. They ask how resources can be protected specifically to benefit the poor. And they ask how we can meet the needs of today's generation without compromising future resources. There's probably no greater measure of our Christian faith than a generous lifestyle devoted to the well-being of generations not yet born.

9

## An End to Child Exploitation

By Sarah Bachman, Visiting Scholar,  
Asia/Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

As the millennium opens, people working against child exploitation are armed with a new tool. In June 1999, the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted Convention No. 182, against the worst forms of child labor, representing a landmark consensus among almost all of the world's independent nations.



They agreed that they can and should crack down on the worst forms of child labor.

The ILO estimates that 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 work full-time or part-time worldwide. The worst forms of labor hurt children physically, mentally, or morally: slavery and bonded labor; prostitution; pornography; drug-running; soldiering. The ILO believes 50 to 60 million children aged 11 and younger are subjected to such hazardous work.

Now comes the hard part. Children's advocates should push their nation's leaders to ratify the convention. Countries and communities need policies and programs to help children get out of the workforce. New research shows that the solution to child laborers' misery includes not only education, but also micro-credit, health care, child care, and police protection.

That also involves listening to children like Jerry, 15, from South Africa, who was physically and sexually abused by his employer, and 12-year-old Laxmi, forced to sit and weave carpets for long hours in India. The 1998 Global March Against Child Labor brought their stories to light, building support for the new convention. Now the international community needs to strengthen the solutions and make the hopes of a new millennium a reality for exploited children.

10

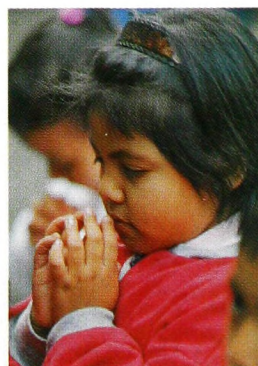
## Freedom to Believe

By Vincent Peters, Professor of Social  
Work, Bethel College; with Tamara Peters

In the face of deepening hunger, deadly disease, and war, religious freedom would seem a luxury to be sought only after meeting other needs. Yet many turn to the faith of their fathers in difficult times. Without belief, hope quickly perishes.

Religious freedom becomes even more critical as rising globalization brings diverse people together and as believers of all faiths relocate to new lands. Many governments profess to uphold religious freedom. But the U.S. State Department's 1999 *Annual Report on International Religious Freedom* reveals that much of the world's population live in countries where the right to religious freedom is restricted or prohibited. Violations are not confined to any one country, religion, or nationality. Ironically, Christians and Hindus in Pakistan fear persecution from Islamic compatriots, while Muslims and Christians in India fear persecution from Hindu neighbors. Some 200 million Christians worldwide face torture or even death for their beliefs.

In the face of rising oppression, Christians must renew their commitment to faith, and find the courage to transform our world in the light of our Lord and Creator. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Cor. 3:17). ■



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION







# each one

*All children should have access to primary education. Yet globally 130 million children are not in school. However, universal education is a reachable goal, given renewed political will on behalf of governments, increased spending on schooling, and creative initiatives such as World Vision India's education program.* STORY BY KAREN HOMER

# teach one

◀ **Teacher's pets:**  
World Vision volunteer  
Rehana Rehman, 12,  
teaches unschooled  
neighborhood kids how  
to read and write.



◀ **Class distinction:**  
Girls represent two-  
thirds of the 130  
million primary  
school age children  
not in school.

“Sit in a neat row, please,” says  
Rehana Rehman, mustering  
all the authority a 12-year-  
old can, as her pupils arrive. The class  
convenes outside Rehana's one-room  
home in Barapula, a squatters' camp  
in Delhi, north India. The children  
quickly settle on a gunnysack mat

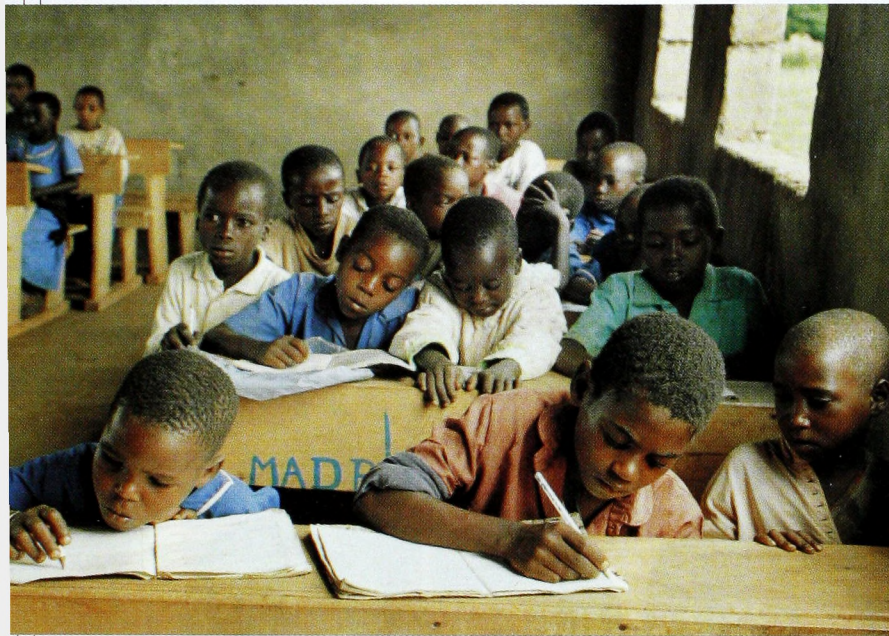




SANJAY SOJWAL/WORLD VISION

spread out on a patch of cool cement in the humid, 100-degree heat.

"Let's begin. Read this list of words aloud," says Rehana, pointing to her curling Hindi script neatly printed on the blackboard propped against a crumbling wall. "Chand," the children shout in unison, reading the Hindi word for moon, and repeating it in English. Rehana smiles, pleased with the group's progress. None of these children could read or write a month ago. But thanks to her diligence, they are now well



WINNIE OGANA/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

#### ▲ Classroom crunch:

Overcrowded, underequipped schools impede learning. Sponsorship funds help improve facilities.

#### ◀ Equal access:

Sponsorship helps ensure that girls have access to education which is often denied them in many countries.

#### ▶ Thirsty to learn:

Many children in Barapula slum must work to support their families and cannot attend school. World Vision tutors provide literacy classes and encourage parents to value education.





on the path to literacy.

As a sponsored child, Rehana's school fees are covered, giving her access to a coveted education that eludes millions of other Indian children. Because Rehana knows the value of her education, she decided to share the gift of literacy by volunteering with World Vision India's Each One Teach One pilot program. This innovative initiative encourages students to share their knowledge with friends and neighbors who don't have the opportunity to attend school. In

Rehana's community, only a small percentage of school-aged children are enrolled in class; 85 percent of the adults here are illiterate.

Rehana, an eighth-grade student, teaches basic reading, writing, and arithmetic to up to 15 children six mornings a week during her annual vacation and several afternoons a week when school is in session. She squeezes in the hour-long classes between helping her mother, Kadeesa, with household chores and doing her own homework, which she often doesn't finish until 11 p.m.

While most Each One Teach One volunteers only have one student, popular Rehana has attracted a flock of followers including Shebana Ayub, one of her prize pupils.

"I learned my alphabets from Rehana. I had no schooling before this class," says Shebana, 10. "I used to be shy because I couldn't read, but now I feel bolder." Shebana hopes to enroll in grade four next semester, a goal she probably wouldn't have accomplished without Rehana's help.

[ CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 ]



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



# five barriers

## to Education in the Developing World

- **Child labor:** Work prevents many children from attending school. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 250 million children working full-time or part-time in the developing world.
- **Gender bias:** Girls represent two-thirds of the estimated 130 million primary school age children currently not in school. They are often kept at home to do chores, or are so ignored in the classroom that they become discouraged and drop out.
- **Lack of access:** A shortage of schools and qualified teachers is a problem in many developing countries. Overcrowded, underequipped classrooms impede learning for the few, fortunate students who can attend. In many African countries, only two of every five pupils in the first grade even have a place to sit.
- **Distance:** Distance from available schools reduces attendance. Studies in Nepal have shown that for every kilometer (0.6 miles) a child walks to school, the likelihood of school attendance drops by 2.5 percent. In Egypt, if a school is one kilometer instead of two kilometers away, enrollment goes up 4 percent for boys and 18 percent for girls.
- **Poverty:** Many parents cannot afford mandatory school fees, uniforms, books, and supplies. Governments in developing countries feel the crunch too. The burden of foreign debt prevents many from investing more in education. Uganda's debt repayments of almost \$200 million in 1997 were seven times the amount spent on education and 10 times the amount the government invested in primary health care. ■

# five benefits

## of Education in the Developing World

- **Fewer deaths:** Educated girls marry later and are better prepared physically and mentally for motherhood. A mother who understands the importance of health, nutrition, and sanitation can protect her family from preventable illnesses. A 10 percent increase in girls' primary enrollment can decrease infant mortality by 4.1 deaths per 1,000. In Pakistan, for example, an extra year of schooling for an additional 1,000 girls would prevent an estimated 60 infant deaths.
- **Freedom:** Education is the single most critical element in combating poverty, empowering women, protecting children from exploitation, and promoting human rights and democracy.
- **Financial dividends:** Parents with even a basic education have better employment opportunities, enabling them to provide for their families and educate their own children.
- **Future lessons:** Children equipped with basic literacy and numeracy, as well as more advanced, complex skills for living, have a firm foundation for learning throughout life.
- **Faith foundation:** Literate children have more opportunity to understand their own faith, to explore other beliefs, and to read Scripture in their native language. ■

Many barriers block children in this Indian slum from receiving an education. Transience is a key factor. Children often don't live in one spot long enough to enroll in school. Their parents are constantly moving in search of work. They scratch out a living as blacksmiths, cobblers, or sweepers, earning at most \$2 to \$3 dollars a day. Expensive school fees, uniforms, books, and supplies can cost up to half a family's monthly income for just one child.

In India, between 60 and 115 million children work—the world's highest incidence of child labor. Many children are kept out of school, or forced to drop out early, to earn income for the family, often laboring in exploitative or hazardous jobs. Only 62 percent of students enrolled in primary school reach grade five.

For girls, their gender alone may keep them at home. Indian girls as young as 5 must care for their siblings while their parents work. By age 8, they may work up to 10 hours a day, both inside and outside the home, often as domestic servants. Indian girls younger than 14 years work an average of 5.5 hours a day, compared to 1.8 hours for boys. As they grow older, their responsibilities and workloads only increase. While attitudes in India are gradually changing, educating a girl is still often considered "watering another man's garden" because she will marry young and leave the family, taking her education and earning potential with her.

However, for girls and boys alike, the shortage of schools and qualified teachers further limits opportunities—a problem common to India and many other countries. In Togo, Africa, for example, more than a third of primary teachers only have a primary education themselves, and 84 percent of secondary teachers have not completed a teacher education course. In Uruguay, one of Latin America's more prosperous nations, only a third of secondary teachers have completed university; 70 percent have had no teacher education. Teachers in developing countries, who often earn less than domestic servants, face difficult, demanding work-





**Power of the pencil:** Education is the most critical element in fighting poverty and promoting democracy.

ing conditions. Simultaneously supervising up to 100 children in five different grades in a one-room, under-equipped, poorly constructed school can leave a teacher exhausted and demotivated. As a result, teacher absenteeism is a chronic problem.

The complex socio-economic problems surrounding education can seem insurmountable, admits Susy Joseph, a World Vision community project manager in Delhi. But workable solutions are possible, given some creative determination and a willingness to risk unorthodox approaches, such as the Each One Teach One program.

"Our goal is to make parents and children, especially girls, understand the importance of getting an education, and that enrolled children must be enabled to complete their schooling," says Susy, who heads a young, well-educated, enthusiastic team of 20 Christian professionals.

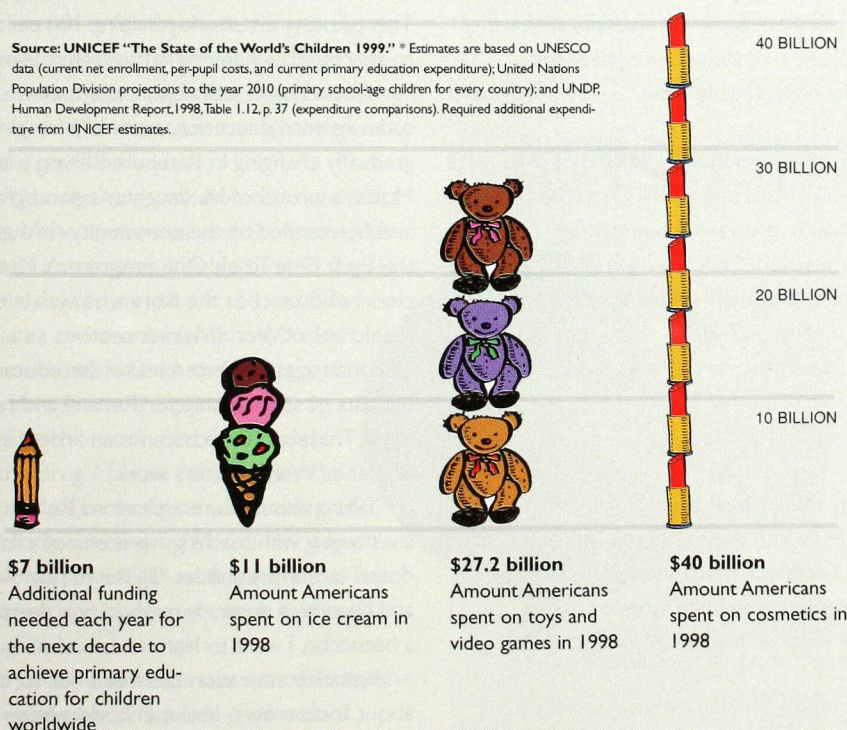
Susy explains that education is the cornerstone of World Vision's sponsorship program which cares for 1,548 children in Delhi, providing school fees, uniforms, and supplies. Staff work closely with local government schools, supporting these struggling institutions that lack adequate funds, facilities, and staffing.

However, World Vision is also concerned about children who can't attend school because they must work, or look after younger siblings, or simply because they lack a birth certificate. Parents often fail to register children born at home, usually because many are illiterate and can't cope with the tedious, time-consuming application process. World Vision staff spend hundreds of hours every year completing and filing the necessary forms. They also help parents address other practical obstacles. For example, assisting mothers to organize cooperative daycare centers for young children frees older siblings to attend classes. World Vision links children who must work with a student tutor from the

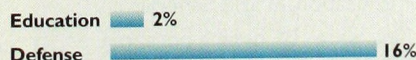
## INVESTING IN EDUCATION

What would it cost to achieve primary school enrollment for every child by the year 2010? Education for all would cost an additional \$7 billion annually over the next decade. Certainly not chump change, but less than what we spend on ice cream, cosmetics, or toys each year.

Source: UNICEF "The State of the World's Children 1999." \* Estimates are based on UNESCO data (current net enrollment, per-pupil costs, and current primary education expenditure); United Nations Population Division projections to the year 2010 (primary school-age children for every country); and UNDP, Human Development Report, 1998, Table 1.12, p. 37 (expenditure comparisons). Required additional expenditure from UNICEF estimates.



### Percentage of U.S. government expenditures allocated to:



(Less than half of 1 percent of the U.S. government's budget is spent on humanitarian assistance and development.)



# making the grade

*Lessons learned from successful World Vision education projects*

## ► **Involve parents in community education plans.**

Parents best understand the obstacles to education, and can help find solutions. In 1995, World Vision helped 100 parents in Ban Puang Payom Moo, Thailand, to set up a revolving education loan fund for tuition, uniforms, and supplies. Some 300 members now contribute to the fund which has grown to \$10,900, benefitting more than 1,300 students. The rate of primary school children continuing to secondary school has increased by 100 percent.

## ► **Develop flexible timetables.**

Children's seasonal and daily work responsibilities affect school attendance. Class schedules need to accommodate harvest times and domestic chores, especially for girls. In Guatemala, World Vision supports 23 alternative schools for working children. Students in the town of Cerro Alto look forward to Saturday classes after toiling all week in a firecracker factory, earning 80 cents a day.

## ► **Plan relevant curriculum.**

Children need to learn practical skills that will improve their daily lives and prepare them for the future. At a World Vision-supported school in northern Lebanon, students are eager to enroll in hotel management and catering courses. They hope to revitalize this tourist area, famous for the giant cedar trees often mentioned in the Bible.

## ► **Partner with local governments and communities to improve school facilities.**

Cooperative initiatives foster civic pride and can increase the value communities place on education, as families in Ole Punyua, Kenya, learned. Children here risked attack by wild elephants while walking three miles to the nearest school. In 1996, World Vision provided funds and materials to build a village school. Parents supplied the labor and half the needed cash. The government sent teachers to the remote outpost. Today, enrollment has increased seven-fold.

## ► **Help improve teacher standards.**

Parents whose children attend schools in poor areas complain about the inferior quality of teachers, their indifference to children's needs, and their absenteeism. In a school for 988 indigenous sponsored children near Fortaleza, Brazil, World Vision has hired enthusiastic, qualified teachers for this low-income community where only 44 percent of school-age children attend class. Through creative lessons, they teach students to take pride in their culture.

## ► **Integrate education with community development programs.**

Well-planned, effective projects can have dividends for education. In arid Senegal, women and girls spend up to 17.5 hours a week fetching water. By drilling borehole wells in 600 villages, World Vision has provided easy access to potable water—freeing girls to attend local schools which have been improved and equipped using sponsorship funds. ■

Each One Teach One program.

Getting children into education programs is critical, but keeping them involved is equally important. Teachers play a vital role in this, but often they need training and encouragement themselves. Susy Joseph and her team are helping teachers rejuvenate their classrooms through quarterly seminars. Participative, child friendly lessons incorporating songs, dances, and group activities are replacing the rote-learning methods that have been standard practice in Indian classrooms for generations. Teachers feel valued and motivated in their work; children are eager to come to school.

However, once a child enrolls, more hurdles remain. Without remedial help, late-starters often lag behind their classmates. They can become discouraged and drop out. To prevent this, World Vision has hired 13 professional tutors who prepare these children for school. Six tutors also coach enrolled students who need extra attention in weak subjects. This tutoring is currently helping 100 children to stay in school and go on to higher learning.

World Vision staff report that parents' attitudes toward education, especially for girls, are gradually changing in Barapula. Rehana's father, Motur, is proud of his daughter's good grades and her service to the community through the Each One Teach One program. A Muslim cleric who teaches the Koran, he was initially suspicious of World Vision's motives as a Christian agency. Once he saw the educational benefits of sponsorship for Rehana and her sister, Thayaba, 10, he became an ardent supporter of World Vision's work.

Talking about future aspirations, Rehana says she's toying with teaching—just one of a half-dozen career possibilities. "I'd like to play the *sitar* and become a singer, or maybe a hair dresser, or a beautician. I want to learn to sew, too."

Rehana's education has freed her to dream about tomorrow—about a world where every child has access to education; where it is a recognized right, not a luxury. ■

*With reports from The State of the World's Children (UNICEF, 1999) and Education Now: Break the Cycle of Poverty (Oxfam, 1999).*



# ignorance is bliss?

**W**hoever coined the phrase "ignorance is bliss" was obviously not illiterate. Ignorance, as Mariam mint Saleck well knows, can be deadly.

Like 80 percent of the women in Mauritania, West Africa, until recently Mariam could not read or write. She struggled to cope with daily life, unable to sign her name or understand market signs. Vendors cheated her because she couldn't decipher prices or total her purchases. Being illiterate was difficult but it wasn't life-threatening—until the day her daughter, Fatima, took sick.

The clinic doctor gave Mariam a prescription to treat Fatima's severe cough. The pharmacist instructed Mariam to give Fatima one teaspoon of syrup a day.

"While I'm here, maybe I can ask if you have anything for my goat which has been acting odd lately," Mariam inquired. Pharmacies in Nouakchott, the capital city, often carry veterinary medicine. The drug-gist handed her a packet of pills. "Drop one in a bucket of water once a day and give it to the goat," he said.

After the long walk home in the desert heat, Mariam was confused about the medication instructions. Unable to read the labels, she took a chance: she carefully mixed a spoonful of syrup in a bucket of water and fed it to the ailing goat. She gave Fatima the pill.

The child soon reacted violently to the drug. Mariam rushed Fatima to the clinic. The medicine was not lethal, and Fatima recovered after a few days. It took Mariam longer to overcome the fact that her ignorance might have cost her daughter's life.

Mariam decided to take action. Today, she is one of several hundred graduates of World Vision's literacy course. As part of their training, students learn business management including bookkeeping, marketing, and budgeting. Mariam now belongs to a women's cooperative that launched a dress-making venture with capital from a World

Vision revolving loan fund. Business is booming and the group has already repaid its initial loan.

"When people learn to read, many of their problems begin to be solved," says a World Vision literacy trainer. Seeing the progress of women like Mariam underlines the proverb posted behind his desk: "Literacy for women today assures the future of tomorrow's generation."

**World Vision offers adult literacy training projects in more than 20 countries.**

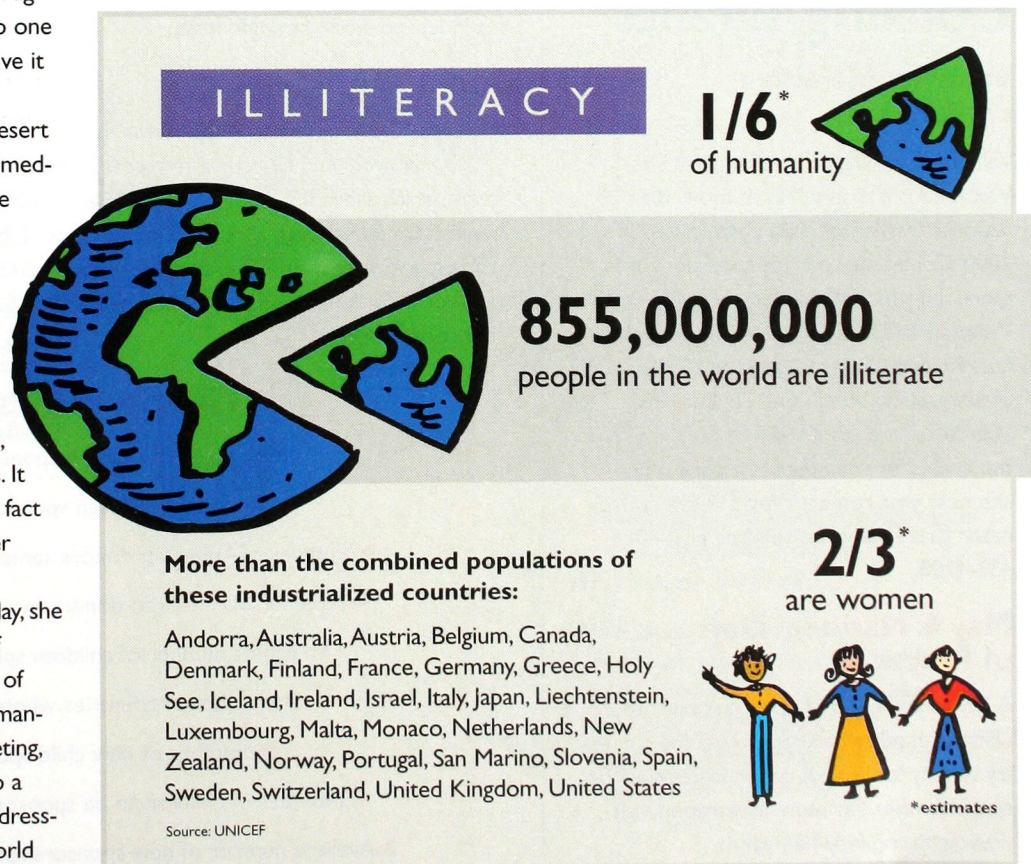
► **Literacy empowers.** Emily Njuguna, a 68-year-old grandmother who lives in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, heads an umbrella group of 25 community associations after recently learning to read and write. "Our goal is to unite and fight the enemy that has suppressed us for years: poverty," says Emily.

► **Literacy helps break the bonds of poverty.** More than 1.3 billion people—many of them illiterate—survive on less

than a dollar a day. World Vision's microenterprise programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America provide credit and increase job opportunities for the poor, incorporating literacy training with classes on management, bookkeeping, and marketing.

► **Literacy promotes peace.** In northern Mali, a region recovering from many years of civil strife, World Vision is helping people build stability through its PEACE program: Promoting Economic growth, Agricultural production, Community health, and Education, which includes literacy classes for thousands of adults.

► **Literacy saves lives.** AIDS claimed more than 2.5 million lives in Africa alone in 1998 and, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is considered the single greatest threat to the continent's future economic development. In Africa, and in many other areas where the disease is prevalent, World Vision literacy classes include AIDS-prevention education. ■





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### May 6: National Day of Prayer.

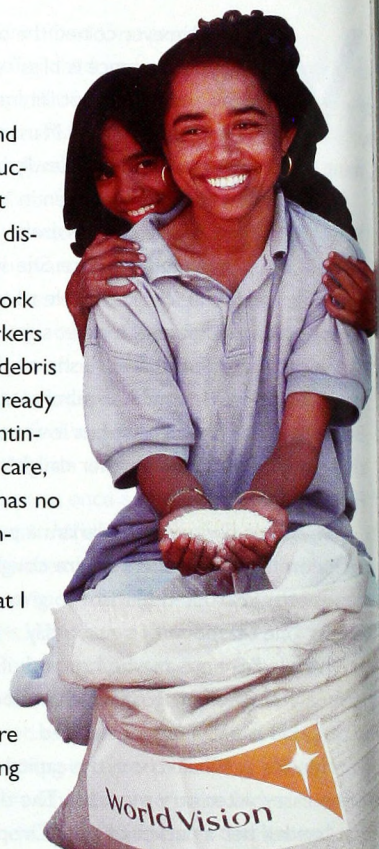
A day to ask God to heal us and our nation. Unite with other believers across the country to pray for leaders, communities, churches, and families. For more information, visit [www.lesea.com/ndp/home.htm](http://www.lesea.com/ndp/home.htm).

## Crisis Update

### East Timor

World Vision is helping people in East Timor repair schools and clinics, replant crops, and rebuild their lives following the campaign of destruction unleashed by military-backed militias here last fall. World Vision—one of the first aid agencies to distribute rice, blankets, and clothes to thousands of homeless families—is now operating a food-for-work program, employing more than 3,000 people. Workers receive seven pounds of rice per day for clearing debris and constructing buildings. People in East Timor, already the poorest of Indonesia's provinces, will need continued assistance as they restore educational, health care, trade, and agricultural systems in a territory that has no functioning banking system, civil service, or government institutions.

"I am very happy for the rice. I don't know what I would have done if it were not for this," said Isabel Desantos (right), who received rations from World Vision after walking nine miles with her two children in search of food. She was among more than 400,000 people forced from their homes during fighting last September following East Timor's vote for independence from Indonesia.



### India

World Vision rushed \$480,000 worth of emergency food and shelter supplies to cyclone survivors in the northeastern coastal state of Orissa, India, in November. The ferocious storm, which affected 20 million people, killed an estimated 10,000 people, left at least 2 million homeless, and destroyed about 1.97 million tons of the winter rice crop. It was the country's worst storm since the 1977 cyclone in Andhra Pradesh that claimed 10,000 lives.

World Vision has worked in India since 1963 and currently supports more than 100,000 sponsored children.

## The Sponsorship Index

- Number of children sponsored worldwide: **1,290,540**
- Number of children sponsored by U.S. donors: **568,016**
- Number of American donors sponsoring two or more children: **37,987**
- Number of American donors sponsoring five or more children: **2,440**
- Highest number of children sponsored by one U.S. donor: **200**
- Number of countries where World Vision is working: **87**
- Number of new child sponsorships in 1999: **18,000**
- Number of children to be sponsored to meet this year's goal: **50,000**
- Average number of new sponsorships received monthly via the Internet: **88**

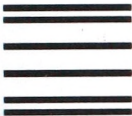
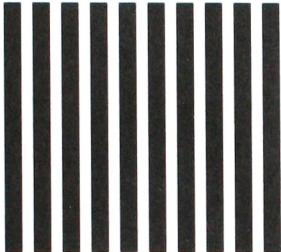


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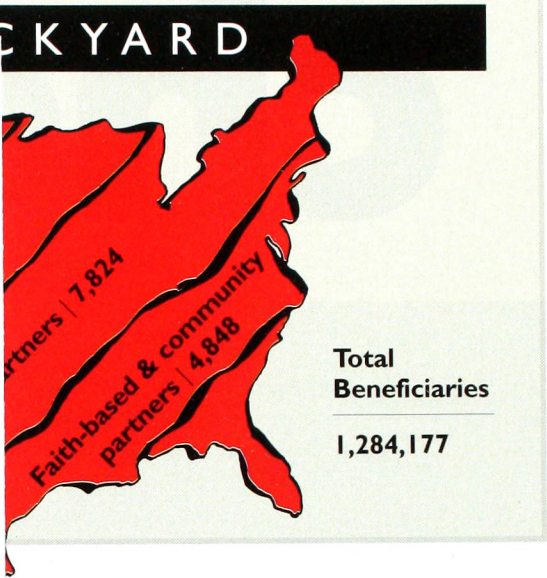


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### for the Millennium”

of Web sites and publications. The books are available from World Vision’s Gift Center, or World Vision.

► *The Girl Child: Enhancing Life, Sustaining Hope*, World Vision Washington Forum publication and Bible study, 1998. To order, call toll-free (888) 511-6484.

**A sustainable future:**

► Target Earth Web site: [www.targetearth.org](http://www.targetearth.org).  
► *Caring for Creation: Responsible Stewardship of God’s Handiwork*, by Calvin DeWitt et. al, Baker Book House, 1998.

**End to child exploitation:**

► International Labor Organization child labor Web site: [www.ilo.org/public/english/child](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/child).  
► *By the Sweat & Toil of Children*, Vol. 1-5, by the U.S. Department of Labor: [www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/consolid.pl?media+reports](http://www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/consolid.pl?media+reports).  
► World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Web site: [www.usis.usemb.se/children](http://www.usis.usemb.se/children).

**Freedom to believe:**

► *Their Blood Cries Out: The Untold Story of Persecution Against Christians in the Modern World*, by Paul Marshall, Word Books, 1997.  
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## Crisis Update

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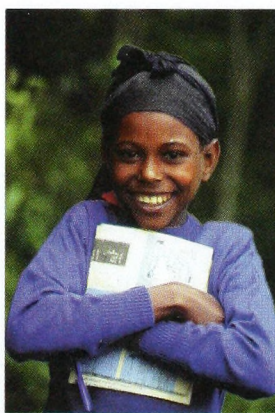
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World Vision



**Education is denied to millions of children and adults in the developing world.**

**But you can unlock the door to learning.**



By sponsoring a child, you will help provide school fees, uniforms, and supplies for a boy or girl who cannot even afford these basics.

You can support an adult literacy program, such as the one in Nouakchott, Mauritania, West Africa.

You can also help ship desperately needed school supplies overseas. Last year, World Vision shipped

90,000 kits containing notebooks, pens, and crayons to students in 17 countries.

You can also care for a war-traumatized children through World Vision's psycho-social recovery programs.



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# Yes, I want to share the gift of education.

I want to sponsor a child for \$22/month.

1800/H2BS02

- ☐ a girl ☐ a boy living in  
☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Latin America ☐ Middle East  
☐ where most needed

I want to support an adult literacy project in Mauritania

8121/H2BS0A

I want to help ship school kits overseas

9900/H2BS0B

\$24 purchases and ships a school kit containing seven items (notebooks, pencils, etc.) to a child in a developing country.

I want to support World Vision programs caring for war-traumatized children.

8842/H2BS0C

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to World Vision  
 Credit card payment



Card no.     -     -     -

Exp. Date   -   -

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

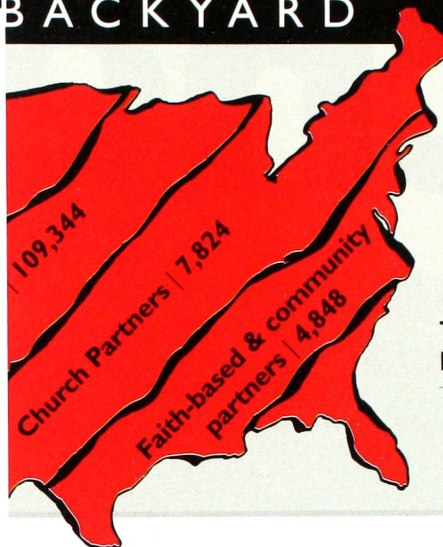
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Visit us at: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD



## Issues for the Millennium™

With this list of Web sites and publications. The books are available on Amazon from World Vision's Gift Center, or donated to World Vision.

*The Biennial*

by Peter H.

*Crisis in Water*

Paul Simon,

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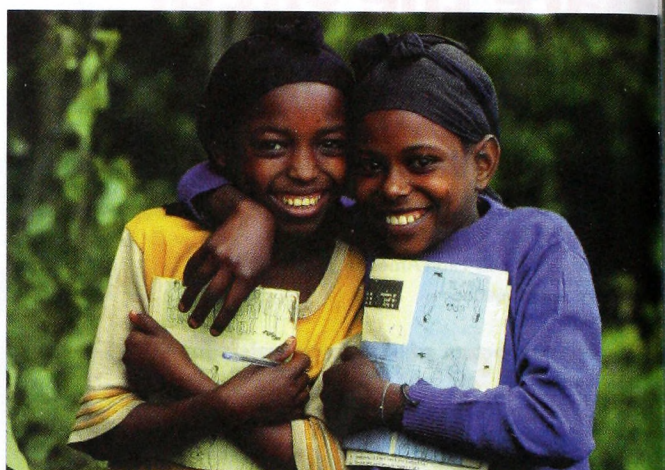
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**Share a gift today**  
**that will keep giving for**  
**years to come:**

### Education

"...for wisdom is more precious  
than rubies and nothing you desire  
can compare with her."

PROVERBS 8:11



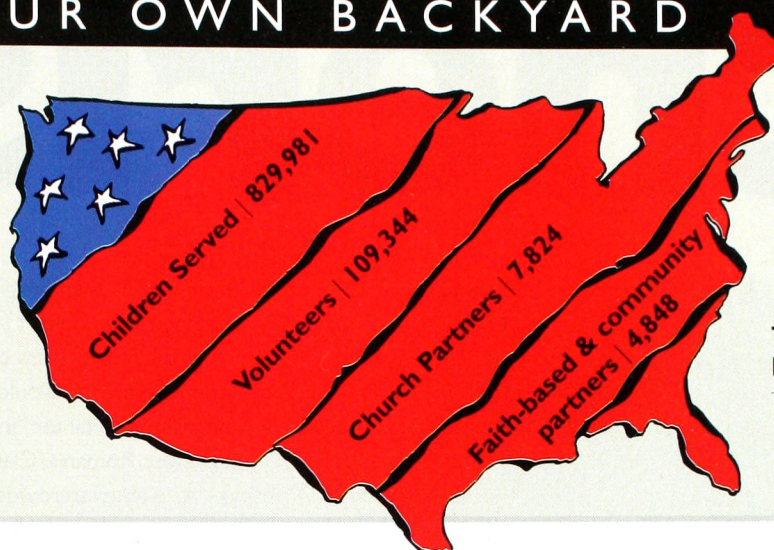
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## IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

World Vision, often best known for its work in developing countries, also serves poor children and families in the United States in partnership with churches, faith-based organizations, and community groups. Domestic ministries cover a wide range of activities from after-school tutoring programs to job training, racial reconciliation efforts, and housing assistance.



**Total Beneficiaries**  
**1,284,177**

## Resources on the "10 Urgent Issues for the Millennium"

Learn more about the "10 Urgent Issues for the Millennium" (pages 4-7) with this list of Web sites and publications. The books are available in local stores or libraries, or you can buy them on Amazon.com. Link to Amazon from World Vision's Gift Center, [www.withaheart.com](http://www.withaheart.com), and a percentage of your credit card purchase will be donated to World Vision.

### General resources on global issues:

- ▶ World Vision Web site, [www.worldvision.org/](http://www.worldvision.org/) 10issues includes a special section on the "10 Urgent Issues of the Millennium."
- ▶ United Nations Development Programme Web site: [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org).

### A livable income:

- ▶ *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, by Ron Sider, Word Books, 1997.
- ▶ *Success in Anti-Poverty*, by Michael Lipton, ILO Publications, 1998.

### Food for everyone:

- ▶ United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization World Food Summit Web site: [www.fao.org/wfs/homepage.htm](http://www.fao.org/wfs/homepage.htm).
- ▶ *Grace At the Table: Ending Hunger in God's World*, by David Beckmann and Arthur Simon, InterVarsity Press, 1999.

### Primary education for all:

- ▶ *The State of the World's Children 1999* on UNICEF Web site: [www.unicef.org/sowc99](http://www.unicef.org/sowc99).
- ▶ Oxfam International Web site: [www.oxfam.org/educationnow](http://www.oxfam.org/educationnow).

### Clean water:

- ▶ *The World's Water 1998-1999: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources*, by Peter H. Gleick (editor), Island Press, 1998.
- ▶ *Tapped Out: The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It*, by Paul Simon, Welcome Rain, 1998.

### Debt relief:

- ▶ Jubilee 2000 U.S.A. Web site: [www.j2000usa.org](http://www.j2000usa.org); or Jubilee 2000 U.K.'s Web site: [www.jubilee2000uk.org/](http://www.jubilee2000uk.org/).
- ▶ Bread for the World Web site: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).
- ▶ World Vision's Office of Public Policy and Government Relations: (202) 547-3743; Web site: [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org).

### Peace building:

- ▶ *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*, by John Paul Lederach, United States Institute of Peace, 1997.
- ▶ *Reconciliation: A Theology of Embrace in an Age of Exclusion*, World Vision's Washington Forum publication, 1997. To order, call toll-free (888) 511-6484.

### Girls growing as equals:

- ▶ UNICEF Web site: [www.unicef.org/girlsed](http://www.unicef.org/girlsed).

- ▶ *The Girl Child: Enhancing Life, Sustaining Hope*, World Vision Washington Forum publication and Bible study, 1998. To order, call toll-free (888) 511-6484.

### A sustainable future:

- ▶ Target Earth Web site: [www.targetearth.org](http://www.targetearth.org).
- ▶ *Caring for Creation: Responsible Stewardship of God's Handiwork*, by Calvin DeWitt et. al, Baker Book House, 1998.

### End to child exploitation:

- ▶ International Labor Organization child labor Web site: [www.ilo.org/public/english/child](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/child).
- ▶ *By the Sweat & Toil of Children*, Vol. 1-5, by the U.S. Department of Labor: [www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/consolid.pl?media+reports](http://www.dol.gov/cgi-bin/consolid.pl?media+reports).
- ▶ World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Web site: [www.usis.usemb.se/children](http://www.usis.usemb.se/children).

### Freedom to believe:

- ▶ *Their Blood Cries Out: The Untold Story of Persecution Against Christians in the Modern World*, by Paul Marshall, Word Books, 1997.
- ▶ Prayer for the Persecuted Church Web site: [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org). ■



# cherished

*“A father to  
the fatherless,  
a defender  
of widows,  
is God in his  
holy dwelling.”*

Psalm 68:5 (NIV)

Claudia Micioi, 16, is a healthy, vivacious teenager with a hearty laugh. However, just a few years ago, she couldn't speak or dress herself and shrieked in terror at the feel of grass on her bare feet. If not for the love of three women, she would probably be living in a *camin spital*—a Romanian hospital for “irrecuperables.”

Abandoned at birth in Bucharest, Romania, Claudia endured her first decade in Orphanage #1—an overcrowded warehouse for 800 children. With one caregiver for every 35 children, she received little of the individual attention she desperately required as a special needs child.

“She was a fragile, fearful child,” recalled American occupational therapist Shelly Liccese, who began working with a World Vision team in the orphanage in 1991. Claudia would not tolerate solid food and survived on baby bottles of gruel. Unable to walk, she tiptoed unsteadily and emitted the occasional squeak—her sole sound. She had rarely, if ever, been allowed outside. Shelly judged Claudia to be 3 years old. She was 6.

Shelly and her Romanian intern, Simona Costea, began intensive therapy with Claudia. By 1993, she could speak a few words and walk independently. Shelly cheered at the small signs of Claudia asserting herself. “Growing up in an orphanage means accepting whatever is given to you,” she says. “Children there don't develop their creativity, their individualism.”

Shelly wept when she left Romania to return to New Jersey in 1993. Claudia would not likely be adopted because of her age and her disabilities. She would probably be institutionalized for life. Determined to prevent this, Simona invited her widowed aunt, Eugenia Tanas, to meet Claudia.

“I saw her, and I liked her,” recalls Eugenia. In October 1996, this grandmother of four took Claudia in as a foster child—almost unheard of in Romania at the time. Stretching her meager retirement pension, Eugenia carted Claudia to speech pathologists and medical specialists, enrolled her in remedial school, taught her to talk, coaxed her to eat solid food, and showed her who Jesus is.

“Having a foster parent like Eugenia is the most wonderful thing that could have happened to Claudia,” enthused Shelly, who has kept track of Claudia over the years. “It reminds me that God does care for each one of us.” ■

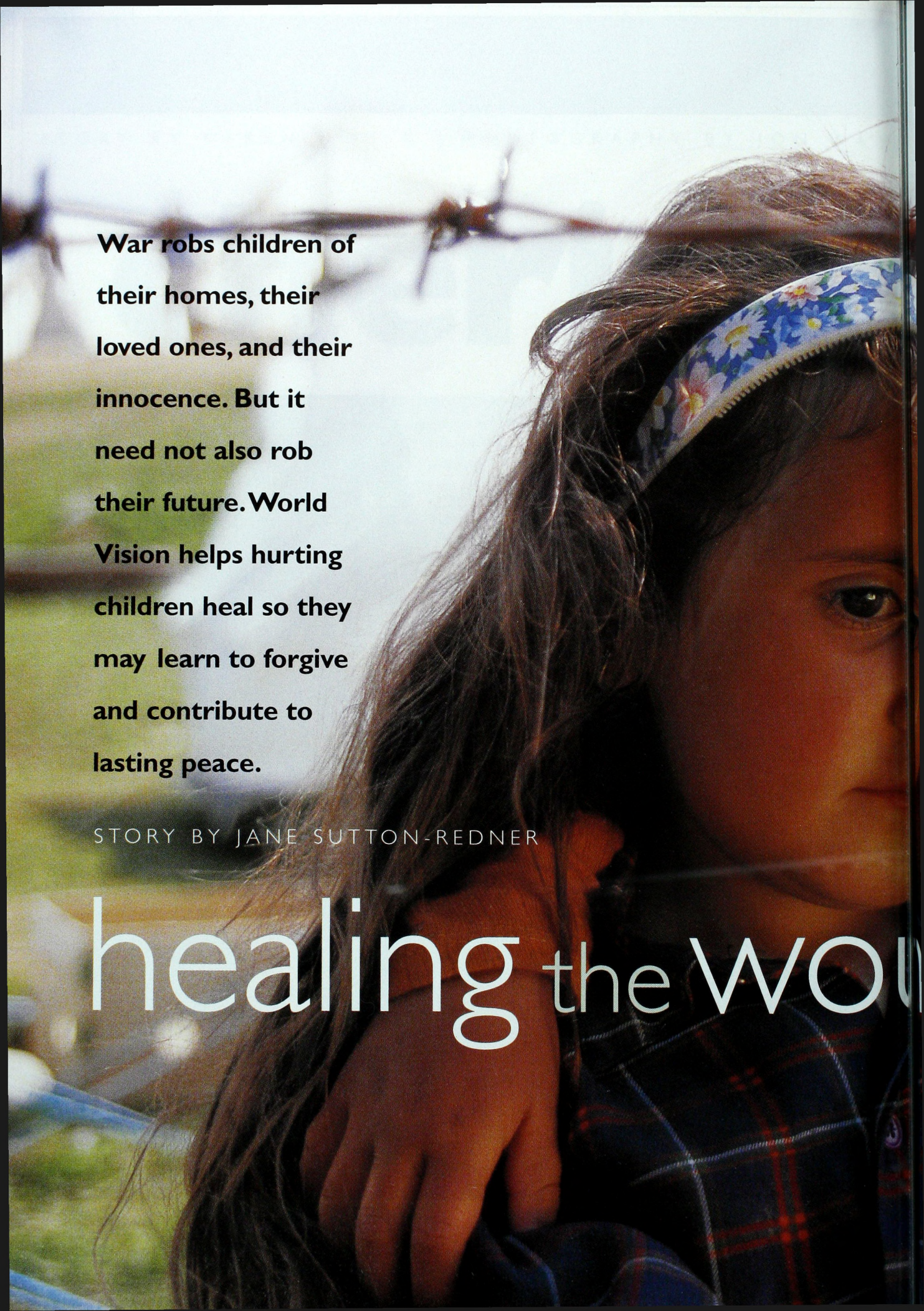




**Celebrating life:** Claudia Micioi lived in a Romanian orphanage for more than a decade before Eugenia Tanas became her foster mother.







**War robs children of  
their homes, their  
loved ones, and their  
innocence. But it  
need not also rob  
their future. World  
Vision helps hurting  
children heal so they  
may learn to forgive  
and contribute to  
lasting peace.**

STORY BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER

healing the world





# nds of the heart

"WAR LOVES TO SEEK ITS VICTIMS IN THE YOUNG." — SOPHOCLES

**S**ometimes I wake up in the night afraid. I had a good life, but now I rain tears at night. I can talk all day, but I can't find the words to express my pain." Kimete, 14, an ethnic Albanian refugee, survived a real-life nightmare. Forced from her home in Mitrovica, Kosovo, she and her family fled from village to village under the

PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION



constant threat of bombing. She witnessed a young woman's murder, deepening her fear of her own death at the hands of menacing soldiers.

Kimete began to express her misery in a refugee camp, where World Vision staff and fellow refugees encouraged her to talk and draw pictures—a start toward healing her wounded heart. She will never forget the horrors she experienced, but she has a better chance of overcoming emotional damage if caring people listen, give counsel, and help her look to the future with hope.

Hope may seem elusive for children in today's world, where more civilians than soldiers die in conflicts. In the last decade alone, wars killed an estimated 2 million children, wounded 6 million, and traumatized another 10 million young people. Kosovo is only the most recent example. Mozambique's 16-year civil war left at least 250,000 children traumatized. One-third of adolescent survivors of Bosnia's war show signs of traumatic stress. During Rwanda's 1994 genocide, more than 95 percent of children witnessed massacres, leaving 300,000 youth in urgent need of psychological support.

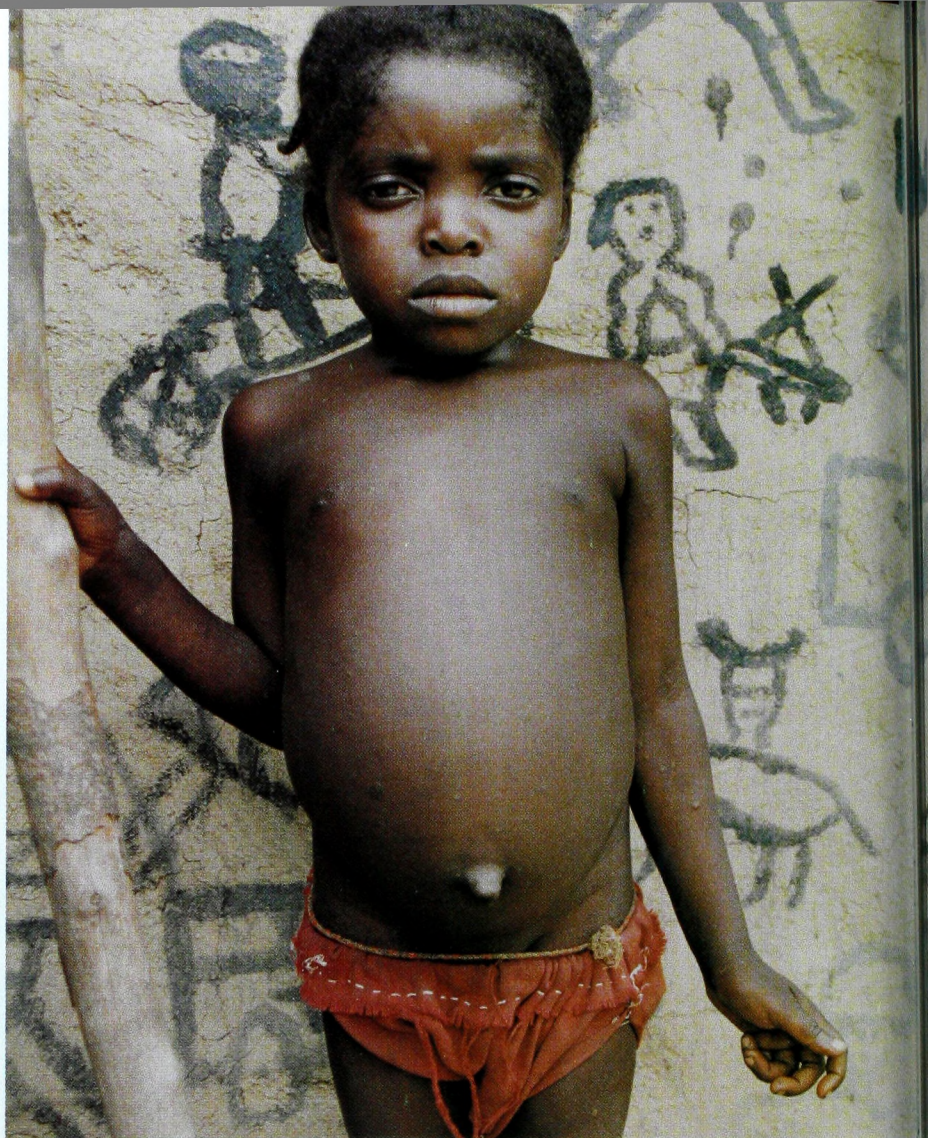
Children need more than food, shelter, and medicine to recover from the profound effects of violence. They need qualified people to recognize the symptoms of possible prolonged trauma and, with the support of their families, communities, churches, and schools, to love them back to psychological health.

### **Tell Me Where It Hurts: Trauma and Children**

Trauma develops when people's natural defense mechanism—the adrenaline-charged “fight or flight” response—is triggered by a life-threatening event and doesn't turn off. Suppressed memories won't go away; in fact, they plague victims with recurring nightmares or flashbacks, and can cause depression, numbness, fearfulness, psychosomatic illnesses, and severe behavioral changes. Without treatment, trauma can develop into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which can contribute to a host of physical ailments.

Children can exhibit trauma through aggressive behavior, withdrawal, temper tantrums, sleeping problems, bed-wetting, or poor school performance. Studies have shown that one of every 10 traumatized children will develop lifelong emotional problems.

The extent of children's pain is not always obvious. “It's sometimes very difficult

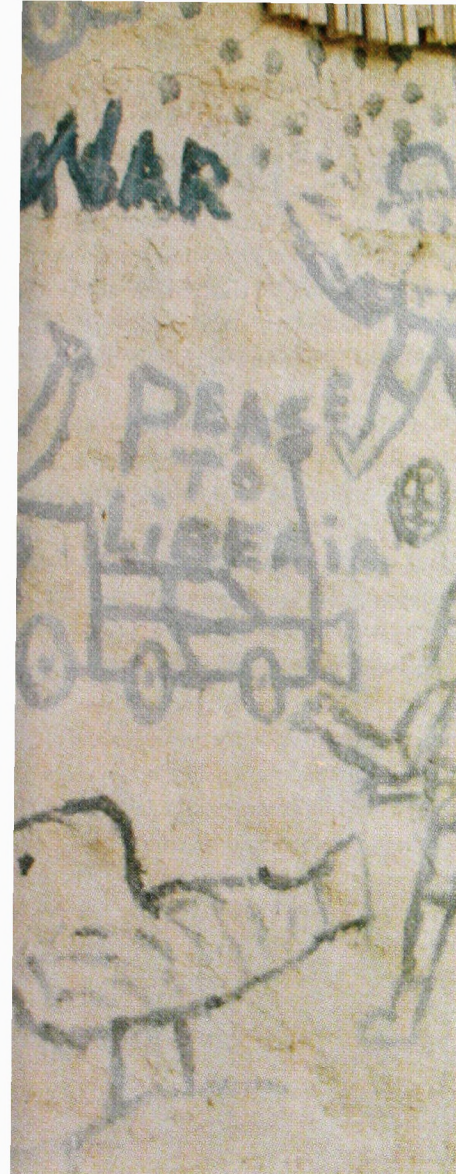


▲ **Critical care:** World Vision has learned that meeting physical needs sets the stage for treating trauma in children like Larkpor, 5, who has lived most of her life in a Liberian refugee camp.

▼ **War wounds:** Physical injury often triggers emotional trauma in young victims such as these Rwandan boys recovering at a health clinic after the genocide. ▼







KAREN HOMER/WORLD VISION

who established psycho-social programs for Kosovar families affected by the war.

Heather says the first way to identify traumatized children like Kimete is to create "child friendly spaces" in which children feel safe to work out their emotions through sports and art. "If the kids know something good happened today, and something good is happening tomorrow, they may start to feel that the day after tomorrow might be pretty good, too. You start building up that hope," she explains.

Heather has often provided the first loving arms around broken children, having worked with Romanian orphans, young Rwandan refugees, and child soldiers in Sudan. She has trained herself not to dwell on the evil that causes little ones to suffer. Instead she focuses on making them feel cared for and safe.

"We ask children if there's someone they can trust to talk to. Sometimes it's God," she says.

### Art of Darkness

Children may not be able to talk about what they're feeling. But their artwork speaks volumes. Drawings by Rwandan children four years after the 1994 genocide depicted lovely scenes of boys and girls, poignantly missing one detail: their mouths. "You realize that it is like the children are mute—I don't speak about my problems' [is their attitude]," Lincoln says. Lincoln and his staff have used art therapy as one way to reach children in a country where many people are still too traumatized to talk.

Using art and play to assess children's trauma cuts across cultures. World Vision's program in Bosnia, called Creative Activities for Trauma Healing (CATH), currently helps 4,500 children release emotional stress through music, dance, sports, arts and crafts, and drama. Though Bosnia's brutal war ended in 1994, tremendous psychological needs among children remain. UNICEF studies found that 55 percent of Sarajevo's children had been shot at; 59 percent had survived attacks on their homes; and almost all had experienced shelling.

Some endured worse. Jasmina, the daughter of a Serb mother and a Muslim father, saw her family torn apart during the war. She and her mother were held by "evil people" for seven months. They were both beaten and her mother repeatedly raped. "I have headaches all the time and nightmares when I sleep," says Jasmina, now 14. "The images of



KEVIN COOK/WORLD VISION

▲ **Postwar portrait:** Losing items like this photo, found in a fire-gutted Kosovo home, can add to children's trauma as they lack reminders of more peaceful times.

▼ **Sorrowful sisters:** Kimete (right) learned too much about war in her harrowing escape from Kosovo. She says of her older sister, Lindita (left), "She is very beautiful, and I tell her to dress ugly because I fear for her."



PHILIP MAHER/WORLD VISION

what happened are always in my mind."

Jasmina was so withdrawn that her teachers recommended a special school for her. But her CATH teacher, Nusreta, began to work one-on-one with Jasmina. "Her basic cognitive skills had regressed well below that of her peers," Nusreta explains. "So we started with games and music that helped increase her memory and speech.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 24]

to realize that a child is having psychological difficulties because they look normal," says Lincoln Ndogoni, a Kenyan psychologist and coordinator of World Vision's psycho-social program in Rwanda. "We train community workers to recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma."

World Vision's psycho-social programs—which emphasize societal care for psychological issues—train trusted local people such as teachers, church leaders, and health workers to provide hurting children with care that is culturally appropriate, family-focused, and faith-centered.

Helping traumatized children means helping the family as a whole. World Vision staff first meet people's physical needs after a crisis and provide activities that rebuild a sense of normalcy and community. Once the anxiety over food and shelter subsides, staff encourage people to discuss their feelings. "We remind them that every reaction to an abnormal situation is normal; you're not going crazy," says Heather MacLeod, a World Vision nurse from New Zealand





**Drawing out pain:** Albana Veseli, 6, puts her memories of the Kosovo war on paper.

## Caring for Traumatized Children

► **Meet physical needs first.** After surviving conflict, children are often undernourished, injured, or ill. They cannot focus on their feelings until their bodies are in better working order.

► **Help the child feel safe.**

Witnessing war's cruelty affects children's naturally trusting natures. They must feel protected before they can learn to trust others again.

► **Offer a caring, non-judgmental ear.** While talking about their traumatic experiences, children must be free to relate any memory, no matter how terrible, and share negative feelings such as hatred or rage. Former child soldiers who committed violent acts need especially non-judgmental listeners.

► **Provide a routine.** Some traumatic stress comes from the chaos of wartime living, especially disrupted schooling. Routines rebuild children's sense of normalcy.

► **Provide creative outlets.** Children can use art, drama, and games to express what they often cannot articulate. Creative play is valuable with very young children, who don't know the words to express what they're feeling.

► **Be affectionate.** A common coping mechanism of war-traumatized children is to shut down emotionally. Those who lost parents also can be starved for affection. A hug or a loving touch helps children feel cared for and comforted. ■

She did not know how to count, so we used dancing steps." Soon Jasmina's interest in learning improved, and she became more communicative. More importantly, she discovered her own strength. "I will fight in spite of all those soldiers who made my life a nightmare," she says.

Caring teachers can break through to emotionally shut-down kids. A Rwandan teacher trained by World Vision in psycho-social skills noticed a boy in his class who appeared lonely and isolated, and cried uncontrollably when it was time to go home. After spending more time with the child and his parents, the teacher discovered that the boy was terrified of knives, machetes, hoes, and other metal household implements which he'd seen wielded in hatred and violence during the genocide. Nightmares tormented him even after his parents removed all such objects from the house.

The teacher visited the boy at home and led him to the garden. He pulled out a knife, cut off a piece of sugarcane, and gave it to the boy. "I immediately noticed a change in his feelings." By repeating the gesture over several visits, the child connected the knife to normal experiences. Eventually, the boy could cut the sugarcane himself with a machete. "For the first night in many, the boy did not ask his parents to remove implements from the house. He started sleeping well, and did not cry so frequently in school," the teacher reports.

### Letting Go and Moving On

Naming fear is only the first step in the

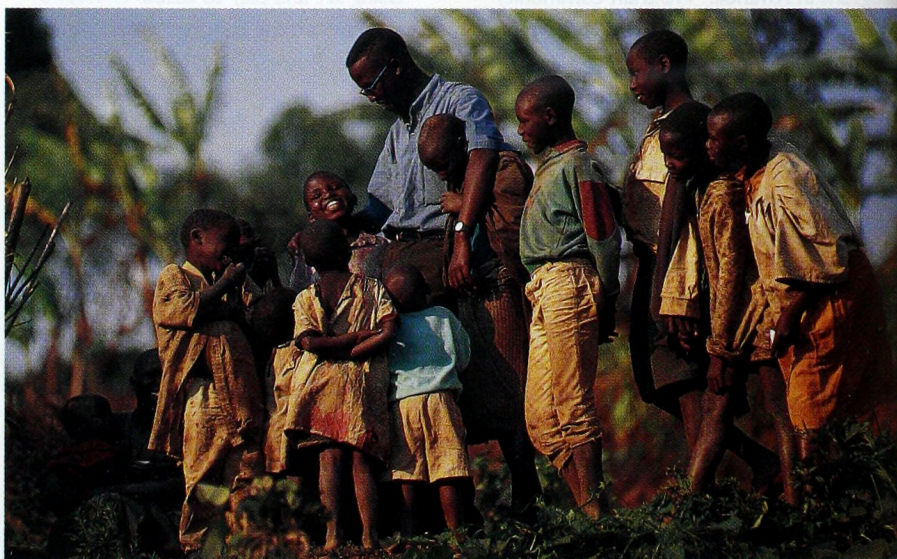
long process of healing, says Lincoln. "For many children in Rwanda, life stopped mentally at 1994," he says. "They have no way of coping or integrating their traumatic experiences into their lives." World Vision's staff and trained community workers have gently guided thousands of children and adults to face the terrible national tragedy that rendered them mute and fearful—and to learn how to move on.

"This community-oriented way of dealing with problems is more appropriate in Africa where the problem belongs to all of us; it's a 'we' problem," Lincoln says. "People talk about the hatred they had and they say, 'I didn't know it was something I can let go of.'"

Traumatized children—in Rwanda and other war-torn places—can learn to let go of their fear and embrace hope. Their hearts can heal as family members and World Vision workers help them express their pain and respond to the love of God. Without this foundational, critical care, other community development and peace-building efforts have little chance of succeeding. "If we tailor our programs to the communities' needs, they will bring up mentally healthy children," Lincoln asserts. "If we don't, and they raise traumatized children, all our other investments are going to go up in smoke." ■

*With reports from Rod Curtis, Elizabeth Hughes, Philip Maher, Nigel Marsh, and Robby Muhumuza.*

*Note: For their protection, the children in this article are identified by their first names only.*



**Hands-on healing:** Traumatized children seek help and hope from caring adults like World Vision project staffer Patrick Birasa (center), who works with war orphans. Patrick lost 25 family members in the genocide.



# Freeing the Child Soldier Uganda's Gulu Center

Since 1986, the northern Ugandan cities of Gulu and Kitgum have been terrorized by a brutal warrior cult called the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), whose rebels raid communities and kidnap children to build up their ranks. An estimated 2,000 children, some as young as 10, are currently held captive by the LRA. Former child soldiers recount a savage existence in the bush, hard labor, starvation, and beatings. Girls are given to male soldiers as "wives" and repeatedly raped. As a test of loyalty, recruits are commonly forced to kill other children or people from their own villages.

When children escape from the LRA or are rescued, they return home traumatized and violent. One escapee known as J.A. tried to resume school but was haunted by the memory of a knifing she witnessed. "While the teacher was explaining something, I would see and hear the boy that was killed begging for mercy," she says. "At night I would have bad dreams and wake up sweating. My parents thought it was evil

spirits attacking me. They called in a witch doctor who forced me to drink bitter herbs."

Concerned about the children's mounting psychological needs—and communities' fear of these victims-turned-criminals—Ugandan officials asked World Vision for help in 1994. Ugandan child psychologist Gifty Quarcoo assessed the children's condition and recommended establishing a rehabilitation center, which World Vision opened in 1995. To date, more than 5,000 young people have received psycho-social treatment at the Gulu Center for Traumatized Children.

Staff help children from the outside in: feeding and clothing them and nursing

them back to physical health. Then the work of freeing the child from the soldier begins. The children exhibit typical trauma symptoms as well as behaviors ingrained in them in captivity: moving in a line; squatting when called; sensitivity to whistling and clapping (rebels signals); fear of aircraft sounds; and speaking in hushed tones, as if afraid of being overheard.

In the safety of the center, children are encouraged to talk freely about their LRA experiences to sympathetic, non-judgmental counselors. "Here the children get to know that someone loves them and forgives them," a counselor says. "Then they can learn to forgive each other."

Meanwhile, the children follow a routine that balances the hard work of chores and counseling with fun activities such as music, dancing, sports, and watching videos. The older children who missed years of school receive vocational skills training.

"I treasure my time at the World Vision center," says Irene, who was abducted by the LRA at 14 and spent two years as a soldier's slave. "I found the counseling helpful. They taught me to have a positive attitude about the future." World Vision arranged training for Irene as a hair dresser at the Angel Beauty Salon, which then offered her a job—and a new start.

Seeing success stories like Irene has enabled communities to accept young former combatants back into the fold. "World Vision has rehabilitated many of our children from child soldiers into civilians," says Irene's father, who first reacted to his daughter's return with excitement, then fear. "By the time they are handed back to us, they no longer have the dangerous rebel mentality." ■



**Saying the past:** World Vision counselor Les Watmon helps a young former combatant gain perspective on his painful memories.

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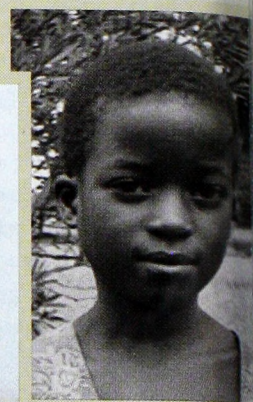
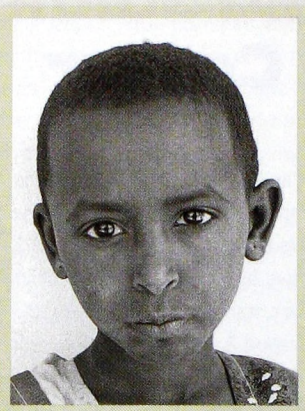
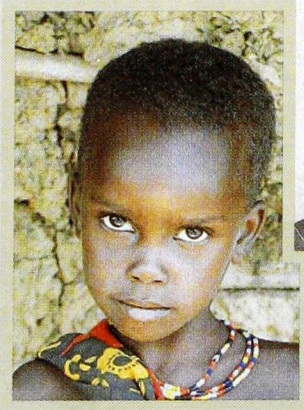
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**World Vision**



► Sponsorship scrapbook:

Six of the 14 children Fay currently supports.



# his driving

STORY BY FAY FOX

I have been a World Vision sponsor for 19 years. I love kids. I raised five of my own. I have been a driving instructor for many years, and I've probably taught two or three thousand teenagers how to drive. I was also a Sunday school teacher, and I coached Little League.

The way I figure it, over the years I've sponsored 27 children. I have 14 kids now, the oldest is 17 and the youngest is 6. It's like raising a second family. Every one of them is dear and precious to me.

When I first started sponsoring, I had a little girl from Indonesia. I wondered, "What in the world am I going to write to an 8-year-old child?" My youngest daughter, Susan, who was in her teens at the time, would write the letters from "Aunt Sue."

Now when I write these kids I have so many things to say. I answer their questions, address some of their needs, and ask about their families. World Vision sends me progress reports, so I know that some of the kids struggle in school and some are pretty sharp. I compliment them and tell them how important education is.

I spend about one-third of my letters sharing about our Lord and Savior. If these children go into eternity without the Lord, we've missed a golden opportunity. Many of them are Christians, and they

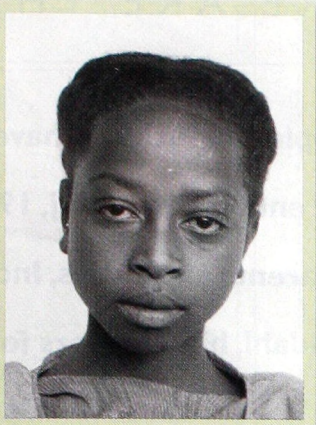
write to me about their relationships with Christ.

I've got a lot of things in common with my sponsored kids. Most of them live in rural areas. I grew up on a dairy farm in Yelm, Wash., so when they write about animals and about trying to raise crops under adverse conditions, I can really talk to them, farmer to farmer. A lot of the kids come from large families. We had 10 kids, a mom, and a dad in a two-bedroom house, so I understand when they talk about cramped quarters. I've also learned a lot from my driving students who come from many different countries. When the kids write about the food they eat, I can say I've sat in the homes of my Ethiopian or Indian students and eaten those things.

There's not a child that's sponsored that couldn't use something. I send small gifts in 9" x 12" airmail envelopes. It costs about \$4, but it's well worth it. I can't stand shopping, but I'm always scrounging through stores trying to find something the kids might enjoy. At Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo a few years ago, they had this map that folded out to about four feet square. It had the whole zoo laid out with animals you could peel off and stick onto it. I sent that to all the kids.

Quite often I've sent extra money to World Vision and said, "This family has a need; let's see if we





**Fay Fox of Renton, Wash., first heard about World Vision from his eldest daughter, Sharon, a child sponsor. Almost 20 years and 27 sponsored children later, the 66-year-old driving instructor shares what he's learned.**

# Passion

can help them." I sent money to one girl whose parents were divorced. They bought seven sheep and an ox. They used to give up half their crops to another farmer for sharing his ox, so it helped them out. Later, I got a picture and a letter telling me that they now have 12 sheep. If you can help those kids and their families, I tell you, it's wonderful.

I've got a great love for World Vision. I'll be a sponsor as long as God keeps me around. People sometimes say, "You must be crazy. You send money, and the kid gets about two cents and the rest goes into corporate coffers for overhead." And I say, "No, I don't think so, because World Vision is a Christian organization, and it is answerable to God." I've got complete confidence. When people have doubts, it gives me a chance to share.

The Lord said that if we give a cup of water in his name, he would bless that. We can't do it for everyone, but we need to do it for those we can help. We are blessed with so much in this country. You can sponsor a child for as much as you spend at a restaurant in one evening. The cost is absolutely nothing compared to the enjoyment you get from those kids. One little girl who is a strong Christian wrote to me, "I can never repay this." I replied, "Honey, I get a thousand times more from you than you ever get from me." ■

## Does it Have to End?

In the 19 years that Fay Fox has been a World Vision sponsor, he has been notified several times that his assistance for a specific child was no longer needed. "The first time, it was because the project closed, which tells me that the people are now able to take care of themselves," he says. "I thought that was marvelous!"

Sponsorships can end for many reasons aside from project closures: the child may have finished school or moved out of the area. Whatever the cause, sponsors can be disappointed, especially if they have developed a bond with their child.

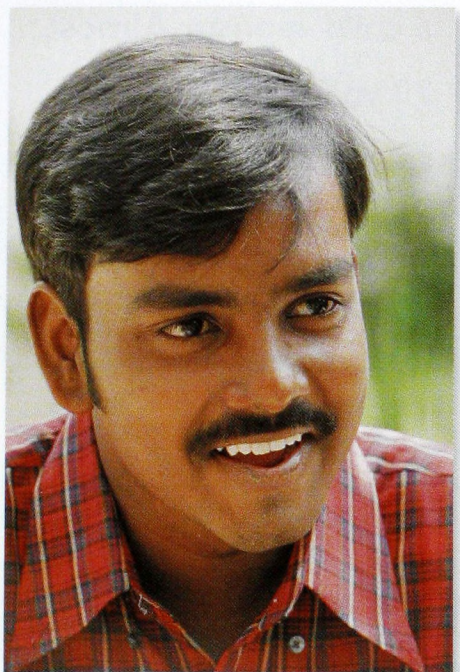
"All you have to do is call World Vision. They have several thousand kids itching for a sponsor," Fay says, explaining how he dealt with the change. "If we can spend that money on someone else who needs it too, that's what it's all about." ■





## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Most people are lucky to have one set of loving parents. Samuel Raj, 19, has two—his natural parents in Madras, India, and Don and Laura Lindahl, his sponsors for 14 years.



## Samuel's Second

**I**'m going to meet my parents for the first time!" Samuel Raj laughed nervously, watching the southern California landscape rush by outside the minivan window.

Meeting his sponsors, Don and Laura Lindahl, whom he calls his "second parents," was the best of several firsts for Samuel last summer including his first plane trip and first visit to the United States. Samuel dreamed of this day during the 14 years that the Lindahls supported his education from the second grade to university, where he is now in his third year. The dream came true when he was selected as India's representative for 1999's World Vision Youth Ambassadors, an international musical troupe. The Lindahls flew from Los Gatos, Calif., to see Samuel during rehearsals in the Los Angeles area.

"We never thought we'd meet Samuel," Laura Lindahl said while she and Don waited for Samuel's arrival. To the Lindahls, the parents of two grown children, sponsorship was "being faithful and writing checks." They hadn't realized their influence on Samuel—until he walked in. "I love you," he said as they enfolded him in hugs.

"You see the pictures through the years [in World Vision progress reports], but it's a huge jump to see the actual person, the smiling face and sparkling eyes," Laura said.

Samuel shared how sponsorship improved his life. His father, Moses Raj, put worldly wealth aside to preach the gospel in their predominantly Hindu community. As a Christian, Moses couldn't own property, so the family lived in a one-room hut, eating a single meal a day. Moses,

who earned only about \$6 a month, would have had to send his two sons to an overcrowded, underequipped local school. But when Samuel was 5, Moses heard about World Vision's sponsorship program through the private St. Mathias School and enrolled him there. Thanks to his far-away "parents," Samuel's fees were paid, and he received regular medical check-ups and a healthy school lunch every day.

When the Lindahls complimented Samuel on his fluent English, he quickly replied, "That's all because of you, because you gave me an education!"

The Lindahls saw a slice of Samuel's life in a video provided by World Vision India. There was Samuel, a backpack slung over his shoulder, walking home from college through the dusty streets of Madras. There was his house decorated outside with a Scripture verse written in Tamil; his mother, Amala, cooking; Samuel and his brother, Stephen, playing a board game; and Moses entertaining local children with a puppet show and Christian songs.

"Suppose the World Vision sponsors hadn't helped my son? Our lives would not be like this," Moses said in the video. With Samuel's school fees paid, Moses could concentrate on serving God. That is all he has wanted to do since childhood, when he accepted Christ after wandering into a Salvation Army Sunday school. "I was a slum boy; now I am a minister. I praise God!" Moses said jubilantly.

Samuel, also a strong believer, chose Madras Christian College to study political science. Over the years, his faith created a bond with the Lindahls. "It's pretty thrilling

**(Top) Catching up:** Don Lindahl, Samuel Raj, and Laura Lindahl reminisce over letters and progress reports which the Lindahls saved from every year they sponsored Samuel.

**(Above) Youthful promise:** Samuel, the confident student and faithful Christian.

STORY BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER | PHOTO



your change will  
**deliver relief**  
 to Kosovo



Although Kosovar families are back in their home country, the crisis is not over. Many have lost everything. Food is scarce, houses are destroyed, and with the harsh winter quickly approaching, families will surely suffer. World Vision's Love Loaf program offers the perfect opportunity for you and your church to help. By dropping your spare change and bills into a Love Loaf, your church will provide returning Kosovar families with basic necessities like food, blankets, and cooking utensils. More important, it will allow them to see God's love at work in their midst.

**For more information on how your church can bring relief to returning Kosovars, call (800) 444-2522 or visit our Web site at [www.loveloaf.org](http://www.loveloaf.org).**

**World Vision**



# arents

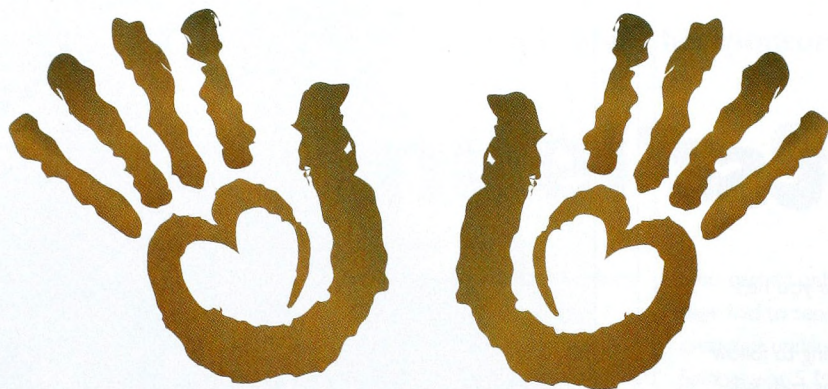
n your sponsored child tells you he's  
 ing for you," Laura said.  
 Although Samuel is not planning to follow  
 s father's missionary footsteps, faith will  
 or in whatever career he pursues. That may  
 government officer; if he passes a difficult  
 n next year; he would work against cor-  
 ion. He's also considering computer soft-  
 e engineering, envisioning a ministry to pro-  
 free computer training to slum children.  
 To top off the visit, Samuel and the 47 other  
 th Ambassadors treated the Lindahls to a  
 ate performance. Watching Samuel sing,  
 n and Laura beamed like proud parents.  
 "Samuel is taking the opportunity and  
 anding on it," Don said. "That's all you  
 ever ask of any child ... and he is a spe-  
 cchild of ours." ■

**World Vision Youth Ambassadors are young people from 50 countries who to travel to the United States, Canada, and Central America, promoting peace and cultural understanding. They are chosen for their musical talent, academic performance, public speaking skills, and moral character. In addition to performing at such high-profile places as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo Disneyland, the youths meet with government leaders, volunteer in service projects, and dialogue with local students in each country they visit. ■**

BY JULIA DEAN



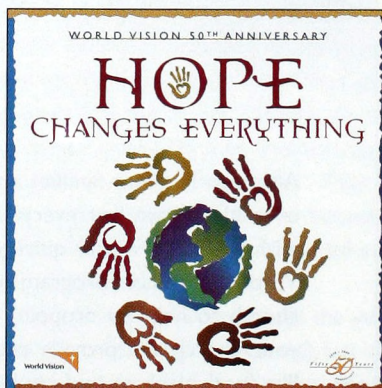
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# feed the need

What are you and your friends concerned about as we head into 2000?" someone asked me recently. "Nothing," I quickly answered. And I guess that's what worries me most.

Life is so cozy for so many teens in America that we don't fret about our own future, let alone anyone else's. We cling to our comfort zones. We'd rather switch off heavy topics such as world poverty and hunger and switch on MTV or HBO.

But maybe it's time we faced some uncomfortable truths about our world: like the fact that 32,000 children die of hunger every day even though we produce enough food to feed every man, woman, and child on the planet. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, about 841 million people in developing countries are chronically undernourished. Hunger happens at home too. One in four American children under 12 don't have enough to eat. Studies show that even short periods of undernutrition can affect children's development, behavior, and future potential.

We often block out such alarming numbers because we feel overwhelmed or guilty. I know I did. But ignoring a problem doesn't solve it.

What can we do as individuals do to help the hungry? One practical way is to participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. This national event raises awareness and funds to fight world hunger. Some 600,000 participants raised more than \$8 million last year. Doing the 30 Hour Famine has given me a little taste of what it feels like to be without food and has helped me relate to global hunger on a personal level.

Sacrificing burgers, fries, and Coke for 30 hours isn't easy. Last year, I began fasting after lunch and by 2 p.m. I wanted a snack. The next morning, kids in my church youth group who were also doing the Famine worked in the kitchen of a Tampa shelter for the homeless. My stomach growled as we washed dishes. By the 29th hour of the famine, I thought I'd die. But, unlike many needy kids overseas, I survived—and raised \$600 to help World Vision combat hunger.

Last July I traveled with three other American students to Tanzania as part of a 30 Hour Famine study tour. For the first time in my life, I met hungry children. I learned things I didn't want to know—that African children's hair turns orange when they are critically malnourished; that their empty tummies bloat. But I also saw 30 Hour Famine dollars at work. Villagers are growing better crops

and starting fish farms with World Vision's help. Sponsored children are learning how to read and write so they will have better opportunities. They have hope, thanks to help from American famine fighters like you and me.

My trip to Tanzania influenced my life in two very important ways. First, it made me more grateful for all I have. Second, as a Christian, I realized that I can no longer hide in my comfort zone. Jesus called believers to be salt and light. We can't say we don't know about the darkness. There is so much need around us—hunger, poverty, abuse—the facts are literally in our faces. But we can make a difference by getting involved. Let's start today. ■

*This year's national 30 Hour Famine event is Feb. 25-26. But you can do the Famine anytime. It's not too late to sign up. Call toll-free (800) 7-FAMINE or [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) for more information.*





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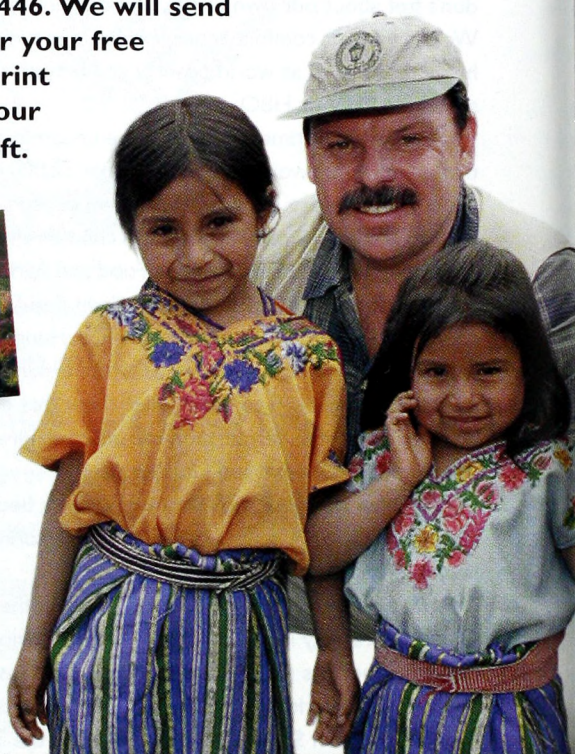
As a child sponsor, you already know the difference just \$22 a month can make in the life of a child. This is your opportunity to light the way for another child and his or her community.

**To sponsor another child, return the coupon today or call 1-888-511-6446. We will send you a certificate for your free Thomas Kinkade print when we receive your first sponsorship gift.**



"I pray that this painting will remind you that you are a bridge of faith and hope to children in need."

Thomas Kinkade  
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The cost of producing this publication is minimal (less than 30 cents per copy to print and mail). In return, the magazine helps increase public awareness about poverty, serves as a voice for the poor, and encourages others to become partners in our ministry of helping children and families around the world.

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Sincerely,



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Editor

*World Vision Today*

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