

# WorldVision

SUMMER 2015



*Peru's*

## SHINING STARS

*Sponsorship helps a  
community claim  
its confidence*



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# WOMEN OF VISION



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**World Vision**, a free triannual publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 100 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs 47 cents a copy to produce.

We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at: *World Vision* magazine, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716. Email us: [wvmagazine@worldvision.org](mailto:wvmagazine@worldvision.org). To request to be taken off our mailing list, email us or call toll-free 877.596.0290.

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EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

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EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

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We asked for your feedback on our survey cards, and you sent it. Here's a sampling:

## YOU ENJOYED THE SPRING ISSUE ON WATER:



"I have not always read the magazine, but the articles about water were riveting. I read it all and it was motivating and wonderful."

"I liked the longer articles about water needs in different areas. Usually stories are too brief."

"This is my first time reading this magazine and I am moved to tears. Although I don't have much, I feel there is so much more I can do. I will share this magazine with others."

Several comments reflected on using World Vision magazine to teach your children about poverty:

"It's a great tool for talking to my kids about helping others in need all over the world."

"My older children, 14 and 11, read it, and I think it is a wonderful reminder of the world we live in and God's love for others."

You let us know how World Vision magazine helps or encourages you:

"I love your magazine. It is a huge encouragement to me and helps me look past myself and remember the

courageous, beautiful people all around the world. Thank you for sharing hope with the hard realities."

"Thank you for helping to visualize what our sponsorship is doing to help others." ●

**WRITE TO US AT**  
[editor@worldvision.org](mailto:editor@worldvision.org) or P.O. Box 9716, MS 321, Federal Way, WA 98063-9716.

World Vision®

#### WHO WE ARE

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

#### WHOM WE SERVE

Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender—as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

#### WHY WE SERVE

Our passion is for the world's poorest children whose suffering breaks the heart of God. To help secure a better future for each child, we focus on lasting, community-based transformation. We partner with individuals and communities, empowering them to develop sustainable access to clean water, food supplies, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.

#### HOW WE SERVE

Since 1950, World Vision has helped millions of children and families by providing emergency assistance to those affected by natural disasters and civil conflict, developing long-term solutions within communities to alleviate poverty, and advocating for justice on behalf of the poor.

#### YOU CAN HELP

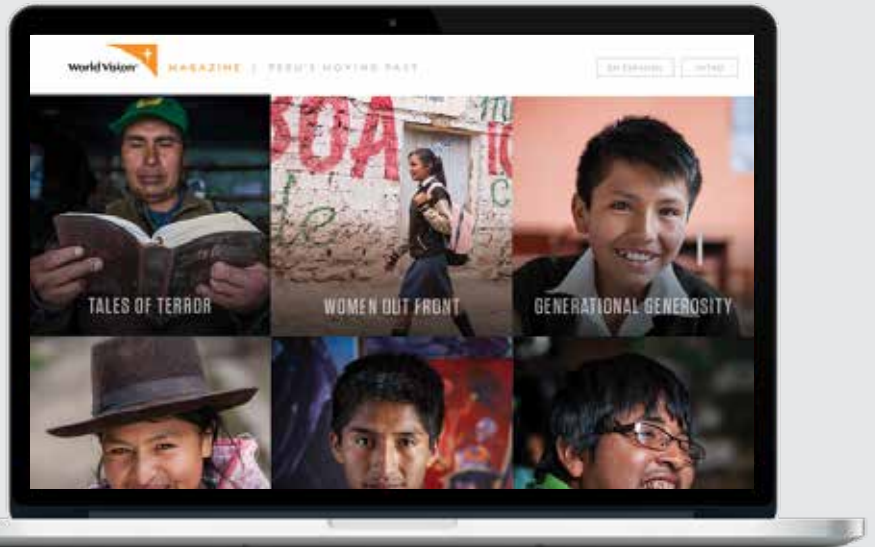
Partnering with World Vision provides tangible ways to honor God and put faith into action. By working together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling to overcome poverty. To find out how you can help, visit [worldvision.org](http://worldvision.org).

## NEW! READ ONLINE

Read more *World Vision* magazine issues online—and have them delivered to your inbox.

» **Once a month, we'll email you when a new digital issue has published.** Each issue will be packed with fresh, compelling storytelling and imagery about how God is bringing hope and opportunity to children and families living in poverty.

» **From a special report on fragile** childhood in the world's most difficult contexts (above right) to a deeper dive into World Vision's transforming work in Peru (below), our digital issues include the same in-depth, inspiring, educational storytelling you've come to love in the magazine you're holding.



» **Each issue also includes** a blend of features, photo slideshows, videos, prayer resources, popular magazine departments, behind-the-scenes photo blogs, and devotional columns.

## SIGN UP TODAY

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[WVMAG.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](http://WVMAG.ORG/SUBSCRIBE)

Your email address is safe with us—we won't share or sell it to a third party.

# Solving the Puzzle of Poverty

BY RICH STEARNS

**A few months ago** I experienced one of my proudest moments at World Vision. I was in the Dominican Republic with the CEO of one of our major retail partners, Family Christian stores. World Vision had convened a committee of local leaders—pastors, doctors, teachers, and business owners—who were working with World Vision to make sure children are safe from abuse, predators, and other threats to their well-being.

The committee had just finished telling us about their successes, including stopping a local company from using child laborers and ending instances of domestic abuse. I encouraged them to explain how else they worked with World Vision in addition to this impressive child protection work.

To my delight, the leaders beamed and shared example after example of World Vision’s impact. They talked about daycare programs, strengthening churches, tutoring students in math and reading, HIV and AIDS education, community savings groups, village vegetable gardens, and much more.

I was especially thrilled to hear from pastors who told me they gained a new perspective on the church’s job in their community. “I always saw my role to be inside the church, ministering to my people,” one pastor told me. “Now I see my role as outside my church, sharing God’s message of hope.”

The power of our child sponsorship model is that it offers a community the opportunity for holistic transformation in a way that is absolutely essential for solving poverty. It allows us to tackle a wide range of problems all at the same time. Poverty is like a puzzle with a number of interlocking pieces. To solve a jigsaw puzzle, you need every single piece. Poverty is similar. A community needs education, economic development, health education, and clean water. Often, solving one piece requires solving other interconnected pieces.

For example, it is great to have a school building, a teacher, and schoolbooks, but if children have to walk miles every day for water or are required to work in a factory, they can’t go to school. Lots



LINDSEY MINERVA/WORLD VISION

On a recent trip to the Dominican Republic, Rich spent time with children involved in World Vision programs.

of nonprofits tackle one of these puzzle pieces, but World Vision believes that lasting solutions require all of these things at once.

At World Vision, child sponsorship is not simply about giving things to children. Sponsorship does more than offer a child a chance at an education, clean water, or a safe shelter. It doesn’t merely provide microloans or savings groups to mothers. Sponsorship does all these things while addressing the more fundamental needs of a community to create lasting change.

You see, poverty is not only about lacking money or things. Poverty is also about values and culture. A community certainly needs wells, schools, irrigation systems, health clinics, and economic

opportunities. Every community needs productive and healthy values and knowledge so that children are protected, women have an equal say in how things are run, and men seek the welfare of their families rather than their next drink. The community needs the knowledge provided by leadership development, farmers’ co-ops, opportunities for youth; it also needs the values found in church, savings groups, and gender education programs.

That’s the wonder behind our child sponsorship model. Solving the puzzle of poverty requires every piece, and child sponsorship—more than anything else—offers a full and lasting solution. Our goal is not simply to treat the symptoms of poverty but to solve the core problems so communities can thrive long after World Vision leaves. (On pages 14-26, see how families in Huanta, Peru, are preparing for a sponsorship project closure.)

I hope that as you journey with us and with your sponsored child, you too can witness the wonder of seeing a community made whole from the inside out through your faithful sponsorship. ●

**Rich Stearns is president of World Vision U.S. and best-selling author of *Unfinished* and *The Hole in Our Gospel*.**

*“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

—1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

# FRONTLINES



THEODORE SAM/WORLD VISION

## FRAGILE HOPE

**With help from a barefoot child** and a gust of wind, a vibrant kite lifts off above the tents at Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan.

Similar scenes are playing out at beaches and lakes across the U.S. this summer as vacationing children delight in the simple pleasure of flying a kite. Yet here at Za'atari, the windswept desert home to thousands of Syrian refugees, a spot of desperately needed color and a moment of fun allow these refugees to be children—something the war has taken from them.

There is no summer vacation, as more than 1.8 million

Syrian children have been out of school for up to four years. Of the 3.75 million registered Syrian refugees—about the population of Los Angeles—more than 623,000 are in Jordan. Almost 84,000 live in Za'atari, where World Vision has helped build roads and drainage trenches.

Children living amid dire circumstances need glimpses of hope—but they need an end to the war even more. ●



READ ABOUT CHILDREN CAUGHT IN CONFLICT IN OUR APRIL DIGITAL ISSUE AT [WVMAG.ORG/FRAGILECHILDHOOD](http://WVMAG.ORG/FRAGILECHILDHOOD).

## HOW IT WORKS:

# RELIEF $\rightarrow$ RECOVERY

*From typhoons in Southeast Asia to earthquakes in Central America, World Vision's global emergency responders launch into action when disaster strikes. Here's how it works:*

1

### **BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES**

Pre-positioned emergency relief supplies are stockpiled in multiple international locations. Disaster preparedness plans help people evacuate ahead of natural disasters that provide some warning, like typhoons. First-aid and first-responder training prepares community members to take action.

### **AFTER DISASTER STRIKES**

2

#### **24 HOURS**

World Vision staff on the ground provide first aid and search and recovery. They also assess needs—often working with local governments—and determine the most vulnerable populations.

World Vision's Global Rapid Response Team deploys to disaster area.

3

#### **72 HOURS**

Pre-positioned supplies are shipped and distributed to those most in need.

Communication and media coordination begin to provide images, video, and stories.

4

#### **FIRST WEEK**

World Vision staff specialists—in water and child protection, for example—arrive.

Delivery and distribution of survival supplies continues in damaged communities.

5

#### **FIRST MONTH**

Child-Friendly Spaces are set up to give children a safe place to go during the day.

World Vision provides assistance with temporary shelter, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, and healthcare.

6

#### **LONG TERM**

World Vision works with communities to transition from relief to recovery and rebuilding. Depending on the needs, this can include reviving livelihoods and securing permanent housing, clean water, sustainable food sources, and education.

#### **FAST FACT**

**IN 2014, WORLD VISION RESPONDED TO 80 DISASTERS AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES WORLDWIDE, ASSISTING SOME 10.7 MILLION PEOPLE.**





NEPAL

NABIN BARAL FOR WORLD VISION

### NEPAL | EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATION

Following a massive earthquake in late April, World Vision remains on the ground in Nepal to aid an estimated 100,000 people in the hardest-hit areas, helping homeless families

recover and rebuild. The magnitude-7.8 quake claimed thousands of lives, destroyed homes, historical sites, and businesses, and triggered avalanches in the Himalayas.

### MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE | HISTORIC FLOODS

Seasonal rains turned destructive in southern Africa during the first few months of 2015, displacing an estimated 300,000 people and killing 350. Flooding caused extensive damage to houses, bridges, roads, crops, and irrigation systems. Loss of cash crops could have long-term effects on the countries' economies. World Vision provided food, household items, and hygiene kits to displaced families.

### TIMOR-LESTE | TOP HONORS

A rural village in Southeast Asia's Timor-Leste received a presidential award for achieving the best nutrition standards in the region. Residents of Bahamori, where World Vision runs water, sanitation, agricultural, and education projects, has the lowest rate of malnutrition for children under 5 among the surrounding villages. Along with the award, Bahamori received a cash prize; community members plan to expand nutrition programs with the money.

### HONDURAS | BRIGHT FUTURES

World Vision received \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs to help end child labor

## DID YOU KNOW?

Child sponsors help make achievements like Timor-Leste's presidential award and Honduras' Bright Futures program possible.

World Vision's generous U.S. sponsors create lasting change for not only their sponsored children, but the entire community as well. Sponsorship provides communities with life-giving benefits like water wells, better education, and improved access to health services. Adults also have opportunities for training in agriculture, nutrition, and hygiene, and vocations such as tailoring and carpentry. ●

in four Honduran regions. The project, called *Futuros Brilliantes*, or Bright Futures, promotes education and vocational training for children and youth, and provides economic opportunities to vulnerable households. For adults, the project plans to improve labor law enforcement and establish workers' rights centers. ●



MALAWI

CHARLES KABENYA/WORLD VISION

# BATTLING EBOLA

*McKesson and World Vision team up to defy deadly disease.*



BRUNO COL/WORLD VISION

**R**anking 15th on the *Fortune* 500, McKesson Corp. may seem too busy—or too big—to care about remote African villages.

Yet in spring 2014, as Ebola erupted in West African countries, McKesson Account Manager Toby Capps huddled with World Vision staff to answer one question: How could McKesson, the largest healthcare services company in the U.S., and World Vision join forces to help reduce Ebola—and relieve its unspeakable suffering?

In fact, for a decade Toby has spent each Tuesday afternoon at World Vision's headquarters near Seattle, crafting new ways McKesson can help address international medical crises. The partnership was forged in the early 2000s when HIV and AIDS were raging across Africa, and isolated community volunteers had few medical resources to care for their neighbors.

The answer to this critical need was to ship hundreds of thousands of HIV and

AIDS Caregiver Kits to rural African communities and distribute them to trained volunteer caregivers.

So as Ebola began its rampage, one thing was clear: Rural caregivers had few medical supplies to protect themselves from the disease. Again, McKesson and World Vision stepped up to challenge. “We were brainstorming about an Ebola Kit from the minute the crisis hit,” Toby says.

McKesson quickly donated 4 million pairs of gloves, providing basic protection for under-equipped health centers in Sierra Leone. Plans for Ebola Kits filled with protective masks and gowns, bleach, and more were under way—but soon hit a roadblock after the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] issued a list of products every hospital in America needed to help prevent the Ebola crisis.

U.S. manufacturers' shelves were stripped bare as hospitals nationwide anticipated the highly contagious virus coming their way. Little was left to send to

countries where Ebola was already killing thousands and infection rates doubled every week.

But McKesson wouldn't give up. “We got manufacturers to put in more lines to manufacture more product than they had before,” Toby says. “They started doing two or three shifts per day instead of one shift—and giving it to us at great pricing because it was for World Vision, going to Africa.”

Since then, corporations, churches, and even college football teams have volunteered their time to assemble thousands of kits that are being sent quickly to Sierra Leone caregivers in hospitals and homes.

“God has always come through and allowed us to find a way to meet those needs to serve these amazing caregivers in Africa,” Toby says. ● —Nathalie Moberg

**EXPLORE** how you and your company can partner with World Vision at [worldvision.org/corp](http://worldvision.org/corp).

COURTESY THE BARNES FAMILY



## WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

**BRUCE AND KAREN BARNES**  
MEQUON, WISCONSIN

**A few years ago**, our church was sponsoring children. We saw Flora's picture, and she has the same birthday as [Karen]. She lives in Mozambique, where our son was living. We just felt connected to her.

Today, we have her picture on the refrigerator with our other children. We've hosted exchange students, and we have their pictures up, too. So we consider Flora part of our global family.

One night, we were at dinner with other couples who all had sponsored children, and someone asked, "What if something happens to us before our [sponsored] child comes of age?" and we didn't know. We contacted World Vision and have named World Vision in our will. People say, "I can't make a difference," but we can. We can each do something. Hopefully by the time we die, Flora will be aged out of sponsorship, but it's important to leave an international legacy in addition to the local legacy. ●

*"People say, 'I can't make a difference,' but we can. We can each do something."*

—KAREN BARNES

### TELL US YOUR STORY.

Why do you love being a child sponsor?  
Tell us at [wvmag.org/mystory](http://wvmag.org/mystory).

## THANKS TO YOU

*Your generosity and partnership helped equip World Vision to accomplish the following in fiscal year 2014:*

**719,054**

U.S. SPONSORS  
SUPPORTED 1.2 MILLION  
CHILDREN IN 402  
COMMUNITIES

**2,000,000+**

PEOPLE IN  
26 COUNTRIES GAINED  
ACCESS CLEAN WATER

**1,718,529**

PEOPLE SERVED  
THROUGH  
U.S. PROGRAMS



FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE WORLD VISION'S 2014 ANNUAL REVIEW AT [WORLDVISION.ORG/AR](http://WORLDVISION.ORG/AR).

## WITNESS TO A VISION

**Midway through** turbulent 1975, World Vision pulled out of Cambodia, overrun by the Khmer Rouge, and Vietnam, which fell to communist forces. About 23,000 sponsored children had to be abandoned.

World Vision President Stan Mooneyham spent the last desperate days in Cambodia overseeing the evacuation of expatriate staff and the rescue of 20 orphans who had been in the process of U.S. adoption (pictured). In May 1975 *World Vision*

magazine, Stan wrote, "Cambodia has already fallen to the communists. It seems that my personal adventure in that country which I love may be over. Only God knows for sure. It started five years ago with a frightening drive through Viet Cong territory from Saigon to Phnom Penh with 10 tons of medicines. It ended just a few days ago with three charter flights and 15 tons of milk powder, vitamins, and supplies unloaded on an airstrip under terrifyingly regular shelling."

There was a silver lining: The loss of programs in Southeast Asia compelled the organization to begin sponsorship in South America and the Caribbean. And five years later, in 1980, World Vision returned to Cambodia and restarted humanitarian work, which continues today. ●



ERIC MOONEYHAM/WORLD VISION



*“I never would have imagined it would get this big.”*

— CAMILLE VARNER



CHRIS HUBER/WORLD VISION (2)

# DUCK DYNASTY

*A family sells toy ducks in Alaska to provide real ducks around the world.*

**Camille Varner was just 6** when she began decorating Alaska-themed rubber ducks, wrapping the diminutive fowl in cuddly parkas and selling them in her family’s Juneau, Alaska, soap shop. That was six years ago, and today the pre-teen is amazed at the impact this project has had on children in developing countries.

Her family uses profits from the rubber ducks to purchase live ducks through the World Vision Gift Catalog, to be given to families in need across the globe.

“I never would have imagined it would get this big,” Camille says. “I can see I’m actually helping people.”

Three generations of Camille’s family run Glacier Smoothie soap shop in the heart of Juneau’s thriving tourist district. Each summer, thousands of cruise ship passengers flock to the shop, looking for something “Alaskan.” Among the store’s varieties of glacier silt-based soaps sit the yellow and orange bath toy ducks for \$4.25 each.

The rubber duck story began in 2009 as a way to teach generosity to Camille, the youngest grandchild. Soon the lesson turned into an annual tradition involving the whole family.

“We wanted her to know that life isn’t all about making money,” Camille’s grandmother, Pat Stringer, says. “We just thought ducks fit with soap. God has just blessed it and blessed it.”

Since 2010, the family has sold \$3,275 worth of rubber ducks, enabling World Vision to give 500 live ducks to families in developing countries.

Ducks provide families in rural communities with protein-rich eggs. Extra eggs or hatchlings can be sold to neighbors for income to pay for essentials like medicine or a child’s education. In some cases, families give their chicks to neighbors, ensuring that even more children have access to good nutrition.

Jimmie Stringer, Camille’s grandfather and longtime pastor of Juneau’s First Baptist Church, not only helps at the store, but acts as spiritual adviser to the family and mentor to young seasonal employees.

He says life can easily become too focused on managing a business. He can’t help but see the eternal value of selling rubber ducks to give real ducks.

“We would be bored with life if it was about money and soap,” says Jimmie. “It’s not—it’s about people. I love being part of something bigger than myself. I’ve got heaven in my view.” ● —Chris Huber



GIVE DUCKS AND OTHER ANIMALS TO FAMILIES IN NEED AT [WVMAG.ORG/GIFTS](http://WVMAG.ORG/GIFTS).



## CHANGE AGENT

**NAME** Salina and Michael Dayton

**HOME** Raleigh, N.C.

**PROGRAM** Child Ambassadors

### When Michael and Salina Dayton

began sponsoring two children with World Vision in 2009, it triggered a domino effect. After their first daughter was born the next year, they sponsored another child born the same month, in part so they had a way to teach their daughter about poverty and generosity as she and their sponsored girls grew older.

In 2014, Salina met a World Vision Child Ambassador who spoke passionately about not just sponsoring children but engaging with them. Wanting to build a stronger relationship with her sponsored children, Salina went to [myworldvision.org](http://myworldvision.org) and read *The Hole in Our Gospel* to learn more.

Now their whole family is involved. Salina and Michael's two daughters ask for donations to World Vision at their birthday parties. They also buy goats and chickens through the World Vision Gift Catalog by

selling artwork and sharing their allowances.

"We talk about money not in terms of actual dollars but in terms of how much support we could provide for our 'World Vision girls'—instead of buying that one toy," Salina says.

As her passion for sponsorship grew, Salina shared her enthusiasm on social media and soon volunteered as a Child Ambassador to encourage others to sponsor children. Her goal is to "help sponsors experience the joy of truly making a difference in the life of one child at a time."

Among those Salina's message reached is Joelle Howland, who recently sponsored a child. "What intrigued me most was [World Vision's] approach in supporting communities as a whole and helping them sustain and become self-sufficient," Joelle says.

Now, during the holidays, Joelle and her husband, Craig, use the gift catalog to talk with their daughters about poverty. Together, they select items from the catalog to provide for families in need.

Joelle says, "It's been very rewarding for them to see that they've had the ability to make a difference, and their commitment to giving continues to grow." ●

### START A DOMINO EFFECT

and become a Child Ambassador. Learn more at [wvmag.org/CA](http://wvmag.org/CA).

*"We talk about money not in terms of actual dollars but in terms of how much support we could provide for our 'World Vision girls.'"*

—SALINA DAYTON



## CELEBRATE PROGRESS

Your monthly sponsorship donation helps your sponsored child, their family, and their entire community. Keep up on the progress with **Community News**, where you can:

**Learn** about accomplishments, programs, and how God's working in your child's community.

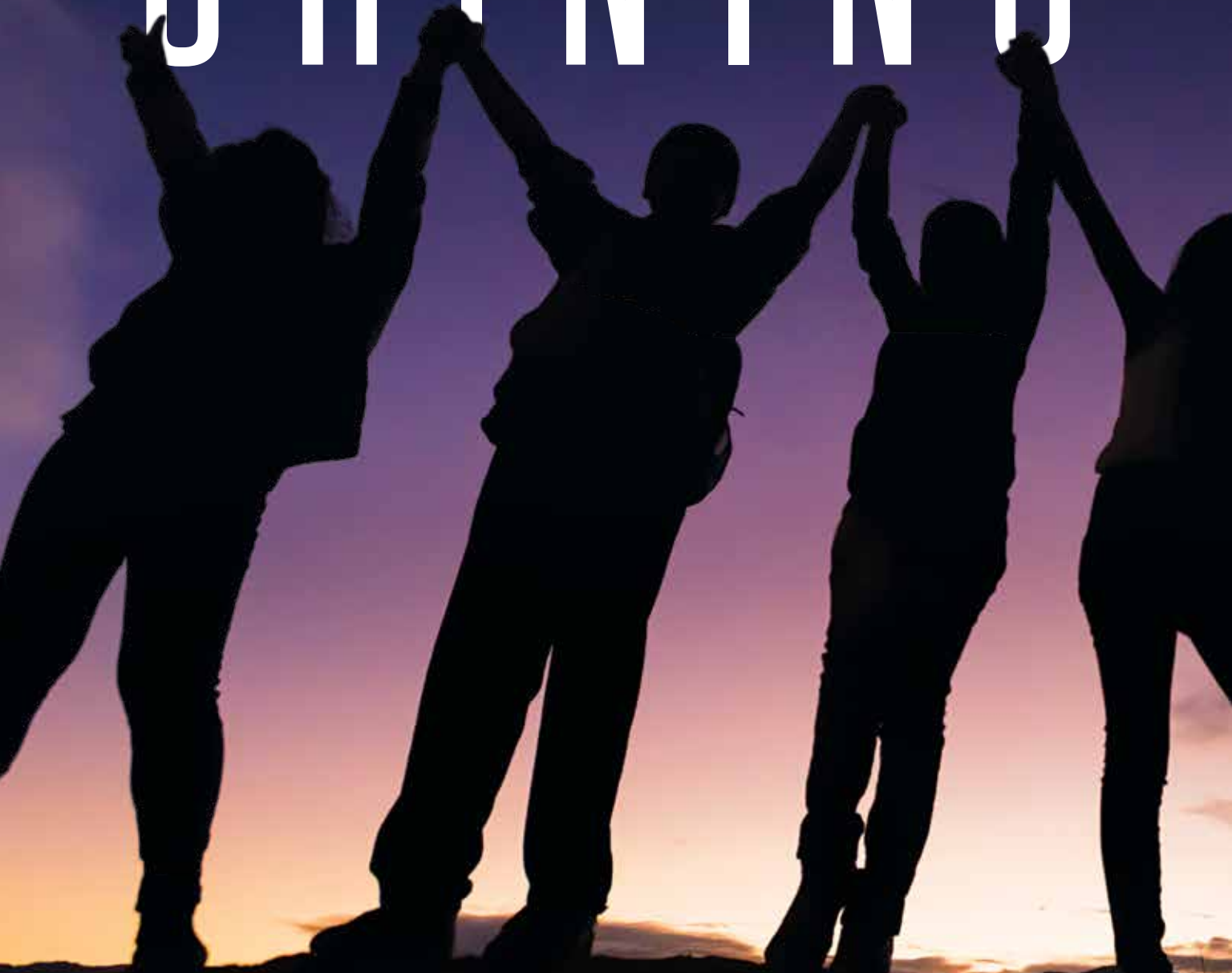
**Find** prayer requests and praise reports.

**Track** progress made toward providing more children with access to clean water, basic sanitation, healthcare, education, and more.



If you haven't already received Community News, look for it in your mailbox in June. Find highlights of last year's accomplishments any time by looking up your child's community online at [myworldvision.org](http://myworldvision.org). ●

# SHINING



*THEIR OWN ]*

# LIGHT



The sky's the limit for children in Huanta, Peru, where 19 years of child sponsorship and community development have helped families overcome a violent past.

*By Jane Sutton-Redner • Photos by Eugene Lee*

## EVERY CHILD LOVES A GOOD GAME OF CHASE.

If kids are the age when boys and girls become bashful with each other, a gender-based tag game is all the better. Grinning boys kick up dust as they playfully lunge at girls, who screech and clump together for protection, the brave ones sprinting away, laughing over their shoulders.







Facing page:  
Children's Parliament  
members prove that  
leadership can be  
leavened with fun.  
At right: "Together we  
can," says the plaque  
on the Jesus statue  
overlooking Huanta,  
capturing post-  
terrorism optimism.



It's a wholesome, energy-burning activity for members of the Children's Parliament, a program created by World Vision for young people in Huanta, a city in the Andean highlands of Peru. The kids, ranging in age from 8 to 17, have just wrapped up a long meeting in a stuffy auditorium—the weekly gathering for discussing their rights, developing leadership skills, and devising campaigns to help disadvantaged children. Now, as the late afternoon light slants across the scrubby foothills, they break loose outside with boisterous fun.

Miles away and a lifetime ago for these kids, their parents and grandparents ran for their lives, chased from rural villages by a brutal Maoist group known as *Sendero Luminoso*, Shining Path, who used violence and intimidation in their campaign to overturn the government. They also fled from menacing military soldiers intent on crushing terrorism at any cost. The conflict, raging through the 1980s and 1990s, killed nearly 70,000—75 percent of whom were indigenous people, like these children.

World Vision in Peru, despite its own tragedy (see sidebar on page 19), began working in the region again once key Shining Path leaders were captured. In 1996, World Vision helped uprooted families who settled in the city organize themselves into what is now a powerful local entity, the Association of Displaced Families in the Province of Huanta (AFADIPH), and launched a sponsorship project.

World Vision and AFADIPH, backed by a legion of child sponsors in the United States, have spent the past two decades creating an environment where children can thrive. Along the way, families have become empowered to take over the work themselves. In September 2015, World Vision will close the Huanta project—a natural conclusion to the

years of collaboration and a standard practice in every community around the world.

Young people—the first generation to grow up in peace—confidently claim their place in advancing the progress. “World Vision is closing, but we will continue. We will do even better things,” says 13-year-old Angel Gustavo Luza Lapa, vice president of the Children’s Parliament. “We will change our communities.”

### PAST AND CONTRASTS

Huanta’s children know their city, dubbed “Emerald of the Andes,” as a place where the past and present companionably mix. Women in traditional Quechua fedoras and pleated skirts walk with produce bundled in their embroidered shawls, gazing at their smartphones. Colorful moto-taxis compete on the narrow streets with full-size pickup trucks and sedans. A colonial-era Catholic Church presides over the main square, while a 50-foot, gleaming white Jesus statue, built in 2006, overlooks the city with arms outstretched.

This provincial capital was little more than a dusty town, the last stop before ascending into the mountains, when the Shining Path started rampaging through the countryside in the 1980s. The movement originated in this region and pursued the Maoist ideal of a peasant revolution that would eventually take over the country. As rebels became increasingly violent and Peru’s military ramped up its counterterrorism measures, indigenous Quechua people were caught in between.

There’s little evidence of those times, even in Huanta’s tranquil, tree-lined city cemetery. Rows of crypts rise five high and dozens across in blocks arranged by date, with cause of death seldom indicated. Yet a set of six nearly identical graves of young men who died on the same day, Aug. 1, 1984, gives pause. The men were worshiping in an evangelical church when soldiers dragged them out and shot them, ordering the other congregants to keep singing.

Among the few overt signs of the conflict is a mural near the soccer stadium, depicting Quechua women toting a banner that promises to “reap the truth” and “build reconciliation for the peace of loved ones.” The mural’s proximity to the stadium is deliberate. In the early 1980s, the military turned the stadium into a torture chamber for suspected terrorists. Some detainees ended up in mass graves; others were never found.

Today, spectators streaming out of the stadium after a soccer match pass the mural with barely a glance, and if hearts are heavy it’s likely due to the final score.

For children born after Shining Path leader Abimael Guzmán’s capture in 1992, terrorism has faded into the background. Free of the pain that lurks just under the surface for their parents, Huanta’s children also have opportunities that were well out of reach for previous generations—and they make them count.

As Karen Diaz Curo, 13, walks home from San Francisco de Asís High School, the paved streets give way to dirt roads and pockmarked adobe structures emblazoned with mayoral



**“WHAT AN  
ARMED CONFLICT  
LEAVES AS A  
CONSEQUENCE  
IS MISTRUST,  
SUSPICION,  
AND DOUBT.”**

*—Victor Belleza*



Above: A grave memorializes one of the six churchgoers killed by the military in 1984. Right: Feliciano Rimachi Ramirez, 50, bears the scars from explosives set off when he uprooted a Shining Path flag in his village.



## A NEW BEGINNING AFTER LOSS

**Shining Path violence** hit home for World Vision on May 17, 1991, when two organization executives, Norm Tattersal and José Chuquin, stepped out of a car on a Lima, Peru, street into a hail of machine-gun fire. Norm, a Canadian, was killed instantly; José, from Colombia, died 12 days later. In July of that year, another blow: Three Peruvian staff members and a community leader disappeared. World Vision, which had operated in Peru since 1965, shut down.

Following the Shining Path's defeat, the office reopened in 1994. Caleb Meza, the new national director, immediately faced a quandary: Former employees were suspected to have ties to the terrorists, yet he was legally obligated to rehire them, should they apply. He posted the reopening announcement in a newspaper for one week. "It was a very difficult week for me," he recalls.

No former workers responded, freeing Caleb to call trusted people to his side—Christians with an extra dose of courage required to work in still-dangerous areas of the Andean highlands.

Ministry in post-terrorism Peru was hardly business as usual. Caleb grasped greater responsibility to care for the disenfranchised—and greater opportunity to draw on the people's own potential. "The programs in the past were only about welfare," he says. "I wanted a proposal that would go from social assistance to social action, from social action to public influence."

World Vision's long-term, holistic approach bore fruit in Peru's highlands. "It's more than education, more than health," says Victor Belleza, World Vision's ministry quality adviser, who helped launch the highland projects. "It's about the person. It's about the children. You are with them to build their lives and their future."





## IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP IN HUANTA

**Community improvements achieved since 1996:**

- **Extreme poverty** reduced from nearly 30 percent to 8 percent
- **Chronic malnutrition** in children under age 5 decreased from 52 percent to 29 percent
- **Access to preschool** increased from 26 percent of children to 81 percent
- **High school completion** rates raised from 8 percent of youth to 56 percent
- **Water service** improved from 69 percent of homes to 83 percent



Above: Karen Diaz Curo, 13, high school student and Children's Parliament president, embodies the confidence Huanta kids now have. Among those who paved the way for her: Gladys Condor, 47, a former community leader and thriving business owner (left).



election slogans. She lives in Hospital Baja, one of 17 ramshackle neighborhoods that swelled with displaced families during the violence. The houses here are the same color as the ground, as if the dwellings heaved themselves up out of the earth.

Climbing a rickety wooden ladder to the bedroom she shares with her brother—a One Direction poster marks her side—Karen shows off her academic medals and the books she’s reading, including Ernest Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms*. She points out the bed and a canvas wardrobe she bought herself with prize money from a singing competition.

Karen’s father, Simeon Curo, 47, built this house little by little after settling in Huanta 20 years ago. He grew up in rural Palcca, in the mountains. “We had to leave because of the terrorism,” he explains. “[Shining Path] came to villages in the evenings and killed people.” After his uncles were murdered, the family escaped on foot.

Simeon, a moto-taxi driver, has worked to provide a better life for his eight children—several of whom are high achievers. Rony, 22, got involved in the Children’s Parliament when

it began in 2002 and still serves as an adviser when he’s in Huanta on university breaks. He encouraged his younger sister Karen to join.

Last year, Karen was elected president of the group. “At the beginning, I didn’t want to be a candidate,” she says, explaining that she used to fear public speaking. “My brother encouraged me: ‘Go, go, go.’ ”

Now she’s an example for younger brother Miker, 10, who pipes up: “I’m going to be the future president of the Children’s Parliament.”

Without missing a beat, Karen replies, “I’m going to be the future president of Peru.”

### CONFIDENCE AND HOPE

Such ambition was unthinkable for families who sought refuge in Huanta in the 1980s, arriving with little more than harrowing stories. A grandmother wept while recalling the coldblooded killing of her daughter, shot while holding her baby as her other children stood nearby. A mother told of sending her children to hide in the cornfields during terrorist attacks. A young father described soldiers lining up 16 people from his village and gunning them down. Many people could not explain why their loved ones had been killed, either by the Shining Path or the military—one man simply saying, “Things were very violent.”

Quechua people, who from the days of the Inca had lived and farmed in the highland villages, found themselves completely out of their element in the city. They had to work menial jobs to support their families. Settling at the margins of Huanta, where there were no municipal services like running water and electricity, they built their homes with their own hands. Their children were barred from most city schools.

Yet many did not return to their villages once the violence subsided. Some couldn’t revisit the scenes of such horror and heartbreak. Others hoped to take advantage of the city’s opportunities. But they all lost out on government compensation for those who did go back.

It required more than quick fixes or handouts to help them. “What an armed conflict leaves as a consequence is

**“IN A WORKSHOP, I  
LEARNED TO BE A  
GOOD HUSBAND. I  
ENCOURAGED MY WIFE  
TO BE A LEADER.”**

—*Emiliano Perez*

**“WORLD VISION IS  
CLOSING, BUT WE  
WILL CONTINUE.  
WE WILL DO EVEN  
BETTER THINGS, WE  
WILL CHANGE OUR  
COMMUNITIES.”**

*—Angel Gustavo Luza Lapa*





Facing page, top: Education is a firm expectation for youth like Angel Gustavo Luza Lapa, 13, and college student Joe Ramos Diaz, 20. Left: Quechua culture pervades Ayacucho city.

mistrust, suspicion, and doubt,” says Victor Belleza, who started World Vision’s ministry work in the province. “We had to restore relations, build confidence and hope.”

Confidence sparked when people participated in World Vision programs and training sessions, elected leaders, and learned how to lobby the local government for utilities, paved roads, and schools. “We were very shy people. We didn’t know how to talk,” says Vilma Hurtado Paredes, the current president of the displaced families’ association. “World Vision helped us behave as citizens.”

Confidence grew as mothers acquired nutrition training and basic health skills, removing one obstacle after another hindering their children.

Workshops helped couples acquire the confidence to move beyond the *machismo* culture, enabling women to share their ideas and work as equals with men. Gladys Condor and her husband, Emiliano Perez, modeled this as she directed a mothers’ organization, thousands of women strong, while he served as neighborhood president. “In a workshop, I learned to be a good husband,” Emiliano says. “I encouraged my wife to be a leader.”

Confidence spread like wildfire as cards and letters from the U.S. poured in—child sponsors affirming thousands of Huanta boys and girls that they mattered. Joe Ramos Diaz, 20, keeps a letter from his sponsor that says, “I’m proud of you. I have seen you grow up.” The sponsor would be even more proud to see Joe today, striding across the sprawling, cactus-studded campus at San Cristóbal of Huamanga National University. He’s studying agronomy with a goal to help rural farmers improve their harvests.

Hope arose as the hard work began to pay off, not just in physical changes to the community, but in the way people viewed themselves. “Many people used to think that they had to live in poverty and discrimination, and that was to be the reality for their children and the children of their children,” explains Victor. “Sponsorship changed that. It helped people see themselves as people with potential, people with values.”

Above all, hope emanated from the assurance of God’s love, in part due to World Vision staff’s witness through their lives and words. Maritza Flores, Huanta project coordinator from 1998 to 2007, talked constantly about God and the guidance found in the Bible with families who were nominally religious or hanging onto traditional beliefs. “Maritza taught us how to pray,” says Emiliano, a simple statement repeated often among displaced families.

Maritza, who by all accounts personified the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:10, survived a serious car accident in 2007 only to succumb to breast cancer about a year later at age 41. The petite woman with a hug for everyone remains a vivid presence in Huanta, often mentioned in conversation, her photo tacked up in people’s homes. The auditorium where the Children’s Parliament and association leaders meet is named after her.

Her legacy lives on in young people like Joe, the agronomy student. “I talk to God,” he says. “I feel that God answers me. Sometimes when I ask him about something, someone gives me advice—that’s the answer.”

## VOCATION TO SERVE

Joe’s younger sister, 15-year-old Luana (pictured on the cover), finds answers in the Bible. As an antidote to her exhausting life—serving as secretary of the Children’s Parliament, maintaining top marks in math, and helping her divorced mother around the house—she leans on Matthew 11:28. “If you have problems, anything you are bearing, put it in the hands of God,” she says. “Then you will be peaceful and can go on in life.”

Luana knows where to place her burdens. She also knows, thanks to the Children’s Parliament, where to direct her opinions. A new expectation for Huanta’s children is that authorities will listen when they speak.

Though soft-spoken, the teen knows exactly what she’d say to her country’s president if given the chance: “Peru has an education budget of 4 or 5 percent of the GDP, and I would ask him to raise that percentage,” she says.

## CARHUAHURÁN COVER GIRL

**Meet the little girl** featured on the cover of World Vision's Winter 1997 magazine—all grown up. (See her photo on page 3 and below.) Ortencia Rafaelo Curo, 22, still lives in Carhuahurán, a mist-shrouded village high in the mountains of Huanta province. The former sponsored child is still shy, still favors traditional dress. She has a son, 1-year-old Jack.

During the Shining Path era, many Carhuahurán families stayed put, somewhat protected by a military post. The village was the scene of bloodshed but also courage, such as Feliciano Ramirez Rimachi's valiant act of pulling up a Shining Path flag implanted with explosives, which detonated, mutilating his hands. Feliciano survived to lead his community through the post-terrorism era, aided by World Vision.

Sponsorship launched here in 1996, when the village was reachable only by foot; staff hiked in, carting supplies and sponsors' letters for Ortencia and the other children. At the turn of the century, the road came to Carhuahurán, ushering in electricity, cars, sturdier houses, and a new identity as a proper town.

World Vision's work phased out in 2012, but staff helped facilitate a game-changer: Carhuahurán is now part of a newly created district, Uchuraccay, ensuring government recognition and funding for generations to come.

Even so, change here is slower than in the cities. Ortencia's life looks a lot like her mother's, dominated by collecting wood, tending animals, and cooking. The advantages of Carhuahurán's entrée into the modern world won't likely affect her as much as Jack. "I want him to be a professional," she says, "an engineer."

**“WHEN I SEE  
THESE CHILDREN,  
I SEE MYSELF  
REFLECTED IN  
THEM. WHEN I SEE  
A CHILD CRYING,  
THAT AFFECTS ME.”**

*—Joel Quispe Diaz*



Left: Former sponsored child and mom Ortencia Rafaelo Curo, 22, has seen her community change and improve with World Vision's help. Facing page: A painful past informs the work of talented artist Joel Quispe Diaz, 22.





Luana helped organize the Huanta chapter of an emerging governmental entity for youth, the Advisory Council on Children and Adolescents. In that capacity she traveled last year to Lima, the capital, and met with government ministers to discuss issues facing vulnerable children in her region.

“I like to give my opinion,” Luana says, taking a break from bustling around her house in the Hospital Baja neighborhood, just a few doors down from Karen. “But what I like best is to participate.” She cites the Children’s Parliament campaigns that reach out to other kids in need. This past Christmas, they raised money through movie nights, selling vases for gravesides, and other activities in order to put on a party for children in a village high in the mountains.

The young leaders hoped to encourage these forgotten children by delivering treats and toys and sharing the story of the birth of Jesus. Of course, the effort required exhaustive planning, time away from homework and chores, and tricky travel on winding, rock-strewn mountain roads—all completely worth it to Luana. “We do this because of love,” she says.

Children’s Parliament facilitator Romulo Aguilar Baca notes that kids like Luana have more than skills and abilities. “They have the vocation to serve,” he says.

Joel Quispe Diaz, 22, a pensive young man with soulful eyes, uses his art to evoke the pain of the past—his grandparents were killed by the Shining Path—and bring awareness to the problems of the present.

Joel’s father abandoned him when he was 3, and his mother died before he finished high school. While living for a time with an abusive relative, he carried heavy packages and sold popsicles in the market to earn a few *nuevos soles*. Eventually, an aunt took him in, and he joined the Children’s Parliament, where he learned about his rights as a working child.

Sponsorship from age 7 to 14 enabled him to stay in school, and during those years he began to dream about becoming an artist. Today, it’s his reality. Studying at the Fine Arts School of Ayacucho, about an hour’s drive from Huanta, he lives in classic “starving artist” style in a tiny room, where art supplies and paintings nearly crowd out the narrow bed. “I can express my feelings through my paintings,” he says. “It’s like making a poem with colors.”

One captivating piece shows a Quechua mother’s face surrounded by a cross, a skull, a torn Peruvian flag, and a bloody figure lying facedown—all against a deep red backdrop. Joel, too young for firsthand experience of the Shining

**“MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE HELP. THEY HAVE BECOME PROFESSIONALS, SHINING THEIR OWN LIGHT.”** —*Erineo Lapa*



“[World Vision] didn’t waste its time training her,” remarked Huanta Mayor Rodomiro Chavez de Sanchez of his adviser, former sponsored child Denisse Pariona Lunasco, 24.



Path, draws on his family’s loss and distills the devastation of the period as only an artist can do.

Another deeply personal painting, depicting a dejected, barefoot girl, is one of four pieces for Joel’s thesis project, which aims to raise awareness about working children. Alleviating their suffering is his priority, now and in his future career. “When I see these children, I see myself reflected in them,” he says. “When I see a child crying, that affects me.”

Joel is on his way; another former sponsored child has already arrived. Denisse Pariona Lunasco, 24, has served as an adviser to Huanta’s mayor for three years—an elected position and a prime spot to influence legislation affecting children.

Less than a decade after she first visited the mayor’s office as the Children’s Parliament president, she went back as the youngest adviser ever hired. Now the determined young woman eyes the photos of mayors throughout Huanta’s

history that hang in the municipal building and visualizes herself as the first female face in the gallery. (Read more about Denisse in “Where Are They Now,” pages 36-37.)

Of today’s child leaders such as Karen and Luana, Denisse says, “They are going to be successful. Not only that—because of World Vision working with them, they are eager to go on working for the common good.”

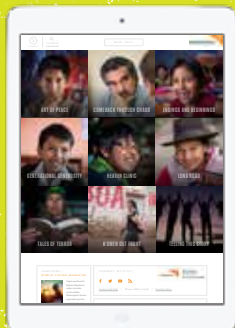
### HOME IN THEIR HEARTS

Billboards around Huanta convey the message: “*El convenio con WV culmina ... AFADIPH continua*”—the agreement with World Vision ends; AFADIPH continues. Gradually World Vision’s orange logo has been replaced with that of AFADIPH, cartoon faces of a boy and girl. The point is clear: The good work of the past two decades won’t end just because World Vision is leaving—more can be done for the community’s children.

Who better to forge ahead than those who have walked this far? These transplanted citizens, formerly such timid people, are now organized, confident, and equipped to represent themselves in the halls of power. “World Vision has taught us when we were babies, and now we are grownups,” says Erineo Lapa, 55, president of the Cedropata neighborhood and proud grandfather of child leader Angel Luza. “We are trained and can lead by ourselves.”

Huanta, once just a refuge, is now home in people’s hearts. It’s where opportunities reside—good schools, a strong faith community, healthy influences like the Children’s Parliament. It’s where their children run in elections or on the soccer field rather than running for their lives; where kids can chase their dreams and face authorities without fear.

And now, it’s only a question of how far they can go. “Many changes have happened in these years,” says Erineo. “Many young people have taken advantage of the help. They have become professionals, shining their own light.” ●



### PERU IN-DEPTH: LIVE IN JUNE

Since *Shining Path* times, Quechua people have changed. Once invisible, they’re now vocal citizens and active participants in their communities. Explore personal stories and then-and-now photographs in “Peru’s Moving Past” at [magazine.worldvision.org/peru](http://magazine.worldvision.org/peru).

*“And he [Jesus] took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”*

—MARK 10:16

# BLESS *the* CHILDREN

By Denise C. Koenig

World Vision believes all children should have the opportunity to lead the full lives God intends for them. Here are ways to do as Jesus did and pray the promises of God's Word on children growing up in difficult circumstances around the world.



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

*Lord Jesus, I ask you to bless the children with abundant, nourishing food so they will grow strong in mind and body. “The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.”*

—PSALM 145:15

*Father in heaven, let the children be blessed to see your glorious handiwork and know it comes from you. “May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.”*

—PSALM 90:16

*Dear Jesus, I ask that all children enjoy the blessing of being kept safe from harm, danger, and oppression. “May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.”*

—PSALM 72:4

*Our Savior, let the children be blessed with a good education, starting when they are young, so they can take advantage of every opportunity to live a full life. “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*

—PROVERBS 22:6

*Heavenly Father, pour out your blessings on the children so they will flourish in their family and be a blessing to their neighbors. “May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children.”*

—PSALM 115:14



JOIN OUR **HOPE PRAYER TEAM** AND RECEIVE A MONTHLY EMAIL GUIDE TO PRAYING FOR WORLD VISION'S WORK AROUND THE GLOBE. SIGN UP AT [WVMAG.ORG/PRAY](http://WVMAG.ORG/PRAY).



FAITH

[ THROUGH

# FULNESS DECADAES

By Kristy J. O'Hara

THE ]

1950S



## World Vision in the 1950s:

- ▲ Post-war Korea programs care for orphans
- Pastors conferences begin
- Child sponsorship launches

CHILD SPONSORS come from all walks of life, all 50 states, and all generations since World Vision's early days in the 1950s. When and why they choose to sponsor vary as greatly as the people themselves. World Vision celebrates all sponsors, as we tell the stories of a few who responded throughout the decades, answering God's sacred appeal to care for children in greatest need. To every sponsor, we "have not stopped giving thanks for you." (Ephesians 1:16).

## AMALIA BYERTS

Rochester, New York / Retired teacher

### *Embracing the Challenge*

In about 1953, Amalia Byerts heard World Vision founder Bob Pierce speak and was completely intrigued. "He just had such a strong desire to help everyone in Korea," she recalls. Impressed with Bob's passion, Amalia and her husband decided to sponsor a child. "We thought it would be wonderful to have a boy for our son, who was an only child," Amalia says. "He could pray for him and think about him." The couple would go on to sponsor several children throughout the years. Because the Byerts were both teachers with long summer breaks, they also traveled for a month at a time with other sponsors to visit many of the children they supported. Seeing the needs up close forever impacted Amalia. "It has enriched

my life because you realize that many of these young people, as they have matured and grown, have become leaders, have developed skills and opportunities that they would have never had if it had not been for sponsorship by World Vision," she says. Seeing that impact is why Amalia continues supporting World Vision. "My husband has been gone 26 years, but I'm still continuing it as long as I'm able to," she says. "It is part of my estate plan [so that when] I'm gone, there's still something carrying on."

**Include World Vision in your will** to continue making a difference after your lifetime. To learn more or to contact World Vision Gift Planning, **see the insert between pages 36 and 37.**

# 1960s



## World Vision in the 1960s:

▲ Korean Children's Choir tours the globe

Disaster relief efforts include Iran earthquake

Corporate gifts-in-kind donations support relief

## RUTH KEHN

Oxnard, California / Retired telephone company worker

### Standing on Scripture

Ruth Kehn was drawn to World Vision through the Korean Children's Choir—composed of Korean children living in World Vision orphanages who toured the world to sing for broad audiences. Ruth attended a performance in the 1960s and was struck by their beautiful, professional voices. “I thought I could just listen to them for a long time,” she recalls. This was her first encounter with World Vision, and the talented choir inspired her to sponsor a child. Through the years, she would come to sponsor several children. “I think about the Bible where Jesus says if you’ve done this to the least of them,

you’ve done it to me. So I’ve hung on to that Scripture.” She’s also become passionate about the World Vision Gift Catalog because of the impact the gift of animals can have on a family’s life. “There are so many, it’s hard to choose from, so I have to watch my money,” she jokes. “I ask the Lord to help me with my finances, to be wise with my finances. I’m in assisted-care living, but I still want to give part of what I have.”



Honor a loved one with a gift that truly makes a difference. Find more information about the World Vision Gift Catalog at [worldvisiongifts.org](http://worldvisiongifts.org).



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

HISTORICAL PHOTO CREDITS: P. 30: WORLD VISION; P. 31: GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS; P. 32: DAVID WARREN/WORLD VISION; P. 33: JOHN WARREN/WORLD VISION; P. 35: JON WARREN/WORLD VISION



# 1970s



## World Vision in the 1970s:

- ▲ Operation Seasweep aids southeast Asian refugees
- Television shows boost fundraising
- First community development work begins

## BILL AND ARLINE JENKINS

Dayton, Ohio / Retired engineer; homemaker

### *Growing Their Passion*

In the mid-1970s, Bill and Arline Jenkins joined a neighborhood Bible study where they heard about World Vision for the first time. Shortly after, they decided to sponsor a Korean girl named MeeJa. MeeJa was dear to their hearts, and Bill even had the opportunity to visit her, introducing her to a hamburger. In turn, MeeJa introduced Bill to *kimchi*, a spicy Korean dish. Throughout the years, the couple sponsored other children, each child impacting the whole family. “We have a picture of [each] that we put on our Christmas tree every year,” Bill says. “Our kids are grown up now, but when they come over, they still look to see if their pictures are on the tree.” Bill and Arline say their passion for World Vision has grown through the years because they have witnessed the long-term impact on those living in poverty. “We know you do more than help a child,” Bill says. “You adopt a village and help all of the people in that small community.”

GARY CHAPMAN/GENESIS PHOTOS



# 1980s

## World Vision in the 1980s:

- ◀ Relief work scales up to fight the Ethiopia famine
- Rural water projects in West Africa launch
- Operations re-start in Cambodia

## JOHN BJODSTRUP

*Vashon, Washington /  
Commercial banking consultant*

### ***Turning Loss Into Legacy***

As the world's eyes turned to the Ethiopian famine in the mid-1980s, John Bjodstrup's eyes also opened to World Vision. "My wife and I felt that [famine relief] was something we wanted to help with, and we gave to that and got in the habit of giving to various appeals that came up," he says. When John's wife died in 2004, he again turned to World Vision. He recalls, "The loss of life so close to me made me want to do something to try to give life and encourage life." To honor his wife, John began sponsoring six children, added a monthly gift for general support, and put World Vision in his will. His goal, he says, is to make a long-term impact. "We all want to leave a legacy or mark of some kind that can carry on," John says. "World Vision loves nothing more than achieving a lasting goal and moving on. It seems to be a lasting approach, more what Jesus would do."



A monthly pledge ensures your regular gift goes to where it's most needed. To give, visit [wvmag.org/monthlygift](http://wvmag.org/monthlygift).







## DICK AND MARGY GRABLE

*Kailua, Hawaii / Retired probation officer; church and military parish volunteer*

### *Heeding a Pastor's Challenge*

When a new pastor arrived at the small California church Dick and Margy Grable attended in the 1990s, he challenged his congregation to give more and give globally. While the church—and the missions budget—were not large, the pastor brought a new vision: increasing the missions budget incrementally each year until the congregation was giving 50 percent to outreach and missions. During that process, the pastor also introduced the congregation to several international organizations, including World Vision. Dick and Margy decided to sponsor a child, setting them on a path to new understanding as they learned about the developing world's need for basics like clean water and malaria prevention. The family's long-term commitment to sponsorship also affected Dick and Margy's children. "It opened up their eyes to how people were suffering in other parts of the world, and they've even sponsored children on their own," Margy says. "It made a big impression on them."



To sponsor a child, fill out the form between pages 20 and 21 and enclose in attached envelope, or go to [wvmag.org/sponsor](http://wvmag.org/sponsor).

1990s



#### **World Vision in the 1990s:**

- ◀ Staff respond to Rwanda genocide, war in the Balkans
- World Vision's Romania work begins in response to orphanage crisis
- Youth-focused 30 Hour Famine program begins





# 2000s



## World Vision in the 2000s:

- ◀ Organization provides aid and recovery after the Indian Ocean tsunami
- U.S. churches care for children affected by the AIDS pandemic
- Post-Hurricane Katrina response expands U.S. relief efforts

## EARLINE JEFFERSON

Amityville, New York / Retired telephone company worker

### Finding Other Children to Love

Growing up during the Great Depression, Earline Jefferson's mother modeled sacrificial giving to her impressionable daughter. "We weren't rich," Earline says. "But Momma was a giving soul. The beggars would come from the Bowery [lower Manhattan in the 1930s], and she would give." That lesson influenced how Earline has lived her life, constantly sharing her resources with others and her church. "When one gives, you're going to get it back," she says. "[God has] given me food, clothing, shelter, and a lot of what I wanted." Earline also gives of her time. After her youngest son died of AIDS, she started volunteering with AIDS patients at the local hospital. Then a few years later, in 1994, her oldest son died of lung cancer. So in 2005, when her church had a special program about World Vision, Earline began sponsoring children in Cambodia and Zambia. "I love children, and since mine have been gone, I find this as a way of giving back," she says. "With World Vision, I know it's legit. It's God's money, and I have to be a good steward."

# 2010s



## World Vision in 2010-2015:

▲ Relief programs launch after Haiti earthquake

Advocacy work in communities expands

## JEANNIE WANG

Chicago, Illinois / Optometrist

### Running the Race

As Jeannie Wang sat alone in Sunday service at her large Chicago church, she felt led to run a marathon with Team World Vision, a program equipping runners to raise funds for clean water. She wasn't sure she could really do it—she had played sports but never been a long-distance runner—but she wanted to make friends at her new church, so she signed up. A few months later, she crossed the finish line at the 2009 Chicago Marathon. She thought she was done, but God told her to lace her shoes back up. The following spring, while preparing for the same race, she was challenged to find 10 friends to sponsor 10 children to honor the Oct. 10, 2010, race. Jeannie struggled to find friends willing to make that commitment, so she sponsored Daisy, who lives in Kenya, herself. When race day arrived, the thermostat hit 87 degrees

only two hours into the five- to six-hour race. By mile 10, many around her had quit or started walking. "It was so hot, and I wanted to stop at mile 16," Jeannie recalls. "But I couldn't. I was running so this little 4-year-old doesn't have to walk to fetch water. I'm finishing this race for Daisy." Jeannie now captains her church's Team World Vision group, has visited Daisy in Kenya, and witnessed firsthand the water work that her church helped fund in Daisy's community. "Our church loves what World Vision is doing," Jeannie says, "and how they've partnered with communities for so many years and how it reflects God's heart for the poor." ●



With Team World Vision, combine your desire to run with your love of helping children get clean water. For more information, visit [teamworldvision.org](http://teamworldvision.org).





EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

## HIGH ACHIEVER

A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD AIMS FOR HER CITY'S HALL OF FAME.

BY ELIZABETH HENDLEY

In the auditorium of the municipal government building in Huanta, Peru, portraits of past mayors look down at Denise Pariona Lunasco, 24—and she is anything but intimidated. “Of course I want to be mayor,” she says. “I would like to be the first woman.”

She’s already broken one barrier: At age 19, Denise was the youngest mayoral adviser ever elected—not just in Huanta province, but in all of Peru. As an adviser to Huanta’s mayor, Denise advocates on behalf of the area’s children and supports the mayor from her office down the hall from the auditorium.

A decade ago, when she was 14, Denise made her first trip to the mayor’s office—as a member of the World Vision-supported Children’s Parliament. (Read more about the Children’s Parliament and World Vision’s work in Huanta starting on page 14.) During that visit, she and other teenagers talked with the

mayor about children’s rights. Little did she know that she would return just five years later as an elected official with powerful input on decisions that affect Huanta’s youngest citizens.

Her office in the municipal building is just a few blocks from the home Denise shares with her parents and siblings. In their small courtyard, Denise and her mother, Aurora Lunasco, sit side by side, a visual representation of past and present. Denise, with her pinstriped blazer, fashionable jeans, and heels, radiates self-assurance, determination, and potential—everything the youth of Huanta have to look forward to. Aurora wears the traditional outfit of her Quechua people—full skirt, sweater, and long braids—but is no less outspoken than her daughter. Aurora and mothers like her across Huanta put down the roots from which their children have grown and flourished.

Like so many other families, Denisse's parents came to Huanta in 1996 to escape the violence ripping apart the Andean countryside. "When we first came there were only cacti—there were no roads," says Aurora, 54. The family worked to establish a strong foundation in their new community. Her husband, Leonidas Pariona Salazar, and a friend built the family's two-story brick house, and Aurora became involved with World Vision and its partner community organization. With leadership training, Aurora was elected president of the neighborhood association.

She also registered four of her six children in World Vision's sponsorship program, launched in 1996. Kimberly Nachtwey from Port Charlotte, Florida, sponsored Denisse when she was 9. Over the 11 years she was sponsored, Denisse received countless letters, photos, and an extra gift from Kimberly. "My sponsor wrote in a very lovely way, like I was her daughter," Denisse remembers. "In her letters she'd write and always advise me to follow the good way of God, to study and have a good education, and to always have God in my heart."

Denisse and her siblings attended workshops on leadership, rights, values, and spiritual nurture. "I have a lot of faith in God," says Denisse. She attends the main Catholic church in Huanta—located on

the same square as her office.

Child sponsors helped improve the children's current environment, building roads and schools, running nutrition workshops, and supporting local churches. They also supported the children's future, especially through the Children's Parliament. Kids like Denisse realized they had a voice—and that what they had to say was worth listening to.

As the Children's Parliament took shape in 2002, Denisse was there from the beginning and elected its second president. At first, she says, "I was afraid of saying what I thought. I was very shy." Soon she and the other children learned "how to lead, how to listen to the community, and how to make decisions"—and their confidence grew. In addition to weekly meetings, the group served the community with projects like collecting school supplies and toys for needy children and conducting an anti-violence campaign.

It's hard to believe this young woman wasn't always so composed and determined. "World Vision helped me to develop as a person," says Denisse. "I don't consider myself wise, but I see myself different than before."

After excelling in high school, Denisse went on to earn a technical degree in computing from a local university. It wasn't long before she was tapped to serve her community in a more formal way.

Because of her involvement with World Vision and community leadership, Denisse is well known and respected in Huanta—so much so that a local political party asked her to join their ticket in the 2010 election, when she was 19. She was elected, along with the mayor and eight other advisers, to serve a four-year term.

"I wouldn't be [in this office] if World Vision hadn't come," says Denisse. "I'd be without an education, married, with lots of children."

**Children visiting the mayor's office look up to Denisse.**

*"I couldn't have achieved what I've achieved if it hadn't been for World Vision."*

—DENISSE PARIONA LUNASCO

But my parents took the opportunity to continue my life dreams. I couldn't have achieved what I've achieved if it hadn't been for World Vision."

She drew on her leadership and advocacy experience with the Children's Parliament to prepare for her new role. "[World Vision] didn't waste its time training her," says Rodomiro Chavez Rey Sanchez, the mayor Denisse worked for until their term ended in January. "She shines beauty in this government, she works hard."

Back at the municipal building on a bright November morning, a group of second graders from nearby Luricocha—a district in Huanta province—show up for a visit. A dozen children and their adult chaperones file into the mayor's office. Sitting behind the big wooden desk with a Peruvian flag at one end and the flag of Huanta province on the other, Denisse welcomes the group and fields questions from the children and adults. She's poised and professional but quick to flash a warm smile—after all, she once was one of them.

In addition to working full time for the mayor and serving as her neighborhood president, Denisse is also studying accounting at the University Peruana de los Andes, a private university in Ayacucho, about an hour's drive from Huanta. She won't stop there: Denisse has her sights set on a master's degree in finance and auditing, and perhaps a law degree after that. Eventually, though, she sees herself back in the municipal building as the mayor of Huanta—complete with her portrait on the wall. ●

**TO SPONSOR A CHILD** fill out the form between pages 20 and 21 and enclose in attached envelope, or go to [wvmag.org/sponsor](http://wvmag.org/sponsor).



EUGENE LEE/WORLD VISION

# Awash in Life-Giving Water

BY KATIE SMITH MILWAY

**We travel down** a dirt track in southern Zambia and into a crowd of 50 brightly dressed men, women, and children singing and dancing as our vehicle comes to a halt. Today the World Vision rig is going to drill for water to create a clean source for 27 households and 114 people in this arid community of Namadula.

To date, villagers have had a choice between nearby polluted water from a broken-down dam or a borehole well with clean water more than four miles away. Just the day before we arrived, the drill team worked long hours on a borehole for this village—but the hole came up dry.

Today, however, the people of Namadula are brimming with hope. As a sponsor of three World Vision children—one in Zambia—so am I. A clean water source right in the village will mean more girls like Mercy, our Zambian “daughter,” can go to school instead of carrying water from a distant source. I’m excited to see our sponsorship dollars in action, creating benefits for all children in the community.

In John 7:37, Jesus tells the people gathered around him, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me ... streams of living water will flow within him.” His metaphor for slaking spiritual thirst draws on the most basic physical need of every part of his creation—hydration. As donors who are followers of Christ, our outpouring of holy streams of living water that flow from within have helped provide life-giving water for others. That water is not just sustaining, but also enriching.

For example, I’ve witnessed how clean water close by frees up time for economic pursuits. In another Zambian village, a World Vision well helped Emily Syabubila and her three children when they needed it most after her husband died. His relatives took the family livestock and furnishings, an age-old tradition, albeit illegal under modern law. “I had nothing for me and the children but a roof over our head,” says Emily.

But she did have time, thanks to the close proximity of her community’s new water supply. So Emily applied for and was awarded a year-long contract with World Vision to teach weaving to other women. She also had time to work as a



COURTESY KATIE SMITH MILWAY

*“They said, ‘We’ve found water.’”*

— GENESIS 26:32

**In Sinazongwe, Zambia, Katie Smith Milway (left) helps Joyce Siakalebonene carry clean water from the World Vision-provided village well to Joyce’s home.**

seamstress, and she soon obtained her first World Vision loan of about \$75 to buy a sewing machine and start a business making school uniforms. Two additional loans allowed her to start successful fish and agriculture businesses.

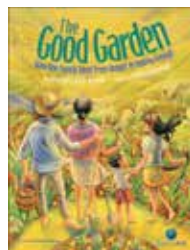
With her profits, Emily sent all three of her children to high school. Giving the glory for her success to God, she also found time to give back as a village healthcare volunteer.

Back at Namadula’s drill site, I know that if water can be found today, more stories like Emily’s will soon be unfolding. As I wait, a tall woman in yellow introduces herself, telling me she and nine others in the village have formed a water, sanitation, and hygiene committee. They have already

met to assign roles—she is chairperson—and agree on a contribution from each household that will maintain their new well. “We are so thankful,” she says. “As you help us, so we should help others.”

Now it is up to six men in blue jumpsuits manning the World Vision rig. They pray, and soon pure, life-giving, life-changing, water sprays forth.

The women, who have kept up a steady song and beat, go wild with ululation. My cheeks feel spray—or is it tears? Now more children will be healthy, more girls will go to school, and more families can improve their livelihoods. And all will feel the effects of our living streams of water flowing outward, reaching others with Christ’s very tangible love. ●



**Katie Smith Milway** is a board member of World Vision U.S. Her family sponsors children in Zambia, Swaziland, and Kenya. Katie is also a best-selling author of children’s books that focus on world issues, including *The Good Garden*, *One Hen*, and *Mimi’s Village*.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

# LIFE FRAMES



## BANGLADESH

“A little girl at one of the Child-Friendly Spaces grabbed all our hearts. Her name, Sonali, means ‘golden’ in Bengali. Her mother, a prostitute since age 10, invited the women in our group to see her place of business across the street. It was a moment I needed to capture. When the women gathered around her and laid hands on her in prayer, everyone was in tears. No one wants Sonali to end up in the brothel. At times the sex trade and child trafficking seem invincible. But we know that love will win in the end. Always.” ●

Written and photographed by Jon Warren  
*Nikon D810 camera, 35mm lens,  
1/640th exposure, f/2.2, 320 ISO*

**LIFE  
FRAMES**

READ MORE REFLECTIONS BY  
WORLD VISION PHOTOGRAPHERS  
AT [WVMAG.ORG/LIFEFRAMES](http://WVMAG.ORG/LIFEFRAMES).

# Hidden behind Bolivia's beauty is a child who needs your help.

Colomi, Bolivia, is home to soaring mountains, rushing rivers, and lush greenery. But a closer look reveals a malnutrition rate of 40 percent for children under age 5, drinking water polluted by pesticides, and young children left alone all day as parents struggle to earn a living.

Sponsor a child in Colomi and show God's love—and yours! Help bring life-changing essentials to a child and their entire community with basics like nutritious food, clean water, healthcare, education, child protection, and more.



Vidma, 9



Jose Angel, 2



Patricia, 7

Here are three of the nearly **400 children in Colomi, Bolivia**, who are waiting for a sponsor like you.

Call **1.866.952.4453** or visit  
**worldvision.org/Colomi** to sponsor now.

*If the child you choose is already sponsored, you can choose another in Colomi or a different World Vision community who still needs a sponsor.*

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