

WorldVision

WINTER 2010



CREATING

ART FREES CHILDREN TO IMAGINE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

JOY



“It was crucial to create our estate plan early on.

Because of our work with seniors, we’ve seen what happens when you don’t have a plan in place. So it was important for us to have a will and to include World Vision. It’s part of our legacy.”

Our names are

Jack & Jacqueline St. Clair

And World Vision is helping us have a lasting impact.

Do your current plans reflect the legacy you wish to leave? If you have questions or would like assistance, call 1.888.852.4453.

Read more stories like the St. Clairs’ at www.worldvision.org/mylegacy.

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WORLD VISION

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ISABELA STEFAN/WORLD VISION



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

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ANN BIRCH/WORLD VISION

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Celebrating Children

BY RICH STEARNS

When my children were small, they often brought home art projects they'd made at school. Around Christmas, they'd make ornaments featuring stuff like dry macaroni glued to Styrofoam or felt, covered in glitter or sequins—the perfect accent for any holiday decor.

From a purely aesthetic point of view, these creations were goofy-looking. But because they came from our children, Reneé and I hung them proudly on our tree—a tradition we continue today with the children's handmade ornaments we've saved. I chuckled last year watching Pete and Grace, home from college for Christmas, vying over whose creation topped the tree—Pete's Little Drummer Boy made of toilet-paper rolls or Grace's carefully crafted angel.

I was thinking of this recently as I reflected on God's love for me. In the same way, our heavenly Father receives our offerings—helping out an elderly neighbor, volunteering at a soup kitchen—with joy and pride. Sometimes our efforts might look to him like old pasta and gluey glitter, but he sees into our hearts and cherishes them. I like to think he hangs our rudimentary “art” on his Christmas tree.

Of course, God doesn't love us for what we do, but for who we are. And because we're loved so powerfully and personally, we're enabled to show love, and the source of love, to others—especially children.

Child sponsorship is one of the best ways I know to affirm a child who sorely needs it. Sadly, children living in poverty often don't get many opportunities to feel special. Their parents are focused on survival—sometimes devoting every waking thought to it—without much attention left over to encourage or celebrate their children. But then a person faraway writes a letter or sends a card. To a child, the knowledge that someone cares is priceless.

The caring can go both ways. Here's how Daniel Cubel



MAGDA CAMANARU/WORLD VISION

A winter scene drawn by a Romanian child.

*“For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given ...”*

—ISAIAH 9:6

recently responded to our popular question, “Why do you love being a child sponsor?”: “I love being a child sponsor because I can reach out through my offerings and help a child less fortunate than me. In return, I receive the simplest treasures of crayon drawings by the innocent hands of a child half a world away but connected to me by the simple act of caring for each other—her drawings to me and my sponsorship of her.”

Christmas is the ultimate celebration of a child who would change the world. In this issue, we present art by children, highlighting their gifts and possibilities. Despite their limited circumstances,

these kids have great ideas for their communities and dreams for their future. And that's the goal of child sponsorship, that children enjoy not only good health and education but that they might participate in making their world a better place. God created each of them for a purpose. Looking at their drawings, you get a glimmer of what God sees in full.

If you already sponsor a child, I thank you for all you're doing. Perhaps that includes displaying your sponsored child's crayon drawings in your home or office for all to see, an invitation to talk about sponsorship. And this Christmas, may I invite you to ask yourself if there's room in your heart for another child. To sign up, you can use the form attached here or go to www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.

As you care for your sponsored child or take on another, I imagine God hanging that “art project” on his wall, rejoicing in your labor of love that contributes to the masterpiece of his kingdom. ●



KEEP UP WITH Rich at
www.facebook.com/RichardStearns.WVUS

FRONTLINES

Compiled by James Addis



ANN BIRCH/WORLD VISION

f

WAITING GAME

A food crisis builds quietly, without the drama of most emergencies. Cameras capture mothers and children sitting still, stoic. But that doesn't mean there isn't valiant effort behind the scenes. This mother, Aichatou, in Zinder, Niger, has done everything in her power to feed her 14-month-old son, Ali, and two other children. She makes baskets, spending a full week to finish just one, which might sell for about 50 cents. Her husband is trying to find work in Nigeria, so far only sending enough to buy a single sack of corn. Across Niger, women scratch in the dirt outside food warehouses for spilled grains of rice, and parents feed their children plants normally thrown to cattle, just to put something in

their stomachs. But it's a losing battle in a country where there's an annual "hunger season," where rains have failed two years running and crops have withered, placing 1.5 million children at risk. The hope: World Vision received a \$1 million U.S. government grant to bolster emergency feeding programs and help nearly 28,000 hungry children. This year, a mother's persistence will pay off. But Niger needs more than a quick fix. World Vision supports the Global Food Security Act, providing sustainable hunger-fighting programs in the developing world. Without real change, families like Aichatou's are forced to play a waiting game—for rain, for harvest, for help. ●

WORLD WATCH



PAKISTAN

MUHAMMAD ALI/WORLD VISION

PAKISTAN | MONSOON MISERY

Unprecedented flooding in August left 10 million people without shelter and prompted mass outbreaks of water-borne disease. The total number adversely affected exceeded those hurt by the Asia tsunami and the Haiti earthquake combined. World Vision is distributing food, clean water, shelter materials, and medical assistance to survivors in the hard-hit Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, targeting 300,000 people.

UNITED STATES | WOMEN SHINE

Former homeless women showed off their new wardrobes at a Beverly Hills fashion show held in their honor in June. The women were beneficiaries of World Vision's Second Start program, which helps women recovering from domestic violence, drugs, and alcohol abuse and provides them with new clothes to help them secure jobs.



UNITED STATES

EMILY WONG/WORLD VISION



ANNIE LOI/WORLD VISION

CHINA | FEROCIOUS FLOODS

Continuous torrential rainstorms in southern provinces in June swept away houses, food supplies, bridges, and crops, adversely affecting 44 million people. World Vision began distributing rice rations to 41,000 people in Jiangxi and Hunan provinces, along with hygiene kits and quilts.

ROMANIA | FLOOD RELIEF

Heavy rains in north and central Romania in July caused the river Danube to rise to record levels, flooding 250,000 hectares of arable land and destroying



AIDS AND CHILDREN

Among children < 15 ...

2 MILLION

are infected with AIDS

1,000

are newly infected with HIV every day

750

die every day from AIDS related disease

SOURCE: UNAIDS

Take action against AIDS on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.
www.worldvision.org/worldaidsday

livestock and houses. In Dorohoi town, World Vision provided emergency relief supplies such as clothes and shoes to 880 families and established a Child-Friendly Space for displaced children. In Cluj, the organization provided water pumps to dry out affected areas and construction materials to reinforce damaged housing.

SRI LANKA | LIVELIHOODS RESTORED

Families in Pallikuda, who were able to return home after Sri Lanka's long-running civil war ended, received 28 fishing



STEFAN TRAPPE/ADH

boats equipped with outboard motors to help restore their livelihoods. The boats are part of an ongoing World Vision program to help returnees re-establish themselves. The program also includes the distribution of cattle, poultry, and carpentry and agricultural tools. About 288,000 people were displaced in the 26-year war between government forces and Tamil Tigers.

MOZAMBIQUE | CHOLERA FIGHT

Communities displaced by flooding in April are redoubling their efforts to prevent



WORLD VISION

a cholera outbreak from spreading. World Vision and UNICEF are helping villagers in resettlement areas improve sanitary conditions, especially through latrine construction. World Vision distributed food, hygiene supplies, mosquito nets, and water purifiers after the flooding, which affected 130,000 people and destroyed 330,000 tons of grain.

UNITED STATES | CONFLICT-FREE COMPUTERS

A bill passed by Congress in July will address the issue of companies sourcing minerals, commonly found in laptop computers and cell phones, from conflict zones in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The law will require public disclosure and audits of companies sourcing from the region. World Vision helped draft the relevant provisions in the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010. Trade in commodities such as tin ore, tungsten, and gold

are a major source of funding for armed groups committing violence and rape.

CENTRAL AMERICA | STORM FLIGHT

Thousands fled their homes in May after Tropical Storm Agatha caused major landslides and flooding in El Salvador and Guatemala. World Vision helped evacuate families to safety and distributed food, hygiene kits, sweaters, and blankets to more than 90 families forced to live in emergency shelters.

LESOTHO | CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

More than 100 children from all over the country spoke about issues that affect them during a mock session in the country's national parliament to mark the Day of the African Child on June 16. During the World Vision-organized event, children spoke up about child abuse and the plight of orphans and vulnerable children created by AIDS. ●

FATAL FOR CHILDREN

Countries with highest number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

ANGOLA*
178.13

AFGHANISTAN*
151.50

NIGER*
114.50

MALI*
113.66

SOMALIA*
107.42

MOZAMBIQUE*
103.82

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
101.60

ZAMBIA*
99.92

GUINEA-BISSAU
98.05

CHAD*
97.05

*Indicates where World Vision is working to alleviate poverty.

SOURCE: THE WORLD FACTBOOK

ON THE GROUND

George Siame is a child sponsorship coordinator in Makungwa, Zambia.



KWENDA PAPI/WORLD VISION

“ I LOVE FIELD WORK, and it really is my passion. Most importantly, I love interacting with children—spending time with children and having words of encouragement for them. When I encourage a child who has faced challenges in life and that piece of encouragement changes the child's negative mindset to a positive one, I just feel great about it.” ●

RED SHOES FOR RWANDA



“I want my children to see how blessed we are and what is really going on in this world.”

—SHERIDAN ELLIS

A colorful fundraising campaign captures a town's imagination.

Self-confessed “girly girl” Sheridan Ellis is unabashed to admit that she has a deep and long-standing affection for shoes—her magnificent collection includes 50 pairs of red shoes alone.

But the mother of two also has a heart for impoverished children. At times, that has caused her to cast aside the girly image and don rough work clothes to do construction work on an orphanage in Nepal and a children's camp in Mexico. And after seeing the film “Hotel Rwanda,” about the Rwandan genocide, she longed to put her energies into helping distressed children in the central-African country.

The result is her Red Shoes for Rwanda campaign, whereby Sheridan vowed to wear red shoes every single day in 2010—whether they match her outfit or not.

Well-wishers agreed to sponsor her up

to \$2 a day for the effort, and all money raised will support World Vision's projects to benefit children in Rwanda.

Interest in Sheridan's tiny hometown of Quilcene, Wash., with a population of about 650, snowballed following a story in the local newspaper and has kept up momentum via regular updates on Sheridan's blog site, redshoesforrwanda.blogspot.com.

Quilcene now hosts Red Shoe Friday. Once a week, townspeople don their own red shoes to demonstrate their support for the campaign.

Sheridan says her children, Jacob, 12, and Cecily, 18, think she is a little crazy but are also supportive. “I want my children to see how blessed we are and what is really going on in this world,” she says. “I hope they can see that through this project.”

She adds that it's hard for her to imagine her own children struggling like many in Rwanda do, particularly those who have

lost both parents due to AIDS. “It would be nice to think that if that happened to them, there would be someone—even some stranger thousands of miles away—who would be willing to do something to help them.” ●



ABBY METT/WORLD VISION (2)

CHANGE AGENT

NAME Eric Joss

HOME Los Angeles, Calif.

OCCUPATION Lawyer

PROGRAM Child Ambassadors



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

THE BUZZ

When Eric Joss, a partner in the international law firm Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, read Richard Stearns' book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, he was shaken to learn that more than 24,000 children die every day from causes related to poverty. He decided he must do something about it. Eric signed up to become a World Vision Child Ambassador to encourage other people to become child sponsors. He has been holding lunchtime meetings at his firm's various offices to spread the word. In less than a year, he has found sponsors for more than 80 children. ●

"I was placed on this platform to do something more than practice law."

—ERIC JOSS

INSPIRE OTHERS to sponsor children in need. Visit www.wvchildambassadors.org.



WHAT CAN I DO?

Four ways to introduce others to the joy of child sponsorship.

1 HOPE SUNDAY

Hope Sunday is a simple, unique opportunity to share with your church why you sponsor a child and the difference it makes. Let others know how sponsoring a child has changed your life—and why they'll love becoming sponsors, too. www.worldvision.org/hopesunday

2 FIND A SPONSOR

Imagine if every World Vision child sponsor in the United States could find one other person to sponsor too. That would mean another 670,000 children sponsored. Ask a friend or family member to sponsor today. www.worldvision.org/findasponsor

3 CHILD AMBASSADOR

Become a World Vision Child Ambassador and inspire others in your community to sponsor a child. ● www.worldvision.org/childambassador

TASTY TRADITION



HILARY SMITH SHAY/GENESIS PHOTOS

THE WEEKS leading up to Christmas are a frantic time of year for most families, but for the Lehn family of Maplewood, Minn., it's even busier than most.

Carole and her four children (pictured above) turn their kitchen into a bakery and spend hours each night turning out a delicious array of treats including apple pie, cheesecake, fudge, and white-chocolate Christmas bark. It's all for the annual Lehn family Christmas bake sale, which raises money to purchase items from World Vision's Gift Catalog.

The idea for the bake sale occurred to Carole after the family had set up a jar on the counter in their home to collect loose change. Each Christmas, money from the jar was used to buy goats from the Gift Catalog for families in need.

Carole says the jar worked well, but she felt her children could do more. "It seemed too easy for them to put money in a jar, so we came up with the idea where they could put some labor into it," she says.

That was more than five years ago. Today, the bake sale raises about \$1,200 each year, which means each of the Lehn children have about \$300 to spend on gifts.

Daughter Marta, a fudge-making specialist, describes the bake sale as a lot of fun. "We get to earn a lot of money for it, and even though we don't get to keep that money, we get to give it to other people. That helps them more than it would help us," she says. ●

CHOOSE Christmas gifts from World Vision's Gift Catalog. See the insert between pages 16 and 17.



KEVIN VANDIER, GENESIS PHOTOS (2)

It works. Currently, more child sponsors sign up at Killeen than at any other Family Christian Stores outlet. It's an impressive effort. Since 2004, Family Christian Stores have found sponsors for tens of thousands of children.

Kathy says it helps that her store is located near Fort Hood—one of the largest military bases in the country. "There are a lot of servicemen and women coming into our store. They are very open to child sponsorship, because a lot of them have been deployed overseas. They know what it is like," she says.

"When they see the dirty bottle of water, they say, 'Yeah, and sometimes it looks even worse.'"

Family Christian Stores Vice President Hal Bailey says the relationship with World Vision is a good fit for the company, which in 2004 established the James Fund to care for orphans and widows. He adds that his company's stores are selling more books on poverty and justice themes. "The topics are more of interest," he says. "It's the big picture of what God is doing with us as his people." ●



STORE OF HOPE

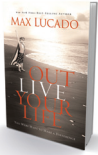
A retailer's conversation piece provokes hundreds to sponsor children.

A BOTTLE of filthy water on a sales counter might look out of place in a modern retail store, but Kathy Williams is making sure it stays there.

The manager of the Family Christian Stores in Killeen, Texas, says the unappetizing liquid proves an excellent visual aid when store staff describe to customers that such water is what millions of children in the developing world are forced to drink every day. This often leads to a discussion about what can be done about global poverty and an invitation to consider sponsoring a child.

TO SPONSOR A CHILD visit your local Family Christian Stores (www.familychristian.com), use the form between pages 4 and 5, or go to www.worldvision.org/ReadandRespond.

WRAP UP A GOOD READ



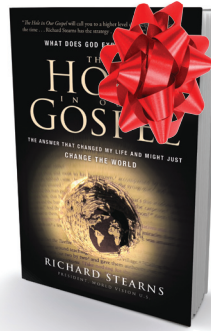
OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE
By Max Lucado

At Pentecost, the Spirit came down and ignited believers to preach the gospel and deliver justice for the forgotten. Max Lucado wonders, Might it happen again? His answer is “yes.” He challenges us to make a difference that will last beyond our time on earth. familychristian.com



WARRIOR PRINCESS
By Princess Zulu

When Princess Kasune Zulu discovered she was HIV-positive, she became a passionate advocate for fellow sufferers. She has gone from a dusty Zambian village to presenting her case at the White House and the United Nations. Her message: We all have a role to play in bringing hope and healing. princesszulu.com



THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL
By Richard Stearns

World Vision U.S. President Richard Stearns poses the question, “What does God expect of us?” The answer changed his life and might just change the world. After reading the book, visit theholeinourgospel.com to find study guides, inspiring stories, and the author’s blog. worldvisionresources.com



THE GOOD GARDEN
By Katie Smith Milway

This children's book, based on a true story about an 11-year-old girl and her farming family in Honduras, shows how new knowledge about tending the land with care can transform the plight of the poor. Illustrations by Sylvie Daigneault. thegoodgarden.org



ONLINE MAGAZINE

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WHY I LOVE BEING A CHILD SPONSOR

KRISTY AND PETE KIERNAN,
FAIRHOPE, ALA.

COURTESY KIERNAN FAMILY



WHEN WE BRING home a new baby, we send birth announcements and plan baptisms, but we have another tradition as well. We gather around the computer and look for a World Vision “twin.” We want our children who are growing up in typical Western privilege to care about those who will not. So 10-year-old Abby shares a birthday with Jyoti from India; Claire will turn 8 on the same day as Silindile from Swaziland; Anna, 3, shares a birthday with Josephine from Zimbabwe; and our son, Andrew, will turn 2 with Juan Pablo from Chile. Our older children feel a real connection with their sponsored “sisters.” To them, Jyoti and Silindile are not charity projects; they are real girls with the same dreams as my daughters. ●

TELL US YOUR STORY Why do you love being a child sponsor? Write the editors at wvmagazine@worldvision.org.



+



FACEBOOK FOR SPONSORS

Be sure to check out World Vision on Facebook. We've added a dedicated tab just for child sponsors with everything you need to know about sponsoring a child. Find up-to-date information, photos, videos, and discussions. Share your passion for children in need with all of your friends. ● facebook.com/worldvision

THE ART

of

CHILDHOOD





**DRAWING, PAINTING, AND CREATING CAN
HELP UNLOCK CHILDREN'S AMAZING POTENTIAL—
AND CHANGE THEIR COMMUNITIES. »**



Christmas art produced by a member of the "Friends of Colors," a painting club for sponsored children in Romania.

What does it mean to build a better world for children? In part, it's tangible: constructing schools and health clinics, digging clean-water wells, or providing families with food and loans. But there's more to the monumental task World Vision has made its mission. A better world for children is one that children themselves help create.

Armed with a crayon, pencil, or paintbrush, a child documents the world from a unique perspective, depicting what burdens him or what brings her joy. A boy becomes an expert on what's working in his community. A girl expresses the things she can't otherwise say.

World Vision encourages children's creativity in various ways. A simple drawing transcends language when a sponsored child communicates with faraway sponsors. In rural communities, art-based activities inspire boys and girls to rejoice in what's beautiful about their surroundings as well as dream bigger, beyond the boundaries of their parents' poverty. Creative therapy can unlock the buried pain of exploited children or those affected by war and disasters. And in almost any context, drawing and coloring connect disadvantaged children to the carefree fun of childhood. Whatever they produce is special and celebrated, no matter its technical quality.

In this issue, enjoy a peek into the lives of children around the world through their art.



**“I WISH THAT MY VILLAGE
WAS A BEAUTIFUL AND
LOVELY PLACE AND [THAT IT
IS] ALWAYS SUMMER HERE.”**

ALEN M., 10

“I want to show that the soldier’s mother is very glad her son has returned from war, and his siblings are rejoicing with their mom. I wish there is always peace and happiness for the people of my village.”

TAMARA O., 10





"A little girl is crying because she fell down and has a wound, but a boy is trying to comfort her by offering her his ice cream. Another girl is playing volleyball with a boy sitting in a wheelchair. The disabled children must play with other children, too."

PAUL ANDREI N., 11

"A man's diligence and wisdom lies in his hands. From our magical hands appear the world's greatest achievements. The hands build, pat, and calm down the pain."

FLORIN L., 17





"World Vision Through My Eyes is the name of this drawing. I see World Vision like an unconditional, gentle hand devoted to its cause, which is helping hopeless kids. For me, World Vision is my friend."

DENISA ANDREEA C., 18

"I ADORE GOING FISHING. I HAVE MY OWN FISHING LINE, AND I CONSIDER MYSELF VERY LUCKY IN CATCHING FISH." *ANDREI A., 9*





“AS A LITTLE GIRL, I HAD A SECRET WISH: TO BECOME A LADY DOCTOR. BUT NOT ANY DOCTOR—A SPECIAL ONE THAT CAN CURE PEOPLE, FLOWERS, AND STARS AND SEND AWAY THE WHOLE EVIL FROM THE EARTH.”

TEODORA G., 15



"I love to paint, to act, to sing, but what I love the most is dancing. I already imagine myself as a famous ballerina on the world's biggest stages."

MIHAELA MADALINA B., 16



"I love winter very much, because it's the season of holidays and school vacations. I have lots of fun in winter with my friends—we play in the snow, start snowball fights, and make snowmen and angels."

MARIA L., 12

VIETNAM



"I hope I'll be a teacher when I grow up."

THAO NGUYEN T., 14

"My wish is there will be much change in my hometown. There'll be more means of transport so local people find it easy to travel. All poor children can go to school, and all people are happy with their families."

THI THU N., 15





“MY WISH IS [THAT] THE LIFE OF PEOPLE IN MY HOMETOWN WILL BE IMPROVED. FARMERS WILL USE TRACTORS INSTEAD OF BUFFALOES TO PLOUGH IN THE FIELD, AND WE’LL HAVE PUMPING MACHINES TO TAKE WATER FROM THE RIVER TO THE FIELD.”

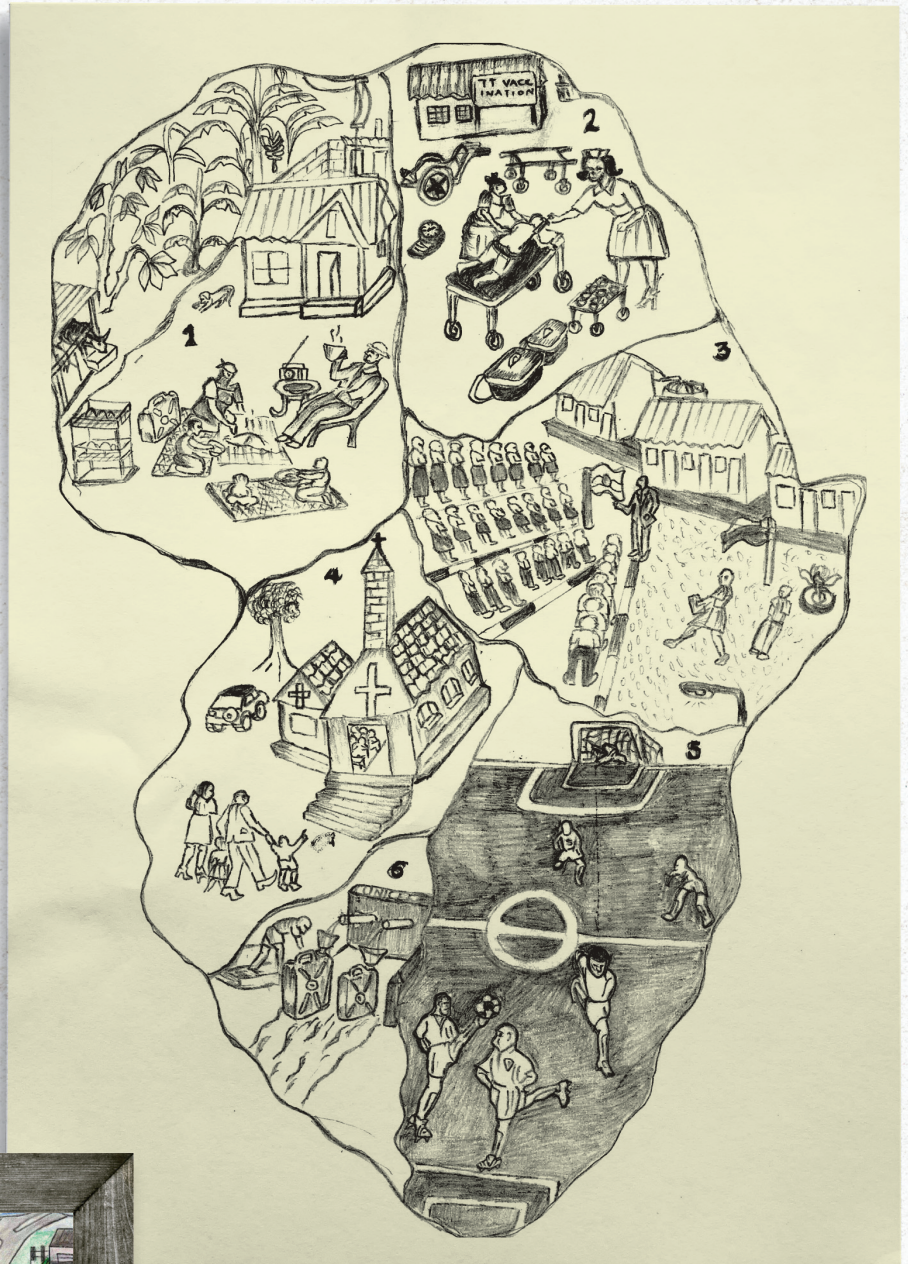
THI KIM HANG C., 16

AFRICAN NATIONS



“MY VILLAGE SHOULD BE LIKE A FAMILY THAT HAS GOOD PARENTS WHO PROVIDE A CHILD WITH CARE AND A BALANCED DIET.”

*BRIAN BIRIMUYE S.,
16, UGANDA*



“My village needs electricity for children to study at night and good houses for us to live in. It also needs hospitals, libraries, playgrounds, and a shopping center that make our lives good.”

NOMPUMELELO K., 15, SOUTH AFRICA



"In my village, I would want peace to prevail. If peace is present, even the children can be able to excel. A peaceful village enables parents to take their children to clinics and schools without any fear."

*KAKOZI CHRISTOME L.,
16, TANZANIA*

"All people live on food. So I like farming, since it brings food to us all. Hunger can bring poverty in homes. Hunger can cause disease, and disease kills. I want to be a farmer and protect my family from hunger."

NANCY M., 15, ZAMBIA ●

THE ART of PARTICIPATION

CHILDREN'S ART CHALLENGES A COMMUNITY TO CHANGE.

by James Addis

CHILDREN'S NEEDS are at the heart of the matter when addressing ways to strengthen communities. While adults—especially parents—can speak to what's best for children, an effective but commonly overlooked approach is to consult the children themselves.

This is a key concern for Meg Audette, a member of World Vision's child development and protection team. In contexts as diverse as the Middle East, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia, she has worked to ensure children's voices are heard and their views incorporated into the design and

evaluation of World Vision's programs.

Verbal communication is not always effective, Meg says. "Given that in most of the cultures where we are working, children should be seen and not heard, asking children questions directly is often not the best way of getting their genuine ideas," she explains. "Drawings, games, and other art forms give children a more natural platform to share their ideas."

At a World Vision project evaluation in Bonthe, Sierra Leone, Meg led an exercise in which children were asked to produce three drawings—one representing their community in the past, a second

depicting their community today, and a third showing how they would like to see it in the future.

"People assume that children will just focus on schools and playgrounds, which is not the case," Meg says. The children drew detailed water wells and highlighted hygiene problems by showing someone defecating in a field. They also depicted exploitative child labor practices in the past, including scenes of children carrying heavy loads and children not in school. In the present, they noted the current use of zinc rather than thatch for roofing material and the

In a project evaluation in Sierra Leone, children were asked to draw their views of their community—past, present, and future.





construction of houses of worship in their communities. Scenes of the future included nicer houses with electric light as well as hospitals, banks, colleges, police stations, and cell-phone towers.

“Children really do use the drawings to communicate, not just to draw a picture,” Meg says, “and they don’t miss much.”

Once they had completed their drawings, the children were able to explain their ideas much more easily. Meg says that when adults in Bonthe viewed the pictures and summaries of the children’s discussions, they were surprised by how much detail the

children captured. The artwork showed that children’s concerns extended beyond issues that directly affected them, such as education and recreation, into areas like transportation, communications infrastructure, and good governance. As one adult put it: “When I came to the meeting, I saw the drawings on the wall, and I thought, *Look at those funny drawings*. It was only when I looked at them closely that I saw that children have something to say.”

As a result, adults participating in the evaluation vowed to involve children more in decision-making, stop harsh

physical punishments, and curb their use of abusive language and shouting.

But the greatest transformation following such art-based communication exercises is among the children themselves, Meg says. “Seeing the way they speak with greater confidence, reaffirming what they share—all of these things seem to positively impact children. Often, I look around the room and just feel very blessed with how children are engaging with the process, and [I feel] very lucky to be part of it.” ●



**“DRAWINGS, GAMES,
AND OTHER ART
FORMS GIVE
CHILDREN A MORE
NATURAL PLATFORM
TO SHARE THEIR
IDEAS.” —MEG AUDETTE**

future

THE ART of HEALING

HOW ART HELPS GIRLS OVERCOME THE WORST KINDS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

by James Addis

AFTER CHAKRIYA'S* parents died of AIDS when she was 5, the girl lived with her aunt and uncle in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The aunt loved her, but the uncle beat her. At 15, she fled and moved in with friends. But money was tight, and Chakriya needed to earn her keep. A girl-friend suggested she join her working as a waitress. "You can get as high a salary as you want," the friend said. That sounded good, so Chakriya went to the restaurant. Immediately, she realized something

was amiss—many other girls were there, too. A man took her into a private room. "I was very shocked, because the man then ordered me to take off my clothes," Chakriya recalls. "I did not say anything, but I cried." Trapped, she became a sex worker, earning 20,000 *Riel* (about \$5) from each customer, with half to be paid to the restaurant owner.

Two years later, police raided the restaurant, and Chakriya was transferred to World Vision's Trauma Recovery Center

in Phnom Penh, a residential care program. The center helps girls who have endured the worst kinds of sexual exploitation imaginable. Many of them suffer severe depression, with bouts of crying, withdrawal, and nightmares. Others exhibit risky sexual behaviors or, as in Chakriya's case, they fight with other girls and staff. Many conclude they have no hope of marriage—a devastating blow in Khmer culture. The challenge for house parents and counselors is to bring

At World Vision's Trauma Recovery Center, art is used to help children explain and understand their experiences.



“WE CAN’T CHANGE THE SITUATION, BUT WE CAN CHALLENGE HOW THEY LOOK AT IT.” — DR. LAURA MURRAY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

hope amid a deep level of despair.

Art is one approach to help children explain and understand their experiences and ultimately bring healing. It’s proved useful at the Trauma Recovery Center, where it was introduced as part of a broader treatment known as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy. Dr. Laura Murray, an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University and specialist in the technique, trains and monitors World Vision counselors in its use.

Laura says children’s views and feelings about their experiences can perpetuate the trauma. For example, when the girls recall being left at a brothel by close family members—even their mothers—they may blame themselves.

“A lot of these girls feel they acquiesced, and [they] feel like they had a responsibility: ‘I should have taken better care of my family’ ... ‘I should have found a way to send them more money’ ... ‘No one is ever going to marry me’ ... ‘I’m dirty,’” Laura explains.

The therapy aims to help children see that what happened is not their fault. “We can’t change the situation, but we can challenge how they look at it,” she says.

Cognitive behavior therapy uses relaxation techniques to help prepare a child to produce a “trauma narrative”—the story of their harrowing ordeal. When words fail, counselors encourage children to express themselves through paintings and drawing, as well as play, dance, and puppets. The children’s pictures might depict a brothel owner or a client as a devil, or they may draw scenes of rape, beatings, drug use, or that unforgettable moment of being left at the brothel.

Laura says that such therapy requires extreme care. If a child is not exhibiting any ongoing negative symptoms from a traumatic experience, the therapy may not be necessary. But if the child struggles with nightmares or other debilitating consequences, the therapy can be transformative. It’s like treating a cut, Laura says: “You expose it, and your mom

sprays something on it,” she says. “It stings for a bit, but you’re pretty sure it won’t cause further infection. We clean out the wound.”

Once the experience is committed to paper, Laura says, it becomes something that no longer needs to keep repeating in the child’s head. “That event was taking up all their brain space. It was like a never-ending reel of a movie that just keeps running through their brain. We try to get to the point where that movie is old, and we can put it on a shelf.”

Among those who have been transformed by the therapy is Chakriya. “Instead of making trouble, I am now helping others who may need help,” she says. “I have let my sorrow go like a balloon, and now I am starting a new life.” She plans to set up a sewing shop using skills she developed at the center. ●

** Name changed to protect identity.*

—With reporting by Chap Sovannraksmeay.



SOPHEAK KONGWORLD VISION (2)



LISA SABELLA/WORLD VISION

LEFT: Badia with husband Marwan and children Rana, Yara, and Elias. BELOW: Badia as a first-grader.

BY LISA SABELLA

ARISE, LITTLE GIRL

HOW A FORMER SPONSORED CHILD GOT A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION IN THE CONFLICT-TORN MIDDLE EAST.

Despite being born to a poor family in one of the most troubled regions of the world, Badia Sourì, 40, can look back with thankfulness because of the blessings and opportunities brought by being a sponsored child.

Growing up in a Christian family with five children in Gaza, Badia felt poverty's effects at a young age. Her father could work only sporadically after losing one of his lungs to gangrene, so the family survived chiefly on Badia's mother's meager salary as a nurse aid and some support from their local church.

Despite their limited means, Badia's parents sent Badia, at age 6, to a Christian boarding school near Bethlehem called Talitha Kumi, meaning "Arise Little Girl." Two years later, she became sponsored through World Vision, which covered her fees through the rest of her school career. "The sponsors really helped me, because the tuition fees were expensive for us," Badia says.



COURTESY BADIA SOURÌ

Badia was encouraged by the letters and gifts from her U.S. sponsors, Katherine and Cullen Sabin. "I remember one birthday, I got a yellow duck. I kept that duck for years and took care of it," she says. "I felt like there was someone out there who cared about me."

School opened a new world to her. "With our own parents we did not get to go to Tel Aviv or Jaffa or Haifa, but we got to go with the school. In October, we used to go to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and pick olives."

But conflict inevitably impacted the school, especially during the Palestinian uprising known as the First Intifada. "In 1988, I was in Tawjihe [final exams], and the Israeli authorities closed the entire West Bank," Badia recalls. "The school sent us to Jerusalem to study."

Badia graduated from Talitha Kumi, went to college in Ramallah, and eventually became an assistant manager for an insurance company in Bethlehem. She and her husband, Marwan—who also attended Talitha Kumi—have four children.

Ongoing political tensions have marred an otherwise happy family life. Badia says it's often very difficult for her to visit her mother and siblings in Gaza, and she missed her father's funeral. Although she longs for peace, she often feels she is living in exile—an impression underscored by the separation wall and checkpoints in Bethlehem. "I want the world to know that we are suffering," she says.

One who shares that desire is Katherine Sabin, who with her husband, Cullen, succeeded in tracking Badia down while on a church peace mission to the Holy Land (see below).

Badia and Katherine, along with their husbands, spent hours over dinner reminiscing about where their lives had taken them in the 20 years since Badia's

sponsorship ended. The women continue to keep in touch via e-mail.

Katherine met Badia's children—Yara, 13; Nour, 10; Elias, 8; and Rana, 3. "All bright, polite, and lively young people," Katherine says. "Yara was eager to practice her English with us; Elias played his oud."

For Badia, education is the most important gift for a child. All her children attend private schools. "They should enjoy the standard of education I was so lucky to have," she says.

Badia's schooling influences her children in other ways. At night, she sings them to sleep with hymns she learned at Talitha Kumi.

—Lisa Sabella is a communications officer for World Vision's Jerusalem/West Bank/Gaza office.

DETECTIVE WORK

KATHERINE SABIN, FROM BRADENTON, FLA., EXPLAINS HOW SHE RECONNECTED WITH HER FORMER SPONSORED CHILD IN BETHLEHEM.

My husband, Cullen, and I were to make a journey to the Holy Land with our church on a peacemaking pilgrimage. So we attempted to contact Talitha Kumi via e-mail but did not receive a reply. I guess I feared the worst, since there had been so much turmoil in the area. Nevertheless, we made inquiries at the Palestinian Peace Center in Bethlehem and were able to contact the school. The person who answered said there was a teacher who had been there a long time; she would have her call. Thanks to the help of two young Arab-speaking men who worked at the front desk of Notre Dame Center of Jerusalem, where we were staying, we were able to talk to Badia. She invited my husband and me to come to her home. We arranged to go by taxi from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and meet her at the military checkpoint. It was dark and a bit intimidating when we got out of the taxi. Some men realized we were confused and helped us run the gauntlet. What a relief when a man at one of the turnstiles

turned out to be Badia's husband. We followed him to his car where Badia was waiting. I felt disbelief. This beautiful young lady was once the small 6-year-old girl who had become part of our family. We really did not know what might have happened to Badia, yet here she was. ●



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

ABOUT WORLD VISION

WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children, families, and their communities worldwide 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, health care, 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 www.worldvision.org. ●

Child, You Are a Miracle

BY PAMELA SISMAN BITTERMAN

Hush now ... listen.
You are
enchanted, like
the sunrise.
You are one, a
precious and
miraculous creation.

Your life should be love and light
and caring and goodness and learning
and growing and happiness and faith
and knowing.

This is what you deserve, because
you were born, because you are here.
You hold every truth. You know all that
someday will be forgotten. You were to
be kept safe and sound.

But it isn't always so.

There may be cruelty and hurt; sick-
ness and pain; danger and darkness;
hunger, loneliness, fear. But they do not
speak your name. They cannot know
your courage. They will never see your
light. They must not touch your heart.
Do not let them inside.

A parent or a relative or a friend or a teacher or a policeman
or a president may not be able to heal the sadness. Sometimes
nothing and no one else can. And it is not fair. And it is not your
fault. And it will never be OK.

But you, child, have a great wind beneath you. You will leave
the cave of nightmares and monsters. Imagination will be your
rocket ship. Hope will be your armor. Treasure them as you would
a best friend.

A warm glow will bathe you. Tender arms will rock you. Kind eyes
will guide you. A gentle hand will find yours, and it will not let go.

You are strong. Feel it. Believe that you can, and you can.
Know that you can, and you will.

You will change. Change what you will be in this world. And
you will change this world. This is your surprise. You are the gift.

You are a shooting star, a wish upon that star, a prayer
answered, a dream come true. A wild bird with a broken wing



GARY FONG/GENESIS PHOTOS

*The wolf will live with the
lamb, the leopard will lie down
with the goat, the calf and the
lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.*

— ISAIAH 11:6

who will someday soar, a frog who will
be a prince, a delicate flower waiting to
open, a raindrop glistening on a leaf, a
flawless snowflake swirling in a flawless
breeze, a brilliant flash in a stormy sky.

You are the only one of you.

You are soft color and sweet lullaby,
peaceful warmth and long, deep breath.
You are bursting spirit, beating heart,
pulse, spark, fire.

You are the power of the waves, the
man on the moon, the fairy in the forest,
the "poof" in the spell, the tinkle in the
bell. You are supernova.

Feel your strength, your truth, your
calm, and your sureness. They belong
to you, no one else. Nobody can crush,
deny, take away, or destroy them.

Trust your mighty spirit. Raise it to
the heavens. Whisper its secrets. Smile
its wonders.

Cherish it as you were meant to be
cherished. Love it as you were meant to
be loved. Know it as only you can know.

Show it as only you can show. Become. Be.

Child, you are a miracle. You are a whole undiscovered uni-
verse. You are Jane, Pedro, Pierre, Mohammed, Jamar, Tanisha,
Yusef, Tomas, Lars, Tao, Kumar, Ivan, Paolo, Ailani, Ichiro, Marie,
Jules. Be proud.

You are pure magic. I believe in you. Believe in you.

Things will become real because you will see them. See beauty.
See peace. See love. See joy. See your greatness.

Dream your dream. Write your story. Paint your rainbow. Close
your eyes. Open your heart. Lift your chin. Dance your dance. Sing
your song. Sing it home.

You will be heard. And you will be loved. ●

Pamela Sisman Bitterman is an author and mother of two adult children
living in La Jolla, Calif. She recently volunteered at a missions hospital
and orphan feeding program in Kenya.

RETROSPECT



ALYSSA BISTONATH/WORLD VISION

MALI

ELEVEN-DAY-OLD Issa wakes up to a better world at a World Vision medical clinic in Bani Valley. Fortunately, he remains blissfully unaware of how slender his chances of survival might once have been. Until recently, more than one in five children under the age of 5 died in Bani from causes such as malaria, diarrhea, and malnutrition. But funding from World Vision child sponsors is bringing transformation. Fifteen new health clinics provide ready access to healthcare, AIDS-prevention counseling, and nutrition advice. New wells have given the majority of households access to clean water. Today, Issa has an excellent chance of living beyond his fifth birthday—and perhaps into his 70s, 80s, or 90s. ●

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