Share your legacy with vulnerable children

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From the Mexico border.

My prayers have been answered. The water is very close now.” —Ireen in Malawi

ON THE COVER
Mary, 4, is a sponsored child in central Malawi who also benefits from World Vision’s Every Last One campaign.

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Wherever you are in life or circumstance, there’s a simple way you can help children in need: Include a gift to World Vision in your will.
Faith in Jesus Christ motivated World Vision to take a bold step 10 years ago, to stand up against extreme poverty around the world. In 2011, we set an audacious goal to raise $500 million and help 20 million people worldwide. We believed in the overwhelming generosity of our donors and in the hard work of the families we serve. By God’s grace and answered prayer, we exceeded our goal and reached more than 25 million people, half of them children.

Today, we’re aiming to reach 60 million* more people with practical help and tools to empower them to lift themselves out of poverty. Why go further? A better question is, why not? If we believe Jesus is “the same yesterday and today and forever,” as Hebrews 13:8 says, then we know Jesus was not only the Miracle Worker in biblical times but that He continues to work miracles today, through His people, for the glory of God.

We have unbeatable partners—supporters like you and the families we’re working alongside. You are all world-changers. Together, we can’t stop at “good enough” when we’re capable of so much more.

Even today, confronted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must press on. We’ve seen the Lord’s faithfulness over seven decades of ministry around the world. That gives us full confidence that He will continue to use us today, in the here and now. To take on extreme poverty, a goal made harder by the coronavirus. To go to the world’s toughest places, where God is already at work.

The people of Durame, Ethiopia, exemplified that believers pulling in the same direction with persistence and prayer are a powerful force. That’s why I truly believe that you, I, and every last one of us can be God’s instrument in transforming lives. So let’s press into the miraculous, yielding to the Holy Spirit to do His transformative work around the world.

If we believe, we can achieve

By Edgar Sandoval Sr.

A FEW YEARS AGO IN DURAME, ETHIOPIA, I drank clean water from what locals call the Well of Prayer. The water was good, but the story of how the well got its name was even better.

Other organizations had drilled six times for clean water in this arid place, without success. When World Vision arrived to make our attempt, the people might have said not to bother, since everyone else had failed. Instead they said, “We must pray and fast, and the Lord will bring us water.”

So that’s what they did, for three days. The drilling started, ascending 100 meters, 150 meters, 200 meters, 280 meters deep—no water. Undaunted, people kept praying. And the team resumed drilling, deeper and deeper, down 300 meters, and kept going.

Finally, at the significant depth of 318 meters, water gushed up! And the Well of Prayer got its name.

Yes, there were water technology experts on the job, armed with the best drilling machinery. And clearly the water was there. But without faith, we couldn’t reach it.

Belief is at the heart of any important effort. Belief in God, that He is who He says He is, and that His promises are true. Belief in our identity as God’s creation, chosen for a special purpose. And belief that every last one of God’s children deserves life, hope, and a future.

Jesus himself told us, “Everything is possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23).
The Amazon River teems with life, traveling more than 4,000 miles through eight South American countries. Brazil’s had more than 11 million coronavirus cases, causing over 287,000 deaths. As cases increased along the Amazon, so did fears about loss of life. “We are seeing people in need like we have never seen them before,” says Pastor Francisco Chaves dos Santos of the Presbyterian Church of Manaus. The church has partnered with World Vision for 15 years to help vulnerable communities. Among the millions of people who live here are Indigenous families who draw sustenance from the water that also brings outside travelers—and with them, the coronavirus. Ferrying in hope is a team of healthcare workers and volunteers aboard a medical ship called the Solidarity, operated by World Vision. The Solidarity has sailed to isolated communities to deliver food boxes, issue essential first-aid supplies, and provide medical care to 2,100 families in Brazil hit hard by the pandemic.

ÁLVARO JÚNIOR/WORLD VISION

STAFF ON THE SOLIDARITY HAVE DISTRIBUTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>Hygiene kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s kits</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygiene kits</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Brazil
Kenya

While the world turns its eyes to the Olympic Games this summer, we think of everyday athletes we met before the COVID-19 pandemic began. After school while hanging out with his friends, a 16-year-old effortlessly catapults himself in the air while pole vaulting, creating a cloud of dust when he lands. At Kwakatunge Primary School in Mwala, students benefit from World Vision child sponsorship whether or not they’re sponsored. World Vision built a water tank at the school and supported students with new study books. (Photo taken prior to COVID-19.)

HEATHER KLINER/WORLD VISION
Rwanda

Eleven-year-old Keza reads a book to her adoptive mother, Dativa. The book comes courtesy of World Vision’s Unlock Literacy program. Dativa dreamed of getting an education, but due to family struggles, she left school and never learned to read. She spent 20 years caring for her mother, until the Rwandan genocide took her mother’s life. Her husband died too, leaving her to raise their children alone, but she has scraped together enough money to send her oldest child to secondary school. Her second child is in ninth grade. She wants to send both to university so they have opportunities she never had.

(Photograph taken prior to COVID-19.)

LAURA ERHARDT/World Vision

82,880

82,880 STORYBOOKS PURCHASED

SCAN THE CODE
to watch a video about two women and two girls on different paths because of literacy.

Honduras

In Yoro, Miguel Guzmán, 42, proudly displays the corn he grew with help from a World Vision agricultural kit that included fertilizer, seeds, and germicide. Not only did the 44 farmers who used the kit grow more corn, they were each able to give 200 pounds of corn to families affected by back-to-back hurricanes, Eta and Iota, that devastated Honduras in November 2020.

RAFAEL ZALVIDAR/World Vision

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

– MATTHEW 25:40

COVER STORY | 12

World Vision’s launching its most ambitious campaign ever. Learn more about how we’re already empowering people and how you can get involved.

Discover

EXPLORE THE ISSUES FACING PEOPLE IN POVERTY

World Vision

Spring 2021
IN THE FIELD

266K PEOPLE ASSISTED BY WORLD VISION SINCE NOVEMBER 2020

Coronavirus Pandemic

Hope in spite of COVID-19

IN THE U.S. ALONE, WORLD VISION HAS DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN 2.2 MILLION FRESH FOOD BOXES TO 7.5 MILLION CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

MORE THAN 66,000 FAMILY EMERGENCY KITS SERVING OVER 225,000 CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE U.S. HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH A NETWORK OF OVER 1,300 CHURCHES

World Vision is responding in over 70 countries.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota

In November 2020, our emergency response teams raced against time to prepare communities in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador for Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Eta made landfall in Nicaragua as a Category 4 storm on November 3. Iota then struck—about 15 miles south of Eta—as a Category 4 on November 16. The storms packed powerful winds and caused heavy rains, flooding, and mudslides. The devastation left hundreds dead and more than 2 million people homeless in Central America.

World Vision has assisted 266,161 people in Central America with humanitarian aid, which includes child protection programs; clean water, sanitation, and hygiene behavior-change support; shelter; food supplies; and COVID-19 protection kits for children and their families. Our prepositioned supplies worldwide ensure emergency relief teams can respond immediately to disasters like Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

—Sevil Omer

Glad you asked
You’ve got questions, and we have answers.

Q. If people have to walk so far for water, why don’t they move closer to where there is water?

A. It’s understandable that we’d get this question, but it’s never easy to leave your home, pick up, and move. Most people World Vision serves are farmers, and they depend on their crops to survive. They may not be able to purchase land in a new place, so moving isn’t an option for them. In addition, in areas with water shortages, water sources frequently change with the season, so people may have to move multiple times a year to be close to a water source. The solution is to get a permanent clean water source near their home. World Vision’s able to do that as well as promote safe hygiene practices and improve sanitation for only $50 per person.

Have a question you’d like answered about World Vision’s work? Email us at editor@worldvision.org.

By Lauren Reed

Spoken

Kids have a way with words and an affinity for hope. Travel with us around the world to hear the hopes and dreams of children spoken in their own words.

“I used to tell God, ‘Lord protect my mother, protect my sister, protect my father.’ Now I say, ‘Thank you, Lord,’ because He saved my mom, Joselyn (his sister), my dad, and Bear (his dog). God is good, and so are you.”

—José, 7, Hurricane Eta survivor, Honduras

“God is seeing us,” Metadel says about how sponsorship makes her and her mother feel.

—Metadel, 13, a sponsored child, Ethiopia

“In the midst of the hard situation we went through, I didn’t expect my sponsor to remember me. I am very delighted to receive a greeting card from him in this moment. I will save this card forever.”

—Xhesika, 15, a sponsored child, Albania

Discover

Children in Phuket province in southern Thailand learn how to properly wash their hands to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

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© GREG ALLGOOD, Ph.D., vice president of water, World Vision U.S.
THIS IS OUR TIME to empower every last one of us with LIFE, HOPE, and a FUTURE.

Called by God

Children play on the banks of the Naf River in Bangladesh. Across the water is Myanmar, which many thousands of Rohingya fled to find refuge in Bangladesh. World Vision is working to help refugees and also opened an area program for the host community.

(Photo taken prior to COVID-19.)
Throughout World Vision’s more than 70 years of work, our roots have run deep in helping where people are suffering, where poverty seems undefeatable, and where the needs are great. With God’s sustaining hand and faithful support from people like you, we were there in the wake of the Vietnam War with Operation Seasweep, sailing the South China Sea to pick up Vietnamese refugees that the world had turned its back on. We were there during the Ethiopian famine, feeding starving children and doing the much harder work of helping to establish long-lasting systems that have transformed lives and the region. We cried out for the church to respond when the AIDS crisis was creating orphans at an astonishing rate. We’ve been helping countless families since the Syrian civil war resulted in the largest refugee crisis of our day. And today, we’re responding to the crippling needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic in every country we work in while our staff are all equally affected by this crisis.

In 2010, we embarked on a mission unlike any we’d ever undertaken. In the middle of a major economic crisis, we launched World Vision’s Campaign For Every Child (FEC). Our goal was to empower 20 million people worldwide with life-changing resources. We felt God calling us to make this bold move, and many of you felt the same call. Because God honored our joint efforts, this groundbreaking campaign had an incredible global impact. We exceeded our goals, reaching more than 25 million people—half of them children—in just five years.

Each of these challenges seemed insurmountable—the numbers too big, the need too great. But World Vision instead said “together, we can do this, because this vision is from God.” He is our confidence who has guided us and provided for us for over 70 years. And He has stirred in your hearts and inspired you to be part of His great work of empowering children and families to raise themselves out of poverty so they can have life, hope, and a future—even amid crises like a global pandemic.

And that’s why we’re not backing down, and instead we’re setting an even more audacious goal. At God’s prompting in late 2015, World Vision launched Every Last One (ELO)—a $1 billion capital campaign over eight years to reach more than 60 million people. It’s over twice as large as FEC was, and it builds on our global child sponsorship foundation—accelerating development in places where sponsorship projects already have a firm footprint. In these communities, campaign projects—funded by private donors and philanthropists—help us make an even bigger impact even faster, meeting a family’s needs through three areas of focus:

• **Life** through clean water and mother and child health
• **Hope** through child protection, emergency response, and Christian discipleship
• **Future** through economic empowerment and education

Come with us on a journey to discover what’s been accomplished so far. See the lives that have been transformed—both those of people here in the U.S. who said yes to God’s call to help, and those of the children and families we serve around the world. And continue the journey by partnering with us to make life, hope, and a future possible for every last one during a time when all three of those ideas seem questionable. The needs today are even greater because of the pandemic, but by the grace of God and with your compassionate generosity, we’re committed to empowering millions of children and families to transform their lives.

—Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie
Every human being deserves clean water and access to essential healthcare. Still, women and children in developing nations walk an average of 6 kilometers—3.7 miles—each day to get bacteria-filled water. And a child under the age of 5 dies every seven seconds, most from preventable causes. That’s why World Vision is committed to reaching 25 million people with access to clean water and 2 million mothers and young children with health and nutrition services by 2023.

From problems to prayers answered
By Kari Costanza

Nine-year-old Ireen from Malawi was World Vision magazine’s cover story in spring 2020. Her mother, Chimomwe, the Chichewa word for happiness, is a single mother raising four children on her own. She desperately needed the change that comes with clean water. She didn’t want her bright daughter, Ireen, to follow the rugged path she’s had to walk: dropping out of school early to work on farms, marrying too young, eking out a living, and rising before dawn to collect water from a dirty stream, one of many trips per day to satisfy the needs of her family.

In August 2020, World Vision Malawi’s drilling team did the unthinkable as COVID-19 raged. Masked for safety, with 150 excited villagers watching from a distance, the drills struck clean water. It took persistence and prayer.

“God has fought for us,” says lead driller Golden Bikahe. “We have been praying for Ireen to get water. And now God has helped us and now we have water.”

But it wasn’t easy. Drilling Ireen’s well took days.

“We did meet a lot of problems,” says Golden. “We had to drill at least three places. We didn’t find water.” The fourth try—drilling 150 feet into the earth—was a charm. “I am very happy in my heart,” says Golden. “Our whole group. We know that now Ireen has clean water. That is going to be very helpful in her upbringing. More especially, when you look at her health. More especially, when you think about the coronavirus. She will now have clean water to be using during this period.”

Ireen is overjoyed.

“I was so happy, like I’ve never been in my life,” says Ireen. “My prayers have been answered. The water is very close now.”

The driller already knows the impact their work will have as well.

“She will no longer be late for school,” says Golden. “She will no longer have to walk a long distance, meeting all kinds of things (such as snakes and hyenas) along the way. She is going to live a very healthy life.”

And a happy life too. Ireen’s now sponsored by Ruth in Washington state, who read her story in World Vision magazine. Other children in Ireen’s village are now sponsored too.

Instead of walking what the average woman in developing countries walks for water daily—6 kilometers, or about 3.7 miles—Ireen and her mother now walk less than four minutes for clean water right in their village.

Happiness, who had been the number one student at school before she had to drop out, has a new calling as a member of the water committee that will ensure the borehole lasts.

“We were taught how to fix this thing,” she says. “So, we know what we are supposed to do.”

For Happiness, clean water is an answer to prayer. “I am so happy that God has actually answered my prayer,” she says. “I will continue praying so … He can take care of us and He will take care of our borehole.”

Ireen gets water at the next borehole—well installed in her community. Having clean water will be a game changer for her future.

A new purpose
By Heather Klinger

Laura and Robert Abernathy had no idea what God had in store for them when their neighborhood Bible study read The Hole in Our Gospel by World Vision U.S. President Emeritus Rich Stearns. Laura says, “It really touched our hearts. Both Robert and I have been Christians since we were children and been involved in mission projects, mission programs, our churches, and other organizations. But we were convicted that we were not really touching ‘the least of these.’”

Within six months of that deep conviction from the Holy Spirit, Laura and Robert joined World Vision’s National Leadership Council and made their first philanthropic gift to World Vision. “We were all in,” says Robert, a former senior vice president at Kimberly-Clark and retired CEO of Hayland Health Inc.

They also began sponsoring two girls who shared birthdays with their granddaughters. Laura says, “We pray for our sponsored children as we pray for our granddaughters. And we celebrate their lives as we do our granddaughters.”

Elischa Laura and Robert told their two adult children about World Vision and its child sponsorship programs. They were surprised to find out that both already had sponsored children.

“But their transition to being ‘all in’ also came with due diligence. They first wanted a Christian organization. Next came a closer look at World Vision’s finances to make sure their investment would be used responsibly.

“Once you really get into World Vision and understand it at a deeper level, you start to understand the multiplying effect,” Robert says. “‘World Vision is able to take your gift and then leverage it with corporations, foundations, and government grants. They really can multiply your gift many times, and not many organizations are able to do that. You don’t feel like what you give is just a one-time investment. It feels bigger’ Laura adds. “We are told not to bury our talents, but to multiply them.”

Lastly, they looked for the ability to get results. World Vision has proven, community-based health approaches aimed at the first 1,000 days of life. We feature basic health interventions for mothers, babies and the delivery of babies. World Vision supports one community health worker in a village and one child health worker in a village.

“More especially, when you look at her health. We pray for our sponsored children as we pray for our granddaughters. And we celebrate their lives as we do our granddaughters.”

“We were taught how to fix this thing,” she says. “So, we know what we are supposed to do.”

For Happiness, clean water is an answer to prayer. “I am so happy that God has actually answered my prayer,” she says. “I will continue praying so … He can take care of us and He will take care of our borehole.”

When we decided to give to [World Vision], we knew of terrible, terrible situations that were in desperate need of help,” Laura says. “So, there was no need to wait.”
**HOPE**

Once people are healthy and have access to clean water, it opens up new possibilities and builds hope. This is where World Vision builds on our work by integrating child protection initiatives and leading emergency response programs. When people are safe, it frees them from worry and creates space for spiritual nurture. Christian discipleship is the third component of our Hope work. Through these three initiatives, we’re aiming to reach 28 million people by 2023.

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

465K children and youth participated in Christian discipleship activities

**CHILD PROTECTION**

1.6M children and youth benefited from child protection programs

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

9M people were reached with emergency supplies and support

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**WITNESS TO TRANSFORMATION**

Miraculous transformation

By Margo Day

In 2009, I’d been in turmoil for months, feeling a deep calling to step out in faith and for God to use me to show His love in the world. But I couldn’t figure out how to do that. Then in May 2009, God clearly said to me, “Five loaves and two fish. What you have is enough.” I was reminded of the miracle in John 6 when a boy offered all he had—five loaves and two fish—because people were hungry. The disciples were skeptical, but Jesus took the food, and everyone ate and was filled. As I recalled this miracle, I immediately had peace. I knew that if I brought everything to God in childlike faith, it would be enough.

Three months later, I traveled to Kenya to see World Vision’s work. On our first morning, I joined the World Vision team for devotions. The leader started by saying, “As I was praying last night about this devotion, God put on my heart the story of five loaves and two fish.” I burst into tears of gratitude, knowing this was confirmation that I was where God was calling me to show His love.

On that trip, I visited the Morpus Rescue Center, where I met 34 young girls aged 9 to 12. The center helps girls facing the traditional practices of female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. While these girls could complete primary school at the center, without access to a secondary school, their prospects remained bleak. When I looked into their eyes, I saw two things—fierce determination for a better life through education and the longing to have someone validate that they are valued and loved. I knew in my soul that God wanted these girls to know He loved them deeply.

Back in the U.S., I shared about these girls’ yearning for education, and others joined me in raising the funds to build St. Elizabeth Girls Secondary School. When the school was commissioned, I was privileged to experience the girls’ deep joy born of tangible hope for a better life. Today, 400 girls attend the school—and this number’s continuing to grow as the culture changes. In 2009, the FGM prevalence rate was around 95% in this area of West Pokot County. After a decade of World Vision’s work there, it’s now under 5%. It is possible to end FGM. That’s the basis of World Vision’s Kenya Big Dream. It’s based on the last decade of work in West Pokot, and it seeks to elimi- nate FGM everywhere World Vision works in Kenya.

What’s transpired here is nothing short of a miracle—one that God is multiplying, just as He multiplied five loaves and two fish so many years ago.

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As a child, Mary* loved going to school and yearned to rise out of the poverty she grew up in with West Pokot County, Kenya. As one of eight children, she saw her parents struggle to provide, and her father’s alcoholism worsened their situation. When she was 16, she and her younger brother John* dropped out of school to work at gold mines in neighboring Uganda to make money for their family.

“Life was so hard, and we were suffering so much,” Mary says. “I asked God what we had done for Him to allow that.”

As her family’s poverty deepened, her father decided it was time for her to undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) and then marry. An elderly man offered Mary’s father a bride price and took her, providing food and accommodation. In the last home she stayed at, she learned about a local school founded by World Vision to provide refuge to children fleeing FGM and child marriage. Now with a destination in mind, Mary left, asked for directions along her way, and arrived at the school. “It was like a dream come true for me,” she says.

Staff welcomed her in, giving her food, clothes, soap, and a place to stay. She felt loved, supported, encouraged, and—most of all—safe. She resumed her education at the school and is now one of the top students in her class. And she discovered a hidden talent—singing, so she joined the school choir. The school has also strengthened Mary’s faith. “As I was suffering, I used to wonder where God was,” Mary says. “But now I know that He never left me. I want to encourage those going through problems to never give up.”

Mary has also gone through World Vision’s Alternative Rites of Passage training. It provides a different way to celebrate moving into adulthood and teaches children, families, faith leaders, and government leaders about the adverse impacts of FGM. From 2012 through 2019, 2,573 girls participated in Alternative Rites of Passage rather than undergoing FGM, and a 2015 survey in West Pokot County indicated that more than nine in 10 people want the practice of FGM to end.

World Vision’s Every Last One campaign will play a large part in that. And the next generation of women will also be key to this cultural change. Mary now wants to be an anti-FGM advocate and says, “I want to help them (children) when I finish school so they can live happily.”

*Name changed to protect identity

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**From child marriage to freedom**

By Sarah Ooko

Since late 2015, through the ELO campaign:

- **465K** children and youth participated in Christian discipleship activities
- **1.6M** children and youth benefited from child protection programs
- **9M** people were reached with emergency supplies and support

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**Discover***

Students at St. Elizabeth Girls Secondary School celebrate their culture with a traditional Pokot dance. A number of the students are there on scholarship having fled home to escape child marriage and female genital mutilation. (Photo taken prior to COVID-19.)
As hope builds, people begin to dream of a brighter future. ELO’s Future work is centered around economic empowerment and education. World Vision’s award-winning Unlock Literacy program empowers parents and children to value education and its life-changing potential. And parents struggling to make ends meet gain the knowledge and tools to face the better, learn new skills, and gain access to financial services like banks and savings groups. Economic resilience is critical to helping families weather natural disasters and other emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic, and it also helps them navigate unexpected expenses that life often brings without being financially devastated. Our aim through ELO is to brighten the futures of 5.4 million children and hardworking adults by 2023.

From migrating to managing
By Laura Reinhardt

ACTIVITY BUZZES IN THE FIELD | on a warm November day. Down each row, workers pick tomatoes from plants about 5 feet tall. Others balance baskets heavy with produce, carrying them to a station where they’ll be weighed, washed, then loaded for transport to the supermarket. It’s a good harvest, and because of it, many people have work. At the day’s end, Jose Luis and his wife pay their workers. Smiles light up faces. But that wasn’t always the case for the now 33-year-old Jose Luis.

Two hours from the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa is Jose Luis’ home in Jamaicaar. There, most residents used to eke out a living by farming beans and corn—growing enough for their family with little left to sell. Working at the local tobacco factory earned about $80 a week. Migrating offered the promise of jobs earning nearly quadruple that amount.

At the age of 18, Jose Luis decided to leave his parents and his brother behind to seek better financial opportunities. But his bus was stopped in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he was deported. Back at home, he farmed corn and beans alongside his father.

But change was coming in his community, and with it, the promise of a better future.

Community members created an agricultural growers’ organization and partnered with World Vision. Jose Luis’ neighbor, Nortie (pronounced Nor-tea-a) Sosa was the organization’s president. He learned new farming techniques from World Vision’s agricultural experts. That program, starting in 2011, has generated more than 22,000 jobs, multiplying the incomes of farmers previously making $2 to $4 a day.

THRIVE—World Vision’s biblically based, resilient livelihoods program—built upon that and is improving the lives of 70,000 people by generating jobs, increasing household incomes to what the United Nations considers middle class in rural Honduras, and eliminating the need for migration by creating a livable income.

THRIVE programs focus on empowering people to take the lead in creating their own solutions. For example, Jose Luis was one of the students, and he’s done very well. Now he employs 11 people full time, but during harvest that number can reach 50.

Jose Luis has his own family now. He, his wife, and their 6-year-old son, Jose David, have lived till now with Jose Luis’ parents. But soon they’ll move into a home of their own, right next door.

Jose Luis sends his son to a bilingual school. That education will offer him choices for his future—choices that Jose Luis didn’t have growing up. Jose David won’t agonize over the decision of whether to migrate or not, which his father once did.

“I believe that because he has a better source of income now, my son won’t leave,” Jose Luis says. He hopes his son will continue the family business, but adds: “It won’t be what I want anymore. When he grows up, he’ll decide what he wants to do.”

THRIVE, with its focus on empowering people to take the lead in creating their own solutions, is for World Vision’s economic empowerment programs.

When the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting broke the world’s heart at the end of 2012, Sherrie and her mother increased their commitment to sponsor 26 children, representing the victims of the shooting. In the wake of so many children’s lives being cut short, Sherrie wanted to help ensure that children around the world had the chance to live.

Then Sherrie’s world shifted seemingly once again when her mother passed in 2016. She picked up the phone to call World Vision, interested in identifying a program that could empower families to start small businesses. After a Vision Trip to Tanzania and the Dominican Republic, where she met many families of farmers, Sherrie joined the National Leadership Council and began offering her time and talents to World Vision’s economic empowerment programs.

Her passion is to improve the livelihoods of rural household heads through a biblically empowered worldview message; access to improved agricultural technology, knowledge, and fair markets; and access to small loans to finance diverse forms of resilient, sustainable income. All of this is for the direct benefit of children’s well-being. Sherrie’s most recent passion is for World Vision’s Recovery Lending for Resilience program, which provides poor families with recovery business loans to bounce back from the economic challenges caused by COVID-19.

That’s the purpose Sherrie and her mother are now fulfilling.

A purpose to fulfill
By Margot Starbuck

After a robust 26-year career in information technology, Sheme Wooding was exhausted from the demands of corporate America. Then her mother, Leila, suffered a severe stroke and required full-time care. So Leila moved in with Sheme. Though the new journey was radically different than what Sheme had accomplished professionally, the two discovered an unexpected satisfaction in their new life together. On the most difficult days, Sheme’s mother would ask what to many who suffer ask: “Why me?” Gently, humbly, Sheme would answer, “There is a purpose that needs to be fulfilled. We’ll have to see.”

Sheme had been sponsoring children through World Vision first one, then three, then six. The faithful pen pal began to notice how her mother connected with the children, especially through the photos with their mothers, and would ask questions. Seeing these mothers struggle to provide for their children broke Leila’s heart. Sheme, the consummate business woman, knew they could do more. She donated to help them start small businesses. The women received several letters a week from these precious families. Sheme explains, “We walked the journey with them, and they walked the journey with my mom’s illness. They were attached, through letters.”

Lending for Resilience helps them start small businesses. The women received several letters a week from these precious families. Sheme explains, “We walked the journey with them, and they walked the journey with my mom’s illness. They were attached, through letters.”

In 2016, Sheme’s mother increased her commitment to sponsor 26 children, representing the victims of the Newtown shooting. In the wake of so many children’s lives being cut short, Sheme wanted to help ensure that children around the world had the chance to live.

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Sherrie Wooding sits at a roundtable discussion at a conference. (Photo taken prior to COVID-19.)
Join us as we empower over 60 million people with tools to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. See the envelope between pages 18 and 19, call 1.866.332.4453, or give online at wvmag.org/ELOgive.

Discover

Life

A World Vision staff member in Ecuador provides food aid to Kassandra, a Venezuelan refugee and mother of six. Her family has faced hunger because the COVID-19 pandemic has kept her husband from his work as a street vendor.

Right: Students pray together at a Bible club meeting in Kenya. The students, many of whom are sponsored, learn Bible verses, sing, hear the Word of God, and plant and care for fruit trees through the ELO Christian discipleship program.

Below: Lydia Atugonza, 23, holds her newborn daughter, delivered that night in a clinic funded by ELO in Uganda. With her first two children, she had to travel a long way to give birth and then go home right after. The clinic has delivery rooms with clean water as well as a new mothers room for her to stay.

Hope

Pertonile uses a blackboard in her home to help her daughter, Christine, with her lessons. She also sent Christine to attend a reading camp, which is part of World Vision’s Unlock Literacy program. While many adults in her area of Rwanda can’t read, Pertonile learned to read as a child and now she has opportunities because of it.

Every Last One

Choity, 15, makes a dress using the sewing machine she received through an ELO child protection program in Bangladesh. She dropped out of school at age 13 to help support her family. The program helped children who were working return to school, or for those far behind like Choity, it provided life-skills training for safe work.

Arpine Sargsyan, center, leads a Caring for Equality training session in Armenia in 2017. This ELO program, which ended in 2018, taught the value that girls and women bring while uprooting deeply held ideas about gender roles in this traditionally patriarchal society.
a periodic basis and you don’t have much water, it’s pretty tough to push this virus back,” says President Nez. He reminds people of their ancestors’ resilience as encouragement.

OTHER OBSTACLES
Residents face other obstacles. The Navajo Nation spreads across 27,400 square miles in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, with much of the sparse population scattered in isolated pockets. Many lack electricity or internet access, which makes it difficult to get the latest coronavirus updates.

Early in the pandemic, the Navajo Nation had one of the highest per capita rates of infection in the country, in part because roughly 40% of the population don’t have running water in their homes.

“If you get [the] CDC telling you to wash your hands with soap and water on a periodic basis and you don’t have much water, it’s pretty tough to push this virus back,” says President Nez. He reminds people of their ancestors’ resilience as encouragement.

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Thus, the need for COVID-19 check-points where President Nez and his team hand out documents about coronavirus prevention. The team also provides bottles of hand sanitizer and masks from World Vision.

“World Vision is a great partner to the Navajo Nation. All over the Navajo Nation during the summer, we were able to hand out food and hygiene kits, boxes to Navajo people throughout the nation,” says President Nez. World Vision’s been a partner for 20 years.

FIGHTING A PANDEMIC TOGETHER
As COVID-19 spread in spring 2020, food insecurity rose around the United States. World Vision responded with food donations. And throughout the pandemic, they’ve sent precious personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders.

In autumn 2020, as infection rates rose again, World Vision’s U.S. Programs National Director Reed Slattery said, “All over the country, World Vision’s teams, over the next few weeks and months to come, will be getting as much PPE out the door to vulnerable communities.”

World Vision staff and volunteers in Fife, Washington, quickly built 800 personal protective equipment kits
designated for the Navajo Nation. The orange-drawstring bags include masks, sanitizing spray, gloves, socks, and sanitizing wipes. Before shipping, warehouse staff gathered and prayed over the kits.

**FAITH TO PERSIST**

On a crisp Arizona morning, Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer distributes those personal protective equipment kits alongside staff from the president’s team and World Vision. “They’re going out to workers from hospitals, the police department, and emergency medical services. “We want to express our gratitude to World Vision donors—our brothers and sisters—who provided these kits for us,” Myron says. “You sent us a love message by living out your biblical principles to love your neighbor.”

Myron offers words of encouragement for those picking up supplies: “We have to remain optimistic and never lose hope, because eventually we will overcome this pandemic. Our God will heal and pull us through this time,” he says.

**LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY**

Sgt. Kara Tilden also leans on her faith. “Myron says, “You sent us a love message by living out your biblical principles to love your neighbor.”

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**WARRIORS’ WEAPONS**

There are challenges in the months ahead, but President Nez feels that his people can rise to meet them, especially with the supplies they’re receiving from donors. “I appreciate all the friends of Navajo Nation—including World Vision—that have been assisting us in giving relief and empowering our citizens to fight this virus,” President Nez says. “These are the weapons to fight off this monster that has swept into our communities.”

Those weapons take the shape of hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks, but they provide safety and hope for battle-ready warriors. Sevil Omer of World Vision’s U.S. staff contributed to this story:

Help World Vision respond to disasters like COVID-19. See the envelope between pages 18 and 19, call 1.866.332.4453, or give online at wvmag.org/give.
THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR began in March 2011. A decade later, about 5.6 million Syrians have fled to other countries in the region, and another 6.2 million people are displaced within Syria. Over 11 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance.

Children bear the brunt of the crisis. About half of Syria’s displaced population are children—kids who’ve never known their country in times of peace. Some, born as refugees, have never even seen the homeland of their parents. Child refugees seeking safety in the region’s camps call tents their homes and often experience a life filled with stress. Over 2.4 million children in Syria are missing out on an education because of the conflict.

Since the Syrian refugee crisis began, we’ve helped more than 6.5 million children throughout the Middle East. Our work includes providing healthcare, emergency food, shelter repair kits, livelihood support, and clean water, sanitation, and hygiene behavior-change support. We also create safe spaces for children where they can learn and play, and offer psychosocial support for women and children.

To mark the 10th year of the conflict, we’re sharing the voices of 10 teens from Syria. For them, life is unpredictable, and each year is different. But with the help of World Vision, they’re learning skills to help them heal and getting a chance to dream of the future.
**SYRIA TIMELINE**

- **2011**: The Syrian civil war begins.
- **2012**: The number of Syrian refugees surpasses 1 million.
- **2014**: Syrian refugees number 3 million in neighboring countries, and 100,000 more reach Europe.
- **2015**: The photo of 2-year-old Alan Kurdi shocks the world. 1 million refugees reach Europe.
- **2016-2017**: More than 5 million people have fled conflict in Syria, and 900,000 more are newly displaced within Syria.

**Dara**—Thirteen-year-old Dara had family and friends in Aleppo. “After the airstrikes intensified in my hometown, I went to the camp in a bus with my parents,” she says. Her parents separated shortly after their arrival at the Bab al-Salama border, where Dara now lives with her grandparents. She attends a World Vision Child-Friendly Space, where she’s learning “awareness and education on child issues—useful activities that have helped me to acquire skills such as handicrafts and communication.” It’s her solace, the only place “I want to teach my grandparents what I have learned and raise their awareness,” Dara says. She aspires to become a teacher.

**Azam**—War is all Azam has known. Now 16 years old, Azam credits World Vision for his new lease on life, learning from the Peace Road curriculum, from which children develop life skills, values, and behaviors to maintain healthy relationships. Activities are designed to help children and teens who have experienced trauma to improve their well-being and life choices. Azam’s sense of purpose is blossoming, and his community is growing. “Everyone knows each other, and everyone helps each other,” he says. “I feel safe and like part of one family.” Azam wishes to become a doctor or an engineer so he can give back to the community.

**Jumana**—If she could, 15-year-old Jumana would be surrounded by paint and clay. She loves art, both the study of it and the creation of it on canvas. “My dream is to paint and make art in the future,” Jumana says. “What I need for this is the education and materials.” Jumana, her parents, and her four siblings fled Syria and traveled to Aırzn, Turkey, when she was in fifth grade. “I only remember that we came to Turkey by bus and nothing else,” Jumana says. “There are many moments I’d like to forget, like the ten years my father left and never returned. She’s grateful for World Vision’s support. “We get to benefit from your services,” Jumana says. “You’re providing information, referring us to the services, and we go to the trips with your organization.”

**Jameel**—Sixteen-year-old Jameel’s goal is to be a defender on the soccer field and a champion of justice in the court. He misses his home in Aleppo, a stark contrast to the ramshackle shelters that poorly house his family at the Bab al-Salama border crossing with Turkey. “My life would be much better if I were to live in a house, not a tent,” Jameel says. The brightest spot of his day is spending time with World Vision staff, who are providing teens like him with psychosocial support. During this time, he’s able to let down his guard and share his feelings and hopes for the future: “My dream is to become a lawyer so I could defend oppressed people.”

**Zaid**—Thirteen-year-old Zaid’s family is seeking asylum. “We have come to Turkey on foot. We tried to come 13 times, but the police were grabbing us and sending us back,” he says. “We walked under the wall and waited under the olive tree until 12 a.m. I was 11 years old, and at that time I was very scared while walking.” Since 2019, World Vision has provided 8,000 refugees like Zaid with information to access essential services in Turkey. Staff also accompany refugees when they need help accessing external services such as health, education, legal, or psychosocial support. Zaid dreams of becoming a firefighter.
She longs for a safe place, an opportunity to attend school, and a time and turmoil. Raghad made her way to Jordan in 2016 with her parents and five siblings. Like most displaced Syrians, the family had to move at least three times. “I dream of the reconstruction of my country, of new skills, enjoy recreational activities,” Raghad wished life was kinder to girls. “My community needs to raise awareness about adolescents, especially girls, their rights, their duties, and gender,” she says. “These are very necessary for us.”

Nadine—Nadine wants to find her place in a better world. The 15-year-old lives in one of the most refugee-dense neighborhoods in Istanbul, Sultanbeyli, where she attends World Vision’s psychosocial support program. There, she’s learning skills to help her cope with post-traumatic events. By gaining a better understanding of the impacts of her childhood experiences, Nadine hopes to help others as she heals and grows. “I want to work in the future,” she says. “I would like to put an effort in order to reach my dreams.”

Khaldoun—Twelve-year-old Khaldoun misses his life in Aleppo, Syria. He wants to go back to his hometown, attend school, and play with his friends. He wants the war to end. He says he’s grateful to attend a World Vision Child-Friendly Space, where he gets to be a kid. “I get to play with my friends in a clean, spacious, and safe place—to learn useful activities, to do activities with my siblings,” Khaldoun says. “The best moments are when I spend time with my friends in the center. When I am in the center, I forget that I am living in this camp. I dream of being a teacher.”

Raghad—Seventeen-year-old Raghad wishes life was kinder to girls. She longs for a safe place, an opportunity to attend school, and a time and turmoil. Raghad made her way to Jordan in 2016 with her parents and five siblings. Like most displaced Syrians, the family had to move at least three times. “I dream of the reconstruction of my country, of new skills, enjoy recreational activities,” Raghad wished life was kinder to girls. “My community needs to raise awareness about adolescents, especially girls, their rights, their duties, and gender,” she says. “These are very necessary for us.”

Ali—Conflict shattered 18-year-old Ali’s ability to complete school. Once top of his class, he’s missed all of high school because of conflict and forced displacement. He and his family have lived in a Jordanian refugee camp since 2016. Some refugee children have never been to school, while others are unlikely to ever return. Ali joins 2,300 other children and teens who attend one of World Vision’s child protection programs. “I go to the psychosocial support centers when I feel stressed or anxious,” he says. “Because of the good care he’s gotten, Ali wants to work for an aid agency to provide psychosocial support.”

Help World Vision serve people affected by this and other disasters around the world. See the envelope between pages 18 and 19, call 1.866.332.A453, or give online at wvmag.org/give.

*Name changed to align with World Vision’s Syria office protocols.
**Global 6K for Water: How to prep your mind, body, and heart**

By Kristy J. O’Hara-Glaspie

Each year, World Vision’s Global 6K for Water® gives families, neighbors, friends, and churches the opportunity to run or walk 6 kilometers—the average distance women and children in developing nations walk every day to get water. Last year, the 6K went virtual to keep everyone safe in the face of the health crisis. This year’s event—on May 22—will too. Here are 13 tips and activities to help you prepare for the 6K, including ways to talk about the global water crisis with your kids (scan the QR code below for the online resources).

1. **Create a route:** If you’ve signed up for the Global 6K, map out a route in your neighborhood to walk each day for training and for the 6K itself. It’s okay if you can’t walk the whole distance at first—work up to it. Also, you may get boring walking the same route, but make that part of the discussion. Many children worldwide walk the same route multiple times a day for water.

2. **Watch a poem:** Go online to see Kenyan schoolgirls recite a poem they wrote about the blessings of clean water.

3. **Count your access points:** How many places inside and outside your home can you get clean water? Don’t forget ones like faucets near the washing machine.

4. **Read a children’s book:** Have story time as a family, and curl up to read The Water Princess by Susan Verde together.

5. **Do a water walk:** Fill an empty plastic container—a milk jug, a jerrycan, anything you may have—with water and walk your 6K route. How does it feel, and how difficult is it?

6. **Watch a—drilling crew work:** For the little ones who love seeing big construction machinery, go online to follow a crew in Malawi as they work to drill wells. (Photo taken prior to COVID-19.)

7. **Pray for clean water:** Use our online guide for tips on how to pray for children and families to get clean water.

8. **Pull out a map:** Find your home on a map and identify the closest natural water source, whether it’s a creek, river, pond, lake, or sea. Highlight the route you would walk to get there and calculate the distance. Discuss how it would feel to walk there to get your water each day. (And if you’re feeling adventurous, take the walk with your family and collect some of the water in a container to see how dirty it is.)

9. **Watch videos:** Virtually travel around the world to meet children impacted by World Vision’s work. Learn about how water affects their lives.

10. **Make a list:** What are all the ways you use clean water? Think beyond drinking. Track the ways each family member uses water throughout the day on a piece of paper.

11. **Create a visual:** Fill a jar with water, and add dirt to it. Place it in a prominent spot in your home, so you’re reminded of the global water crisis and of the kids and families who have to drink dirty water every day. It can also jog your memory to pray. Talk about how the dirty water makes each of you feel.

12. **Pray for communities preparing for water:** Did you know there are several steps families in a community have to take before World Vision can drill for water? Learn what they are and pray for people making these preparations.

13. **Make two dinners:** Using our recipe, make two rice casseroles tonight—one with clean water and another with dirty water. Discuss how it makes you feel and why.

**PROVIDING A BETTER, BRIGHTER FUTURE** for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and helping them overcome poverty is at the heart of 80-year-old Loretta McDonald’s mission in life.

Since 1963, the now-retired special education teacher from Honolulu, Hawaii, has remained steadfast in her commitment to serve the world’s most vulnerable children. She’s done that through World Vision child sponsorship—18 children and counting. In the quietness of her heart, Loretta’s heard God’s call to care for children. Her prayer for each child is to know God’s love and that “you’re not alone in feeling alone.”

She has overcome her share of hardships and heartache. “I’m an only child from what today would be called a dysfunctional family,” she says. “I want to let the children who feel alone to know that they are part of a family, my family.”

Loretta seeks to leave a legacy of love, making sure her family lives on. She’s a member of The World Vision Society, an exceptional group of partners who are building a legacy of generosity for children in need by naming World Vision as a beneficiary of their estate plans.

Loretta was drawn to World Vision through the Korean Children’s Choir—composed of musically gifted children sponsored through World Vision. The choir toured the world to sing for broad audiences. Loretta viewed a televised performance in the 1960s and was delighted to see a child singing in Korean Sign Language.

**Loretta’s legacy of love**

By Sevil Onner

“I was fascinated,” says Loretta, who at the time wasbeginning her career as a teacher at the School for the Deaf in Utah. “I wanted to be part of what World Vision was doing to make the world a better place for children. I signed up to sponsor a 5-year-old deaf Korean girl.”

Through World Vision’s holistic community development work, Loretta’s sponsored children, past and present, have gained the support to attend school and develop language and communication skills early in life. Her first sponsored child is now married with children. Loretta’s also sponsored children in the Middle East and in Southeast Asia. She currently sponsors three children, two of whom are deaf, in India.

“My desire is to help where there is the biggest need,” she says. Loretta’s dream is that each child gains a genuine, meaningful, and inclusive education. Significant strides have been made in getting more children, particularly girls, into classrooms, but progress lags for children with challenges.

“Deafness is not a learning disability,” she says. “The children are bright. They are smart. They communicate, but not in the way we know.”

During her travels abroad, she’s seen the impacts of hearing loss and its emotional toll on children. In developing countries, children who are deaf or hard of hearing rarely attend school. With the inability to gain an education, they face greater challenges in the future.

“It’s one of the great barriers and injustices children face and one that needs a lot of help in being tackled,” Loretta says. “Sponsorship gives children a chance at a better life. I want that for all children.”

To name World Vision as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or other assets, contact our planned giving experts at 1-800-428.5733 or plannedgiving@worldvision.org.
The inside voice

By Julie Lyles Carr

“USE YOUR INSIDE VOICE.” It’s a phrase you’ve probably said to your kids, just like I’ve said to mine. Many times. When the noise and bickering and crazy get to be just a tad too much and the volume seems better suited to a wide-open field than the cozy yet limited confines of our kitchen. And I’m not sure what it is about my kids, but they seem louder than average humans. Particularly the later in the evening it gets.

(I’m sure they don’t get it from my side... except I’m sure they do.) An inside voice calls for a better understanding of the setting into which you’re speaking. An inside voice means that you’re thinking about the eardrums of others. An inside voice means you know how to communicate and explain and inspire without hollering.

But in a noisy world, an inside voice can be judged as less effective, less attention-grabbing. In our loudly opinionated culture, it’s an outside voice that often fills your ears.

Too often in my life, I’ve listened to outside voices and allowed them to influence areas to which they had no right. I find that’s the case for so many women today, where an outside voice seems most strident in the partnership between the allmomdoes podcast and World Vision. World Vision understands the importance of an inside voice in the communities in which it serves, empowering the individuals in that community through education, resources, and vision.

Just like allmomdoes, World Vision pays attention to the inside voices of a community, those who can best explain the needs and dreams of its community members. I’m learning more and more to value and seek inside voices. I’m finding more and more that those who know how to use their inside voices often resonate the deepest with wisdom and maturity. Just like my kids, I need that reminder to use my inside voice when it comes to all the debate and diatribes that swirl around us today. And I’m reminded afresh that truth and kindness transcend volume every time.

The extreme quarantine

behind a low wall of suitcases

two little eyes peer at me. We smile at each other and begin a language-transcend-
ing game of show and tell. Her mom, Maria, tells me this 2-year-old’s name is Arleth. Cautiously leaving the safety of her mother’s mattress, Arleth leads me in a game of show and tell. She hugs a toy truck, shows me somebody’s shoes, climbs on a toy car, and scoots a short distance back and forth, sometimes passing to stare. I bump up my camera’s ISO, captivated by the juxtaposition of this sweet face and her peculiar context—a community center turned shelter near the Mexico side of the U.S. border, where World Vision has provided relief supplies.

With 50 other people crammed in here, they await court dates and visas to enter the United States for more than a year, a process made harder because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I learn that two months earlier, a Mexican cartel brutally killed Arleth’s father and three other family members. Maria received death threats herself, so she, Arleth, and several other family members fled their picturesque home, jobs, and harvest-ready crops in Guerrero, Mexico. They haven’t felt safe here either; it’s too close to the cartel. So, for now, Arleth plays inside. I’m grateful for a moment to join her.

Julie Lyles Carr

Julie Lyles Carr is a bestselling author, national speaker, and business owner. As the host of allmomdoes podcast, she’s welcomed such guests as Beth Moore, Bob Goff, Priscilla Shirer, Max Lucado, Kari Jobe, and Kathie Lee Gifford. Last fall, she signed up to be chosen as a child sponsor with World Vision. She lives with her husband, Mike, in Austin, Texas, where they have raised their eight children.

Note to the Editor: This story and photo were gathered before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The extreme quarantine
Join the world’s largest 6K for water on May 22, 2021!

Family fun. Global impact.
Sign up now at worldvision6k.org.