

WORLD VISION *news*

CHILD DEATH RATE DROPS

Worldwide, the number of children who died in 2006 dropped below 10 million for the first time. UNICEF attributes the decrease to measles vaccinations, mosquito nets and breast-feeding. However, experts said most of the 9.7 million deaths were preventable—more still needs to be done.

FAST FACT »

Tanzania and Malawi have just

two physicians per 100,000 people, the lowest number in the world. Cuba has the highest number, with 591 doctors per 100,000 people.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT, 2006



JUSTIN DOUGLASS/WORLD VISION

Warm and at Peace

New clothing makes a child feel good—inside and out. | BY JUSTIN DOUGLASS

ABOVE | A Mongolian boy benefits from the warm jacket World Vision provided.

If I am warm, I am happy, and I have peace,” says Enkhtor, 15, in Mongolia, after receiving a jacket from World Vision’s gifts-in-kind program. His parents struggle to afford food and schooling for their seven children.

In many poor families, proper clothing is low on the priority list next to the dire necessities. As a result, children often end up wearing worn, ill-fitting, second-hand clothes. Some children avoid school because they’re embarrassed about how they look. And for boys and girls in colder climates, tattered clothes cause more than embarrassment—exposure to the elements can make them sick.

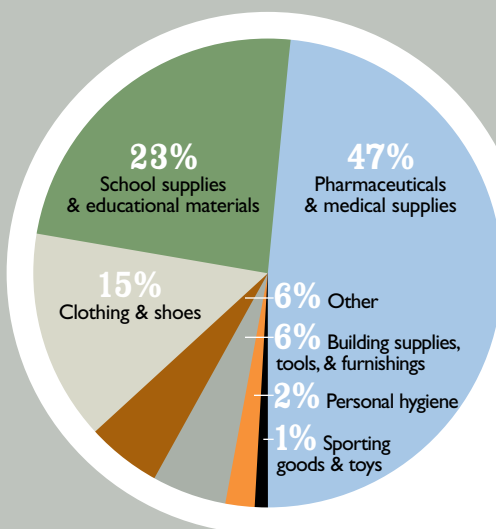
Families fighting to survive deserve the dignity and health new clothes can provide. World Vision sends clothing and shoes donated by corporations as gifts in-kind to children and families in the world’s poorest places.

It has made the difference for Enkhtor. “If I did not get this warm jacket, I [would] not be able to go to school, prepare firewood, or collect water,” he says. ■

» **Turn to page 2** for another story about the impact of gift-in-kind clothing. You can help World Vision provide new, warm clothes for children in need by using the envelope between pages 4 and 5.

IN FOCUS

WORLD VISION'S GIFTS-IN-KIND
Products procured in 2006



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Crowning New Champions

Donated clothing is a winner for children around the world. | BY RYAN SMITH

A new hat and shoes is all it takes to make a young child a champion. In Sake, a village in Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision recently distributed clothing to children and families who had returned to their village after years in an internal displacement camp.

In the camp, the families had virtually no possessions or resources, making a return to their home village a difficult proposition. “I had one set of clothing, but today I have two,” says Sifa Neema, 20. “For me, this represents a lot. I have clothes now, and I will use one piece to help me carry my baby.”

New shoes are also important in the village, as the ground is formed from hard, sharp volcanic rock. But many children like Musa Byanjira had never owned shoes. Upon receiving his first pair, he says, “I find it very nice, the feeling of shoes.”

The donated clothing has a dramatic impact on the children who receive it. But where does it come from?

In this case, the hats and T-shirts came from the National Football League in the United States. World Vision has partnered with the NFL since 1994, distributing shirts, hats, and other products, says Jeff Fields, a World Vision corporate relations officer.

Looking closely at the hats, football fans will find some interesting results.

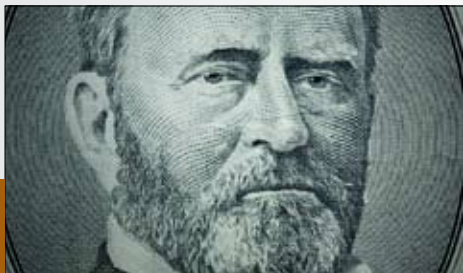
“For me, this represents a lot. I have clothes now, and I will use one piece to help me carry my baby.” —Sifa Neema, 20

In Congo, Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Romania, the Chicago Bears are the defending Super Bowl champions and the Buffalo Bills are a dynasty from the mid-‘90s. Both teams lost in their title games, but these products proclaim them the winners.

Every year, the NFL creates merchandise with each playoff team’s logo, casting them as champions. When the teams are eliminated, the shirts are unable to be sold or used. But instead of destroying the brand-new products, the league makes them available for donation and use outside the United States.

“This past year, we received 102 pallets of clothing and products from the NFL, worth around \$2.5 million,” Jeff says.

World Vision’s gifts-in-kind program takes first-quality, excess inven-



\$1 = \$50

The high leverage value of gifts-in-kind—\$1 in cash provides up to \$50 of products—allows World Vision programs to accomplish far more than they could with cash resources alone.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A boy from war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo contemplates an uncertain future.



Foolish Things »

Bet on the winners. ...Go for the sure thing. ...Don’t invest in a lost cause. ...These phrases characterize a prevalent worldview in our culture.

As Christians, we are compelled to see the world through a different lens. Our God is the God of the lost cause, the mustard seed, the lost sheep, and the widow’s mite. He values each life, each child, regardless



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION (3)

ABOVE | Kakule Lavie, 5, received new clothing and shoes, enabling him to replace his old shoes—an oversized pair he had found in the garbage. **BELOW** and **LEFT** | Children who receive NFL donations are not concerned with which team they are supporting. Instead, they are happy simply to have new clothes.



tory donations from companies like the NFL and distributes them where needed most around the world. In the past five years, the program has delivered more than \$1.1 billion of donated goods, including clothing, medical supplies, and building materials.

No matter which team is proclaimed the champion on the hats, the children of Congo are winners—of gifts that will help them grow and thrive. ■
—With reporting by Kari Costanza

» **Help World Vision** provide new clothes for children and families in need. To help, see the envelope between pages 4 and 5.

of circumstances, as “precious in his sight.”

I have visited World Vision projects all over the world and have met people trapped in some of the worst circumstances imaginable. But when World Vision sees people overcome with hopelessness, we respond with optimism. When others see a malnourished child, we see a future farmer. When some see a child without schooling, we see a future teacher, and when others see a child huddling in a refugee camp, we see a future leader. We see the image of God in every person.

Recently, I met a South Korean man in New York. He told me

about growing up poor after the Korean War. But his face lit up when he talked about the humanitarian organizations in South Korea that helped him stay in school and believe in a better future. His name was Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, and he was not a lost cause.

At World Vision we don’t believe in lost causes, and neither do our faithful supporters. As you read this newsletter, can I ask you to pray to the God of lost causes, that he will bring light into this darkness? ■



Rick Warren

'Dear Aunt Barbara'

A special relationship develops across the miles.

BY HASANTHI JAYAMAHA

Hi Uresha,
I like the flower picture a lot. Thank you for drawing it. You are very talented.
It is winter here and very cold... I like spring much better. We had a big storm with 45 mile an hour winds.

Uresha and Barbara share a special bond through letters every month. "I really enjoy writing to her," says little Uresha, 8, of her friend in the United States. "I tell her how I'm doing and how my family is and about my studies. She writes to me about her, too. Sometimes she would send stickers or a funny card, but more than any of them I enjoy her letters."

Uresha is a sponsored child. She lives in the fishing village of Wanathawilluwa, Sri Lanka. She was only 3 years old when she was registered for World Vision sponsorship. Since then, the assistance has greatly blessed her family.

Uresha's parents no longer worry about school stationary at the beginning of the school year. The child's health needs are met through the annual clinic World Vision holds with the medical authorities in the area. Also, the water-sealed toilet has improved their sanitary conditions, and soon, a pipe with drinking water will arrive at their home.

The girl and her family are grateful to "Aunt Barbara" for the changes she has made in their lives. "It is so wonderful to know that someone who is miles away cares for me so much," Uresha says. ■

» You can help transform a child's life through sponsorship. To become a sponsor, check the box inside the envelope attached here.



WORLD VISION STAFF

Uresha keeps up regular correspondence with "Aunt Barbara," her sponsor in the United States.



FAST FACT » One out of three children in the world never see the inside of a classroom. UNESCO

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

World Vision serves nearly 100 million people around the world only through God's blessing and the faithful support of partners. These include individuals, churches, volunteers, and supporters young and old.

Thank you for your support alongside these key partners:

- » Nearly **4.7 million** donors, supporters, and volunteers helping World Vision care for children and families in need.
- » **604,000** child sponsors helping to transform the lives of individual children.
- » **669,000** high-school and college students who raise awareness and funds for global hunger and AIDS.
- » **4,000** churches, corporations, institutions, and government agencies supporting World Vision's work to the poorest of the poor. ■

RIGHT | University of Washington student at an event to raise awareness for AIDS.



ANDREA DEARBORN/WORLD VISION

Crisis ScoreCard

In 2007, World Vision responded to major humanitarian emergencies, including:

- Widespread flooding across sub-Saharan Africa
- Peru earthquake
- South Asia flooding
- Hurricanes Dean and Felix in Central America
- Southern Africa food crisis
- Ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northern Uganda, and Darfur, Sudan

RUSHING BACK

Children in Panadura, Sri Lanka, celebrate their return to school in a new building built by World Vision. The previous building was destroyed by the 2004 tsunami, forcing the students to hold classes outdoors. But now, with a three-story, 32-classroom building, students have the stability and support they need to study. In the three years since the tsunami struck, World Vision has built or remodeled 56 schools in Sri Lanka, enabling families to rebuild and recover.



WORLD VISION STAFF

Dream Come True

Gift Catalog cows help a Romanian family.

BY LAURA RUNCANU



LAURA RUNCANU/WORLD VISION

Andrei is a beautiful and daring child, filled with the same spirit of his father. He loves to play with the animals on his family's farm. He pokes his nose everywhere in the courtyard and barn. He pats the little piglets on their backs and feels sorry for two chickens killed by a wild-cat the previous night.

His father, Petru, spent his childhood on the green slopes of the Mesesului Mountains, following his grandparents' flock of sheep. "I always loved animals and felt close to them," he says. "As a kid, I thought that I would become a shepherd and have my own flock of sheep. But as a grown-up, I started to like cows more."

He started a cow business four years ago, and today the family has 10 cows and three heifers. Two of the mature animals came as a gift from World Vision's Gift Catalog.

"My dream is to double the number

Andrei may carry on his father's passion—working outdoors and tending livestock.

of cows and the milk production in one year," Petru says. "I can't tell you how grateful I am for the gift received from World Vision. It gave me an important kick to start the real business."

It's a perfect fit: a job that not only supports a young family, but also allows them to live as they love. ■



» See the back page of this newsletter or visit www.worldvisiongifts.org to donate a cow, sheep, or other livestock to a family in need.

On Their Own

A tough life is made easier for orphans.

BY VENERANDE MUREKAMBANZE

Childhood can be a lonely time for children without parents. In sub-Saharan Africa, conflict and disease are the main causes for children becoming orphans—creating an escalating population of children who know loss and hardship only too well.

Vincent, 15, and Kanyange, 10, are two such children in Karuzi province, Burundi. Their parents were killed in 1998, when the civil war escalated. They lived with their neighbor for a time, but the man's health failed. Then they were on their own.

**Now food is not only
ENOUGH, but we can
manage it as WE WANT.**
—*Vincent*

sister and I have become fat and look healthier than before. Now food is not only enough, but we can manage it as we want.”

Kayange attends school, using the notebooks, pens, pencils, and school uniforms provided by World Vision's “Kids in Distressing Situations” project. In the afternoons, she looks after the two goats World Vision gave the children.

Vincent has become quite a farmer through agricultural training. “I can remember how our land was unproductive when our parents were still alive, but now I know how to make it more fertile,” he says, explaining how he applies compost and manure.

The children also used to frequently suffer from malaria, but those days are over—they have mosquito nets from World Vision.

In just a few simple ways, these children have received the tools they need to make it on their own. ■

But since World Vision came to their aid in 2003, the brother and sister have faced neither hunger nor poverty.

“World Vision provided us a monthly ration of maize, beans, vegetable oil, and salt,” says Vincent. “I believe my

**Goats are among the assistance that
Vincent and Kayange treasure as
they build a life without parents.**



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WHO WE ARE | World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty.

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

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.



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income for life . . .
leave a **legacy**
forever

A World Vision **Gift Annuity** can help you meet your financial goals AND leave a lasting legacy for children in need.

If you are 65 or older, simply make a gift of cash or securities to World Vision, and you'll receive fixed payments for life—along with a variety of tax benefits. After your lifetime, the remaining funds will be used to help bring hope and healing to children around the world.

The older you are,
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Age	Rate*
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70	6.5%
80	8.0%
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* Single-Life Rates effective
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World Vision®

Building a better world for children



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SOPHEAK KONG/WORLD VISION

A Child's Prayer

PHOTO BY SOPHEAK KONG/WORLD VISION

Lay Eery, 6, thanks God for the caring assistance she has received at World Vision's Bamboo Shoot Children's Center for street children in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. "Lord, please bless the child scrap-collectors to have food to eat. Please bless the farmers to produce more income. Please bless the patients to be cured. Please help children like us to stop quarreling, fighting, and hating each other. Amen." ■



Christmas gifts that really matter— to your loved ones and the world!

World Vision

Building a better world for children

Give a gift in a loved one's name for a child or family in need. Choose from these items, or visit our online Gift Catalog for more than 100 gifts that show God's love!

A GOAT nourishes a family with fresh milk, cheese, and yogurt, and can offer a much-needed income boost by providing offspring and extra dairy products for sale at the market.

\$75

Receive a Faith in Action Study Bible

when you give a gift to World Vision's Maximum Impact Fund. This gift enables local staff to provide help where it is needed most. And when you give \$100 or more, we'll send you this Bible, packed with study tools and special features to help you translate God's Word into practical actions that reflect God's heart for the world.

sugg. \$100 or more



PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT for one child. In addition to school fees, you provide uniforms, textbooks, pens, paper, and many other supplies.

\$32



PROVIDE TWO CHICKENS and you'll give a family fresh eggs every day to improve nutrition and income.

\$25



GIVE TO THE CLEAN WATER FUND to provide clean, life-giving water to families in the greatest need, through wells, latrines, irrigation, and more.

\$100



GIVE HOPE TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED GIRLS through after-care assistance like counseling, medical care, vocational training, and placement in loving environments.

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