

ChildWorld

AUTUMN 2013

ChildFund
celebrates
75 years of
working with
children

Meet our new
ambassador,
Julie Goodwin

World Water Day

www.childfund.org.au

ChildFund
Australia

Nigel Spence

Thirteen years ago, ChildFund Australia began working in Bac Kan, a poor, remote and mountainous province in Vietnam's north. At that time, families were only able to grow one rice crop each year resulting in food scarcity and poor childhood nutrition. School buildings were in disrepair and enrolment rates low, as many parents could not afford school fees and were discouraged by the very low standard of education. Poor hygiene and a lack of nearby health services meant children were often ill and child mortality was high.

Over the past decade of working in partnership with ChildFund, a transformation has taken place in Bac Kan. Today, construction of gravity-fed water systems and new irrigation canals means farmers produce four rice harvests annually. Water for household use is easy to access and safe to drink. A new preschool and primary school, as well as trained teachers and learning materials, have encouraged more children to attend school. Improved healthcare has reduced the number of parents losing their children to preventable diseases. This has been made possible by the efforts of people living in these communities, supported by concerned Australians, particularly child sponsors.

In 2013, ChildFund celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the organisation, making it timely to reflect on our work with children and their families in developing countries. Our combined efforts have ensured the survival of many thousands of children and provided opportunity for them to attend school and obtain the skills needed to sustain themselves in the future. Importantly, there are countless children who have grown into adults and are now

leading and supporting the next generation.

According to the World Health Organisation, the likelihood of a child dying before reaching the age of five is now approximately 7 per cent, compared to 25 per cent in 1950. This is a remarkable global achievement.

Along this 75-year journey, ChildFund's approach to helping children has changed and evolved, moving from a focus on orphanages for destitute children, to family support, and then to community partnerships that deliver effective long-term development programs. Our child focus has strengthened, and children are actively consulted and encouraged to voice their opinions on plans for their community. Taking the time to learn from our successes and failures has also been integral to our development.

ChildFund's long history of working with children has been made possible by the support and generosity of people in Australia and around the world. Ending the cycle of poverty can seem an impossible task, but ChildFund supporters demonstrate every day that positive change can happen – one child, one family and one community at a time.



Nigel Spence
CEO
ChildFund Australia

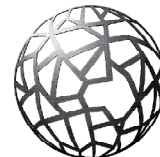
ChildFund Australia

Working in partnership with children and their communities to create lasting and meaningful change by supporting long-term community development and promoting children's rights.

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ChildFund Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

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Meet our new ambassador

ChildFund Australia is delighted to announce *MasterChef* star and long-time child sponsor Julie Goodwin as our newest ambassador. Julie and her husband Mick have been ChildFund sponsors for 13 years and recently travelled to Uganda to meet one of their sponsored children, 10-year-old Hamad, for the first time.

“It was just the most incredible day, to meet this child who we have only seen in pictures, to interact with him, to see the area where he lives and meet his family,” says Julie. “I am leaving with a greatly changed understanding of what child sponsorship is, and the huge reach it has in assisting not only the sponsored child and their family, but their entire community.”

In her role as ChildFund ambassador, Julie hopes to show Australians how rewarding child sponsorship can be and the real difference it can make to children living in extreme poverty around the world.

ChildFund Australia CEO Nigel Spence says: “We are fortunate to have someone of Julie Goodwin’s reputation and humble nature as a ChildFund ambassador. Julie has been a long-time supporter of ChildFund and her ability to communicate with the Australian public means she will be able to shine a new light on child sponsorship and connect Australians with the issues faced by children and families in other parts of the world.”



Julie Goodwin with husband Mick (left) and ChildFund Australia CEO Nigel Spence

Turn to page 9 to read Part One of Julie and Mick’s journey to Uganda.

World Water Day

There is much to celebrate this World Water Day (22 March). Since the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, 89 per cent of the world’s population now have access to improved drinking water – up from 76 per cent in 1990. However, the gap between urban and rural areas remains wide, with rural communities five times more likely than their city counterparts to be without an improved water source.

ChildFund works with communities in rural areas to increase access to safe water. During the last year in Cambodia, over 500 families have benefited from new household latrines and community wells, and more than 3,000 people have taken part in safe water and hygiene education. In Vietnam, fresh water is now being piped into eight more villages, and new water and sanitation facilities have been provided to schools.

Phalla, a mother of five from Cambodia who now knows how to purify water for her family’s drinking needs, says: “My family hasn’t needed to go to the health centre for over a year, but in the past I was taking my children every week.” Among other things, this means her children can continue to focus on their education uninterrupted by illness.



Safe drinking water is now closer to home for these children in Cambodia

This year has also been declared as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, giving World Water Day particular significance in 2013. ChildFund Australia will be marking the day by launching the Water World videos made by children involved in our ChildFund Connect program on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/ChildFundAustralia. Worth watching to see the vast array of short films they came up with!

At a glance: field updates



TIMOR-LESTE

ChildFund's family literacy project in Timor-Leste has allowed parents and children to realise the value of learning together. Three-year-old Jintara (pictured above with her mother, Rince) is already interested in reading and writing, which are now daily activities in her home.



INDONESIA

There are now over 300 early childhood development centres in 31 districts of Indonesia, established by ChildFund in partnership with local communities. This means 16,000 children under five have access to pre-primary education, health monitoring and better nutrition.



BOLIVIA

Last year, over 12,000 children aged six to 14 years across Bolivia were promoted to the next educational level of schooling, with the support of ChildFund's after-school programs. Facilitating school access and reducing school drop-out rates are among ChildFund Bolivia's main priorities.



SIERRA LEONE

To combat high youth unemployment in five urban regions of Sierra Leone, ChildFund has supported 1,200 young people with low levels of education to receive training in vocations such as hairdressing, carpentry, dress-making and auto mechanics.

My day with Marilin

After meeting a ChildFund representative on a street in Bondi, little did I know that three years later I would be on a plane to Honduras, says Daniela Kraus

The last couple of years have been very difficult for me after losing my beautiful mum. But it was she who encouraged me to visit Central America – something I had dreamed of for a long time. So six months after her passing, I packed my bags and set off – travelling first through Guatemala and Mexico, before making a stop in Honduras so I could finally meet the 13-year-old girl I had been corresponding with.

I have to say, I was pretty nervous, wanting to make a good impression. After a four-hour drive accompanied by ChildFund Honduras staff, our journey ended in a small town at the local ChildFund office.

I was overwhelmed – outside this concrete building was a giant sign with my name on it! There were also over 20 ChildFund workers and volunteers there, all to welcome me!

When a young girl approached me, I knew it was Marilin. She came right up and gave me a hug and kiss. I couldn't quite believe it. Then I met her mum and little brother and sister.

The local ChildFund staff and volunteers then introduced themselves one by one and I also received an overview of the various projects being run in the area. I was absolutely blown away at the commitment of these people, who themselves are living and working in standards well below those of Australia and New Zealand.

Having scrubbed up on my Spanish, over lunch I was able to have a conversation with Marilin about school, her love of sports and what she would like to do in the future. I was amazed that, as a 13-year-old, she already knows she wants to go to university and study engineering.

After talking to Marilin's mum, the daily challenges faced by the family became clear. Marilin's mother is raising her children singlehandedly, while also caring for her sick mother. For income, Marilin's mum washes other people's clothes in her home – completely by hand.

The way of life in this region is so difficult to explain in words, despite my having been there in person. People work so hard, children work so hard – many are not even able to attend school until they are 9 or 10 years old.

Daniela with Marilin (right), her mother and siblings



Daniela visiting ChildFund projects with Marilin and members of the local community

And yet, among the tired faces, you still meet beautiful people with big smiles, open hearts and natural curiosity – happy that you have come to see their country and hear their stories.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity and the support from ChildFund to make this journey. ChildFund plays a crucial role in not only supporting individual children (including building an educational foundation) but also their families and communities with their development programs.

I would like to extend that support to ensure Marilin not only continues to thrive within the ChildFund program, but can also create a brighter future for herself, her family, community and country in the years to come.

ChildFund celebrates 75 years...

After beginning work in China in 1938, ChildFund is now one of the world's oldest child-focused development organisations

Earlier this year, staff in ChildFund Australia's Sydney office celebrated Chinese New Year by decorating our meeting room with lanterns, and feasting on Chinese treats made by some of our employees. It seemed particularly fitting to celebrate this important holiday as China was the first country in which ChildFund began its work with children 75 years ago.

ChildFund (or China's Children Fund as it was then known) was the vision of an American humanitarian, Dr J. Calvitt Clarke. In 1937, Japan's invasion of China resulted in the second Sino-Japanese War. Amidst reports of widespread devastation and the displacement of millions of families and children, Dr Clarke decided he needed to take action to support the efforts of local people in China.

From his home in Richmond, Virginia, and with the assistance of his wife Helen, Dr Clarke launched a nationwide appeal in the US for funds for displaced children in China. Despite being in the midst of the Depression, and using his own money for stationary and postage, Dr Clarke found enough willing supporters to

enable him to establish China's Children Fund (CCF) in 1938, sending the organisation's first contribution, US\$2,000, to the relief effort in China.

Dr Clarke continued to write and appeal for assistance and by the end of 1939, CCF had sent a total of US\$13,000 to support the KuKong orphanage and a school in China.

Fast forward 75 years and CCF has transformed into the ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 12 organisations assisting more than 16 million children in over 50 countries. To mark this historic anniversary, representatives from each ChildFund office will come together in Hong Kong in November 2013 – the first time such a global meeting has taken place, with over 65 countries represented.

ChildFund Australia CEO Nigel Spence, who will be in attendance, says: "It will be a time not only to celebrate this momentous occasion, but also to reflect on ChildFund's past and our common goals for the future.

"Many thousands of children and their families have benefited from the work of ChildFund over the past 75 years, and we have much to be proud of. But it is also important to ensure that our combined efforts bring positive change to more children's lives in the years to come."



Dr Clarke and wife Helen receiving the Ribbon of Honour from South Korean President Syngman Rhee in 1958



CCF's overseas director Dr Verent Mills with children in China in 1942



A 'family helper' worker meeting with a family in Taiwan in 1965

The evolution of ChildFund: a timeline

1938: China Children's Fund (CCF) is established to help children devastated by the Sino-Japanese War. First donations used to support a school and the KuKong orphanage.

1941: CCF implements a child sponsorship program – enabling one sponsor to donate funds to support one child.

1946-47: CCF's work grows to include the Philippines, Burma, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo and India. Following World War II, CCF also expands its operations to children in Europe, focusing on education, food and shelter, particularly for those children displaced and orphaned by war.

1951: To recognise the increasingly global nature of the organisation while retaining the CCF acronym, CCF becomes Christian Children's Fund. Work also commences in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and South Korea.

1960: A change in philosophy begins, with CCF focusing on providing assistance to children through family support. The 'family helper program' starts to replace assistance for children in orphanages as the main program approach. Work expands to Taiwan and Brazil. CCF Canada is established.

1967: CCF makes another shift in its work to ensure that local programs are led by local leaders whenever possible.

1973: CCF ends its work in Europe and the Middle East to give greater concentration to Africa, starting in Kenya. CCF Denmark is established, shortly followed by other new CCF members Germany, UK and others.

1985: CCF Australia is established by a group of concerned, eminent Australians including Dr Adrian Johnson, Sir Roden Cutler VC, Bob Stevenson and Bill Joris. The focus is on raising sponsorship funds to support programs delivered by CCF around the world. Australian support grows rapidly.

1990s: CCF begins to play a greater role in delivering humanitarian support during disasters, specialising in Child-Centred Spaces, which provide safe places for displaced children during an emergency. Global alliance of CCFs is formed.

1994: CCF Australia establishes its first community development programs in Papua New Guinea, first partnering with the Salvation Army.

1995: CCF Australia begins work in Vietnam, working with ethnic minority communities in remote areas.

2000: Global research on child poverty gives added emphasis to CCF's community development program approach and completes the move away from the family helper model.

2005: CCF Australia changes its name to ChildFund Australia, to clearly reflect our values and vision: to assist children in need regardless of their gender, religion or ethnicity. ChildFund Alliance is formalised with 12 global members – USA, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Sweden and Taiwan.

2013: ChildFund marks 75 years of supporting the world's poorest children, families and communities.

At ChildFund Australia we will be celebrating this anniversary throughout the year by recognising inspiring people who have become part of the ChildFund family. Every month, we will give you the chance to read stories from former sponsored children, our amazing supporters, ChildFund staff members here and overseas, and much, much more. Subscribe to our blog at www.childfund.org.au/news/blog so you don't miss out!

Bringing relief in Myanmar



Than and his family were among those who received emergency food rations

in Shwebo district, one of the worst-hit areas. ChildFund worked with a local partner to implement our response.

ChildFund's Mandalay program coordinator, Thiha Sane, who has been monitoring the distribution of food and school supplies, reports that 360 of the most vulnerable families received food rations, including rice, cooking oil, red beans, potato, dried chilli and fish paste.

Funds were also used to provide temporary shelters for schools, along with school supplies. Desks and benches were distributed by boat to villages located along the Ayerwaddy River. This meant children affected by the earthquake could continue their education while their schools were being rebuilt.

Importantly, disaster preparedness information, such as pamphlets and posters, is being disseminated to educate people about how to reduce the impact of future quakes.

"We can't prevent future earthquakes from happening but we can work with communities to better prepare them," explains Thiha. "This will help to reduce the gains that are lost each time disaster strikes."

When a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar in November last year, thousands of families were left without homes, schools and businesses. Thanks to our Project Humanity supporters, ChildFund was able to assist hundreds of children and their families

Gifts galore!

Last Christmas, ChildFund Australia supporters donated over \$250,000 worth of gifts for children, their families and communities in developing countries. Thank you! If you are looking for an alternative to chocolate eggs this Easter, how about donating a gift of baby chickens instead? Not only will this provide families in Laos with eggs to eat and chickens to sell, you'll receive a beautiful card to give your loved ones here in Australia. There are plenty of other gifts available at www.childfund.org.au/gifts

Baby chickens were your most popular gift!



Good Aid Works

Stories about international aid often focus on the problems, and not the successes. A new website www.goodaidworks.com.au is hoping to change that by sharing some of the good news stories from communities around the globe. Featuring the work of a

variety of aid agencies, including ChildFund Australia, the site has videos, photos and stories from people who have benefited from Australia's aid program and will be updated throughout the year. Thanks to the Australian Government Agency for International Development (AusAID) for supporting this initiative.

Julie and her husband Mick greeted by lots of excited school children!

Seeing ChildFund's work in action

ChildFund Australia ambassador and long-time sponsor Julie Goodwin shares Part One of her journey to Uganda...

Today is the day we go out into the field and experience firsthand the projects that ChildFund is running in the community. The landscape changes rapidly as we leave the city. Soon there is nothing but bushland, crops and mud houses.

The project we are visiting is called Nutrition Day. Its goal is to provide health and nutrition information, including how to avoid malnutrition in toddlers (the most at-risk group).

When we arrive at the community it is filled with people. The school children are on their morning break and there are many mothers and babies gathered for the nutrition session. First we are taken to the Early Childhood Development Centre. This is essentially a kindy, where children from three years old come to learn the alphabet and numbers and prepare for big school.

Behind the kindy there is a medical area set up, where children are being screened by a doctor and a nutritionist. They are weighed and their upper arm circumference measured to check for signs of malnutrition. At certain times they are immunised too, but that is not happening today.

The community area provides room for planting crops, too. ChildFund provides the seeds, and the parents plough the land, plant and harvest the food. They are waiting for the rainy season to start (which should be any day) before planting the whole field.

We then meet Esther, who is a nutritionist and dietitian. Her lesson today is for the mothers of babies from six months to two years. She has requested that the mothers

bring vegetables from their own land, and she shows them how to mix foods from different food groups to ensure their babies are not malnourished.

One of the difficulties of this area is that even though the soil is rich and crops grow well, many people do not have the information they need to ensure their children receive the correct nutrients. Think of Australia where we are constantly exposed to public health messages and information, and try to imagine a place where there is no mass communication, and knowledge about protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals does not exist.

After this the school music group performs a few songs, which they have written themselves and which thank ChildFund for being in their community and being a "weapon" against disease and malnutrition. It is beautiful, and humbling.

Leaving here my heart is full. Being a child sponsor had meant to me that my child and their immediate family were the recipients and the only beneficiaries of the money we send. But it has become very clear to me that there is a much bigger picture here, where whole communities are being given the education and the means to eventually support themselves and thrive. It is ChildFund's goal to achieve this in around 10-12 years in any given area, then to say goodbye and go to work in another vulnerable community. It is pretty awesome.

In our next issue, Julie shares her experience of meeting her sponsored child, Hamad – plus more amazing pics and highlights from her trip.

Keen to see more of Julie's inspiring trip to Uganda? Watch her video diaries at www.youtube.com/ChildFundAustralia

Our incredible Laos cycle



The Laos Water Cycle team visit a school in Nonghet



Al da Silva was one of 17 Australians who took part in our Laos Water Cycle last year, and took home much more than just tired muscles. He tells his story

As I sit here waiting for my flight home, I have some time (about 7 hours actually) to reflect on the last two weeks. We packed

in a lot of cycling, lots of visits to various villages and monuments, and interacted with the locals in ways that would not have been possible as a regular visitor.

Along the way, I met a wonderful bunch of people, my fellow fundraisers and cyclists, who each had their own fascinating story of how they became a part of the team and what they did to raise the necessary funds for the clean water and sanitation project in Laos.

Our time with the communities was richly rewarding for us, and I hope too for our hosts. It opened my eyes to the work that NGOs like ChildFund are doing in these communities. For instance, to my surprise (though it makes perfect sense when you think about it) the families who will be receiving the toilets that we were fundraising for do not simply have it handed to them. Each family needs to put in a certain percentage of the cost of the toilets based on their relative wealth within the community and also do the labour to actually build them. This gives the individual household a sense of ownership and pride and thus ensures they will look after them. The philosophy is working as the demand for more household toilets is rising from families in the villages. Great news.

Cycle Sri Lanka

If Al's story has you feeling inspired, why not think about signing up for ChildFund Australia's 2013 Sri Lanka Cycle Against Poverty?

By joining the cycle not only will you get fit, you will also get the opportunity to travel to one of the world's most exotic islands, and provide goats to families in Trincomalee, making a real difference for children in one of the most disadvantaged regions of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Cycle Against Poverty is a 13-day trip that kicks off on 24 November 2013. Register now at www.childfund.org.au/cycle or call Rachel on 1800 023 600 for more details.





A beautiful photo taken by AI while learning to play some new games!

Education is also very important to lift people out of poverty, as is health and nutrition, and ChildFund is working to provide these services in a way that involves the community and gives them ownership over the outcomes. For example, ChildFund built the school that we went to visit, but it was not done without first consulting the community about the location and how it would most benefit them.

It was also not done without first getting buy-in from the local government/council to provide the teachers and commit to the ongoing staffing. There is no point having a school if there are no teachers, just as there is no point having education without first meeting the basic needs of that community like food, clean water, shelter, access to health care etc. There is a whole ecosystem that needs to be in place and continually developing in order to effectively support a community like those we visited in Nonghet.

So, would I do something like this again? Of course! But I would like to do it in a way that includes my whole family.

I think it would be greatly rewarding and eye-opening for my children to see how children in other places are living, and to appreciate the comforts that they have in life.

I believe that those of us in a position of privilege have a responsibility to help those that are less fortunate, to improve their lives and standard of living also. This doesn't mean providing handouts, but rather getting involved and making a difference through organisations such as ChildFund who are trained and experienced in implementing the programs necessary to create a long-term sustainable method of keeping them out of poverty.

A quick note to my fellow riders and fundraisers: thank you for an extraordinary experience. Sharing this time with such a diverse group of people pulled together by a common will to make a difference in the lives of others has really enhanced what was already an amazing time. You have all been inspirational to me in your own way, more than you probably know.

Discover Vietnam

If cycling is not your thing, ChildFund's 9-day Vietnam Discovery Tour (29 June – 6 July 2013) might be for you!

Not only will you get a taste of Vietnamese culture and see some of its stunning countryside, you'll have a unique opportunity to see ChildFund's work firsthand. By registering for this trip, you will also support the construction of a much-needed preschool in Nghla village – a remote community in Vietnam's north that you will get the opportunity to visit on this trip.

Places on this tour are strictly limited, so be quick to register! Call Rachel on 1800 023 600 or download the info pack at www.childfund.org.au/act/vietnamtrip





ChildFund
Australia


2013 SRI LANKA CYCLE AGAINST POVERTY

Nov 24 – Dec 6 2013

CYCLE SRI LANKA
WITH CHILD FUND
AUSTRALIA AND HELP
COMBAT POVERTY,
ONE GOAT AT
A TIME.

Highlights

- Cycle for six days through Sri Lanka's legendary tea plantations, visit ancient temples, go leopard-spotting in Yala National Park and share the experience with a bunch of new friends.
- Spend two days in and around Trincomalee in north-eastern Sri Lanka, meeting some of the children in communities benefiting from your fundraising.
- Help ChildFund Australia buy goats to give poor families in north-eastern Sri Lanka a fresh start and hope for the future.



By joining the 2013 Sri Lanka Cycle Against Poverty you'll get fit, experience one of the world's most exotic islands and provide goats to families, making a real difference in one of the most disadvantaged regions of the world.

The money you raise will be used to buy 200 goats for impoverished families in three communities. The families will also be supported with essential materials such as sheds, feed, vaccines and vitamins, livestock insurance and training (where it's needed) to help kickstart their goat-rearing businesses.

CALL Kristen NOW on 1300 905 168 with any questions!
VISIT www.childfund.org.au/cycle to download the information pack today
EMAIL Kristen@inspiredadventures.com.au

inspired
adventures