

CHILDWORLD

AUTUMN 2011

The next generation

A future for sponsored children



Gambian youth win business award

Giving the vision-impaired access to education

Trek for toddlers in Vietnam

www.childfund.org.au

ChildFund
Australia



FROM THE CEO

Nigel Spence

Dear ChildFund supporters,

In recent months, every corner of the globe has been touched by extreme weather conditions. At home, extensive flooding in Queensland and Victoria has caused widespread devastation, while Cyclone Yasi and bushfires in Western Australia have caused further devastation and loss. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to all those Australians who are having to rebuild their lives. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you at this difficult time.

Further afield, Brazil, the Philippines and Sri Lanka have also seen widespread damage as a result of flooding, and ChildFund is now providing emergency assistance to many communities who have been forced to evacuate. The devastation for Sri Lankans could not have come at a worse time – many families were only just beginning to rebuild their lives after the end of the civil war in 2009, having already survived the chaos caused by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

It is deeply distressing for so many people around the world to experience natural disasters on such an enormous scale. For Australia, it will be a massive challenge for government, business and community members to rebuild lives and infrastructure. However, as a wealthy country we are in the exceptionally fortunate position of being able to assist those in need both in Australia and overseas.

As the Government undertakes an Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, and examines how we can most effectively support developing countries in the future, we urge politicians from all parties to uphold their commitment to fighting global poverty. Providing support and aid, both at home and abroad, has never been more important.

The next generation

We talk to young adults about how sponsorship has changed their lives

Child sponsorship programs have come a long way since their inception in the 1930s. Today, the majority of programs pool the funding contributions of sponsors in order to provide support to an entire community, rather than a single child.

In this way, there is no divide between those who are sponsored and those who aren't – every child within that community, as well as members of their family, is given access to the same development programs. These programs are designed to respond to locally identified needs and are not dictated by the interests of donors or sponsors.

At the same time a sponsor and a child, and their respective families, can enjoy a unique friendship. Child sponsorship is a powerful vehicle through which human compassion and solidarity across cultures is realised.

Over 50,000 Australians now sponsor a child through ChildFund Australia, in three continents of the globe. Through these funds, ChildFund is able to provide support in the areas of healthcare, nutrition, education, livelihoods and safe water. Sponsorship revenue also allows ChildFund to implement large scale projects, including the construction of water systems and schools, as well as widespread immunisation programs.

But what are the benefits of sponsorship to an individual child, living in a developing country? ChildFund talks to four young adults about how their lives have changed.

Katherine, Uganda *(pictured on cover)*

Katherine grew up as one of 10 children in a two-room house in Uganda. During her childhood, Katherine's father was unable to find work, and the family relied on the small income generated by her mother's second-hand clothing business.

Being linked with a sponsor in Australia – "Auntie Janet" – turned Katherine's life around. "As a sponsored child, I had access to medical facilities. I also benefited from the fact that I no longer had to miss school because of unpaid fees."

Today, Katherine is the deputy news manager at KFM, a radio station in Uganda. She also works as a media and PR consultant part-time and is pursuing a degree in microfinance and economic development. "I love my job. I always wanted to help people who cannot speak out, have their voices heard. And there was no more perfect way than through the media."

Katherine remembers her sponsor's generosity and has found time to support ChildFund in her own way. As the Organising Secretary of Uganda's ChildFund Alumni group, she coordinates communications, organises meetings and other events, and solicits funds for the association's activities.

Demissie, Ethiopia

Demissie is a 27-year-old English degree graduate working with ChildFund Ethiopia, as a sponsorship community development worker. He is also a third-year degree program student in business administration, and hopes to establish his own business after graduation.

"I truly don't know what my life would have been if it was not for ChildFund and my sponsor. I am who I am today because of ChildFund's care, protection and provision," says Demissie.

"I would like my sponsor to know that I am now an employee supporting myself and my family, and her dream for me is fulfilled."

Demissie's life and that of his family changed drastically when his father passed away. "My father was the only breadwinner and it was a hard time for my mother, as she had no income to support six children. Shortly after, ChildFund came to our rescue, as they educated me, provided clean water and other health improvements and, most important, assisted my mother and her ability to feed us."

Demissie is able to financially support himself and his family, giving his siblings the opportunity to go to school. In addition to his work at ChildFund, Demissie offers advice and guidance to less fortunate children: "I encourage and motivate them so one day they can have a bright future."

Demissie adds: "My sponsor has not only financially assisted me, but has provided the encouragement that has led to who I am today."

Rachael, Zambia

Rachael is just 23 years old and the sole breadwinner for her family. Following the death of her parents, Rachael was desperate to earn an income to maintain herself and her six siblings. "I had no one else to look up to, and my siblings needed someone to look after them," she says. "I decided to be strong and start



Rachael uses a game to educate others on the dangers of HIV

looking for ways of raising money to look after all of us." Rachael began by working odd jobs, but the income provided was not enough to sustain seven individuals.

However, ChildFund Zambia identified her as a youth who could benefit from the income-generating activities being implemented in her community. Rachael received training and a start-up package to open a hair salon, which she now manages today.

Rachael has also been able to take advantage of many educational opportunities through ChildFund. She is an active peer educator, sharing what she has learned about the dangers of early marriage, HIV/AIDS and drug and alcohol abuse, among other things. "I want the youth in my community to grow up healthy and strong, so I share the information I have received from ChildFund," she says.

Margaret, Kenya

"ChildFund was like a home for me," says Margaret, who is studying to be a math and chemistry teacher at Nairobi University. Margaret's sponsor - Miss Linda - gave Margaret the support she needed to grow and develop. Today, the former sponsored child has grown into a 26-year-

old woman driven "to reach out to the poor and make an appreciable difference in their lives".

Growing up in the semi-arid Mbeere district in Kenya, Margaret had many responsibilities. "Like every child here, you are expected to assist your parent at home in activities like cooking, fetching water and firewood and weeding among others."

ChildFund ensured that Margaret and her siblings had proper care and nutrition. Throughout primary school, Margaret also had the opportunity to get involved in sports and drama while enrolled in ChildFund programs.

"It's not the big things you do that changes the lives of others," says Margaret. "But the small sacrifices we make."

Margaret says having a connection with ChildFund made her feel important and cared for. "It was nice to realise that so many people can unite and share so much," she says.

Margaret also stays in touch with ChildFund Kenya. Given the opportunity, she would love to give back to her own community by returning to teach the next generation in her village.

ChildFund around the globe



Lao PDR

ChildFund's work in Lao PDR is currently focusing on primary education infrastructure, both repairs and constructions. The repair of two schools in the villages of Phakkae and Nonghet Tai are complete, with new roofs, classroom ceilings, latrines and water supplies being installed.

In Khorthong village, pre-school to grade 3 children have to walk around 30 minutes to school along a steep track and this often discourages parents from sending children to school. ChildFund is supporting the community to construct a three-room school in the village, including latrines and a water source.

In Paka village, ChildFund is supporting the community to build a five-room primary school, which will see complete primary education available for the first time. Community contribution in the form of labour and materials has been key to the success of this work, as well as the participation of village leaders.

ChildFund is also working to support students to identify how to improve their school environment; children have identified flower pots, sports spaces and school gates as some of the key areas that they will be improving over the coming months. All of ChildFund Laos' education projects are being funded through the support of Project Humanity.



Haiti

Over 12 months have passed since Haiti was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, killing more than 230,000 people, injuring another 300,000, and leaving more than one million people homeless.

While ChildFund does not operate in Haiti, ChildFund International (USA) identified partners who were working on the ground to meet the needs of children. Through these partners, ChildFund helped provide food, shelter and other emergency relief goods in the immediate aftermath of the quake. Funds were also used to support a feeding program for vulnerable children.

ChildFund also supported the implementation of six child-centred spaces in Port-au-Prince. These were located in devastated communities and designed to provide a safe place where children, including disabled and injured children, could find a safe place to receive treatment, play and learn. Children received counselling to help them cope with the trauma of the quake and the loss of parents or siblings.

ChildFund is also providing funding support to Physicians for Peace, to provide custom-fitted prosthetics and medical equipment, and run a summer camp for children with disabilities or whose parents are disabled.



The Gambia

Omar, Kaddy, Mam and Lamin returned home from Nairobi with a special gift – the winner's trophy from the Africa Region Junior Achievement (JA) Company of the Year Competition. The competition celebrates the achievements of students who have completed the JA Company curriculum, which provides economic education for youth by taking them through the process of creating and running their own businesses.

ChildFund's JA program in The Gambia is designed to empower youths who have dropped out of school. "I am a school dropout due to circumstances beyond my control," says Lamin, Lawol Welli's HR manager. "I was frustrated since then I thought that I would not be able to make it in life. I kept blaming people for my failure, and I became very aggressive."

Lawol Welli produces batik and tie-dyed bags and table runners, and now trains and employs other young people.

Mustapha Kebbeh, national youth coordinator for ChildFund Gambia, says the entrepreneurs recruited other young people to undergo the training. "They are also leading other young people's groups in their communities to campaign against drug and substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and other vices affecting young people."

The ChildFund Alliance works where aid is able to flow, implementing community development programs in 55 countries. ChildFund Australia thanks its supporters and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).



PNG

In the Rigo district in Papua New Guinea, farmers like Hillary (pictured) have traditionally grown banana, for both subsistence and income purposes. This crop can take as long as one year before it is ready to harvest, so ChildFund has been working with communities to provide training and support to allow farmers to diversify into vegetable farming.

Hillary, who is the breadwinner for his wife and four children, is now growing capsicum, watermelon, packchoi and other green vegetables. As a result, the family income has increased.

Hillary explains: "With the money I get from my vegetables sale, I buy rice, sugar, help my family contribute to bride price, contribute to mourning gatherings, and make church contributions."

ChildFund's backyard farming initiative also means that Hillary has two gardens to produce food and income – one is situated a kilometre from his home, and is used to grow staple items such as yams and cassava which require less daily attention. In his backyard, Hillary grows his vegetables. "In the event like now where there is a death in the village, women have no greens to cook as they had to walk far to their gardens to collect. No all I have to do is go to my backyard to prepare good meals for my children."



Kenya

Fifteen year-old Helen (above left) lost her sight due to illness at four months. In countries like Kenya, education is often out of reach for the blind. But not for Helen. ChildFund Kenya, the Marigat Family Helper project and Sight Savers International have been working together for over 20 years, to ensure that vision-impaired children have the same chance to reach their potential as sighted children do.

The result is an integrated school where both blind and sighted share a mainstream learning environment. Sighted students help the blind with reading during study time, and all learn together and interact as they enjoy routine school activities.

Helen, now in grade eight, has a whole list of things that make her happy at school. She explains: "Making friends, being able to learn, being taught by role models who are visually impaired teachers and learning to work for myself."

The school employs government-trained special-needs teachers – some of them visually impaired. The resource centre is a library for the children with visual challenges, where they can find braille texts and other materials. There is also an onsite transcriber trained in braille support – generating braille materials and repairing braille typewriters.



Zambia

The Kasaka Basic school has been completely transformed since opening in 1987. In the early 1990s, when the school's numbers threatened to outgrow the facility, ChildFund Zambia worked in partnership with the local community to build additional classrooms, adding grades five to seven to the school's original one through four.

Last year, with the school once more bursting at the seams, Kasaka and ChildFund again joined forces to expand and enhance the learning environment.

This time, construction included a two-by-two classroom block, a toilet and a science laboratory. The additions allowed the school to add eighth and ninth grades and increased enrollments from 400 to 700 students.

Kasaka teacher Lucy Nyirongo likes the new classrooms because students are much more comfortable and thus able to spend more time learning. "In the past, we used to have short classroom sessions so that we could accommodate as many pupils as possible," she says.

Student Davy says: "I am happy to be here because of the many works that are going on. We are the only basic school in the district to have a laboratory and a library."

SPONSOR VISITS

Nhan celebrates his 18th birthday with his sponsor Barry

As soon as I left the inside of the airport, I knew I was in Vietnam. The weather was very humid and I was bewildered by the traffic - the amount of scooters and motorbikes was just unbelievable.

On Friday, a car from ChildFund picked me up at 7am and we headed north to the province of Hoa Binh. The countryside was beautiful, especially as we were heading into the mountainous area of Vietnam. We arrived at the commune's community hall and waited for my sponsored child - who, I might add, was no longer a child but a young man of 18 years. My wife and I had been sponsoring Nhan since he was 10 years old.

When the family arrived, I recognised Nhan straight away. I also met his parents, sister and grandmother. I, in my limited Vietnamese, welcomed them all and we had a good chat for several hours. As it was Nhan's birthday, I give him a watch as a remembrance.

I was also shown around the commune and was deeply impressed with the amount of work that ChildFund Vietnam had done in Nhan's community.

This included a newly built health centre staffed by professional people, sewerage systems, as well as irrigation systems which collect water from the hills for storage.



I am glad we decided to sponsor; it makes you feel good that you can help others no matter how far away they are. I reckon everyone should get involved.

Sandra and George meet 'the most beautiful child in Cambodia'



The province of Svay Rieng is the poorest in Cambodia and this was apparent as we travelled through the area on our adventure to Svay Thum. Han from ChildFund Cambodia had met us the day before to help us buy gifts and we soon learned that nothing was too much trouble for him.

The vibrant hustle and bustle of other places we had visited in Cambodia was absent in Svay Rieng. There were no road side stalls, markets, or visible means of transportation. As we drove to the school, we searched for a child who resembled the photos on our fridge door. And then we saw her, just as in the photo, a small serious, shy

child, with her hands by her side. Sreynich came forward to meet us, joining her hands in front of her face and bowing in that special Cambodian way. Her mum gave her an encouraging gentle push and she came forward to hold my hand.

We then sat with Sreynich, her family and anyone else in the village who was interested. Han interpreted for us - Sreynich's family asked us how long it had taken to travel from Australia, how big our families were, did we have any pets and we asked similar questions. They showed us around the school and we marvelled how a group of around 30 young children

who followed us did not once have to be asked to behave themselves.

Although we had imagined our visit would be very special, we did not understand just how meaningful it would be. Following the visit we thought about how the family existed with almost nothing, a subsistence existence, with minimal income and nothing to buy, as the market was 7km away and there was no transport to reach it. We often think of the people we met when we waste \$5 or throw our leftovers from dinner in the bin. We wondered what Sreynich would make of Darling Harbour in Sydney when we visited there recently; the yachts, the buildings, the wealth.

Sreynich remained serious and barely spoke during our visit, but her poise and grace in such unfamiliar circumstances, representing her community as a sponsored child, were extraordinary. We admired her enormously. And we wondered how, just purely by chance, we had sponsored the most beautiful child in Cambodia.

OUR COMMUNITY

ChildFund's work in developing countries would not be possible without the amazing support of everyday Australians

Trek for toddlers

ChildFund Australia and Inspired Adventures are on the hunt for 20 fit and fired-up participants to take part in the Vietnam Trek for Toddlers 2011 – which will take place in October.

Join the adventure and you'll be part of a small group who'll fundraise for a safe and fun preschool for the children of Go Thau, a new community ChildFund Australia is working with in the north of Vietnam.

You'll also embark on a 12-day

trip of a lifetime, exploring the best of Vietnam by foot, rail and boat! Over 12 days, you'll experience the wonderful chaos of Hanoi and its peaceful surrounding villages.

You'll spend four days trekking through bamboo forests and mountain trails. You'll also have the opportunity to see ChildFund Australia's development work first-hand.

This is a once in a lifetime adventure - for more information, visit www.childfund.org.au/vietnamtrek.



A trip to Tanzania

ChildFund Australia supporters Emma and Rolf flew to Tanzania in Africa, to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and raise funds for ChildFund at the same time. Here's a taste of their amazing journey, in Emma's own words.

"Days one to five were spent getting to base camp. This was five days of walking slowly as the altitude has such an impact. It really gets your heart hammering! The scenery changed from

lush forest on the lower slopes to what can only be described as desolate lunar landscapes in the higher altitudes.

The cold nights and mountain toilets were just as challenging. My night time attire was as follows: two thermal tops, one polypro top, a merino wool cardigan, a duffel jacket, two pairs of thermal leggings, two pairs of socks, one pair of trousers, a scarf, woolly hat and gloves. And I still woke up freezing!

The final ascent on day six started at 11pm and was due to finish at 10am. So, sleep deprived and freezing cold we head off up the final slope of the mountain. One walking pole in front of the other, just keep walking, slowly slowly, shuffle shuffle.

Our guide decided to go ahead with Rolf as my slow pace could affect his chance of getting to the top. I watched their torches bob towards the summit and at 5,200m I made a call to turn back, I couldn't push myself any more and was very proud of how much I had challenged myself.

Rolf came back at 9am, having made it to the roof of Africa. Even at sub zero temperatures, he peeled off a few layers and stood in his ChildFund t-shirt to pose for a photo in front of the summit sign!

It was a monumentally difficult task but absolutely rewarding. And we raised

over \$3,000 for ChildFund!

Doctors of rock

Adelaide dad band the Rockdoctors – made up of rock star-wannabe doctors and several musically gifted patients – have been dispensing their own brand of medical healing.

The Rockdoctors have performed gigs all around Adelaide and recently decided to take their quest to raise money globally. The band uploaded an original song, Nothing but the Rolling Stones, to iTunes, with all proceeds donated to ChildFund Australia.

Guitarist and founding member Dr Patrick O'Leary says the band plans to release more original tracks to raise additional money. While the Rockdoctors concede it is extremely unlikely they would ever leave their day jobs, the band has provided a light-hearted escape from their inevitable occupational stress.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Flooding in Sri Lanka

ChildFund Australia's Project Humanity program is providing emergency assistance to children and families affected by the extreme flooding in Sri Lanka.

The floods that hit Sri Lanka's central and eastern regions have now claimed 43 lives, with more people still missing. While the flood waters have now receded, some people are returning to their devastated communities, however, thousands are still stranded in emergency relief camps. Shops have been damaged and numerous roads and bridges washed out, leaving many without food and other basic supplies.

"People are finding it difficult to access food, and health in the camps is a major issue," says Guru Naik, national director of ChildFund Sri Lanka. "Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable without access to hospitals."

ChildFund has been distributing dry rations, milk packets, medicine, soap and bedding to affected families. Plans to undertake a larger scale relief and rehabilitation program are now under way.

A calorie-free treat for Easter

Are your friends and family trying to avoid death by chocolate this Easter? Then why not give a guilt-free gift from our Donations with a Difference range, and help children and families in developing countries at the same time.

We will send your funds overseas so our partners can deliver your gift to the children who really need them. In return, we'll send you a gift card so you can show your loved ones the gift you donated on their behalf.

Baby chickens make a cute Easter gift idea, and they are cheep cheep at just \$20 for ten! The choices are endless, so have a look at our online catalogue at www.childfund.org.au/gifts

Consider leaving a bequest

Your bequest will help open doors to many children and families who currently suffer from extreme poverty.

As all our programs aim to create sustainable change, your bequest can change lives for years to come. It could be used to build a well that provides for an entire community or offer training for teachers or medical staff who will be able to service the community well into the future.

Please leave a bequest to ChildFund Australia. With your help, we can improve living conditions for some of the world's poorest children.

For a simple guide on bequests, request our Wills Guide on 1800 023 600 or visit www.childfund.org.au/act/bequest.

If you have already left a bequest to ChildFund Australia, we would be grateful if you could let us know to provide us with the opportunity to thank you personally and plan for the future.

Chat to ChildFund online

If you want to get to know the team at ChildFund Australia a bit better, why not become a fan of our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/childfundaustalia) or follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/childfundau)?

You can also see ChildFund's latest film and video footage from our program countries on our YouTube Channel - just visit www.youtube.com/childfundaustalia

We can provide you with the latest updates on our community development programs, emergency assistance as well as interesting news about the fight to end global poverty.

We would also love to know what you think about international aid issues, so please drop us a line online!

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

Level 8, 162 Goulburn Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
P: 1800 023 600
E: info@childfund.org.au
W: www.childfund.org.au



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.

For more information, please contact ACFID:
(02) 6285 1816 | main@acfid.asn.au | www.acfid.asn.au