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CHILDFUND'S SUPPORTER MAG

WINTER 2014

CHILD



WORLD

**CLEAN WATER
SAVES LIVES**

**AROUND THE WORLD
WITH CHILDFUND**

**THE SPONSORSHIP
EFFECT**

ChildFund
Australia



In the remote villages of Silti Woreda, in rural Ethiopia, access to water is one of the biggest obstacles to educating girls. Here, mothers and daughters are responsible for water collection, and spend as many as four hours a day walking to a water source. The water is often contaminated, and causes diarrhoea and typhoid for many children. Ill health is widespread and is another reason why so many boys and girls are robbed of their education.

ChildFund Ethiopia is working with the local community to construct a gravity-fed water system, so that families have a safe water source near their

homes. The overall health of children in this community will improve. Most importantly for these rural villages, clean water will mean education, and education provides a way out of poverty. With a relatively small investment, dramatic improvements to the quality of life will be achieved in this community.

Ethiopia has long been synonymous with world poverty. A country situated in one of the world's most drought prone regions, its famines and crises have been widely reported over the years. It might appear that nothing has changed. But this is far from the truth.

In fact, over the last decade global efforts by numerous aid agencies such as ChildFund, international donors, the Ethiopian government, private sector investment and – most of all – the efforts of local people have resulted in far-reaching change. This landlocked nation is on track to meet at least five, possibly all, of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including halving extreme poverty, ensuring universal primary education and reducing child mortality. The new water system in Silti Woreda is one small part

of this national transformation but for the children and parents of the village it is life changing.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The fundamental human rights of children are contained in the Convention, including rights to survive and to receive essential services. Millions of children and families in Ethiopia still face massive challenges in the years ahead. It is absolutely vital that we build on the significant gains already made, maintain the commitment and ensure that each Ethiopian child's right to life is upheld. Thank you for your determination to help create a world fit for children and for your generous support of ChildFund's work in communities like Silti Woreda.

Nigel Spence
CEO
ChildFund Australia

ChildFund Australia is an independent and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in the developing world. ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 12 organisations which assists more than 15 million children and families in 58 countries.

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Front cover: Three-year-old Mudin lives in Silti Woreda where there is no access to clean water. His family must journey four hours each day to find water. Head to page three to read what ChildFund is doing, with your support, to change this.

STAY CONNECTED!

We would love you to join us online and stay up to date with our latest news. You can sign up to our blog at www.childfund.org.au/blog

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Clean water saves lives

ChildFund Australia has launched a campaign to provide clean water to more than 4,500 people in rural Ethiopia.



12-year-old Aleyka from Silti Woreda. She says: "How can I live if there's no clean water?"

It is hard for us in Australia to imagine a life where accessing safe drinking water doesn't mean just turning on a tap. Yet, millions of people around the world live this reality every day.

In fact, each day over 1,400 children die from waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea because of contaminated drinking water, lack of sanitation and poor hygiene.

"Every morning before school, I get up early to fetch water for bathing from the river. After school is finished I go into town to get our drinking water," says Aleyka. "I spend four hours walking to fetch water every day."

In Aleyka's village there is no water source. Your support means that for Aleyka, and other children like her, accessing clean water will be as

easy as turning on a tap near their home.

Thank you to all of our generous supporters who have already donated to help provide water for Aleyka's village.



You too can be part of the change: www.childfund.org.au/appeal/ethiopia

TIM FISCHER: OUR NEW ENVOY!

Former deputy Prime Minister and long-term ChildFund Australia sponsor, The Hon. Tim Fischer AC is ChildFund Australia's new Envoy. On International Day for Mine Awareness in April, Mr Fischer – himself a Vietnam War veteran – lent his voice to our campaign to clear unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in Laos, leftover from the Vietnam War.



You can read his story here: www.childfund.org.au/blog/legacy-uxos-laos

CHILDFUND'S CHILDREN'S CHARTER

With the Millennium Development Goals finishing in 2015, world leaders are currently deciding our next global development priorities to reduce poverty. To ensure children's voices are heard ChildFund is developing a global charter of children's views. The Free Charter From Children will address issues that are important to kids and will be published globally in September.



Read more here: www.freefromviolence.org

A NEW TEACHING RESOURCE FROM CHILDFUND CONNECT

ChildFund Connect, a global education program for children in Australian primary schools, has recently published Cultural Connections. This unique educational resource supports the Australian Curriculum's focus on intercultural understanding and can be integrated seamlessly with the Geography, English and Civics and Citizenship curriculum.



Download your free copy here: www.childfundconnect.org/teachers

Around the world

This is a snapshot of how your support is improving the lives of the most vulnerable children around the world.

CAMBODIA

This new well means these children are no longer forced to walk long distances every day to fetch water. Over the past year, ChildFund Cambodia has supported the construction of 16 wells which are helping to keep kids in rural Cambodia healthy.



ChildFund Papua New Guinea's backyard farming project is training farmers from rural communities in improved agricultural techniques and providing them with the necessary equipment to grow crops. The project is also giving farmers better access to financial services through our new mobile banking initiative with Bank South Pacific.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



TIMOR-LESTE

Nine-year-old Nofania and seven-year-old Lindalva are two of thousands of children in rural Timor-Leste whose families have received insecticide-treated bed nets to protect them from malaria over the past year. ChildFund Timor-Leste's extensive maternal health program is all thanks to ChildFund Australia supporters and the Australian Government's aid program.



ECUADOR

Thank you to the thousands of sponsors who have sent our Birthday and Seasons' Greetings cards to their sponsored children over the past year. We think Freddy from Ecuador's big smile says it all!

PHILIPPINES



Thanks to the generosity of everyday Australians, trusts and foundations and the Australian Government, thousands of children affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines have received support from ChildFund. We are now helping children (like 13 year-old Kristine pictured) and their families recover from the disaster through our rebuilding programs.

KENYA

ChildFund Kenya's mobile medical camps are helping to decrease child mortality for children under five by providing vital immunisations, monitoring growth, treating dangerous childhood illnesses, such as malaria, and providing nutrition training for mothers.



The sponsorship effect

Sponsorship gives children around the world the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Rosa and Joseph share their incredible stories

My name is Rosa, but people call me Rosy. I was born in rural Guatemala, the youngest of six children. At the age of seven, I was sponsored through ChildFund. It was at this time that I started attending primary school.

When I was 16, I was supposed to start going to secondary school. But it was a really hard time because my father did not allow me to study; instead he wanted me to get married.

Transportation was another problem. There were no buses, and school was so far away from my home, so the only option to continue studying was to move to another state – too much for my overprotective parents!

Instead, staff from ChildFund Guatemala's local project office offered me a scholarship and helped me convince my parents to let me study.



I am now 41-years-old and I have been working for ChildFund's local partner in my community for 17 years.

ChildFund has been working for 75 years around the world, and working here means a lot to me. I am returning all of the love I received to the children in my community. I remind them all the

"IT WAS BECAUSE OF CHILDFUND THAT I WAS ABLE TO GRADUATE. I BECAME THE FIRST GIRL TO GRADUATE AS A TEACHER IN MY COMMUNITY."



time that their dreams can come true with perseverance and effort.



My name is Joseph. I grew up in central Uganda in a small village. Life was really hard for my family. At only four years old I lost my dad.

My mother struggled to find money for education, medicine, access to clean water, electricity, clothes and even food.

Our home was made of mud brick with just one room that we shared with our extended family.



When I was seven-years-old I was sponsored by a family who remained my sponsors right up until I was 18.

I have since completed a Diploma in Network Engineering and certifications in support work.

I am now an Australian citizen and have my own family – I am trying to be the best dad I can be. For a living I work in IT but my real passion is music and drumming. I teach music, mostly working with people with

"BEING A SPONSORED CHILD WAS FANTASTIC FOR ME. IT ENABLED ME TO FINISH MY SCHOOLING, WHICH PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT CHILDFUND."

disabilities which I really enjoy. Music is helping them with self-expression, social inclusion and self-esteem.

My life has changed a lot since I lived in Uganda. I have everything I need – I have my family, food, my house, space, an income and I am happy. I am an example of how sponsoring a child does change lives.

Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who are making a difference in the lives of thousands of children around the world!

Pushing her way to victory

15-year-old Jenny was at school, like any other normal teen one day, and pushing a wheelbarrow through the highlands of Far North Queensland the next, all to raise money for children living in poverty in Vietnam!

Jenny decided the annual 140 kilometres Great Wheelbarrow Race would be just the right challenge she had been looking for to help raise funds for children in Vietnam.

Jenny, along with her sister, has been donating her pocket money each month for the past nine years to sponsor 15-year-old Hue from northern Vietnam and had the chance to meet her in 2010 on a family holiday.

“IT WAS SO GOOD TO PUT A FACE TO THE NAME AND ACTUALLY MEET HUE, SEE WHERE OUR MONEY IS GOING AND HOW IT IS HELPING HER,” SAYS JENNY. “WE ARE STILL REALLY GREAT FRIENDS TODAY.”

According to Jenny the hardest part of the race was the last 15 kilometres on day two after spending the day climbing the Bismark Ranges, whilst keeping her eyes peeled for cattle who often feed along the road!

“It was such a long day, we had been up and down so many hills and I was



so over pushing the wheelbarrow,” she says. “My mum was running alongside of me and just kept talking to me to keep me going. I don’t think I could have done it without her.

“When I crossed the finish line it felt so good to know that I had actually finished and had proven so many people wrong, and that I had raised money for ChildFund,” Jenny says. “I was also just very thankful that I could sit down for a while!”

Jenny broke the race’s record for the youngest ever solo competitor and raised a huge \$1,980 for our work with children in Vietnam.

We would like to say a big thank you to Jenny and all of our other amazing community fundraisers who together have raised more than \$270,000 over the past year to help thousands of children around the world!

RUN FOR KIDS

Signing up for a local fun run is a great way to get fit whilst helping children in need. It doesn’t matter if you like to run long distances or short, if you’re fast or slow, everyone can make a difference!



Read more here:
www.childfund.org.au/fundraising/run-kids



READING FOR A CAUSE

10-year-old Kayla and her friends have turned their love of reading into a way of helping kids who don’t have access to books! Together they have raised more than \$1,700 since 2013 to buy books for mobile libraries in Vietnam!



Find out how you can help here:
www.childfund.org.au/fundraise-for-us



LAOS DISCOVERY TOUR

Would you like your next holiday to be a unique, life changing experience? Our Laos Discovery Tour gives you the chance to see ChildFund’s work firsthand while getting a taste for life in Laos!



More info here:
www.childfund.org.au/discovery



THE BIG ASK

This year we launched our exciting

new campaign, The Big Ask, which is Australia’s biggest trivia challenge to fight global child poverty! It was a great success with Aussies young and old from all over the country taking part. Stay tuned for info on how you can get involved next year!

CHILD FUND

LAOS

DISCOVERY

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Would you like your next holiday to be a unique, life changing experience?

Are you interested in seeing how you can make an impact in the lives of others?

Then you should join our ChildFund Laos Discovery!



Essential info:

- This small group, 10-day tour departs 17 January 2015
- You'll discover Laos' spectacular countryside, tour historic Luang Prabang and join a Laotian cooking class
- Visit a rural community and meet the children you will be assisting
- This trip is open to all fitness levels and the minimum age is 9.

Find out more www.childfund.org.au/discovery