

Christian Children's Fund

Member of **ChildFund**
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Hosting a Party to Change the Lives of Children

Richmond, Va. – May 14, 2009 – Christian Children's Fund supporter Nancy Jordan is hosting a party tonight. But, she's not too worried about the food or drinks.

The decorations, however, are key to the party's success. She's enlarged photos from a recent trip to Ethiopia where she met a friend's sponsored child. And she's placing letters from her sponsored child throughout her home for the party.

"I want my guests to see what it's like to write to a sponsored child and what the relationship is like," she said.

She also wants to raise awareness of CCF. "It's an international agency right here in Richmond that has so much to offer and does so much for children," Jordan said while taking time out from party preparation. "I want to raise awareness of the organization, and I want to raise awareness of sponsorship."

CCF is known for its commercials asking individuals to sponsor a child each month. The organization works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members with most of its funding coming from monthly sponsorships.

Sponsors are encouraged to correspond with their sponsored child, and Jordan has invited friends who have children of an age that would benefit from writing to a child.

Letter-writing allows personal contact between sponsors and sponsored children. And when sponsors receive letters back they also gain insight into communities most people know nothing about.

"When her letters come it's like Christmas," Jordan said of the letters her family receives from their sponsored child in India. "And the letter writing also is changing my children's lives."

For example, when her 9-year-old daughter Caroline decided to write about a day in her life, they took time to think about how different Caroline's American lifestyle is from that of their sponsored child in India. They added explanations where needed.



Christian Children's Fund is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.

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Jordan was deeply moved by meeting the sponsored child of her friends Eva and Will Clarke and their daughter Izabela. This past October she endured a four-hour ride on dusty, bumpy roads through Ethiopia to the village where their sponsored child lived. She made the trip with her father Dr. Charles Caravati, chairman of CCF's board of directors.

Once in the village, they stopped at one mud hut in particular. It was the home of 11-year-old Mestawet.

On one of the walls in the family hut were all the letters sent from the Clarkes. A photograph of Izabela with Jordan's daughter Mason also adorned the wall. "It was obvious that [sponsorship] is such a part of their life," Jordan said. "I was so in the moment taking it in. I was blown away."

"That someone on the other side of the world had changed their lives was unbelievable and so very real," Jordan added. "Three hundred dollars a year truly changed that family – the two children and the parents. It was amazing to see how real the program is."

"They say you can't change the world or poverty," Jordan said. "But I saw that you can change a life, and even a village."

She hopes her friends will see that too.

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