

Child WORLD

FALL 2007

C h r i s t i a n C h i l d r e n ' s F u n d



Rebecca James

Entire communities are empowered as they learn to improve both business and animal husbandry skills. Families not only learn how to raise healthier livestock, but they are implementing critical new business skills that will have a tremendous economic impact on their community, while greatly improving their children's lives. (See related story page 13.)



CCF Staff

Enabling families to improve their business, or develop new businesses, generates more income and gradually more independence. In this chicken-raising program in Ecuador, family resources are improving, meaning they can better provide for their children. (See story page 13.)

CHILDWORLD

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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a worldwide force for children, helping the poorest and most vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. One of the world's oldest and most respected international child development organizations, CCF works in 31 countries and assists approximately 13.2 million children and families worldwide, regardless of their race, creed, or gender.

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Anne Goddard visited children in Ecuador. Visiting programs allows for the critical firsthand experience of seeing progress made among the communities where CCF works.

With 26 years of experience in humanitarian causes, Goddard has worked and lived among struggling families, and she is keenly aware of the critical issues facing children today.

CCF President Leads the Charge Against Poverty

With 26 years of experience in humanitarian causes, Anne Lynam Goddard is keenly aware of the critical issues facing children today. Now as the president and CEO of Christian Children's Fund she is leading the organization in addressing the core issues of poverty in an ever-changing world.

Goddard was recently named to the InterAction Board of Directors. InterAction is the largest coalition of U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations engaged in international relief and development. Its membership has grown to include more than 160 organizations.

Goddard also recently addressed the Congressional Children's Caucus in Washington, D.C., on the plight of Darfur's children. This marks the first time a CCF president appeared before a Congressional Caucus. She explained CCF's work in Chad, as many of the children and families from Darfur (Sudan) fled to refugee camps in Chad.

Goddard encouraged efforts to focus on protecting girls from the risk of gender based violence and early marriage, supporting victims of abuse and educating community leaders on child abuse prevention. She also recom-

mended improving emergency response and immediate security issues in Chad.

At the forefront of child development, CCF is supporting the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goal of halving global poverty by 2015. The implementation of a new strategic plan and country-specific strategies contribute to meeting this goal.

Under Goddard's guidance, CCF is strengthening the progress already made through existing programs – reducing maternal mortality rates, combating severe malnutrition, improving health by making clean water available, supporting income generation activities and targeting educational needs. Goddard believes strongly in the intrinsic worth and dignity of each child, working to create an environment of hope and respect for all children, so they realize their full potential.

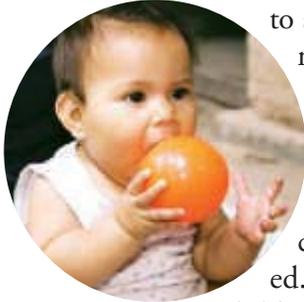


Our monthly sponsorship donations will be directed to the program where your sponsored child receives benefits, instead of directly to your child. Donations for all the children enrolled in a particular program are combined and used to benefit all the children in that program — including those who do not have sponsors.

CCF Designs Revolutionary Development Scale

by Jennifer Harter

Everything from the environment to cultural practices to financial circumstances contributes



to a child's development. Tracking this development is crucial to measuring progress, but it can be complicated.

Christian Children's Fund's new development scale offers structure to this process.

This Child Development Scale is the first universal tool created by an international nongovernmental organization that is useful regardless of the culture or circumstances in which a child lives. "The scale is an important tool which takes into consideration the environment that influences the child's development," CCF president and CEO Anne Lynam Goddard said. "Parents can help their children develop properly when they understand their child's strengths as well as areas of need. This scale helps them do that."

The scale was designed for children who live in poverty in developing countries. It uses materials familiar in the children's environment, and it can be administered by trained volunteers rather than skilled child development professionals. It helps parents understand their children's needs and identifies children who require further evaluation.

The scale covers several areas of child development for children from birth to age five. "It helps identify children's strengths in cognitive, social/emotional, communication and motor skills – the use of both large and

small muscles," said Dr. Mary Moran, CCF's senior early childhood development specialist. "It also identifies children whose development is at risk, allowing programs to be designed to meet their need."

The scale contains 165 indicators, and each age range contains three indicators per development area. For example, the fine motor skills of a child in the 9-12 month age range will be tested by their ability to move objects into a container, in addition to two other indicators for that developmental area.

The scale was designed and developed by a team representing 10 countries. It was tested to determine the usefulness of indicators, validity, reliability and ease of administration. Translated into local languages, the scale can be used to screen children in their own homes or early childhood development centers.

Perhaps most important, it will lead to strengthening and precisely targeting programs to children's specific needs.



CCF's new development scale identifies age appropriate skills, such as knot tying or playing with a ball.

Succession Planning Protects Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa

by Joan Tuppence

Children often fall victim to the HIV epidemic in Uganda, Kenya and Zambia — not because they carry the disease, but because their parents died with AIDS and did not address their inheritance of land or property. Children are left to face not only the social stigma associated with HIV/AIDS deaths but also the uncertainty of their future.

As a way to protect orphans and vulnerable children, CCF is addressing their needs in many countries. For example, in the Busia district of Uganda, the Madoca Memory Works Support Group helps children build resilience to cope with life-threatening challenges. The group, formed five years ago, is made up of caregivers who prepare wills, along with creating memory boxes and hero books as a way to secure the future of the orphans and children in their care.

Parents rarely talk to their children about HIV/AIDS. Children are “protected” from family discussions, and issues related to death are avoided. As a result, orphaned children have little information about their family back-

grounds. Many are left vulnerable — having lost the caring supervision of parents. In many instances, orphans even find themselves homeless, without any property or material possessions needed to help them survive.

The work of the support group shows that when children are allowed to share family problems, they start to cope with what HIV means for their own family life and future. Hero book writing helps them reflect on their past and plan for their future. The child-focused approach involves children in decision-making processes in a way that is appropriate for their age and stage of development. It helps meet their emotional and social needs as well as their physical needs, often ensuring inheritance of land.

The Madoca Memory Works Support Group is being funded by AusAID, as part of the Australian Partnerships with African Communities Program and is being implemented by ChildFund Australia, in partnership with Christian Children's Fund in Uganda, Kenya and Zambia. CCF also works with People Living With AIDS organizations.

Charitable IRA Rollover Law Expires December 31, 2007

If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 to a nonprofit organization such as Christian Children's Fund directly from your regular or Roth IRA. This provision, which expires at the end of 2007, allows you to exclude your “qualified charitable distribution” from your adjusted gross income.

To transfer a gift to CCF, request that your IRA plan administrator transfer funds to Christian Children's Fund. Please make sure your plan administrator includes your name with the transfer.

Please take advantage of this easy way to make a very meaningful gift to children who desperately need your help.

To learn more, please contact Christian Children's Fund's Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-762-9593 or visit our website at www.ChristianChildrensFund.org

Michael Sweaney is one of CCF's youngest sponsors, and he went on a CCF Study Tour to Brazil to meet the child he is sponsoring.



Quite a Special Sponsor Visit

By Jennifer Harter

Michael Sweaney carried his heart — literally — all throughout Brazil. In his arms Sweaney clutched a large, red heart as he boarded each plane and visited each city during a Christian Children's Fund study tour to Brazil.

It was more than just a papier maché decoration with his name in gold glitter. This heart was a gift from his sponsored child, Antonia, whose name also adorned the heart.

Sweaney traveled with the CCF study tour to Brazil this past June. While there, he met Antonia, the girl he sponsors. "Before meeting Antonia, the process of child sponsorship was far less personal," Sweaney said. "Previously I had just thought it was a great thing to be sponsoring her. Now I felt so much more privileged to be involved in her life. Being her sponsor means so much more to me now."

Although Sweaney's experience wasn't unique — almost 80 sponsors engaged in Study Tours with CCF this year alone — as a sponsor, 19-year-old Sweaney is very unusual.

More than 80% of CCF sponsors are 40 or older; less than 3% percent are under the age of 30. "I think Michael represents the qualities that we are seeing in the next generation of long-term sponsors at CCF," said Gary Duncan,

CCF's assistant marketing director who runs the tours. "He wants to get involved in solving the problems of poverty, not just observing them from a distance."

Although young, Sweaney felt he had a lot to share with someone less fortunate, and CCF was the first organization that came to mind. "It is important to me to be a sponsor because I feel that if I have the means, I should help in some way," Sweaney said. "Child sponsorship is a great way to do it because I can see the effects firsthand."

And with the study tour, Sweaney had the opportunity to literally witness his contributions at work. But the highlight was the emotional meeting with Antonia. "Spending the day with her was the best day in my life," Sweaney said. "And going on the study tour was one of the best experiences of my life. It was difficult to say goodbye. I did not want to leave Brazil."

And in some ways, Sweaney continues to keep Brazil close to his heart. When he returned from the trip, Sweaney added a second major to his current studies in Spanish — Portuguese, the official language of Brazil.

"Simply being in Brazil was an incredible experience," Sweaney said. "I absolutely love the country."

IN THIS COMMUNITY...

In the community where Antonia lives (see article above), CCF works with community leaders either to financially support or to secure needed programs. Some of these include:

- training in child development for preschool teachers
- maintenance of area preschools
- educational tutoring to promote quality education
- vocational training for youth
- special educational sessions regarding AIDS, children's rights, drug prevention and environmental preservation
- income generation activities to promote the community's well-being

CCF Children Honored by UN Poverty Day

By Sandra Shelley

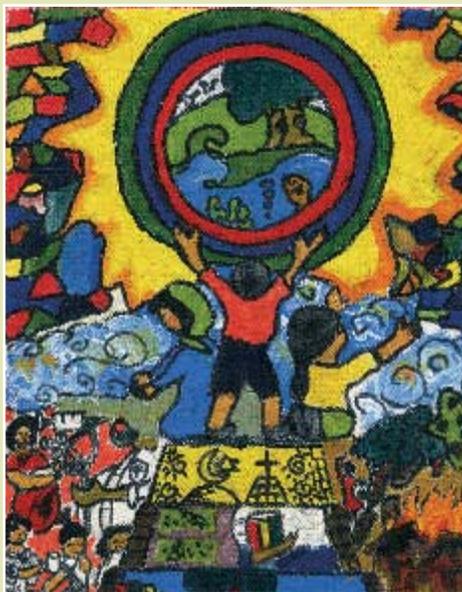
Each year the UN asks the world to come together on October 17, to reflect upon and commit to ending extreme poverty. This year, for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, a number of youth, with financial support from Christian Children's Fund, took part in the commemorations. Two were on UN panels, and five others had been selected as finalists in the UN's international art competition. This was an opportunity for children to voice their experiences and contribute to the betterment of children's lives the world over.

The two CCF sponsored children who served as panelists were able to attend the event at the UN headquarters in New York. CCF co-sponsored the panel "We Can End Poverty: Children As Agents of Change," which allowed children and youth to share their experiences of poverty and ways to bring about positive change.

On the panel were Labradford and Maria, and both are very active in school and their communities. Labradford serves as president of his CCF youth group, and Maria volunteers as a tutor.

Additionally, two drawings by CCF children were among the 50 displayed in the "We Can End Poverty" international children's art competition at the UN headquarters. Over 12,000 entries from 124 countries were submitted. The CCF winners were from 12-year-old Oscar of Zambia and, from the Philippines, a collaborative effort from four children (Katrina, Sharifa, and Nurfaid, all 14, and 13-year-old Crisanto). The group from the Philippines depicted the different faces of poverty in the world. The top six designs from the competition will be issued as UN postage stamps in 2008.

On the competition's website, judge Mary Ellen Hostak commented, "I was very touched by the depth of



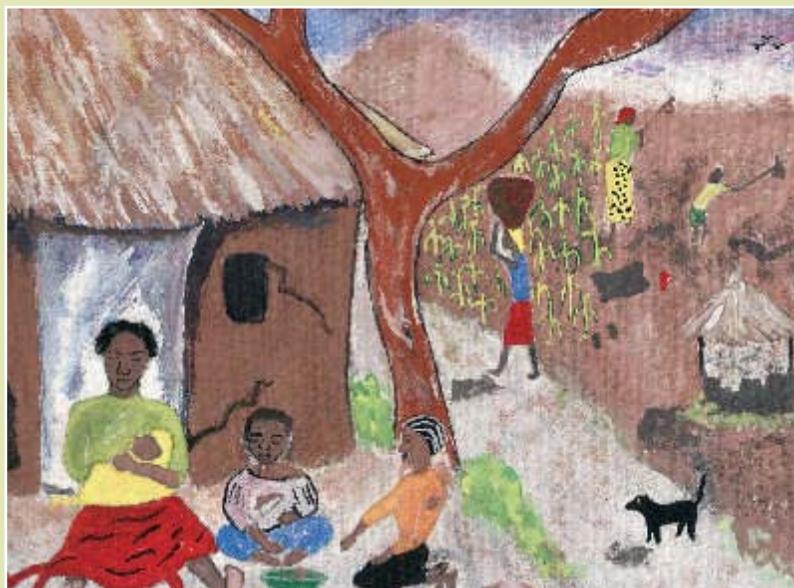
About the art: "The drawing shows the different faces of poverty. There are many people who are suffering...it's about time for us to act, as the sun in our drawing wants to emphasize, there is still hope. Indeed, this hope is our tool to end poverty."

thought and sensitivity that was depicted in the beautiful artwork done by the children. The pictures presented so many aspects of life in poverty, yet they also demonstrated the enormous hope offered by things like working together, education, caring for and supporting each other, and acceptance of differences.... We have so many things to learn from these children!”

Commemorated at UN headquarters and in ceremonies throughout the world, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty also raises awareness of the UN Millennium Development Goal to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day. In 1990, more than 1.2 billion people lived in extreme poverty.

To learn more about CCF's work, visit www.ChristianChildrensFund.org.

Two CCF sponsored children — Labradford and Maria — were chosen to address the UN on what poverty means to them. The UN offered a formal forum recently to focus on the issues of world poverty.



Oscar, one of the CCF sponsored children whose art was recognized in the recent UN contest on poverty, wrote this about his art: “We can eradicate poverty by teaching the locals the importance of small scale farming as a way to end poverty.”

Building Capacities — Establishing Food Security Programs in Timor-Leste



Nearly nine out of 10 families in Timor-Leste experience a shortage of food each year. Poverty and a consistently inadequate food supply have led to widespread malnutrition among the population, especially the children. The statistics are astonishing. According to UNICEF, from 1998 to 2005 in Timor-Leste, 46% of the children under the age of five were moderately or severely underweight, and 49% suffered moderate or severe growth stunting.

Christian Children's Fund is building local capacities by working with communities and households in Timor-Leste through a new program aimed at improving the productivity of farmers, so that they can better provide for their families.

"CCF's program works with 4,000 farming households in two dry upland and coastal districts which are particularly prone to drought. In both districts of Manatuto (central north — 1.5 hours by road from the capital, Dili) and Los Palos (northeast — six hours from Dili), poverty is widespread. More than half of the farmers are subsistence farmers with little or no cash earnings," said Carlos Basilio, the team leader for CCF's Food Security program in

Timor-Leste. "Our program," he said, "is working to diversify, integrate and make more productive the different farm enterprises each household has access to and thus increase their chances of being more food secure throughout the year."

An intrinsic part of the program for CCF is the participatory approach it takes to working with communities in the establishment of "farmer field schools" in both districts. The field schools emphasize hands-on learning, and farmer-to-farmer dissemination of information. "Through these efforts," said Basilio, "farmers will be exposed to alternative approaches to farm management and can see for themselves the benefit of adopting agricultural practices that conserve and enhance local natural resources and the environment."

Traditional farming practices have led to erosion and landslides on the sloping dry lands, and slash-and-burn techniques are used to open up new areas for cultivation. However, this shifting cultivation system supports planting for only two or three seasons, after which the soil loses its fertility. Rather than improve the land, farmers tend to move on to other parts of the forest, and the open area left behind is prone to soil erosion.

"CCF is also building the capacity of communities to solve this, along with food security problems," said the program's community development adviser, Anito Frio. "Thirty-two communities have now gone through a process of assessing and understanding their food security situation, deliberating and identifying actions to improve the situation, and preparing community action plans."

As a result of this planning, eight

communities will focus on improving their upland farms, eight will work on their rainfed ricelands, eight want to improve their systems of raising goats, five are working to strengthen poultry production and two others are improving home gardens.

“We also include a gender perspective,” said Frio, “as the program will also focus on improving the livelihood opportunities and leadership potential of women who are farmers.” On the ground in Manatuto and Los Palos, CCF is working in partnership with the district agriculture officers from the Timor-Leste government’s Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, CCF’s local affiliated community organization, and a local training organization, Knuu Buka Hatene (KBH — Place to Seek Knowledge). On a national scale, CCF collaborates with other international organizations through a joint program funded by a three-year grant from the European Union.

CCF’s program works with 4,000 farming households in two dry upland and coastal districts which are particularly prone to drought.

This illustration from a workshop shows the viewpoint of one participant on how a farmer’s field should be designed.



Focus on Accountability

CCF uses the funds entrusted to us in a cost-effective, efficient manner. Programs are identified with input from the parents and children we serve – enabling us to target our funding to areas that will have the greatest impact on children and their communities.

CCF meets the standards of the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance. The seal assures donors that our charity complies with the BBB’s stringent charity accountability standards. The BBB reviews various aspects of an organization, including its use of funds, truthfulness of representations and willingness to disclose information.

CCF has received an “A” rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and meets the Private Voluntary Organization Standards of InterAction, a coalition of more than 160 humanitarian organizations. In addition, CCF meets the high standards of the Charities Review Council.



Christian Children’s Fund—
Meeting BBB Standards for Charity Accountability...
Fulfilling Our Promise of Good Stewardship...
Helping Impoverished Children Worldwide

Young Leader Recognized by Indonesian President



Joko, left, is one of the children chosen to receive Indonesia's Young Leader Award. He has been participating in CCF programs there, and has become a true leader in his community.

Being named “Young Leader of Indonesia” for 2007 was a high honor for 17-year-old Joko. Actively engaged in contributing to the betterment of his community, Joko was one of three honorees selected from 200 finalists for the annual award. Sponsored by the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment, the award is funded by UNICEF.

Christian Children’s Fund’s investment in Joko’s community is touching the lives of many children and families. CCF is encouraging children to “voice” their thoughts about poverty so they can contribute to improving their future. Winning this award allowed Joko to be more actively involved. And, participating in child and youth activities funded by CCF, Joko is making tremendous contributions to his community. Joko organized a drama group in his community, enabling even more children to participate and express their thoughts. In addition, “Joko was very helpful during the recovery period of the Yogyakarta earthquake in late 2006,” notes Russ Vogel, national director of CCF-Indonesia.

CCF project staff accompanied Joko to Jakarta, where he and the others were honored at a reception hosted by the Indonesian president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who presented them with a special award. Each honoree received a small cash award at another reception sponsored by the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment. After Joko’s acceptance speech, Vogel said, “We are very proud of Joko’s accomplishments, and the contributions he has made.”

Maternal Health in Indonesia Looks to the Future

The harsh reality is that many mothers face desperate situations when it comes to the safe delivery of their children. Statistics are staggering. According to UNICEF, “A woman dies from complications of childbirth every minute — the vast majority of them in developing countries.”

When children are born unhealthy, it is painful for the parents and taxes their resources. Healthy mothers and healthy children lead to happier, more stable families.

Christian Children’s Fund’s Maternal and Child Health program was implemented in one of the poorest and least developed areas of Indonesia. The initiative, supported by the Sky Siegfried Fund, reaches families in the Manggarai District, located on the eastern island of Flores. Many of the affected families live in isolated communities, with little access to health care.

Mothers in the Manggarai District often give birth at home, assisted by unskilled local birth attendants. This puts them at greater risk of infant or maternal death. The high maternal death rate is attributed to infection, high blood pressure that is left untreated, and obstructed labor, among others. CCF is improving deliveries by training 40 birth attendants. (Another 200 will be trained.) CCF promotes the use of tetanus toxoid shots to the pregnant women to prevent infection during delivery.

The program has been successful. Mothers have increased their pre- and postnatal care visits, learned about proper weight gain, and are taking vitamin supplements. Through home visits by community health volunteers known as “cadres,” mothers are learning how to raise healthy children. CCF



CCF Staff

Mothers and children gather for one of CCF-Indonesia’s local health care programs, where mothers learn what proper maternal health care means to their children’s future.

recently trained 214 new cadres, including a number of men—a first in these traditional communities.

Childhood malnutrition presents another challenge in these Indonesian communities. Poverty, lack of proper nutrition and limited access to foods are the primary causes. The cadres were also trained in balanced nutrition. And malnourished children are monitored through monthly weigh-ins, where they receive supplemental food, deworming medications, and vitamin A supplements.

As part of this effort, 1,029 youth have been educated in reproductive health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. According to Russ Vogel, national director of CCF-Indonesia, the youth “received information they could not get from their parents or their schools because of cultural taboos.”

These programs are designed to have a long-term impact, especially when working with local clinics to improve facilities.

CCF-India Provides a 'Bridge' to Learning

*By Shilpa Mangalore
CCF-India communications officer*

Santosh cannot stand or walk. Born with underdeveloped legs, he moves by dragging himself on the ground. That doesn't stop him from enthusiastically swinging his body to music, singing at the top of his lungs, or even racing, in his own way, with the other children. Yet, because of his physical challenges, he had been left out of the formal educational system in India. The only school near his village felt they could not accommodate him.

But Santosh is getting another chance at learning, thanks to his participation in a Christian Children's Fund program. CCF's "Bridge Course" helps children like Santosh catch up with their classmates and return to school. The 10-month residential school draws children from 36 villages. The students include those with special

needs, working children, and those who have left school or have had their educations interrupted. There are currently 70 children in the program.

Many of the lessons are taught through play—stories, group activities, songs and dance. The teachers give individualized attention to the children, and help them gain the confidence they need to enter regular school.

Following his participation in the Bridge Course, Santosh was recently admitted to the fifth grade at a government school. He responded with his characteristic excitement. "I can't wait to go to a regular school!" he said. "I will miss these friends I have been with for the past few months, but I am sure I will make more friends in my new school." For Santosh, and the other children in the program, the thought of going to school is a dream come true.



Business Practice Makes Perfect in Ecuador

Three hundred impoverished families in Tungurahua and Los Bancos, Ecuador, are learning improved farming techniques and better business practices.

Working with Christian Children's Fund experts and staff, the families are gaining hands-on instruction in raising crops as well as a variety of livestock and domestic animals, including chickens, pigs and guinea pigs.

Families participating in the program are learning how to keep their costs down and better market their products. They are also gaining knowledge about the day-to-day operations of running a successful business. "Many of the chicken producers did not have a good understanding of the business aspect of their enterprise. They did not know how much they were earning — making the common mistakes of blending personal and business income and not keeping records," said Nila Guevara Castro, program manager for CCF-Ecuador.

Participating families have also gained improved access to potable water through water collection tanks and a distribution system. The safe water program helps them improve family hygiene practices and health, while also allowing them to better care for their animals and to keep their pens clean.



CCF Staff

Learning to improve business skills is also key to successful businesses. Success in business means families can better support their children.

Through the program, "CCF hopes to raise family incomes as well as improve the nutrition of the families, especially the children," said Castro.

Working with Christian Children's Fund experts and staff, the families are gaining hands-on instruction in raising crops as well as a variety of livestock and domestic animals, including chickens, pigs and guinea pigs.

We want to ensure that your visit to your sponsored child is rewarding, so a CCF staff person will accompany you. Please make your initial plans through CCF as far in advance as possible by calling 1-800-776-6767.

Thank you.

From Sponsor to 'Padrino' in Bolivia

Steve and Beth Burleson's sponsorship began with a bang. They became sponsors of Jose, 12, in August 2006, and, a few months later, began planning a trip to Bolivia through Christian Children's Fund to meet him. In the months before their June 2007 trip, the Alabama couple began corresponding with the child and taking Spanish lessons. They also decided to sponsor another child, 14-year-old Jaime, who, they were pleased to learn, lived just nine miles away from Jose.

In LaPaz, the sponsors' travels included a tour of the CCF-Bolivia national office where they met the national director and other employees. Steve was "very impressed with CCF-Bolivia. They are a wonderful group of people." He was pleased to see that the organization "is run by Bolivians, for Bolivians" and that "the country office was nice but by no means extravagant. It is obvious that the focus is on the children."

They traveled to Oruro, where they were met by two CCF staff members who drove them to Jose's town. Once there, they toured the CCF community center, where they met Jose. "It was hard to believe it was actually him.... With him was his older brother, Jhon — both were beaming," said Steve. "This was truly one of the happiest moments of my life."

Steve presented Jose with a special gift: his son's trumpet, which he had gotten cleaned and repaired. "I don't think I have ever seen anyone happier," he said of the boy's reaction. Surprisingly, the grandfather picked up

the instrument and began playing it skillfully. The Burlesons learned that the older man not only plays the trumpet, but even earns extra money as a musician. He planned to teach the boys how to play on Jose's new trumpet. "It could not have turned out any better," said Steve.

After visiting two nearby CCF programs, the Burlesons went to San Antonio to meet their other sponsored

Once there, they toured the CCF community center, where they met Jose.

"It was hard to believe it was actually him.... With him was his older brother, Jhon — both were beaming," said Steve. "This was truly one of the happiest moments of my life."

child, Jaime. "I had been studying satellite images of the village for a long time and it was exciting to get to finally walk through the streets," said Steve. When they met Jaime, "there were many people milling around and lots of cooking going on.... And there was Jaime with a big smile on his face," he said. "I was very touched

because they treated us like family."

He was glad to see the improvements that had been made to the house. After reading about Chagas disease, the Burlesons had sent extra funds to make the adobe home safer for the family. A new metal roof replaced the former thatched one, the interior walls and ceilings were freshly plastered, a new door had been installed, and a concrete sub-floor was in place. "I was very impressed by the quality of the workmanship," Steve said. "Since our visit, a terra-cotta tile floor has been installed."

Jaime's grandfather runs a small llama farm. The group all "piled into the trusty CCF vehicle" and went to see it. Jaime and his family rounded up the herd. Then "I was told that I was



The Burlasons (at right) visiting Jaime, a child they sponsor in Bolivia. While there, they were able to meet Jose, whom they also sponsor. Both children's families raise llamas, an industry common in Bolivia.

to choose one male and one female llama to take home with me," Steve said. "Jaime's grandfather said they would be no trouble at all on the airplane. I think they were having a little bit of fun with me." Instead, Steve let Jaime pick out the llamas, and asked him to raise them. "This gave Jaime a start on building his own herd," he said. Steve learned that Bolivians rarely include outsiders in this important rite of passage.

Afterward, they returned to the house for a celebration feast. Steve was asked to speak. "My advice to Jaime was to stay in San Antonio where he is much loved instead of migrating to a big city." The family's "hospitality was warm and genuine," and Steve felt a special bond with Jaime's father.

"After months of dreaming about meeting our sponsored children in Bolivia it was over all too fast," Steve said.



Families are excited about CCF's new food security program in Timor-Leste. These parents have begun planting seeds that will diversify their crops and help sustain themselves during times of drought, while also improving their children's nutrition. (See related story pages 8 and 9.)



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