Like many children sponsored through ChildFund, Victor shines in school, enjoys riding his bike and adores animals. But unlike most enrolled children, Victor doesn’t have a single sponsor. He’s supported by the more than 300 members of the Manchester Masonic Lodge No. 14 in Richmond, Virginia, hometown of ChildFund’s international headquarters.

The group has been a wellspring of support for Victor and his family, who live in Brazil.

Caring sponsors are changing lives everyday!

Beyond exchanging cards and letters with Victor, lodge members coordinate closely with ChildFund to supply Victor with fun, age-appropriate personal gifts on his birthday, Christmas and other holidays.

They also try to anticipate the family’s financial needs and find innovative ways to improve their quality of life.

That’s how the idea of a chicken farm was born.

Victor says that while speaking with a staff member from ChildFund’s local partner organization, talk soon turned to Victor’s favorite animal. “I said it was a chicken,” he says. “A few days later, she called to tell us that my sponsors had sent money to start a chicken farm!”

Victor and his family have already built a chicken coop and bought 80 chicks with the funds. He is enjoying every minute of his new venture.

And this is more than just an indulgence in his favorite hobby. In Victor’s community, chickens are an invaluable resource. They’re a sustainable source of protein to guard against malnutrition, not to mention an income boost: There’s nearly always a market for fresh eggs.

His parents are excited, too. “Victor’s sponsorship through ChildFund has been an amazing thing in his life,” says his mom, Luzia. “and also in ours.”

Victor loves feeding his new baby chicks.

Compassion like yours makes stories like this possible.
FOR A CHILD BORN INTO POVERTY, 
the horizon often looks bleak, 
obscured by clouds of uncertainty, 
disappointment and fear. But as 
Bubacarr Jammeh, country sponsorship 
coordinator for ChildFund The 
Gambia, will tell you, this forecast is 
variable. He knows firsthand about 
silver linings.

Born in a rural community on The 
Gambia’s west coast, Bubacarr says 
his family always struggled to make 
ends meet. And with Bubacarr, his five 
brothers and three sisters to provide for, 
resources were spread thin.

“My hope of going to school, much 
less thinking of graduating someday, 
was really slim due to the economic 
status of the family,” Bubacarr says.

His luck changed at age 5, when 
he was sent to live with relatives in 
a neighboring village. They enrolled 
Bubacarr in school and signed him up 
for sponsorship through ChildFund, 
then Christian Children’s Fund.

“I can vividly remember how from 
that day I started seeing myself as a 
success,” Bubacarr says. He received the 
help he needed in the form of school 
fees, supplies, a uniform and a nutritious 
lunch each day. And Bubacarr’s sponsor 
wrote to him often, encouraging him to 
stay in school and follow his dreams.

A helping hand from a sponsor 
goes a long way!

Soon after graduating high school in 
1998, Bubacarr took a job with one of 
CCF’s local partner organizations — and 
began to give back!

“From there, my love and passion for 
community development work grew, and 
I decided to … become a community 
development worker,” he says.

Bubacarr accepted a job at 
ChildFund The Gambia’s country 
office in 2008. And when he enrolled 
in college to get his bachelor’s degree 
in Development Studies, ChildFund 
provided financial support.

“Today,” he says, “I can proudly say 
I am the first and only child from the 
family with a university degree.”

As Bubacarr celebrated his 
appointment to the position of 
country sponsorship coordinator for 


FROM SPONSORED CHILD TO CHILDFUND STAFFER: 
BUBACARR JAMMEH’S STORY

Bubacarr Jammeh on his graduation day. He is the first member of his family to graduate from college.

ChildFund The Gambia last year, he 
couldn’t help but think back to the day he saw “the silver lining on my cloud” — the day he got a sponsor.

“It is true that poverty can be 
inherited, but it can also truly be 
eliminated through strategic efforts,” 
Bubacarr says. “This may take a long 
time, but it is very possible.”

Friends like you make all 
the difference.

Watch your mailbox for the new 
Real Gifts Catalog, 
filled with ways for you to 
transform lives this holiday season.

Real Needs
Unlike other giving 
catalogs, each gift in our 
catalog helps meet an 
urgent need identified in a 
community we serve.

Real Gifts
From goats to wells 
and everything in 
between, the gifts in 
our catalog are real.

Real Change
Your gifts will be 
delivered directly to 
children, families and 
communities to be used 
exactly as described.
Philanthropy was a touchstone for Amy Bell, a young Texan who loved horses and travel and children.

In her late 20s, she began sponsoring 5-year-old Emmanuel, who lives in Zambia, and the two began a lively exchange of photos and letters.

Five years later, in 2014, Amy suddenly died from a pulmonary embolism. But their connection lived on. Amy had left instructions for Emmanuel’s continuing support, and her parents, Larry and Ellen Bell, immediately took up the sponsorship.

The Bell family’s generosity soon grew to encompass Emmanuel’s entire community. In 2015, their donation of $100,000 added two new classrooms to Emmanuel’s school (where students used to pack in 80 to a classroom), three new boreholes to improve access to clean water (replacing a single hand-dug well that often ran dry) and a communal washing facility with eight sinks.

Nearly 800 community members, including the 407 students at Emmanuel’s school, now benefit from these gifts. The Bells later donated 50 desks and other learning supplies for the school.

In June of 2016, Larry and Ellen traveled to Zambia to meet Emmanuel in person. When they arrived at his home, Emmanuel was overcome with emotion. He ran to give them a hug before their vehicle could even come to a complete stop.

Later, the couple and Emmanuel stood before the community at the dedication ceremony for the classrooms and water points.

“My daughter loved this young man,” Larry told the hundreds who had gathered. “My daughter loved these children, and my daughter loved this community.”

Amy’s and her family’s deeds affirm those words.

You are the reason for her smile!

Exilda, a third-year nursing student in Zambia, is so thankful for the notes of encouragement and support she has received from friends like you. Here she is pictured with a card wishing her luck with her studies. She says nursing was her first choice as a career because she wants to save people’s lives: “I want to be helping and serving people.”

Exilda is one of many nurses you are helping train to serve their communities in Zambia! Thank you!

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT:
AMY’S LEGACY OF LOVE

Sponsors change the world, one child at a time. Thank you!
ZINUS FURNITURE DONATES MATTRESSES FOR CHILDREN IN SIERRA LEONE

In the areas of Sierra Leone where ChildFund works, children rarely get the chance to sleep in a comfortable bed. Many parents and caregivers don’t earn enough to afford bed frames with mattresses and must resort to using materials such as sticks and grass to build beds for their children.

Children often sleep on simple mats or even on the bare floor, which exposes them to health risks such as colds, pneumonia, joint pain and discomfort. But thanks to our friends and supporters at Zinus Furniture, many children will sleep comfortably — and safely — tonight!

You see, ChildFund Sierra Leone recently received more than 4,000 mattresses and bed frames from our friends at Zinus for local children in need of a good night’s sleep.

Upon receiving a mattress and bed frame set, 10-year-old Valentina was relieved at the opportunity to sleep in a comfortable place. “I felt fine when I received the bed,” she says, joyfully expressing her gratitude to Zinus Furniture and ChildFund Sierra Leone.

Parents, caregivers and children alike were overwhelmed by this special gift and promised to take proper care of the bed sets, ensuring that they are used only by the intended recipients: the children.

ChildFund distributed 3,000 mattresses and bed frame sets directly to children and hospitals and an additional 1,102 sets through local partners.
Hello!

I am so grateful when I think of all the positive change that you continue to make possible. **You truly are a good and faithful friend for children growing up in the world’s poorest places.**

Every day, ChildFund supporters help to meet the most essential needs of children — like our friends at Zinus, Inc. did in donating mattresses and bed frames to kids in Sierra Leone. Thousands of children will sleep well tonight because of you.

**And your impact extends beyond the basics, helping children to not only survive, but thrive!**

In fact, as Bubacarr Jammeh — former sponsored child, now ChildFund The Gambia staffer — will tell you, the strategic support you help ChildFund provide is an extremely powerful tool when it comes to eliminating poverty.

I hope you’ll enjoy reading these stories and more in this issue of *ChildWorld*, with our thanks for making this important work possible.

Warmly,

Anne Lynam Goddard
President & CEO

P.S. Our system upgrade is well underway, and we really appreciate your patience during this process. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-800-776-6767. Thanks again!
What’s the easiest way to connect with your sponsored child and discover the many changes your sponsorship is making possible?

Sign in through the Manage Account link at www.ChildFund.org, click on the My Community link and start exploring. You’ll find interesting facts about your child’s culture and community alongside other useful resources. And while you’re there, you can write your child a quick note via the My Correspondence tab.

Thank you for your patience as we continue our system upgrades. Your dedication to children in need is inspiring and appreciated.