A DAY IN KERENI’S WORLD: YOUR GIFTS AT WORK IN UGANDA

Have you ever stopped to think about the many ways your gifts are changing children’s lives? 7-year-old Kereni lives in a poor village in Uganda that was completely transformed by your compassion. Follow along as we get a glimpse into her daily life. Your generous heart brings comfort and hope to her and so many others in need.

Take a journey to the rural Ugandan community where Kereni, 7, lives with her mom, dad and little sister, Kobusingye. When Kereni wakes up and steps outside her home, a mud structure with a grass-thatched roof, she jumps right into her morning routine.

She brushes her teeth and washes her face with the clean, safe water that her family gets from the village’s borehole. This life-changing water source was drilled by ChildFund with support from friends like you! Centrally located and easy to use, it provides fresh, clean water that the whole community can use without risk of waterborne disease. You are creating lasting change in communities all over the world!

Having a water point nearby also means that children spend less time walking long distances to fetch water, leaving more time for their studies.

After breakfast, it’s time for Kereni to go to school! Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Sending children to school is a challenge for many families in rural Uganda. The government has mandated universal primary and secondary education, but families still have to pay school fees and buy uniforms and supplies. Your gifts help ensure that family income isn’t a barrier to the life-changing education children need so desperately.

Back at home after a day of learning and fun with friends, Kereni is excited to see her mom. They talk about the many things that Kereni learned at school that day. Before long, the sun has set behind the palm trees, signaling dinnertime.

Kereni and her family eat by the light of a kerosene lamp before sleepiness sets in. Then Kereni slips through the darkness into bed, belly full. She sleeps under the mosquito net that your support helped to provide to keep her safe from deadly malaria. And she dreams of a bright future that you are helping to make a reality.

Thank you for bringing hope and happiness into Kereni’s life — and so many other children’s lives.
Narmada, 18, lives in a remote part of the state of Madhya Pradesh in India. She’s the second oldest of 10 children.

Her older sister got married early, and Narmada — whose family, like many in the community, has traditionally viewed girls as an economic burden — worried that she was destined for the same fate.

Narmada had learned about the dangers of early marriage from ChildFund’s programs in her village and felt determined to show her parents that girls, just like boys, could work and support their families. When she heard about ChildFund’s Poverty to Prosperity project, she enrolled immediately.

The project, funded by Citi Foundation’s India Innovation Grant Program, is providing 1,000 young women in Narmada’s area with the skills they need to become successful poultry farmers.

The women receive training in everything from entrepreneurial skills to financial planning to the specifics of raising chickens. After six months of training, they are eligible to receive their first chicks, plus support to build a chicken shed on their property.

Today, Narmada is deep into her training, and her parents are excited about her blossoming business. There hasn’t been any more talk of marriage. And she’s working hard to be a role model for her sisters.

“One day,” Narmada says, “I’ll be successful and will show the community what a girl can do!” Thanks for helping her achieve her full potential.

More than 200 ChildFund staff members and partners from around the world gathered recently in Richmond, Virginia, to share innovations that have the potential to make our work for children even more effective and efficient.

ChildFund’s first-ever Innovation Fair, titled “Innovation Matters: Pathways for Value, Impact and Growth,” provided an opportunity for ChildFund colleagues from around the globe to come together, collaborate and showcase the creative ways we’re working to improve children’s lives.

We learned about ChildFund Philippines’ ENRICH model that develops trilingual teaching materials, combining local languages with Filipino and English. This program makes reading fun for kids by incorporating their cultural heritage to improve literacy.

Among the many other initiatives highlighted, ChildFund Australia presented their unique Pass It Back program, that uses tag rugby to teach boys and girls life skills and helps build resilience. And we were excited to learn that ChildFund Australia and World Rugby have joined forces to spread the program to even more children across Asia!

The event was a success and helped us connect, challenge and learn from each other. Participants came away feeling energized to take our work for children to the next level.

Thank you for everything you make possible for children!
Malang, 22, is a firm believer that young people can change the world. But he didn’t always see himself as a valuable part of his community. Hailing from a village on The Gambia’s West Coast Region, where poverty rates are high, he and his family faced plenty of economic hardships.

Then, when Malang was in primary school, he received a sponsor through ChildFund (then Christian Children’s Fund) and his life was changed for good!

Among the many blessings of sponsorship, ChildFund provided Malang with books, pencils and other learning essentials all the way through 12th grade. As a youth, he attended various workshops and trainings through ChildFund. And his sponsor from the United States regularly sent him special monetary gifts on holidays like Christmas.

After graduating from sponsorship, Malang began working as a volunteer for his village’s community association and participating in group decision-making. From there he went on to found the United Children and Youth Development Association, where he now educates youth in ChildFund’s programs about the dangers of drug abuse. He also serves as an intern for The Gambia’s National Youth Council.

Malang credits ChildFund with helping develop his desire to give back to the community. “The camps and workshops I attended through ChildFund motivated me and instilled in me the spirit of volunteerism,” he says. “ChildFund has absolutely made a huge impact in my life.”

Sponsorship changed Malang’s life. Now he’s giving back to his community.

Your gifts inspire children around the world.
GIRLS RAISE THEIR VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

October 11 marks International Day of the Girl Child, an annual observance declared by the United Nations to raise awareness of the unique struggles girls face and to empower them to take charge of their own future. This year, ChildFund offices around the world joined the celebration with special events to advocate for girls’ protection from violence.

In The Gambia, girls in ChildFund programs participated in a march, a symposium and a series of dramatic skits to raise awareness of violence against girls. In India, one of our local partner organizations held a forum for local girls to reflect on their rights and share personal stories about the issues they face, like child marriage. Youth in ChildFund programs spoke out at Ecuador’s National Dia de la Niña Assembly to demand better laws to protect girls from sexual harassment. And here in the U.S., our staff worked together with other child-focused organizations to host a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill about innovative ways we can protect girls from violence.

ChildFund’s response in the Philippines focused on providing lifesaving food packs to families, plus what we call “psychosocial first aid” sessions for children affected by the storm. During these sessions, children participate in songs, dances, games and art activities designed to help them release their fears and anxieties.

In Indonesia, your support helped provide families affected by the earthquake and tsunami with necessities like clothing, diapers, blankets, cooking utensils and soap. We also set up 10 Child-Centered Spaces in the area where children can gather to play, learn — and just be kids — under the watchful eyes of trained ChildFund staff.

“Child-Centered Spaces are important because after a disaster, children have been traumatized — and to make matters worse, schools have been severely damaged,” says Ben Phillips, director of ChildFund’s Emergency Management Unit. “Children need a safe space where they can go to receive informal education and have a little fun. The recreational activities ChildFund provides keep them busy, help them recover a sense of normalcy and give parents an opportunity to rebuild their lives, knowing their children are safe.”

YOUR SUPPORT IS LIFE-CHANGING AND ALWAYS APPRECIATED. THANK YOU!
Happy New Year!

On behalf of all the children whose lives you’re changing each and every day — thank you!

For just over 80 years, caring friends like you have been partnering with ChildFund to change the world — one child at a time. Together, we’re accomplishing so much, as the articles in this issue of ChildWorld show.

You’re creating lasting change through education, clean water initiatives and more.

That means so much to children like 7-year-old Kereni in Uganda. She has hope for a brighter future because of you!

And the fruits of your compassion are growing and multiplying in communities around the world. Just ask 22-year-old Malang in The Gambia. His life was changed through sponsorship, and now he’s dedicating his life to giving back to others.

Each of the stories in this issue is proof that you really are making a difference.

Children’s lives are better because of you. Thanks again for your partnership in this important work.

For the children,

Anne Lynam Goddard
President & CEO
HIGHLIGHTS

WHEN WE SAY GOODBYE...

When ChildFund begins work in a community, our goal is always to bring about positive and lasting change for children. Once that goal has been achieved, saying goodbye can be bittersweet.

But we take joy in knowing that the work you have helped accomplish has strengthened them and their commitment to children’s well-being. We then eagerly embrace the next opportunity to empower a new community that needs our help — and yours!

Thank you for partnering with us in this important work!

Contributing photographer: Jake Lyell

SPECIAL NOTE FOR SPONSORS

Your Year-End Giving Summary is included on your January 2019 sponsorship statement for tax purposes. Please call Supporter Care at 1-800-776-6767 if you have any questions.

MARATHONER WITH A MISSION

On November 4, Paul Brown, CEO of ChildFund New Zealand, laced up his running shoes to tackle the 2018 New York City Marathon in support of ChildFund’s local partner organization in Luangwa, a rural community in Zambia. The funds he raised will help enhance education, health and more for Luangwa’s children. Great work, Paul!

Contributing photographer: Jake Lyell