Hard work and hope in Kenya

Jane has the confidence of someone who knows she’s going places. And thanks to support from friends like you, she’s working to make her dreams a reality!

Where she lives in Kikuyu, Kiambu County, Kenya, a rural community known for its sprawling coffee farms, it’s unusual to see a young woman training to become an electrician. In fact, youth unemployment in Kenya is high regardless of gender.

Many young people are unemployed and at risk of poverty and homelessness. The dangers are even greater for unemployed young women, who face teen pregnancy and higher rates of gender-based violence than their peers.

But with your help, Jane has hope. She is part of ChildFund’s Youth Vocational Skills project, which connects at-risk youth to job training programs that will give them a practical means of earning an income for life.

Your gifts are helping Jane – and many others – receive training as electricians, carpenters, tailors, auto mechanics and other professions that are in high demand.

And your impact doesn’t stop when students graduate from their training.

They also receive the help they need to find work with local employers or even launch their own businesses and begin earning a reliable income right away.

“If I had not received this training, I would have probably been at home farming. But farming, for now, isn’t a good source of income,” says Jane.

“In my community, even some who have completed university have no job. But if you take vocational training, it is hard to fail in getting one.”

Soon, Jane will be using her new skills to light up homes, schools and more for families in her community. Thanks for helping her on her way to a bright future!
When Ginger Aydogdu opened a small T-shirt kiosk at a mall in Greensboro, N.C., in 2005, growing her new business seemed anything but simple. The first day, the kiosk only made $30. "But over the years, we’ve been fortunate enough to have seen some success," she says.

Now a clothing, accessories and gift brand with more than 5,000 independent retail outlets nationwide, Simply Southern is now ChildFund’s inaugural Partner of the Year thanks to their tremendous impact for children: Three years into ChildFund’s partnership with Simply Southern, the brand has generously donated more than $600,000 to our Children’s Greatest Needs fund, which allows us to direct resources where they’re needed most. ChildFund receives 10 percent of profits from their Simply Faithful label.

“Being able to help an organization that helps children have the things they need to succeed in life is definitely an aspiration of my family as well as the business,” Ginger says. “We think of children as our future – not just of our nation, but of our world.”

Learning about violence against children is key to preventing and addressing it. To better understand the problem, we asked children themselves.

ChildFund Alliance’s Small Voices, Big Dreams survey interviewed nearly 5,500 boys and girls in 15 countries on their own perspectives about violence against children. The results are both heartbreaking and illuminating.

Maria, 10, from Brazil, says there is a lot of violence on her street – “and then the police always come. Lots of fights. It is very strange there … I hardly leave my house.” Sadly, more than 40 percent of children believe that kids in their country are not sufficiently protected from violence.

And almost 6 out of 10 children think that violence occurs because they cannot defend themselves against adults or older children. “Those people are always older than us, so they have more of an advantage to do bad stuff to us,” says Ana Rosa, 11, from Mexico.

Violence against children is a pervasive issue in our world, and together we are working worldwide to end it.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

‘I am my community’: Arun’s story

Arun is from a farming community in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in India. His dad — who was partially blind — worked as a day laborer while Arun grew up. The family struggled to meet their basic needs, let alone educate their kids.

Thankfully, life changed for Arun in 1995 when he was enrolled in ChildFund’s sponsorship program.

This turned out to be a blessing not only for Arun, but also for his younger brother, the rest of the family and his entire community.

With his sponsor’s support, Arun graduated from high school, which helped him find a good job in the city. With the income he earned, he was able to help support his family and build up his savings. Soon, the compassion and affection he felt for his community pulled him back home to work with the very sponsorship program that he benefited from as a child.

Arun might have left better career opportunities behind in the city, but he is happy with his decision. Through his work, he’s making his community a better place for children to grow up. And his little brother, who recently finished his bachelor’s degree (thanks to help from ChildFund supporters like you), now has a steady job with a good company.

“I am my community,” Arun says with a smile. “I’ll keep serving my people as long as my body allows me to.”

Siti’s dream:

One mom’s story of resilience

Siti is an inspiration. A survivor of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, in 2018, the mother of three refused to lose heart after her home and livelihood were destroyed in the disaster.

Things seemed hopeless at first. But after a few months, Siti, motivated by her responsibility to provide for her children, decided to open a small snack shop for the other refugees. “I needed to move on with my life,” Siti says.

That’s one reason why she’s so thankful for friends like you.

Your support is helping 556 women and their families in Central Sulawesi restore their lives and livelihoods!

And with your help, ChildFund and our partners are now providing Siti with additional training and resources so she can offer an expanded, more appealing menu.

“I hope to learn how to run a business in a better way,” Siti says. With your help, we know she’ll do just that.

Thanks for helping families become more resilient in the face of disaster.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT
Little ones making a big difference

You’re never too small to make a big difference in the world. Just ask the Yoder children.

Cassandra, who’s 9, and her brother and sisters had wanted a trampoline since before they could remember. Last summer, they finally decided to make their dream a reality.

They earned $265 by selling cookies and lemonade – enough to buy the trampoline! But what happened next is sure to melt your heart.

Read the children’s story below. We’re so inspired by their compassionate example.

“I hope we helped you a lot with the money we gave you. I love you and encourage you to keep going.” – Cassandra Yoder, 9

DISASTER UPDATE
Philippines earthquakes

We would like to say a special word of thanks to all of our friends who stepped in to help families in the Philippines last October in the wake of multiple major earthquakes that shook the region, damaging homes and schools.

We are so grateful for your generosity that helped provide safe places where children could continue to learn and stay safe while families and schools began the rebuilding process.

You make our work possible. And, in the aftermath of disaster, your support is critical in providing children, families and entire communities with the relief and assistance they need most. Thanks again for all you do!
Happy New Year!

Welcome to the newest edition of ChildWorld – a celebration of all the good things you’re making possible for children and families in the world’s poorest places.

Looking back at the past year, I am truly inspired by the lasting change you’re creating.

In Kenya, you’re providing training and support that helps young people to build better lives for themselves. With your helping hand, their hard work is breaking the cycle of poverty for these young women and men.

And talk about inspiring – the children in the Yoder family are an inspiration to us all! If you have time to read only one thing in this edition, I hope it’ll be the enclosed letter from 9-year-old Cassandra. (But fair warning … have a tissue nearby. It’s going to bring a tear of joy to your eye.)

From helping families recover from disaster in the Philippines to empowering people to give back at home and abroad, the blessings you are sharing give us all hope for a truly happy new year!

Thanks again for all you do.

Warmly,

Anne Lynam Goddard
President & CEO
Formed Sponsored Child Becomes Indonesian Senator

Angelius Wake Kako (pictured here between his parents) was recently elected as a senator for the island of Flores in Indonesia. A former sponsored child, he credits his success to his participation in ChildFund’s programs. “Without ChildFund, I might have just been a child who would work on the land every day instead of going to school. Thank you very much.”

Children in Asia Win Big Through Rugby World Cup

The Rugby World Cup is the world’s third-largest sporting event, and last year, ChildFund was its official charity partner. More than $2 million was raised for ChildFund Pass It Back, a special program that uses tag rugby as a way to empower kids all across Asia with life skills like self-confidence and sportsmanship. Go team!

Thank you!

We Are Here to Help!

Have a question, concern or thought? Contact your friendly Supporter Care team at 1-800-776-6767. We’re here to support you. And be sure to join us on social media.