

Christian Children's Fund

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Zambia Trip Leads to sixth CCF Sponsorship for New Mexico Woman

Richmond, Va. – Oct. 16, 2008 – Santa Fe, N.M. resident Alexandra Travis observed firsthand the plight of African children orphaned because of AIDS.

She visited Zambia as part of a Study Tour sponsored by Christian Children's Fund, which has helped deprived, vulnerable and excluded children since 1938.

"A Study Tour is a great opportunity for a sponsor or donor to not only meet their sponsored child, but to learn about the history, culture, music, and traditions of that child's country," said CCF Assistant Director of Marketing Gary Duncan.

During CCF Study Tours, participants observe the realities of life in developing countries. Duncan has led sponsors on Study Tours to 17 countries throughout the world. "More than 600 sponsors have participated in CCF Study Tours since the program began in 2002," he said.

Before the trip in June 2008, Travis had five sponsored children – one each in Vietnam, Mexico, and India and two in the United States, but she did not have a sponsored child in Zambia. She decided to participate in the Study Tour because she always wanted to go to Africa. After seeing how many young children were orphans because of the prevalence of AIDS in Zambia, Travis decided to adopt 6-year-old Natazia. Unfortunately, Natazia is one of the many children who has lost her parents to AIDS.

"When the project leaders told us that most of these children were orphaned because of AIDS I nearly started crying. At that moment I knew I wanted another girl child that was an orphan," said Travis. "When I was introduced to her I melted. Then to find out she was a twin I became excited because this meant I would have two little girls."

Natazia has a twin named Ashley. By sponsoring Natazia, Travis is actually supporting both girls because financially she is contributing to the household income.

"Can you imagine how this makes me feel – to be a part of changing their economic status?" Travis said, "It makes my heart soar to know I can change a family's life and give comfort with the promise for a little bit brighter future."



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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) 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 32 countries and assists approximately 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance.

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CCF is involved in several programs designed to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

“I was thrilled to learn that babies born to mothers infected with AIDS are being born HIV negative because of the medical treatment in our projects. What a miracle to observe the difference we are making,” said Travis.

Children also are educated as part of CCF educational programs on how to prevent the spread of the disease.

Travis said all of the Study Tours in which she has participated have been eye opening. She also has visited CCF programs in Mexico and India.

“All the Study Tours have been insightful, educational and entertaining,” Travis said. “Zambia is now my favorite because of the beauty and vastness of this country, the warmth of all the people who work at the projects and the opportunity to see so many projects.”

In addition to Zambia, Travis has sponsored children in Mexico, Vietnam, India, Zambia and two children in the United States. She says the common challenge in all of the countries is poverty. A lack of money results in scarcity of food, medical care and education.



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