



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Head of State Sponsors a Child

Dominica President inspired by ChildFund International's work in his country.

Richmond, Va. – Jan. 11, 2010 – Which head of state sponsors a child through ChildFund International?

Answer: His Excellency Dr. Nicholas J.O. Liverpool, president of the Commonwealth of Dominica. He is currently the only president of a country to sponsor a child through ChildFund International.

"I would hope that whatever assistance I am able to offer will ease the burden on the parents and allow the child to concentrate on his studies, and eventually become a more useful member of society," says Liverpool, now serving his second term as president. "There are a lot of children in need."

His Excellency made the decision to sponsor a child last year based on the positive work being done by the ChildFund Dominica and St. Vincent team led by ChildFund National Director Francis Joseph. "They were doing a wonderful job, so I thought this will be one way that I can offer assistance as president," said Liverpool.

ChildFund came to the Caribbean island shared by Dominica and St. Vincent in 1985 and has assisted more than 36,000 children and family members in the intervening years. In Dominica, 30 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and the infant mortality rate is 8.32 deaths in 1,000.

One of the greatest disadvantages in these countries is the lack of education. ChildFund is working to improve literacy rates and opportunities for higher education as well as employment. Liverpool has placed a strong emphasis on education during his presidency.

As a new ChildFund sponsor, His Excellency is eager to participate more fully in the issues that impact children. "I've been involved in children's issues on and off for years," he says. "In a few years — when I'm free to be able to play a part — I hope to do more," he says.

Visit www.ChildFund.org for more information on child sponsorship.

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bbb.org/charity

ChildFund International, formerly named Christian Children's Fund, is a global child development and protection agency, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, ChildFund International works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. ChildFund International is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.