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**Local Woman Chosen as Finalist for ChildFund's Facebook Promotion**

*Finalist is one of five in the nation to possibly travel across the globe to visit their sponsored child*

**Richmond, Va.** – July 20, 2011 – Last month, Clarissa Maxwell of Alexandria, Va., thought she was only able to communicate with Alpha, her ChildFund International sponsored child in the Republic of Guinea, through letters and photos. Now, because of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, she may be able to meet Alpha face-to-face, but she needs the public's help.

Maxwell is one of five randomly selected qualified finalists in ChildFund International's "The Experience of a Lifetime" Facebook promotion. The organization, which creates one-to-one connections through child sponsorships, created the promotion with its thousands of sponsors and children in mind.

"Take a second to imagine having the chance to visit a child you have a relationship with, but have never met," says Anne Lynam Goddard, ChildFund president and CEO. "To meet and see first-hand the impact made in a child's life will move an individual more than they could ever imagine."

Maxwell and the other finalists have each written an essay explaining why they should be chosen to visit their sponsored child. Followers of ChildFund International's Facebook page will be able to vote on the essays to support that person's quest for "The Experience of a Lifetime."

"This promotion is about more than just winning, it is about seeing my sponsored child in person – shaking hands with him, giving him a hug, seeing him smile from ear to ear, and handing him some gifts that are coming all the way from America," says Maxwell. "I want to meet his family and learn their culture and see how they live, to better understand them."

Those interested in the promotion can:

- Go to Facebook.com/ChildFundInternational
- Select the "Experience of a Lifetime" tab (<http://apps.facebook.com/experienceoflife>)
- Review the essays and vote

Followers of ChildFund's Facebook page are allowed multiple votes, but only one vote per day. Voting begins on July 20 and runs through July 31.

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International



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ChildFund International is a global child development and protection agency serving more than 15.2 million children and their family members in 31 countries. For more than 70 years, we have helped the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive to reach their full potential and become leaders of enduring change. As a member of ChildFund Alliance we create supportive environments in which children can flourish. [To sponsor a child in need, visit the ChildFund website.](#)