Fighting Against Hunger During the Pandemic

Amidst school closures across the U.S. this past spring due to COVID-19 lockdowns, our concern turned to how to best help children who are already living in vulnerable situations.

Many children in our program rely on school lunches and on our Backpack Feeding Program to ensure they are receiving adequate meals throughout the day and on the weekends. Without the support they receive at school, they risk facing hunger at home.

Thankfully, because of our sponsors and donors, and the hard work of our volunteer coordinators in the U.S., students continued to receive food through the spring and into the summer and fall.

Thank you for all that you do to help children in need!

Donations to our COVID-19 Response Fund have been providing food and emergency supplies to the children in our program who are in immediate need since March 2020.

Find out more about this special fund by visiting www.childrenincorporated.org.
Our Response to COVID-19 in Guatemala

We are grateful for the support that our sponsors and donors are providing to families in Guatemala — and all over the world — through donations to our COVID-19 Response Fund.

Thanks to you, our affiliated projects in Guatemala have been able to purchase food, hygiene items, and other necessities for children and their families during the pandemic. This help is crucial for Guatemalans at this time, as our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, explains:

“Almost half of the population in Guatemala are low-income earners, and the percentage of people receiving aid is minimal. No one having an income above the minimum wage of about US $220 a month has received any government support.”

We are grateful for your vital support during the COVID-19 crisis — we couldn’t provide life-changing support to children in need without your help.

Alleviated Suffering in Bolivia During a Difficult Time

We heard from our volunteer coordinator at our affiliated project, Cristo de Rey in Bolivia, about the support our donors are providing to children and their families during the COVID-19 outbreak:

“Good afternoon! I want to inform you that the Children Incorporated program is supporting children with the distribution of food and hygiene items.

The situation of the pandemic in Bolivia is very complicated. Families suffer a lot because they are people with very low resources. They generally live on what they earned from what little they sell. Now it is forbidden to go out to sell and they have nothing to subsist on. As you can imagine, the families are very grateful for the help and support they received. Thank you for your help!”

Thanks to our donors, children in our program have received protective gear such as face masks, as well as food and hygiene items.
**CHILDREN INCORPORATED HAPPENINGS**

*The Children Incorporated family mourns the loss of George Saunders, a long-time employee who passed away on June 6, 2020. Mr. Saunders served as our accountant and bookkeeper for a period of 27 years, prior to his retirement in 2009. He maintained close contact with Children Incorporated in the years that followed, often attending employee functions, as well as sponsoring children. He will be greatly missed.*

*Our Board of Directors welcomed three new members in May. Mr. Wayne Huggins, Ms. Salley Mountcastle, and Dr. Theresa Steward will now work alongside our seven existing members in supporting the work of our organization as we strive to improve the lives of children and families, both in the U.S. and abroad.*

*Children Incorporated has once again been awarded 4 Out of 4 Stars by Charity Navigator. This is the fifth consecutive time that our organization has received this honor.*

*We would like to send congratulations to our long-time sponsor, Rosanne Cash, who has been selected to receive the prestigious 61st Annual Edward McDowell Medal. The award, which has previously gone to such luminaries as Aaron Copeland, Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Berstein, and Georgia O’Keefe, honors artists who have made outstanding contributions to American culture, as Rosanne surely has through her music and compositions. We thank Rosanne for sponsoring children and changing lives through her support of our organization, now for thirty years and counting.*

*Children Incorporated continues to work towards expanding our sponsorship program to include projects in Puerto Rico, but due to the COVID-19 outbreak, plans have been postponed. We remain committed to getting the program off the ground as soon as possible and continuing our work on the island, which has been hard hit by natural disasters. If you would like to be added to our waiting list of those who wish to sponsor a Puerto Rican child, please contact us today. We will share further details about our work in Puerto Rico as it becomes available.*

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Name

☐ I would like to make a donation to Children Incorporated: $________

☐ I would like to give an additional gift to my sponsored child: $________

☐ I would like to sponsor a child with the greatest need.
  ☐ U.S. ☐ International ☐ Boy ☐ Girl

☐ I would like to pay for my sponsorship:
  ☐ Monthly ($30) ☐ Quarterly ($90)
  ☐ Semi-annually ($180) ☐ Yearly ($360)

☐ Please send me information about leaving a legacy gift to Children Incorporated through my will or bequest.

Account Number

☐ PAY BY CREDIT CARD ☐ PAY BY CHECK (ENCLOSED)

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

☐ Please update my information:

Phone Number

Email Address

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Mr. George Saunders was a dedicated member of the Children Incorporated family for many decades. He will be greatly missed.

We are very grateful for the support of long-time sponsor Rosanne Cash, who has made a huge impact on American culture during her career.
Providing Relief in Kenya

We are incredibly grateful all our donors who have supported our COVID-19 relief efforts this year — and so are our volunteer coordinators. We heard from James at our affiliated project, the Dandora Community Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, as to how donations are helping children in our program and their families:

“I am glad to write to you to inform you that with the feeding funds that were sent to us this month, we were able to buy food items [for] the children that we then packaged for their parents to take home. We [were] able to fill the food bags with maize, flour, cooking oil, rice, beans and bar soaps, and detergent.”

Thanks to you, families all over the world are being provided for in this critical time of need. We appreciate all that you do for children living in poverty.

A NEW HOME FOR A FAMILY IN COLOMBIA

Last year, Children Incorporated Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, and Director of Development, Shelley Callahan, visited our affiliated project, the Centro de Orientacion, in Colombia. During their trip, they met with a family of two of our sponsored children who were living in a difficult and dangerous situation.

“The home was in terrible condition. The children showed us a hole in the floor where the shack flooded every time it rained. They were at risk of the entire structure being destroyed in the rain. It was terrifying to think that these children and their mother lived in such an unsafe place,” said Callahan.

Since then, our volunteer coordinator helped the family move into a house provided by the government and, with the support of Children Incorporated, are able to move in with the supplies they need.
Like many countries around the world, COVID-19 infection cases have risen in India despite a strict lockdown that began in late March and was lifted at the end of May. As of this past summer, India was the fourth worst-hit nation in the world behind the United States, Brazil, and Russia — and the worst-hit Asian country to date.

We heard from our volunteer coordinator at the J. Calvitt Clarke Home in Dornakal, India regarding the support we have provided to children in our program at this time. He wrote the following:

“Dear Children Incorporated,

The parents of the children [in the Children Incorporated Program] were happy to receive the given items to support their daily bread in the middle of this time. We have distributed items such as rice, oil, onions, and soap to the families, among other food items, and the beneficiaries convey their heartfelt thanks to the organization for the support.”

Our COVID-19 Response Fund ensured that families in India had food over the course of the past seven months.

Supporting the Navajo Nation

We work with twelve affiliated projects in Arizona and nine in New Mexico to support children and their families in need. During the COVID-19 outbreak, many of our coordinators drove to sponsored children’s homes to drop off bags of food that include fruit, juice, sandwiches and other simple items that children eat for lunch and dinner.

Offering Crucial Support in the Philippines

Our volunteer coordinator, Joy, at the Fortune Center in the Philippines sends her thanks:

“The families of Children Incorporated sponsored children were all greatly affected by the health emergency. Our coordinators have been working in groups to bring necessary items to the children.

On behalf of the sponsored children, we are very grateful to the sponsors who have continued helping them by sending their monthly subsidies and gifts.”
Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!
We are very proud of you and all your hard work.