

An Interview with Sabrina Timperman: Her Sponsorship Story

Many of us don't know much about Ethiopia beyond the famine that occurred there in the mid-1980s, which was highly publicized by Michael Jackson and his "We Are the World" campaign. But a lot of significant changes have occurred there over the past 31 years.

In response to that devastating famine, which killed an estimated one million people, the Ethiopian government developed a program to relocate its citizens from the drought-ravaged north to the southern part of the country, where there were fewer people and better land.

On their visit to Ethiopia last June, Shelley Callahan and Luis Bourdet visited Children Incorporated partner The Rainbow Center, which helps relocated youngsters and their families living in Ethiopia's largest city, Addis Ababa. There, they met tenth-grader Abel, who wants to be an engineer when he grows up – and he's in the right position academically to do just that, as he is in the top five of his class.

We contacted Abel's longtime sponsor, Sabrina Timperman, about her connection to Children Incorporated and her relationship with this rising star; she is a veterinarian living in Manhasset, New York.

CI: Why did you get involved with Children Incorporated?

ST: When I was little kid, I remember watching commercials on Saturday mornings about sponsoring a child. I'd always tell my mom I really wanted to sponsor a child, but we never did. Still, the commercials stuck with me. I decided as soon as I was able, I would do it - and I did. I signed up in 2007, when Abel was very young. I always wanted children, but never had any myself. Instead, I saw an opportunity to help a child in need.

CI: Did you request specific characteristics (age, gender, country, etc.) for the child you would sponsor, or did you simply have Children Incorporated choose?

ST: I was assigned Abel at random. I searched online for Children Incorporated and signed right up. I've never looked back.

CI: You've been sponsoring Abel for almost ten years now — what have you learned about him?

ST: Abel is 16 and in the tenth grade. He loves math, and wants to be an engineer someday. He's very smart, and could go far if given the opportunity. He lives with his sister and mother in a government-owned house in the slums that costs about \$30 a month to rent. His mother supports the family by selling small, plastic housewares and dishes on the street.

CI: What do you know about the slum where Abel lives?

ST: Someone in his family is sick, and I know that some of the things that I send are making a big difference. I hope it helps him survive in a world that is very harsh. They don't have a lot. The money is providing him with food, clothes, books, and school [tuition].

CI: Do you communicate with him directly?

ST: Yes! He writes letters to me in English. His letters are short, but I cherish them. Abel tells me which sports he likes, like basketball. He has a sister. I know he goes to school and studies hard.

ST: What do you wish for Abel?

ST: I have this vision that thirty years from now, when he is an adult - one time before I die I would love to see him. It is so interesting to be with someone for so long, having never met them. I've watched him grow up. I have his pictures in my room of him getting bigger and bigger. I hope I have given him a chance at a better life.

CI: What advice would you have for someone who is reading about you and Abel, and is considering sponsoring a child?

ST: I think that it is extremely rewarding; it is money well spent. I could go buy myself

a latte, but this small amount of money is changing someone's life, and it is the difference between that child eating or not. And we all have to do our part in making others' lives better, and this is a meaningful way to do that. You walk away going, "I changed someone's life today, and I helped give them something that they wouldn't be able to get in another way." The money is helping make a difference, and that is important, even if you don't ever meet the child. It's a little money for all of us, but if we put it together, then we can be impactful and make a really big difference. And hopefully, they can be sustainable and more self-sufficient in a way, and they can continue to succeed and move forward.

You can't make change in society when people are hungry - and they don't have education, and they don't have medicine. You have to close the wound before you can fix anything.



SABRINA HOLDING
A PHOTO OF ABEL

MEET ABEL

Hi. My name is Abel. I am in the tenth grade. My favorite subject in school is physics. My teacher describes me as active, sociable, and an excellent student. I enjoy reading and playing soccer. I live with my mother and sister. I live in a small, rented old room that has no running water or indoor plumbing. When I grow up, I want to be an engineer. Sponsorship is important to me because it helps with my school fees and other expenses, so that I can attend school regularly without a problem.


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Children Incorporated Goes *On the Road*

Have you ever wished you could see first-hand how your support is making a difference? Last March, we launched our *On the Road* campaign - a story series that brings readers along with us on project visits all over the world.

Subscribe to *On the Road* and read dispatches from various parts of the globe to learn more about how your contributions help children rise above the constraints of poverty. You'll meet, among others, tireless volunteers fueling innovative, sustainable programs, and extraordinary youngsters who depend greatly on your support.

For six months now, readers have accompanied us on site visits to seven different countries - from here in the United States, all the way to Kenya. Join us *On the Road* for photos, videos, and weekly reports - and to find out where we'll be headed next!

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Health Care for Everyone: The Dandora Community Center in Nairobi

In June, our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, and Development Manager Shelley Callahan visited the Dandora Community Center in Nairobi, Kenya to see the progress made on recent renovations to its clinic. These necessary updates were made possible thanks to your support of our fundraising program back in March. The clinic has been under construction for the past six months, so the community and its children have not yet had the opportunity to access it — but it will be up and running soon!

Getting these doors open again is so important because the children in the community have nowhere else to go for the treatment of colds, stomach sicknesses, or wounds. And left untreated, common illnesses can all too easily become major problems - or even the cause of death. In the slums, there are no other options for treatment; the few clinics like this one are the only places where the population is given the chance to receive medical help.

And it is not just minor ailments and injuries that cause worry; mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, illnesses which do not plague the Western world, are of great concern to Kenyans. These sicknesses are a major public health problem in this region of Africa — and a huge source of fear for everyone there.

Simple items like mosquito nets can make all the difference for children in Nairobi when it comes to them either spending their childhood getting an education, or spending it having to fight for their lives. Healthy children have the opportunity to go to school — if their families can afford it; those who are stricken with malaria or dengue, however, are bedridden, and hope to simply survive each day.

These nets keep the mosquitoes — and thus, these diseases — at bay; but they are difficult to come by in the slums. Each year, Children Incorporated sends funds to the Dandora Community Center so that mosquito nets may be provided to those in need in the surrounding communities.

CONTINUED INSIDE

THE FEW CLINICS
LIKE THIS ONE
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CONTINUED FROM COVER

These nets have an extremely significant beneficial impact at a very minor cost; each one costs less than \$10. Our goal is to finance the purchase of 1,200 of them this year!

James Ngura, our Volunteer Coordinator at the center, explained that one of the biggest obstacles for him is the workload; keeping up with finances while simultaneously raising more funds is a major undertaking. I was not surprised to hear this; James and his staff work tenaciously to expand their programs' outreach — especially the services provided by the clinic.

Although incredibly busy, James is excited about what the recent improvements will mean for the center – and especially, the community. His hope is that, once they are fully completed, he will be able to greatly increase the number of people who the clinic is able to treat. His goal for the year is to double the amount of medications that the clinic is able to purchase and administer — which would mean an increase in expenses from \$4,000 to \$8,000, annually.

Thanks to your generous support, we are hopeful that this dream will be realized for both James *and* the Dandora Community Center.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG/ONTHEROAD



More than Just a School - It's a Window into the Future

In the outskirts of Montero, Bolivia, in the countryside, people live in lean-tos and one-room huts with thatched roofs — and the poverty there is just as staggering as the heat.

That's why the post-expansion reopening of the Montero School, which included the addition of seven new classrooms to a previously-overcrowded and poorly ventilated building, was cause for celebration.

Director of International Programs Luis Bourdet and I traveled to Santa Cruz, Bolivia in March for the inauguration of the school after the completion of its additions. We were warmly greeted by Volunteer Coordinator Sister Geraldina, who had very graciously planned a celebration for the joyous occasion.

The Montero School reopening was attended by over 600 people from the local communities. The event was kicked off by Luis breaking a bottle of champagne over the ground, followed by performances of traditional dances by excited children in the gym. After the event, the families of the eighty sponsored students there met with Luis to discuss their community and the immediate needs of their children.

The celebration continued into the next day, when the youngsters attended school in their new classrooms for the very first time. In these new rooms, no longer burdened by overcrowding or by stifling conditions, these children are free to be children — laughing at silly jokes, goofing around, and working on class assignments.

Education provides a lifeline for these students, and it brings them happiness; and Luis and I are so grateful to have had the opportunity to see firsthand just how our wonderful donors and sponsors have made it possible for so many more children in Bolivia to attend school.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG/ONTHEROAD



Hungry Kids Can't Learn: Feeding Programs for Students in Eastern Kentucky

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS, MANY STUDENTS
WILL HAVE FOOD THAT OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT.

Shelley Callahan joined Shelley Oxenham, U.S. Programs Specialist, on a visit to Children Incorporated programs in Eastern Kentucky. On a Tuesday morning, the pair caught up with Sherry Paul, Children Incorporated's Volunteer Coordinator at Whitley Elementary School. Eight children at the school are currently enrolled in our program, and there is a long waiting list of others in need of help.

Almost all of the families we met live in poverty. Problems with drug addiction have left a disproportionate number of youngsters essentially parentless. There are so many grandparents raising their grandchildren that the school has set up a support group specifically for them.

Though the emotional support is helpful, what they really need is financial help. Over 90 percent of the students at the elementary school qualify for reduced lunch prices because of the extremely low incomes of the households in which they live. And for all too many children, school is the only place where they are guaranteed a balanced meal.

The lack of food at home is particularly an issue during winter break,

when students potentially face more than a week without a meal. In the days leading up to Christmas, Sherry makes gift baskets for the children, packing in flour, sugar, butter, peanut butter, bacon, eggs, bologna, hot dogs, bread, Pop Tarts, and oatmeal so that their grandparents will have something to cook for them while they're away from school.

This is why our Back Pack Feeding Program is so important. Thanks to our Volunteer Coordinators, who take time to create bags of food for children to take home on weekends or during long breaks from school, many students will have food that otherwise might not. It is hard to imagine that these youngsters here at home are facing issues with hunger in the same way we might think of children overseas living in poverty; but because of our donors, Children Incorporated is able to offer much-needed support.

READ THE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
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☐ Please contact me about planned giving.

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Email: _____

☐ I would like to pay by check (enclosed).

Please make check payable to Children Incorporated.

» One Selfless Man Leaves a Legacy of Better Lives for Hundreds of Children

Glenn Foy began sponsoring children through Children Incorporated in December of 2005. Over the following decade, he sponsored a dozen youngsters, individually. His selflessness and generosity offered each and every one of those children hope and opportunities that they would not have had otherwise.

Mr. Foy was tragically killed in April of 2015. Prior to his death, he had arranged for Children Incorporated to become a beneficiary of his estate. Thanks to Mr. Foy's pre-planning, his support of our work is continuing beyond his lifetime.

In just the past year, funds from The Foy Estate have allowed us to do the following:

» Construct two daycare classrooms at the Pinagpala Center in the Philippines

» Provide for the purchase of musical instruments for the marching band at the Juan Apostol School in Guatemala

» Finance the construction of two additional classrooms at the Juan Apostol School

» Support the implementation of a vegetable and fruit garden at Kids Hope in Ethiopia

» Finance a biogas plant for cooking at Maria Immaculata in Brazil

» Fund the revamping of a medical clinic at the Dandora Community Center

» Support feeding programs in the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Kenya for approximately 200 children for one year

» Provide for repairs to a water purification plant at Msamaria in Kenya

» Provide monetary support for an educational-motivational program in Letcher County, Kentucky

» Provide food, therapy, and eyeglasses to children at Semillas de Amor in Guatemala

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