

Remembering Our Founder Mrs. Wood – Ten Years After Her Passing

“Mrs. Wood is proof of what one committed and dedicated person can accomplish in easing the hurts and needs of heartbreakingly vulnerable youngsters.”



Mrs. Wood hard at work in her office.



The first Children Incorporated office was located in Mrs. Wood's own home

2016 marks the ten-year anniversary of the passing of our beloved founder, Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood. When Mrs. Wood started Children Incorporated out of an office over her garage more than fifty years ago, she began by writing letters requesting help for the children she had met in her travels. Today, Children Incorporated remains a modest, but far-reaching organization that serves children in 23 countries. We remember Mrs. Wood with an excerpt of a letter written by Richmond author Nedra Tyre, dated March 18, 1977:

“Mrs. Wood is proof of what one committed and dedicated person can accomplish in easing the hurts and needs of heartbreakingly vulnerable youngsters. Mrs. Wood is a person of poise and inner calm, who radiates good will and has enthusiasm and wit. Her interests range from world events to pretty clothes. All of her energies and talents are focused on helping needy children; and her gratitude is to the generous and warm-hearted sponsors who share their bounty (usually at financial sacrifice to themselves) with these children.”

Mrs. Wood passed away at the age of 89, having spent a lifetime creating, nurturing, and preparing for the future of her “Children Incorporated family,” engendering the heartfelt design of a unique environment that has been special not only to Children Incorporated staff, but also to our sponsors and donors.

Mrs. Wood – What a vision! What a lady! What a legacy!



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PROVIDES CHILDREN WITH
HOPE, EDUCATION, AND
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THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN
THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.



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Children Incorporated
PO Box 72848
North Chesterfield, VA 23235
1-800-538-5381
childrenincorporated.org
sponsorship@children-inc.org



Deaf Children in Lebanon Face Challenges as Syrian Refugees



Imagine having to flee your home, everything you know, in search of safety. With the upheaval tied to war and physical relocation, every aspect of life, including children's educations, is suddenly put on hold – indefinitely. Such is reality for countless refugees. Even those fortunate enough to quickly resettle often face culture shock, language barriers, and other challenges that prolong this instability and uncertainty.

One of Children Incorporated's affiliated program sites, the Father Andrew Institute for the Deaf, has been serving hearing-impaired children in Beirut, Lebanon since 1957. Over recent years, the institute has received an influx of students facing an additional challenge: they are refugees fleeing war-torn Syria. For several of these children, this is their very first opportunity to receive an education. Due to their refugee status, however, they receive no benefits from the Lebanese government – which is why additional support is so desperately needed.

Thirteen students are currently in need of powerful hearing aids, which cost between \$400 and \$600 each. The institute also lacks such essentials as a generator, ear mold and science lab equipment, speech and language therapy materials, and educational supplies for its research center. The estimated total cost for these items is over \$15,000.

Your assistance can give these children the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to succeed against great odds. As a generous contributor to Children Incorporated, you can make a world of difference in these children's lives!

Please consider helping these child refugees today! Contact our office for more information, or visit our website at www.childrenincorporated.org.

“Because of my sponsor, I have clothes and shoes to wear to school.”



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Remembering Former Board of Directors President Steve Holton

/ BY RON CARTER

Stephen Holton first joined Children Incorporated's Board of Directors in 2011 and served as Chairman from May 2012 through March 2015. I became President and Chief Executive Officer of Children Incorporated in April 2012, just two weeks before Steve assumed his new duties. As such, Steve and I spent a great deal of time working together through some tough times, endeavoring to make Children Incorporated the very best it could be. Along the way, we developed a solid friendship, which continued beyond his time on our Board. Steve was a kind and caring man. He was unselfish and giving, inquisitive and extremely intelligent. He could be very funny, and at times, absolutely infuriating. He put others first and had a unique way of making everyone feel special. Above all, he was real, honest, and open; a "what you see is what you get" kind of fellow.

I miss my friend. I loved and respected Steve Holton and will treasure all that I shared with and learned from him.

The staff of Children Incorporated thanks Steve for sticking by us and believing in us, and we thank him for his years of loyal service. He will be remembered.

Steve Holton
November 21, 1947 – January 21, 2016

Our office has moved!

Children Incorporated's new office is located in North Chesterfield, Virginia, just south of Richmond. From 1964 until 2005, Children Incorporated operated out of the home of our founder, Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood. Children Incorporated then moved to our previous, Dover Road location, where we resided for a decade. Our new location, on Allecingie Parkway, allows us more space in which to operate, as well as greater visibility in the Richmond community.



No longer strapped with the high cost of monthly rent, we see this building as a solid investment for the future of our organization. We look forward to many, many years in our new office, improving the lives of children in the United States and abroad.

update your records to our
new address:

Children Incorporated
PO Box 72848
North Chesterfield, VA 23235



Children in Detroit Need Your Help

This once-prominent industrial metropolis is now littered with abandoned and dilapidated homes. Despite some improvements in recent years, Detroit's recovery continues to be extremely slow.

In December of 2015, Children Incorporated President and CEO Ron Carter, along with Director of U.S. Programs Renée Kube, visited our affiliated program sites in Detroit, Michigan. The city has suffered greatly during the economic recession that resulted from the automobile industry's decline.

Due to a lack of jobs, countless families have moved away from the city, and over fifty schools have closed. This once-prominent industrial metropolis is now littered with abandoned and dilapidated homes. Despite some improvements in recent years, Detroit's recovery continues to be extremely slow.

Each Children Incorporated sponsored child with whom Ron and Renée met talked about how much they love being sponsored – how much it means to them to know that someone cares. They are delighted to have new weather-appropriate clothing that fits them. They enjoy getting school supplies, such as notebooks, paper, and pencils, in order to complete their assignments and homework. They are extremely grateful for the regularly-provided food, and they really appreciate their sponsors' gifts and letters.

There are still many children in Detroit on a wait list for our program; we need more sponsors and sponsorships so that they may also receive assistance. Please share your sponsorship experience with your family and friends, and ask them to consider sponsoring a child. It is such a unique way to make a real difference in the life of a child.



Meet sponsor Mark Martell

Mark Martell clearly recalls how he found out about Children Incorporated. It was in January of 2003 as he was reading the best-selling book, "Don't Sweat The Small Stuff," by the late Dr. Richard Carlson. In that book, Dr. Carlson mentioned that he believed in and supported the work of our organization, and Mark was impelled to do likewise.

Since that time, Mark has sponsored numerous children from around the world. He currently provides sponsorship to 15

youngsters, both from the United States and countries such as Kenya, South Korea, Mexico, and the Philippines. Mark, who is aware of the fact that there are always unsponsored children awaiting assistance, says that his dream is for every child on the Children Incorporated roster to be actively sponsored each and every month.

Mark feels a deep connection to our work, and he wants badly to make a difference. He says that he has been blessed with the opportunity to change many lives through his

occupation. Mark works with Purium, a company with a mission to help families eat cleaner and greener through the consumption of organic, non-genetically modified superfoods. For more information about Purium, we invite you to check- out their website:

puriumcorp.com

Mark, we thank you for all you do for the children we serve. We appreciate you a great deal!



food clothing school supplies

Since 1964, Children Incorporated has helped provide basic needs for over 300,000 children.

Your gift matters

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Name: _____ Account Number: _____

☐ I would like to make a one-time gift of \$ _____ to help children in Lebanon.

☐ I would like to make a one-time gift of \$ _____ for general purposes.

☐ I would like to sponsor a child in Detroit. ☐ I would like to sponsor a child with the greatest need.

I would like to pay for my sponsorship: Monthly: \$28 Quarterly: \$84 Semi-Annually: \$168 Annually: \$336

☐ Please send me information regarding leaving a legacy gift.

☐ Please bill my credit card:

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date (mm/yy): _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

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

Please make check payable to Children Incorporated.