



SPRING 2017

ON THE ROAD WITH CHILDREN INCORPORATED



FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BLOSSOM IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOOD DESERT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

It's hard to imagine a lack of food in our nation's capital – but there is one.

A “food desert” is a place where fresh fruits and vegetables can’t be purchased, and Washington, D.C. is just such a place. Large sections of the city – specifically the poorer areas – don’t have grocery stores. Instead, they have corner markets where snacks and some canned goods can be purchased, but not nutritious whole foods.

“If families have transportation barriers or an illness, or mobility problems that keep them from getting out of their neighborhoods, what they’re limited to are these little corner stores,” said Renée Kube, Director of U.S. Programs for Children Incorporated.

“For thousands of families in the city, fresh fruits and vegetables just can’t be found.”

Except at school. Lucy Ellen Moten Elementary School is located in Ward 8, one of D.C.’s poorest neighborhoods. But families there are getting fresh produce each month through the Joyful Food Market, a program partially supported by Children Incorporated, in conjunction with the local non-profit Martha’s Table.

Once a month, volunteers set up a market of fresh fruits and vegetables inside the school. Families – or the children themselves – can come shop for their own produce, choosing the items they want. Everything is free of charge, and each family is allotted a certain amount of produce based on the number of members they have in their household.

“It’s been very appreciated, and it has also increased parent engagement, because parents are volunteering to come in and do setup or cleanup,” Kube said. “That’s a big deal for a school that’s struggling to have a viable Parent Teacher Association.”

FOR MORE ON THIS STORY, VISIT CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG/ONTHEROAD

HELPING FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER IN MEXICO

By Shelley Callahan, Director of Development

In 1986, a priest named Father Ramon Aguirre decided to open a home in Guadalajara, Mexico for children whose parents were serving time in prison – the La Luz Home. The idea behind the home was that it would help keep siblings together who might otherwise be separated due to the incarceration of one or both of their parents.

Today, the La Luz Home is run by our volunteer coordinator Sister Nelly, who oversees 24 children in the home, ranging in age from three to thirteen years. The children live at La Luz during the week, and on the weekends, they return to their parents or a relative. The goal is to help the children stay close to their families, since so many aspects of their lives are inconsistent.

On a recent trip to Mexico, Sister Nelly, Children Incorporated Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, and I went to the home of Renaldo, a sweet, small, five-year-old boy who is enrolled in the La Luz Home. He lives with his mother and four siblings, who are all in the Children Incorporated program. Two other relatives also live with them in the small dwelling, bringing the total number of inhabitants to eight people – all of whom sleep on only three couches and one single bed.

When we spoke with the children, they said that they love going to La Luz. Though the kids'

excitement about getting to spend time with their mother, who works long hours at a day care center to support her family, is evident, there is little to occupy their time at home. During our visit on a Saturday afternoon, all five children were sitting in a small, dark room watching television. They had no plans to leave their house until Monday morning, when it would be time for them to return to La Luz. Their mother would like to spend more time with them, but she struggles just to manage the household, and raise her children alone while her husband serves time in jail. For now, she is focused on merely keeping her family together.

La Luz provides a safe and comfortable place for the kids to receive care and assistance while their mother earns a living. Although the children still experience some boredom on the weekends, their weekdays at La Luz are filled with hope and promise. They receive nutritious food and educational guidance in a healthy and welcoming environment. Their mother knows they are being cared for properly.

Renaldo, the youngest child in the family, is quite shy at home. But at La Luz, he enjoys coloring and drawing, and he is encouraged to create little works of art as a means of expressing himself. He especially enjoys sharing his artwork with his sponsor, as well as sending him letters to thank him for all he does.





COUNTING ON FRIENDSHIP FROM ACROSS THE MILES

When we returned to the United States from Mexico, we caught up with Renaldo's sponsor, Mr. Stephen Suelzle, a printer and letterpress man from Portland, Oregon, and asked him some questions about his sponsorship experience.

C.I.: How did you get involved with Children Incorporated?

S.S.: Around twenty years ago, I met a young man through mutual friends who was from Brazil. He was only here a short time. We spent a lot of time together, getting to know one another. But eventually, he was forced to return to Brazil. Since I had always wanted to sponsor a child, when I finally did sign up for sponsorship through Children Incorporated in 2000, I initially started sponsoring boys in Curitiba, Brazil to sort of remember him.

C.I.: What do you know about Renaldo?

S.S.: I know that he loves to draw. He always sends me drawings and colorings. I seem to remember soccer being mentioned, too.

C.I.: Does he send you correspondence?

S.S.: Yes! It is always wonderful drawings, or something he has colored. I look forward to receiving them, and I keep them all in a photo album.

C.I.: What does he say in his letters?

S.S.: He always thanks me for helping him. In February, I received a letter where a social worker told me he said, "I am very hard-working. I liked my gift very much." In at least one picture, he addressed me as "Mr. Stephen". I liked that. Mostly, he just says Thank you.

C.I.: How do you feel about being a sponsor?

S.S.: Just sponsoring children in general is a very important thing to me. Way back, when I was picking out which charity to go through, I chose Children Incorporated for various reasons. I have never regretted it.

FOR MORE ON THIS STORY, VISIT
CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG/ONTHEROAD

BRAZIL: A FULLY-BAKED IDEA BRINGS ECONOMIC STABILITY TO BRAZILIAN MOMS

It is well-known among those who practice social work with children: if you teach skills to parents, you not only benefit their children's lives, but you also help another generation to become more self-sufficient. Three of Children Incorporated's projects in Brazil focus on developing both the parents' and children's skills – all with encouraging results.

In early 2016, Children Incorporated funded – thanks to you – a successful tutoring program and vegetable garden program, as well as supported eighty children through sponsorship at the CARITAS–Novo Milenio Center in Brazil. Later in the year, when CARITAS–Novo Milenio proposed the idea of adding a mother-run bakery to their programs that would teach business and trade skills while also generating income, Children Incorporated was ready to get on board – and we have our supporters to thank for making that possible!



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Name

- ☐ I would like to support tutoring programs in Brazil.
- ☐ I would like to support feeding programs in Washington, D.C.
- ☐ 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 (\$28) ☐ Quarterly (\$84)
- ☐ Semi-Annually (\$168) ☐ Yearly (\$336)
- ☐ 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

FORMER CEO OF CHILDREN INCORPORATED, MARIAN CUMMINS, IS STILL MAKING A BIG IMPACT

Marian Cummins, who served as the second President and Chief Executive Officer of Children Incorporated, retired from her position in 2010 – yet she continues to believe in and support the work of our organization. On December 30, Mrs. Cummins presented a very generous monetary donation to our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, to be utilized for feeding and clothing children in our program. Mrs. Cummins now resides in a retirement community, and she invited Luis to visit her in the dining hall while she and her fellow residents shared a mid-day meal. She made a point of presenting the check to him in front of her neighbors in order to inspire them to support the work of Children Incorporated, too.

We want to thank Mrs. Cummins not only for her recent gift and the thoughtful manner in which it was presented, but also for the years of dedicated service she devoted to Children Incorporated. She was, and continues to be, greatly loved by our staff, and by those of you who got to know her along the way.



From left to right, Tal Stanecky (ISE Senior Program Manager), Ron Carter, and Wayne Brewer (ISE Chief Executive Officer)

OUR NEW PARTNER: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

Children Incorporated is honored to announce its collaboration with International Student Exchange (ISE), a worldwide organization that unites students from abroad with host families in the United States. We were approached by their Senior Program Director, Tal Stanecky, a few months back, and he informed us that ISE has chosen Children Incorporated to be the recipient of their financial support in 2017, with an upcoming monetary contribution to be allocated for assisting children domestically.

Mr. Stanecky researched numerous non-profit organizations, looking for one that was similar in mission and purpose to International Student Exchange. He considered several organizations, but ultimately determined that Children Incorporated was the best fit for this partnership opportunity. According to Mr. Stanecky, ISE is "impressed with the amount of total expenses apportioned solely to funding programs and services" that Children Incorporated maintains. Furthermore, he states, "I definitely see a long-term partnership and several opportunities coming out of this" – and we couldn't agree more!

Children Incorporated's Director of U.S. Programs, Renée Kube, and President and Chief Executive Officer, Ron Carter, welcomed Mr. Stanecky and Mr. Wayne Brewer, Chief Executive Officer of International Student Exchange, to our headquarters in North Chesterfield, Virginia in December; and Ron traveled to Long Island, New York to meet with them at their headquarters in January. About his visit, Ron says, "I am so impressed with ISE. The organization does incredible work all around the globe, and I look very forward to the projects we will undertake together in the coming year."



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NEWS

SPRING 2017



SIGN UP FOR ON THE ROAD!
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We are excited to announce that we are now enrolling children at our latest project, E.S.H. Greene Elementary School (Richmond, Virginia). We are grateful to our partner organization, Communities in Schools, for making this possible.

