



SPRING 2023 STORIES OF HOPE CHILDREN INCORPORATED



Expanding Our Efforts in the Philippines

In early January, our Director of Development, Shelley Callahan, visited the Philippines, where she met with our volunteer coordinators, sponsored children, and their parents to find out more about how their lives are impacted by the support they receive from their sponsors. Her visit not only marked the first time that Children Incorporated was able to visit the Philippines since 2018, but it was also the first time that we were able to see our newly added affiliated sites in person!

“In 2022, we expanded our sponsorship program in the Philippines to include the Cangumbang Center and the Santo Nino Center, both located in Tacloban within driving distance of the Visayans Center at Bliss, which we have been affiliated with since 2005,” explained Callahan.

“It was so incredible to see the work that we have been able to do in the Philippines first-hand, especially in the specific areas where Typhoon Yolanda devastated the area in 2013.”

“Since then, with the help of Children Incorporated, residents of Tacloban have rebuilt and restructured their lives to be more prepared for natural disasters,” said Callahan. “The support from our sponsors and donors is so vital to the well-being of children here who sometimes can’t leave their homes due to flooding or extensive rainstorms. Our coordinators are on the ground making sure our sponsored children are being fed and have hygiene items and school supplies every month so they don’t have to worry about how and when they can get the resources they need.”

Want to learn more about our work in the Philippines? Subscribe to our blog series, Stories of Hope, today!
<https://childrenincorporated.org/stories-of-hope/>

Our Beloved Elethia Miller

Children Incorporated's long-time employee and dear friend Elethia Miller passed away on Friday, January 13, 2023 at her home in North Carolina.

Elethia worked for over forty years as our Data Entry Clerk in our Richmond, Virginia office, before retiring in 2017 and moving to Wilmington to live with her daughter and her family. Those who knew Elethia knew that she loved to sing and rejoice, and lived her life of service by giving, teaching, and loving all of those around her. Elethia was a proud, dedicated member of Broad Rock Baptist Church in Richmond where she served in the choir, and was part of the diaconate, as well as the kitchen ministry.

Elethia was also an amazing cook, baker, and canner, and loved being able to share her goodies with anyone she met. We at Children Incorporated, and all our supporters who knew her personally or who had the chance to speak with her during her time in our office, will miss her and cherish her memory forever.



HELPING JORDAN ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS

Our Higher Education Fund supports our sponsored children who are interested in pursuing university or college degrees once they graduate from high school.

Recently, our Director of U.S. Programs, Renée Kube, received an update about former sponsored student, Jordan, who has been receiving support from this special fund.

"Jordan was enrolled in our sponsorship program at Sparta Elementary School and then Alleghany High School in North Carolina. During his high school years, he took honors and dual-enrollment classes. Due to his academic achievement, our coordinator recommended him for our Higher Education Program," said Renée.

Jordan was accepted, and he began his university studies at Western Carolina University in 2019. However, as a first-generation college student, Jordan found the transition to college challenging. The pandemic made things increasingly difficult for Jordan and his family. He decided to take a leave of absence in Spring 2022 in order to de-stress and to think about his options."

"Jordan then chose to transfer to Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. He contacted me last September to let me know he had re-enrolled. He is now working on a bachelor's degree in music, and he is in good academic standing. His major is in Instrumental Music Education, and he wants to be a music and band teacher.

When Jordan contacted me last fall, he told me, *"Children Incorporated has done so much for me through the years. I'm so glad I was able to stay a part of it while in college. You all are absolutely wonderful. Thank you for letting me be a part of this, and for being the people you are."*

We are so proud of you and your hard work, Jordan! If you would like to find out more about our Higher Education Fund or make a donation, please contact us today.



Twenty Sponsored Children to Celebrate 20 Years: A Message from Ron Carter

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2023 is the 20th anniversary of my time at Children Incorporated – ten of which I have been blessed to lead the organization as our CEO and President. During my time with this incredible organization, I have been very blessed to work with some absolutely inspiring people and to be afforded many wonderful opportunities for personal growth. Children Incorporated has changed a lot over these last twenty years, and it continues to morph and rearrange as we adapt to the changing trends and interests of our wonderful and generous sponsors and donors. I am grateful beyond measure to work in a setting like Children Incorporated. I am surrounded by people whose passion is to change and better the lives of children and young adults, and I am personally seeing the good that we are able to do each and every day. I believe that we each have a responsibility to try and make our world a bit better. To mark my time here, I would love to ask that you consider helping me reach a goal of getting 20 children sponsored to celebrate 20 years of my time with Children Incorporated. I am truly thankful for Children Incorporated, and I thank each of you for your part in its continuing success!

From the heart,



Ron H. Carter, President and Chief Executive Officer



Meeting with our sponsored children has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my time with Children Incorporated. I am pictured here in Guatemala visiting with students at the Juan Apostol School.

PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A CHILD TODAY TO SUPPORT MR. CARTER'S 20TH YEAR AT CHILDREN INCORPORATED! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

CHILDREN INCORPORATED / TAX ID# 54-0761510 / 800-538-5381 / CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG

Name _____

☐ YES! I want to sponsor a child for Ron Carter's 20th Year! _____

☐ 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 _____

Visiting our Affiliated Sites in Central America

In October of 2022, our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, visited three countries and seven affiliated sites which support hundreds of children through our sponsorship program.

“Children Incorporated supports children in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. While visiting, I had the opportunity to meet with the children supported by our sponsors, and with their parents. The affiliated sites in all these countries support children from very low-income families,” explained Luis.

“Our sponsors are ensuring that these children are able to go to school and receive an education, and they are achieving positive results. Additionally, I found that all the parents are very grateful for the support, as it has become increasingly difficult to earn a livable wage since the pandemic.”



Children at our affiliated site, La Milagrosa, in San Jose, Costa Rica, welcome Luis with a celebration. It has been five years since Children Incorporated has been able to visit the center due to the pandemic, so the event felt extra special for everyone.

A Letter of Thanks from Kentucky



After devastating flooding hit Eastern Kentucky last summer, Children Incorporated responded to the emergency by sending funds to our many affiliated sites in the damaged areas, and our volunteer coordinators were endlessly grateful.

To express her gratitude, Ashley from our affiliated site, Jackson City School, wrote to us:

“I want to thank you for the special gift for disaster relief in Breathitt County. Words cannot express how thankful our community is for the support. With the funds, I focused on purchasing household needs and nice clothing for families who had a place to go or were going to rebuild so that when they had a chance to return, they felt like they could make their house a home again — those comfort items people tend to forget about but were so desperately needed. Your generosity means the world and more to all of us. We couldn’t survive these days without support like yours.”

Thanks to all our donors who helped to support these families through their donations to our Hope in Action Fund. To find out more about this special fund, visit our website today!

DID YOU KNOW? CHILDREN INCORPORATED TRIVIA

- Did you know that the entire staff of Children Incorporated is made up of just seventeen people?
- Did you know that our first affiliated site was started in Guatemala in 1964 by our founder, Jeanne Clarke Wood?
- Did you know that we have seventeen affiliated sites in Pike County, Kentucky — our largest concentration of sites in any single county in the United States?
- Did you know that our Board Chair, Liz Collins, once worked as a data entry operator at Children Incorporated?



Mrs. Wood in Guatemala meeting with a sponsored child and his family



Rachel is one of seventeen of our amazing staff members in the office.

Making Christmas Special in New Mexico — and Around the World

Our sponsors make Christmas special for so many children around the world every year — and often times provide them with the only gifts that they receive.

Our volunteer coordinator, Cecelia, from the Tohaali Community School in New Mexico, wrote to us after the 2022 holiday season to express her gratitude:

“I want to thank all of the Children Incorporated sponsors for all their support. I purchased items for the students at our school in the sponsorship program before the winter break, and my shopping trip included not only basic items, but Christmas presents, too. I wish the Children Incorporated staff and sponsors could have seen the faces of these children when they received the gift bags — it was priceless. Some of them were completely speechless and in awe. You are truly making a huge difference in their lives.”

Every holiday season, our sponsors and donors make the holidays special for children in our program. From India to El Salvador to Arizona, your donations bring cheer and joy to so many families who otherwise might not have the means to celebrate.

To find out more about how your donations are life-changing for children in need, subscribe to our email list today!



Greetings from Arizona

Our Director of U.S. Programs, Renée Kube, and our U.S. Program Specialist, Kristen Walthall, visited our affiliated sites in Arizona this past fall after a few years of hosting online meetings throughout the pandemic. Photos and stories from their trip will be posted on our *Stories of Hope* blog in the upcoming months!

Our Board and Staff Host a Meet and Greet



After many years of the pandemic keeping our board and staff from meeting in person, we were able to finally schedule a gathering in Richmond, Virginia in December, during which some of our staff and board met in person for the first time!



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NEWS

SPRING 2023



SIGN UP FOR OUR BLOG, *STORIES OF HOPE!*
CHILDRENINCORPORATED.ORG/STORIESOFOPE

Your donations bring smiles to the faces of children in need. Thank you for your support of our work around the world!

