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 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.

HELPING JORDAN ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS

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HELPING JORDAN ACHIEVE HIS DREAMS

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.

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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.
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!

二十受助儿童庆祝二十周年：Ron Carter的致词

亲爱的朋友们，

很难相信2023年是我在儿童机构工作的20周年——其中的十年我有幸担任首席执行官和总裁。在我与这个杰出的组织共事的这段时间里，我非常有幸与一些极富启发性的人一起工作，并得到了许多令人惊叹的机会，以实现个人成长。儿童机构在过去的20年里发生了很大的变化，它继续不断地演变和调整，以适应我们众多慷慨的赞助商和捐赠者不断变化的趋势和兴趣。我非常感激能够在一个像儿童机构这样的环境中工作。我周围的人对改变和改善儿童和年轻人的生活有着无比的热情，我亲眼目睹了我们能够做到的善举。我相信我们每个人都有责任试图让我们的世界变得更好。为了纪念我在这里的时间，我想要请求大家考虑帮助我实现一个目标，即资助20名儿童，以庆祝我在儿童机构的20年。我非常感激儿童机构，也感谢你们每个人对它的持续成功所作出的贡献！

从心底

Ron H. Carter，首席执行官

与我资助的孩子们见面是我在这20年中最有意义的方面之一。我在这里参观了危地马拉的Juan Apostol学校，与学生们一起。

请考虑今天资助一个孩子来支持Ron Carter的20周年！谢谢你们所有的支持！
A Letter of Thanks from Kentucky

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?

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.”

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.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mrs. Wood in Guatemala
- Rachel is one of seventeen
- meeting with a sponsored child and his family
- 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!
Your donations bring smiles to the faces of children in need. Thank you for your support of our work around the world!