



Visiting Our Affiliated Sites in Bolivia

Children Incorporated supports hundreds of children in three different cities and at twelve affiliated sites in Bolivia — all of whom are greatly benefiting thanks to their sponsors. This past spring, our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet, and our International Program Specialist, Yefiny Mena, had the chance to visit each site and meet with our volunteer coordinators after years of COVID-19 travel restrictions keeping them from making the trip.

"We are so proud of our work in Bolivia for many reasons," explains Luis. "Not only are the children being provided with basic needs monthly, but we have been able to support a few major special projects in the country over the years, most recently building housing for families in Santa Cruz and constructing an agricultural school in Montero, which benefits the students who are in high school

or graduating in the near future and wanting to pursue a degree. Higher education for children living in poverty is something we love to support — and thankfully, our amazing donors are always there to help," said Luis.



Thanks to our donors, families in Bolivia have permanent housing, which offers them security for their futures.

Recovering in Arizona After COVID-19



Last fall, our Director of U.S. Programs, Renée Kube, and our U.S. Program Specialist, Kristen Walthall, had the chance to return to Arizona for the first time since the pandemic to meet with our volunteer coordinators.

"COVID-19 was and still is contracted at disproportionate rates on Navajo Nation as compared to the rest of the country. This is due to the historic marginalization of its people. The conditions in which people are born, live, learn, and work are known as the social determinants of health. When those are inadequate, then there are negative effects on people's physical and mental health," explained Renée.

It has been documented extensively that low quality jobs, limited income, poverty, and low education are fundamentally connected to poor health outcomes."

"The 2021-2022 school year saw the development of boosters and a big push to return to fully inperson instruction in Arizona, and in 2023, our coordinators continue to see a further return to normal. In most places, schools have fully reopened, and athletics, clubs, and activities have resumed. Because of our sponsors, we are able to fill in the gaps where students really need help, and the knowledge that someone cares about their wellbeing is immeasurably important to them and their development during these times," said Renée.







OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO VISITS OUR FIRST AFFILIATED SITE IN PUERTO RICO

"Puerto Rico has had a special place in my heart ever since I first visited the island in 2018 to help rebuild homes after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Since then, we at Children Incorporated have been working hard to establish our first affiliated site in Puerto Rico, partnering with Iglesia Bautista de Metrópolis to help support children and families for the long-term. This past April, I was able to return to Puerto Rico for the first time in five years, this time, to visit with our volunteer coordinators and hear more about how our sponsors and donors are changing the lives of those in need."

"Getting to meet with our volunteer coordinators and the directors of Iglesia Bautista de Metrópolis was an incredibly rewarding experience for me." "Their enthusiasm in expanding the Children Incorporated sponsorship program was so apparent, and how much we are really helping the children and their families — and the entire community — was extremely evident."

- Ronald H. Carter



INVESTING IN THE EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN IN KENYA

This past July, we had a special surprise at our office in Richmond, Virginia when we received notice that our volunteer coordinator, Peter Njuguna, from the St. John's Community Center in Nairobi, Kenya, would be visiting. Peter has been a long-time coordinator with Children Incorporated, running our sponsorship program that supports children living in poverty in the Pumwani area of Nairobi.

Peter arrived at the office prepared with a presentation in which he discussed the mission, vision and curriculum at St. John's. He explained that the school is especially focused on providing a quality education to help break the cycle of poverty in their community through education, sports, nutrition, life skills, and spiritual guidance.



Peter (right) is pictured with our Director of International Programs, , Luis Bourdet, and our International Program Specialist, Yefina Mena



Students at the St. John's Community Center in Nairobi, Kenya excitedly wave to say "hi" to their sponsors, who help immensly in their education.

"Our mission is to promote a just, healthy, and transformative community through capacity building, social inclusion, and accountable interventions," explained Peter.

Before he finished his presentation, Peter shared with our staff success stories of students who had graduated from the school to go on to work in education, mentoring, and youth leadership.

Peter feels strongly that these children, who are now young adults, were able to focus on school and become successful in large part due to their sponsors, and was so happy to be able to express those feelings to all of us in person. Thank you, Peter, for taking the time to visit with us! It was great to have you at our office.

Wishing a Happy Retirement to Two Beloved Staff Members

Longtime Children Incorporated employees, Magda Kegley and Ronnie Buckner, both retired from our organization this past spring. While they will be missed greatly, we wish them much happiness in this next phase of their journeys. Many thanks to Magda and Ronnie for their years of service to children and families around the world!



RELYING ON OUR SPONSORS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Without our sponsors, children living in poverty would go without so much — including food, clothing, hygiene items and crucial educational materials they require to do well in school. Today, we hear from Traci at Valle Crucis Elementary School in North Carolina as she expresses her appreciation for our sponsors, who have a huge impact on children in need.

"Children Incorporated has helped children in our school in so many ways over the years. Sometimes, we have children who stay in the Children Incorporated sponsorship program their entire time at Valle Crucis, which can be all the way from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. The sponsorship program makes a tremendous difference in these children's lives. Our school is located in the mountains of Northwest North Carolina, so winter and summer clothing are both very needed due to our vast temperature variation throughout the year. Children Incorporated helps provide new shoes, summer and winter clothing for our sponsored children who need updates to their clothing sizes, and seasonal wardrobes which are constantly needed for growing children! We also try to make sure they get a few fun or wish list items to really put a big smile on their faces!"

"Children Incorporated has positively impacted so many children in our school. It's a wonderful organization, and we thank the sponsors and everyone at Children Incorporated who make this program possible!"



Getting Back Out into the Community

The year 2023 has been a big year for us as not only are we seeing more and more of our affiliated sites get back to full-time in-person learning, but we are also getting out to community events to spread the word about Children Incorporated for the first time since 2020! Just this year, we participated in the Richmond, Virginia Que Pasa? Festival; the Chesterfield, Virginia Farmers Market; and the Richmond Multicultural Festival! Thanks to all our local supporters who came to these events and to all the new friends we have met who gave us the chance to talk about our important work helping children around the world!







A Big Congratulations to Sponsored Child, Jason

This past spring, one of our sponsored children at John M. Stumbo Elementary School in Floyd County, Kentucky, Jason, competed in and won first place ribbons in both the 50 Meter Dash and the 100 Meter Dash in the Kentucky Special Olympics. Our volunteer coordinator, Angie, at the school, shared with us photos of Jason and her sincere gratitude for the support he receives from his sponsor, which helped with certain competition expenses for him and his family, such as lodging and transportation.

Way to go, Jason! We are so proud of you!





A Book Vending Machine Helps Encourage Kids in Virginia to Read

Our Hope in Action Fund works in so many ways to help children at our affiliated sites — and some in really creative ways! This past summer, we were able to support literacy efforts at Blackwell Elementary School in Virginia by providing them with funds to fill a book vending machine for students to read. Anytime they would like, the children at the school can choose a book to take home for free!





An Update Regarding Our Sponsorship Rates

Due to the rising cost of living all over the world, it has become necessary for us to increase our monthly sponsorship rate from \$30 to \$35 for all new sponsorships starting in January 2024. As it is very important to us that this increase directly benefits the children we serve, Children Incorporated will not retain any part of the additional amount — the entire \$5 will go toward providing basic needs for the sponsored children in our program. For our current sponsors, there is absolutely no obligation to raise your sponsorship rate, but we do kindly ask that you consider increasing your sponsorship amount by \$5 to help your sponsored child or children. We sincerely appreciate your support of children in need.



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STORIES OF HOPE

FALL 2023









QUESTIONS? CONTACT US TODAY! PHONE: 1-800-538-5381 EMAIL: SPONSORSHIP@CHILDREN-INC.ORG

Thank you for all you do to make Back to School Season special for children all around the world!

