



FALL 2024

## STORIES OF HOPE

# Honoring Our Founder

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate our 60th year as an organization, Children Incorporated staff members fondly remember our founder, Jeanne Clarke Wood. Working with her for many years, I personally recall how she treated her employees like family. She tried to do little things to make work life more like home life, including having gatherings and sharing meals with the staff. Mrs. Wood valued people; she was funny and personable. She loved writing letters and talking with sponsors and supporters. She also loved to have fun, though she was earnest about the company's work. She had a telephone on her bedside table, and she often answered incoming calls from sponsors late into the evening. If the work line rang, no matter how late the call, Mrs. Wood picked up the receiver. Long-time supporters of the organization recall speaking with Mrs. Wood late at night, yet she did not mind interrupting her time. Staff often came into work mornings to find little notes written in Mrs. Wood's pen, advising them of such calls with instructions on how she wanted them to follow up, always keeping the sponsors' needs paramount. She was a delight to work with and is missed.

For these reasons and many more, we at Children Incorporated have decided to honor Mrs. Wood by creating "Founder's Day" to celebrate her legacy. Starting this year, Founder's Day will be celebrated each year on October 19th—our first day of incorporation as a non-profit back in 1964—to remind us of the history and heart of Children Incorporated, which all started with one extraordinary person. We look forward to honoring her memory with you, our loyal supporters.

From the heart,

Ronald H. Carter

President and Chief Executive Officer





# CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY



In October 1964, Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood started a non-profit children's organization called Children Incorporated. What began with just 95 sponsored children in Guatemala quickly escalated to helping 1600 children in 10 countries within just two short years. Today, Children Incorporated has sponsorship programs in 20 countries worldwide and provides tens of thousands of impoverished children with clothing and school supplies, medical care, and many other types of assistance. Thanks to our donors, schools, dormitories, clinics, and housing developments have been constructed in various locations, and our special funds help to feed hungry children, support families and communities in emergencies, and offer our volunteer coordinators the vital support they need throughout the year.



*“60 years helping kids! This is incredible! As I reflect back over my many years with Children Incorporated, I have had the privilege of working with so many amazing people and communicating with wonderful sponsors and donors. It has been a most enjoyable journey, one that I hope to enjoy for many more years to come!”*

-Steven Mitchell, Sponsorship Director

## C. I. NEWS

An International Christian Organization of Protestant  
Persons Assisting Children of All Races

VOL. II, NO. 1

ISSUED BY CHILDREN, INCORPORATED, Box 5301, Richmond, Va. 23220

WINTER, 1965-1966

and Creeds, Administering to their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Needs.

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### MEXICO — LAND OF CONTRASTS

By JEANNE CLARKE WOOD

To visit Mexico City today, 7,400 feet above sea level, built originally by the highly civilized Aztecs, who were betrayed and had it taken from them by the Spaniards—is to marvel at its broad boulevards, great skyscrapers, magnificent hotels, and its general air of progressiveness and prosperity. Yet Mexico is primitive. There are sections where only 20% of the poor families earn enough to meet the minimum cost of food, clothing and shelter. Just outside modern Mexico City families of seven or more may live in a hovel that measures 10 by 15 feet and share it with a scrawny pig or two, perhaps a goat or turkey, thin, discouraged chickens and a starving dog. There is no furniture, not enough water in the village for bathing. The food is beans, sour maize gruel and a soup of pig weed. In the cities miserable little waifs exist in the streets. Many have no parents, and for those who have, often there is no money to make school possible.

The lives of such children can be completely changed by schools such as Children, Incorporated's affiliated Escuela Latino Americana. This orphanage-school has become an exciting landmark—an object of wistful contemplation by the many abjectly poor children in the adjacent poverty-ridden neighborhood. Yet, though its enrollment comes from such a background, one cannot visit the school without becoming entranced by the real charm of the children. It has been said that, because of their pleasant manners and uncomplaining cheerfulness even in adversity, all the world's children should be required to be Mexican until the age of fifteen. These neighbor children to the South of us respond enthusiastically to friendship. But so many who deserve friendship are growing up illiterate and face a hopeless future.

HAPPIER MEXICAN CHILDREN IN A CI AFFILIATED SCHOOL.

MEXICAN CHILDREN'S LIVES ARE AS UNHAPPY AS THEIR CLOTHING.

### INDIA

By J. Calvitt Clarke

In keeping with CI's policy of assisting children in the most greatly depressed areas of the world, India should be given priority. The number, in the millions, of the destitute, half-starved, homeless, illiterate, physically neglected children is deplorable. Yet in private and mission schools we have met teen-



## C. I. NEWS

An International Organization Assisting  
Children of All Races and

VOL. XVIII, NO. 2

ISSUED BY CHILDREN, INCORPORATED, Box 5301, Richmond, Va. 23220

SUMMER, 1964

Creeds, Administering to their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Needs.

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### ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE

By Jeanne Clarke Wood

A well-known columnist wrote recently about how happy and grateful he was to be living in a civilization that made it possible for him to enjoy his shower every morning with water brought right to his house and heated and waiting for him when he got up.

No such positive and cheerful outlook would appear likely for children like the little ones in the picture below. Living in dirt-floored shacks with no running water, no lights, no heat, no sanitary facilities, a daily bath is not possible. Mothers must carry clothing to a nearby stream and drinking water must be brought in pails from a public faucet, with no guarantee that it is pure.

Everything in their environment says "no" to strong bodies and good teeth; "no" to protection from disease and the many other dangers that surround them; and "no" to the education and training they so desperately need if they are to have the opportunity, as they grow older, to create a happier, more positive way of life for themselves.

Through more than 180 affiliated orphanages, schools and welfare centers in 26 countries, Children, Incorporated is helping to accentuate the positive for unfortunate boys and girls in neighborhoods like these. The heartwarming transformation that can be wrought in a child's life is shown in the pictures on the following pages.

LATIN AMERICA: It's difficult to escape from a neighborhood like this, where malnutrition, illiteracy and disease threaten these children.

Over the years, Mrs. Wood traveled with Children Incorporated as she was growing the organization. She often wrote personal stories about her journeys for the quarterly newsletters that were accompanied by photos of children in our programs. Today, our Stories of Hope Series follows in Mrs. Wood's footsteps to give our sponsors and donors a glimpse of our work worldwide helping children in need.



# A Timeline of Our Six Decades of Work

**C. I. NEWS**  
An International Organization Assisting Children of All Races and  
Creeds, Administering to their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Needs.

WINTER, 1969 ISSUED BY CHILDREN, INCORPORATED, BOX 5381, RICHMOND, VA. 23220 25th YEAR, NO. 47

## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

By Jeanne Clarke Wood

Although I usually try to tell, in these issues of the C.I. NEWS, something of the grim poverty and desperate needs of the children we are striving to help, I've decided that in this, our Twenty-fifth Anniversary issue, I would like to show you more of the other side of the picture. Despite war and famines, illiteracy and ill health, hurricanes, earthquakes and severe droughts—all the challenges we face—some-

how mankind survives. And this is due largely to ingenuity, industriousness and our willingness to work with and to help one another. During these twenty-five years, C.I. has been blessed with the cooperation of hundreds of volunteers—people who are heads of orphanages, schools and welfare centers together with their staff members—in the twenty-four countries where we are helping needy children.

But to those of you who are our contributors—and those whom we hope to win as new contributors—I must say it was a joy to put together these few pictures and captions on the following pages—random excerpts from the heartwarming accomplishments made possible by many kind and generous friends!

Children—happy, healthy, ingenious and industrious—are the hope of the world.

**APPALACHIA:** It's one of those exciting Book Distribution Days at our CI-affiliated Moravian Falls School!

**INDIA:** Giridih Center children waving to their sponsors. "Please come to see us!"

**KOREA:** Happy swimmers at the Duk Sung Orphanage.

**BOLIVIA:** CI boys at Santa Rosa School are intensely interested in the experiments they can perform in the laboratory.

**LEBANON:** We must have coats and candles when the electric can now "jingle."

**October 1964** – The first meeting of the Board of Directors for Children Incorporated is held.

**November 1964** – The first appeals for funds were mailed to Mrs. Wood's contacts; a goal of shipping 10,000 pounds of clothing to Guatemala was met.

**January 1965** – Mrs. Wood and her small fledgling staff secure funds to help 95 children in Guatemala, seven children on American Indian reservations, and six children in Lebanon. These become Children Incorporated's first sponsorships.

**December 1965** – Children Incorporated sponsorships grew from 108 in January 1965 to nearly 800 by the end of the first year. 789 children in 20 affiliated sites in 8 countries (Africa, Japan, Mexico, India, Latin America, Lebanon, Syria, U.S.) have been matched with sponsors.

**October 1966** – More than 1600 children now have sponsors; Children Incorporated has expanded its reach to 35 affiliated sites in 10 countries.

**April 1967** – 2,335 children are sponsored in 45 sites in 11 countries; Children Incorporated helps its first child to attend college.

**November 1971** – Children Incorporated continues to grow. At this point, 7,750 sponsored children are in 113 sites in 18 countries. For the first time in Children Incorporated's history, over 2,000 new sponsors signed on in just one year.

**May 1972** – Mrs. Wood receives a commendation from President Richard Nixon for her charitable work with impoverished children and families.

**September 1974** – Mrs. Wood's name appears in the 38th edition of *Who's Who In America*.

**December 1983** – An article on Children Incorporated appears in *Good Housekeeping* magazine, drawing much positive attention to the benefits of child sponsorship.

**October 1994** – Children Incorporated celebrates 30 years of service to children around the world.

**January 1997** – Dr. Richard Carlson's best-selling book, *Don't Sweat The Small Stuff*, is published. In it, Dr. Carlson mentions Children Incorporated as his charity of choice. Children Incorporated gained over 3,100 new sponsorships as a result of the mention in Dr. Richard Carlson's book.

**C. I. NEWS**  
An International Organization Assisting Children of All Races and  
Creeds, Administering to their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Needs.

FALL 1994 ISSUED BY CHILDREN, INCORPORATED, BOX 5381, RICHMOND, VA. 23220 30th YEAR, NO. 57

## OUR THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY!

By Jeanne Clarke Wood

I guess Children, Incorporated, is old-fashioned! We still believe in the goodness of people — despite all the harsh and negative news one hears and sees these days. It's not that we don't see poverty. Some pictures on the third page of this issue of the C.I. NEWS will give you an idea of what we see and have been seeing all these past thirty years, and have been battling.

But it's not a futile battle, as is evidenced in the pictures below.

What is so heartening about our work is the sight of these children and how they benefit from the kindness and loving generosity of our contributors and of the people like the dedicated volunteer supervisors of C.I.'s 200 affiliated projects — orphanages, schools and welfare centers — in 20 countries around the world.

It is the goodness in these people that brightens our lives as well as those of the children. We have living proof of their wish to make it a better world as they help us to provide food, clothing, medical aid and, most importantly, the education and loving guidance that makes it possible for these boys and girls to mature into responsible and caring adults.

We wish you could journey as I have into the many areas throughout the globe — Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, the Far East, as well as here in the United States — where you could see CI children as their lives are being transformed and as they are taught not only such basics as reading and writing, but to participate in the many other activities involved in a well-rounded education.

But perhaps you, like many of our contributors — those who sponsor CI children or help in other ways to provide for their needs — can one day pay a visit to a CI project, either here in the United States or in other countries in which we are working. If so, you will be warmly welcomed!

However, whether or not you will be traveling, you can learn a great deal about the lifestyle of the child you are sponsoring and about what a difference your help is making for him or her.

**LEBANON:** Proud Armenian students of the Philibosian-CI project in Ainjar with their diplomas. The Armenian script above them says, "I am going toward the source of light."

**INDIA:** Mrs. B. Sarah Sagar, far right, and her staff, take excellent care of CI boys and girls at the Marist Christian Hostel, a combination home and school.

**APPALACHIA:** Bright youngsters of the North Wilkesboro Elementary School in North Carolina pose for their CI sponsors with CI supervisor Mrs. Marie Monday.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Severe malnourishment and lack of education were their problems before being accepted by the CI-affiliated Guardia El Puerto Center. "Thank you, kind sponsors!" they are saying.

For Mrs. Wood, highlighting how sponsorship helps children in need at our affiliated sites through her photography was a way to connect our sponsors with the children they support.



**July 2004** – Mrs. Wood steps down as President of Children Incorporated after forty years of loyal service. Her successor is Marian Cummins, a long-time employee.

**October 2005** – After operating out of Mrs. Wood's home for over 40 years, Children Incorporated relocates to its first official offices on Dover Road in Richmond, Virginia.

**November 2005** – Children Incorporated begins working locally, creating partnerships and establishing sponsorship programs within several Richmond, Virginia public schools. The organization's inner-city division is born, with work in Detroit, Michigan, New Orleans, Louisiana, and other U.S. cities to follow.

**January 2006** – Our founder, Jeanne Clark Wood, dies at age 89. Her legacy lives on through Children Incorporated.

**January 2011** – Children Incorporated's third President, Marianne Vermeer, begins her 14-month tenure with the organization.

**April 2012** – Ronald H. Carter, who had worked with the U.S. Programs division since coming to Children Incorporated in 2003, is appointed as the fourth President and Chief Executive Officer.

**October 2014** – Children Incorporated celebrates its 50th anniversary and anticipates many more years of service to children both locally and globally!

**April 2016** – Children Incorporated launches its *On the Road* blog series, which allows readers to follow along with our program teams as they visit our affiliated sites.

**January 2017** – Children Incorporated moves from its home on Dover Road in Richmond, Virginia, to North Chesterfield, Virginia.

**April 2022** – Children Incorporated launches its *Stories of Hope* blog series, in which readers are shown their donations' impact on education, community support, emergency relief, and health and well-being.

**May 2024** – Children Incorporated introduces our Guardian Circle, a giving circle opportunity which allows our donors to support special projects around the world.

**October 2024** – Children Incorporated celebrates 60 years!



**Children Incorporated**  
Assisting needy children in the U.S. and abroad, since 1964

Newsletter Issue 83

### Remembering A Very Special Lady

This January, we lost a very special lady – Children, Incorporated founder, Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood. This newsletter is dedicated to her and the legacy she has left. Her life's work has brought hope to thousands of children and joy to countless sponsors and contributors. Below is an excerpt from a piece written by staff member, Elethia Miller. We hope this conveys the true family spirit Mrs. Wood worked so hard to create within the organization. We shall miss this very special lady.

"I am indeed honored to have this opportunity to share, on behalf of the Children, Incorporated staff, some thoughts and memories of Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood. Our hearts are heavy as we, too, mourn the loss of a lady who has been such an intricate part of so many of our lives for so many years.

As I travel down memory lane, many thoughts and memories crowd my mind. Where to begin? Each of the staff has their own special and personal memories, but there exist some that we share together.

We remember:  
Mrs. Wood always preparing bean soup for us following each New Year's Day. Gathering around the dining room table to prepare and mail out the children's Christmas cards to their sponsors.

We remember:  
Mrs. Wood visiting with each of us, almost daily, and asking, "Are you behaving?" Reminding Mrs. Wood of our upcoming vacations and hearing her reply, "Vacation? What's that?" (Mrs. Wood never took time off from her work at Children, Incorporated.)


We remember:  
As time began to take its toll on our dearly beloved Mrs. Wood, her steps slowed and her mind dimmed, but she remained feisty to the very end.

We remember:  
How can we forget? The family environment created by Mrs. Wood that made each of us feel special and part of the "CI Family" remains to this day. We've loved, we've fought, we've made up, we've laughed and we've cried together – but we are a family, a team. And we are dedicated to helping bring to fruition the mission of assisting children of all races and creeds, administering to their physical, emotional, and educational needs...a mission of one very, very special lady, Mrs. Jeanne Clarke Wood.

What a vision. What a lady. What a legacy."

Elethia Miller  
(Family member since 1974)

*Mrs. Wood's legacy lives on many years after her passing thanks to our amazing staff and sponsors.*



EDUCATION. HOPE. OPPORTUNITY. CHILDREN INCORPORATED

## A CHAT WITH ROSANNE CASH

By Ron Carter, President & CEO of Children, Incorporated

"Album of the Year" at the 2010 Americana Music Honors and Awards

In 2012, Children, Inc will receive a great deal of my attention, honor, and support. I am very proud of my long, relationship with them.

Rosanne Cash is a remarkable artist, with eleven number one singles to her credit and multiple gold album awards. Her music defies categories, incorporating country, rock, roots, blues, and even a bit of jazz. She has won accolades of all types, including a Grammy and twelve Grammy nominations, an Americana Best Album of the Year nod for *The List*, and an honorary doctorate from Memphis College of Art. Rosanne is an accomplished author with prose and essays appearing in numerous publications including the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Martha Stewart Living*. She has written or edited four books, including her best-selling 2010 biography *Composed*.

Rosanne Cash: This is my 25th anniversary of sponsoring children with CI. I remember the first little girl I sponsored – her name was Helen and she lived in Bolivia. I started sponsoring her when she was in the first grade, and one day I got a letter from CI thanking me for all my years of helping Helen, and telling me Helen was all grown up and not eligible for sponsorship anymore! I was shocked! That decade went by quickly. Since then I have sponsored several more children, and continue to do so today.

Ron: Do you recall what originally drew you to the organization?

Rosanne: I was – and am – drawn to Children, Incorporated because it's a small, meticulously



**ALL THANKS TO YOU!**



# Congratulations to Our Amazing Staff

2024 is a year to celebrate so many incredible milestones at Children Incorporated, including the 40th work anniversary of our Director of U.S. Programs, Renée Kube, and the 25th work anniversary of our Director of International Programs, Luis Bourdet.



*Renée Kube is pictured with Children Incorporated President and CEO, Ron Carter*

“I am very blessed to work with such a wonderful and dedicated staff at Children Incorporated. Over the years, I have been thoroughly impressed with the quality of people who have been employed here. From those who have stayed for many years to others who have had shorter tenures, I have admired and respected their desire to help children and families better and improve their lives.

The staff of Children Incorporated is a good group: dedicated, caring, honest, and real people who truly want to make a difference in the world. They are my co-workers, yes, but we are also family in many ways. I love and value each one of them.”

- Ron Carter, President and CEO

“I started working at Children Incorporated in 1984. My office equipment and supplies included an IBM electric typewriter and carbon paper; a facsimile machine was state of the art. In 2024, I will use a PC, and faxing will be quaint.

Over the past 40 years, I have done different jobs for the organization. I have chosen to stay and grow with Children Incorporated because of our organization’s important mission and our connection to our donors, staff, volunteer coordinators, and the children we serve. I love working with my head and my heart and with amazing people.”

- Renée Kube, Director of U.S. Programs



*Luis Bourdet and Ron Carter share a handshake - and cupcakes - during his anniversary party at the office.*

“It has been an immense privilege to dedicate years of my life to this remarkable organization! From the very beginning, I have been deeply committed to our mission of supporting children in need and empowering them through education. The belief that every child deserves the chance to envision a brighter future has been the driving force behind my work.

Witnessing the transformative impact of our affiliations, our projects, and our support has been truly inspiring. Countless children have achieved remarkable strides, not only improving their own lives but positively influencing their communities as well. I am profoundly grateful to be a part of this mission and contribute to the positive change we are creating together with our donors and sponsors.”

- Luis Bourdet, Director of International Programs



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# NEWS

FALL 2024



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [ChildrenIncorporated.org](https://www.ChildrenIncorporated.org)

*Thank you for helping us celebrate  
60 years of supporting children around  
the world!*



**CHILDREN**  
INCORPORATED