

WINTER 2025

Raising a *PASSIONATE* Generation of Christ-Followers

in international needs
transformed lives, changed communities



Raising a Passionate GENERATION

THIS past year, International Needs has had the joy of celebrating our 50th anniversary. Moments like these give us a chance to celebrate and reflect on the past, but more importantly, look towards the future. This newsletter is dedicated to the future generation of Christ-followers.

In Mark 10:14, Jesus is quite clear when he declares, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”** At the launch IN’s ministry 50 years ago, Dr. Ray Harrison began to live this scripture out by ministering to children in Bangladesh.

This newsletter highlights the work and ministries devoted to children and youth. Ministries are designed not only to give them a chance at a better life, but also to give them a clear message of Jesus Christ. That is where their hope is truly found.

One section of this newsletter to draw your attention to is our expanded educational assistance program: **One Child One Chance**. This program combines our original 1:1 child sponsorship model with a second group option. This provides an opportunity for individuals to join with a group of donors who want to support a specific group of children. We believe offering options will expand the number of children supported by attracting new people to participate in impacting the lives of children. Check out the details on the next page.

At International Needs, we are investing in the future as we continue to do our part to transform lives and communities through gospel outreach. **That future rests with children and youth.**






Thanks for joining with International Needs as we raise a passionate generation of Christ followers across the globe.

Blessings,



Jeff Johnson
President, International Needs

Young girl from Zambia
who is sponsored at
ZACTS school



the gift of education is the gift of hope

Students in Colombia at
La Rosa de Saron school

IN developing countries, the impact education has on a child or a family is astounding. When a child can attend school, the impact is life-changing for themselves, their family, and their communities:

Children grow up to secure living wage jobs that support them and their families.

Kids escape bondage, child labor and forced marriage, breaking the cycle of oppression.

Families in small communities share their blessings with each other.

Over time, the community becomes self-sufficient and thrives.

And it all starts with the gift of education.

Will you give one child one chance through the gift of education?

TWO WAYS TO GIVE HOPE

One Child, One Chance is International Needs education assistance program. There are 2 ways to give:

one child

Option 1: \$38 a month allows you to support one child waiting for education.

One Child embraces vulnerable children in high-risk communities through education assistance. When you choose One Child, your \$38 a month gives one student education, food, health care, the gospel, and so much more. This changes a child's trajectory, fueling the transition from hopelessness to hopefulness.

one chance

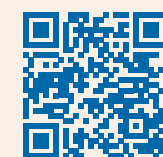
Option 2: Join other monthly donors to support one chance with education.

One Chance unites monthly donors to ensure every child in a community receives an education. Parents won't have to choose which child to send to school. This gives all children an equal chance at education, clean water, food, medicine and the opportunity to learn about Jesus. It's a chance for hope, health and a bright future.

JOIN TODAY

A monthly gift in any amount makes a lifechanging impact!

Scan the QR code, visit internationalneeds.us/children or call (616) 209-5420 to learn how you can support one child or one community.





Cutting a birthday cake for students

Birthday CELEBRATIONS

Changing Lives Through Simple Acts of Kindness

EVERY child deserves to feel special, and for many of the vulnerable children in IN's sponsorship program, a birthday celebration is a magical experience they will cherish forever. For some, it is the first time they have had the opportunity to celebrate their birthday surrounded by friends. Acknowledging their special day shows they are loved, valued, and accepted.

Our team in Kenya recently threw a party to celebrate the children who had birthdays within the month. The children enjoyed cake, laughter, and heartfelt wishes, creating memories that will last a lifetime. The smiles on their faces and the happiness in their hearts reminded us of the power of kindness and connection. **The support of our sponsors made this celebration not just an event, but a true testament to the love and care surrounding these remarkable children.**

Special Messages from Students to Our Sponsors

We are incredibly thankful to our sponsors for making dreams come true and for showing children that they are cherished and celebrated!

"Night after night, I would struggle to find a peaceful sleep on my thin, uncomfortable mattress, often waking up feeling more tired than before. But thanks to your thoughtful gift, I now have a new mattress! Your generosity has truly changed my life and lifted a weight off my mom's shoulders."

- Blessing

"Being the first in my family to celebrate a birthday is a milestone I never thought possible. Your thoughtful gift allowed me to choose something I wanted—something my mom, despite her hard work, couldn't afford."

- Fridah

"Your generous support has brought so much joy and positivity into my life. I was able to purchase some beautiful dresses that I adore! Each one of these dresses makes me feel confident, cherished, and special whenever I wear them. I am immensely thankful for your kindness and the impact it has made on my everyday experiences."

- Hope

"I thought birthdays were only for the rich. I never imagined I would have a day just for me, filled with joy and love. It's not just about the cake and the gifts; it's about the love and care that surrounds me."

- Gloria



David's Story

DAVID is one of thousands of children who have personally experienced incredible transformation through child sponsorship.

David was born in the Solwezi district in Zambia. When David was a year old, his mother passed away and he was left in the care of his aunt, the elder sister of his late mother. David's aunt informed him that his father left his mother after she became pregnant, which is why he was not in David's life. David had no father figure.

David never went to school as a young child. It was by the grace of God that a man found David on the roadside and enrolled him in the local community school at nine years old.

Three years later, David was handed over to his uncle who lived in the Mpongwe district of Zambia. David stopped attending school and was forced to work with his uncle as a fisherman. David's uncle became abusive and would shove David into the deep, crocodile-infested waters of the Kafue River for fish. While David survived these dangerous encounters, he decided to leave his uncle and found himself living on the streets.

David suffered, and almost died, from the beatings he endured living on the street. He moved back to Solwezi, even though he could not afford to attend school. There, David was fortunate to be taken in by a female teacher who cared for him and enrolled him in school. After completing his grade seven exams, he returned to his aunt who introduced him to his grandparents on his father's side.

Upon learning about David's struggles, **his grandparents enrolled him at ZACTS, a school supported by International Needs. David thrived in his new environment and had a renewed outlook on life.** "I really thank God for my transformed life," said David. "I no longer feel like an orphan, and I am looking forward to a better life."

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David is grateful his education is giving him a future outside of this fishing boat

Against All ODDS

Duncan's Triumph of Hope, Education, and Transformation

DUNCAN'S story is a powerful testament to the life-changing impact of support, resilience, and the transformative power of education. Coming from the humble and challenging surroundings of the Kibera slum in Kenya, Duncan faced overwhelming odds. As a young boy, he was often sent home from school due to unpaid fees, leaving him with feelings of helplessness. But everything changed when he received sponsorship support.

He vividly remembers the moment when his teacher informed him that his school fees were paid for the entire year. It was a turning point in Duncan's life, one that filled him with an overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude. "I could not hide my joy," he recalls, "because I knew my dreams were now possible." His father, who had always told him that education was the key to a better life, had inspired Duncan to keep pushing forward despite the struggles.

Today, as a proud graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Surveying Technology from the Technical University of Kenya, Duncan's story is not just one of personal success; it is a beacon of hope for many others. Through the sponsorship, the cycle



Duncan posing for a photo after graduation

of poverty in his family has been broken. His future, once uncertain, is now filled with opportunities, and his family stands beside him in celebration of this incredible achievement.

"I will not be poor," Duncan affirms, knowing that the education he received through the generosity of others has changed the course of his life. He expresses his heartfelt gratitude to his sponsor, recognizing that their support has not only transformed his life but also impacted his entire family. "I have witnessed God's love through sponsorship," he says with deep reflection, aware that the road ahead is bright, filled with promise and purpose.

"I could not hide my joy," he recalls, "because I knew my dreams were now possible."



Duncan receiving his graduation gift

As Duncan steps into the future, his journey stands as a shining example of how a little help can go a long way in shaping the destiny of a young person. His story is a beautiful reminder that with faith, support, and hard work, no dream is too big. Duncan's success is not just his own—it is a victory for his family, for the community, and for all those who believe in the power of education to transform lives.



International Needs

5570 32nd Ave,
Hudsonville, MI 49426

SEE HOW YOU'RE IMPACTING
**THE NEXT
GENERATION**

**"Let the little children
come to me, and
do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of
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Matthew 19:14

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