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Fall 2023

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The House that Love Built

Arul and her little sister, Jancy, live with their grandparents while their father, William, travels for work. They lived in a hut by the pond on the outskirts of their village in southern India.

Arul is in Grade 10 and Jancy is in Grade 8. Both have the support of a Chalice sponsor through the Madurai site.

Their living arrangement works out well on school days. Grandmother Arockia and her husband can go out to work while the girls are in class.

But their ramshackle house, which didn't have a latrine, wasn't secure enough to let Arul and Jancy stay there alone on weekends or holidays. Their grandparents missed out on work opportunities to stay home to make sure the girls were safe.

Arockia was then hit with some bad news. The government told them to vacate their property.

They didn't have the income to rent a new place. Fortunately, the girls' father spotted a plot of land, called a *patta*, for sale. He scraped together the money to buy it.

Then came more good fortune:

Arockia attended her Chalice family circle meeting and learned about the Madurai site's housing construction project.

She raised her hand and asked for a house for her family on William's new land.

The site staff agreed.

Arockia's family became one of 60 families in the Madurai site to receive a new house since Chalice's home construction project began in 2021. All the families were either living in a rented house or a tiny hut. They had no latrines.

Their new homes have a kitchen, hall and attached washroom facility on the rear wall. They are constructed of concrete brick walls with tin roofs.

Site director Sister Amala says the families "are now happy to live in their houses with a healthy and hygienic environment. Children can do their homework and improve in academics."

William makes weekly trips home to spend time with Arul and Jancy. He marvels at the blessing of their house.

"Had I not been given a house," he says, "my children and parents would



Arul, Arockia, and Jancy finally have a safe and happy home.

have been turned to the street."

Now Arockia and her husband can leave for work at any time knowing the girls are safe in their new house. "The whole family is happily leading a life with Chalice sponsorship support," site staff say. "Smiling faces radiate the inner happiness of the family. Thank you, dear sponsors!"

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Merry Christmas!

A Lot of Joy in Luis' Little Neighbourhood

"Luis has been turning heads in the Chiclayo site since he could barely walk. Now 10 years old, Luis has been sponsored through Chalice since he was three "and has shown great effort to stand out," site staff write.

Luis lives with his parents: Katherin and Jose, and three younger siblings. Their community in Peru's northern city struggles with polluted water and food insecurity. Children often come down with waterborne illnesses and show signs of anemia and other nutritional issues.

This year, the site started a lunch program for 50 children with the greatest need. Luis and his peers gather for a nutritious meal four days a week.

"I did not eat at home like this before," Luis says. "Now I eat my lunch, my salad, and my fruit.

"It gives me a lot of joy to enjoy my delicious lunches."

The program isn't only for the 50



Luis is flourishing with the help of good nutrition and his Little Neighbourhood School.

children in the dining hall. Site staff are training parents to cook similar meals at home.

"This program has not only changed the eating habits of the children who participate, but also of the families who have improved the preparation of nutritious food in their homes," site staff writes. "And the children share these teachings with their siblings, generating a chain of community change."

Luis confirms that Katherin has taken up the challenge. "In my house now, my mom prepares food like this," he says.

Luis also takes part in the site's Chalice-supported Little Neighborhood School program. At the Little Neighbourhood School, teachers and staff provide extra help with schoolwork. But the children are really there for the fun stuff -- art, crafts, sports, and community volunteer projects.

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Share Love With...

ML1394 Luka

Luka loves the natural world. The 9-year-old excels in his grade 7 science and math classes, and already knows he wants to be a doctor. He lives in Mbinga, Tanzania, and likes to care for his family's animals in his free time.



ODI1307 Charity



If you can't find Charity, just listen for the sound of her gospel songs. The songbird loves music class at her boarding school for children with disabilities in Kawambwa site, Zambia. Someday, she wants to teach students like herself.

NRB0427 Monicah

Monicah lives with her parents and siblings in Nairobi, Kenya. When she's at pre-school, she's always into the paints and art supplies. She might be only six, but she already knows that she wants to be a teacher!



KMC1833 Onesmus



Onesmus is one busy 3-year-old! When he's not at preschool he's busy making balls, playing ball, and singing in church. Onesmus lives in Kenya and walks almost 5 km to school every day.

Sponsorship will be a significant support for his family.

DAC3650 Martina

Martina, her parents, and her sister live together in Arica, Chile. Martina is in grade 2 and has a mind for math and an eye for art. Her parents struggle to make ends meet. Sponsorship will be a great blessing.



IVF3061 Anhelina



Anhelina is joyful from the moment she wakes up. The 6-year-old thrives in her grade 1 class, excelling in art, languages, and math. She lives with her mother and brothers in Pochaiv site, Ukraine, where families are experiencing many challenges.

HCC1078 Deepesh

Deepesh has the soul of a writer and the mind of an inventor. At 16, the grade 9 student loves language class and writing. He dreams of becoming an electrician, supporting his family, and giving back to his Goa community.



The Unstoppable, Amazing, Grace

Just before Grace's youngest child, Peter, was born, the young mother had to make the difficult choice to move herself and her sons from their family home.

"This left them landless, homeless, and in extreme poverty," says Stephen, a worker in Chalice's Baraka site in Kenya.

Grace was now a single mother with no income.

The children's grandmother offered Grace a small piece of land. The women's guild at her local church chipped in to build the family a small, one-room house. They lived there for the next 10 years.



When Peter was nine, a local leader recommended him for the Chalice sponsorship program.

When social workers went for a visit, they were dismayed by the family's living conditions. They had no chairs. The children slept on cartons instead of a bed. The same room served as the living, sleeping, and cooking area.

One of the first things the Baraka staff did, after securing Peter's enrolment in the sponsorship program, was to give the



Grace has persevered and built a robust farm and a house for her family.

children a mattress through the Chalice gift catalogue.

Grace got started with her family circle, which was called – fittingly – Amazing Grace. There she learned to make a budget, start a savings plan, and participate in the group's small savings and loans program.

With savvy management of Peter's sponsorship funds, she bought spinach seeds. With a small loan from her group, she rented a water pump to irrigate her crops.

The spinach crops flourished. She was able to sell 16 bags at roughly \$20 Cdn each. This meant more than 500 percent profit on her initial investment!

As Stephen describes it, Grace was now unstoppable.

"With the spinach profit, Grace was able to grow and produce 1,300 cabbages," he says, which sold for about a \$600 Cdn profit.

"She reinvested part of the money to grow onions," Stephen says. She doubled her cabbage

profits.

As her farming business became successful, Grace never forgot her goal: a better house for her family.

Finally, she had saved enough to make it happen.

"This profit enabled Grace to purchase her own petrol-powered water pump, purchased 32 iron sheets, and timbers and built a nice house," says Stephen. "With her small-scale farming, Grace was able to buy all the building materials and foot the construction charges. She has been able to construct a spacious 3-roomed house, where now they are living comfortably."

Grace is short of words to thank Chalice donors, and Baraka for her new house.

"She owes all her gratitude to God who brought donors to her life which has drastically improved her living standards," says Stephen. "Grace is now a happy empowered mother with great hopes of educating her children for a better tomorrow."

Naila Counts Her Blessings

When a site worker asked Naila to write her sponsorship story, she opened with a bang.

"I am blessed, SO BLESSED!"

"I am immensely grateful to God, to my sponsors, Chalice, and to all the people who have been part of this beautiful story in my life, without them I would not be who I am today."

That story starts with a bumpy ride to the Don Bosco sponsor site office in her community in Paraguay. Her grandmother enrolled her for sponsorship and took her for all the activities at the site.

"I used to go to the site with my grandmother in a cart on horseback," Naila says.

Naila has "beautiful memories" of the various site activities she and her siblings attended all through her formative years. They played games and had fun, while also learning life skills and growing in their faith.

"I was a happy child," she says.

With her sponsor's support, Naila pursued a psychology degree in university. Now in her final year, she realizes just how essential that support was.

"I know that without their financial support, I would have stopped studying in 2021 when my mother was affected by COVID 19," she says. Her mother was deathly ill but recovered by God's grace.

"God gave me the opportunity to have my greatest benefactors," she says of her sponsors. "They are the



Naila is pursuing a Psychology degree with the constant support of her sponsor.

people who have supported me a lot, without their help I would not be where I am now.

"Not even my whole life would be enough to thank God for everything I have received, today I can say once again that I am a very blessed person."

Budmo! Cheers to Clean, Safe Water

Arsen, Danylo, and Maksym don't take their big glasses of water for granted.

Along with their mother, Inna, the boys live in an older house near our Ternopil site in Ukraine.

The house was falling apart. Inna was at a loss for what to do.

"The old floor in the kitchen had dried up and when it was cold, it let cold air in," Inna writes. "We were cold and sick because of this. Mould appeared on the walls."

The problems didn't end with their floors, or even their house.

"Our house is located near the polluted river and the water we had in our house was unsuitable for drinking and cooking.

"Every week, my sons and I went to the drinking water dispensers with large containers to stock up. It always took a lot of time, effort and, of course, money."

Inna was desperate to replace the floors, fix bathroom fixtures, and install a water filtration system. But the ongoing conflict with Russia, along with soaring inflation, has heavily impacted all families in Ukraine.

Inna can barely keep up with essentials like food and utilities.

"I would never have been able to afford [renovations] because our family budget is only enough for the bare necessities," she says.

But thanks to everyone who gave



Arsen, Danylo, and Maksym can take a slurp of clean, cool water.

the gift of home improvements through Chalice's gift catalogue, Inna had the materials she needed to improve her house.

"I cannot express in words how grateful I am for the assistance our family received," she says.

"Thanks to your help, I insulated the floor and covered it with linoleum. Now the kitchen is warm and cozy. I also replaced the sink and toilet... Now the boys are happy and run ahead to wash themselves in the morning. Everything is dry, clean and comfortable."

And there's more!

"Thanks to your donations, I was able to install a modern water filter, and now my children have the opportunity to drink clean and healthy water, and I save time and money.

"My sons and I are boundlessly grateful for the opportunity to make repairs in the house and for clean water. Owing to you, I made my sons' life happier and more comfortable and solved the drinking water problem.

"May the Lord reward you a hundredfold for your assistance and kind heart."

A Lot of Joy in Luis' Little Neighbourhood



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Luis and his friends don't realize that they're improving their academic performance and growing in confidence while they play.

"All these programs have allowed children like Luis to improve their capabilities in an integrated way, not only taking care of their physical health, but also their mental health and relationships with others," site staff say.

Luis's enthusiastic participation has improved his attitude, and Katherin says he's always eager to help her in his free time.

Luis says he is grateful to all those who supported the dining hall and Little Neighbourhood School programs.

"I thank you for the support you give me and all my friends in my community."

Planting Seeds of Hope

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the difference we're making in the lives of families. Through participation in the Chalice sponsorship program, families become eligible for so much! You will hear about the family circles that are fundamental to all our communications with our families. For one family, their circle is where they heard about a housing initiative. In another circle, a mother completely changed her living circumstances with their saving and loans program. Our gift catalogue transformed another family's living conditions.

Sponsorship is the foundation on which Chalice builds life-changing structures of loving kindness that make powerful differences in people's lives. Housing projects, wells, cisterns, latrines, schools, clinics, hospitals, health and sanitation programs, adult skills training, and so much more; are created from all the other types of donations that come from our supporters. Yet, most of those supporters began by sponsoring a child or senior.

Is there any greater force for change than the loving kindness that Christ brings into our hearts and minds? It is indeed like the mustard seed of which Jesus spoke, that, once planted, provides a tree in which the birds of the air build their nests. In our case the seed is sponsorship and from that seed, families- including children and elders- are finding safe refuge and care.

Corpus Christi 2023

On the weekend of June 10-11, 2023, the Catholic Church celebrated the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi. It was also the climactic weekend of Chalice's second annual Corpus Christi sponsorship event.

Across Canada, 168 parishes hosted a sponsorship weekend. Throughout their Masses, 145 priests, ten deacons, and six lay speakers introduced their parishioners to Chalice and the gift of being a sponsor. After the Masses, 114 current sponsors shared their testimonials.

More than 400 volunteers stepped up to support them! After weeks of preparation, the volunteers were Chalice's smiling face as they spoke with inspired parishioners, answered questions, and - most importantly - helped them sponsor a child.

And sponsor they did. At the time

of writing, more than 1200 children and elders have new sponsors from this year's event.

Donald and Helen headed up a sponsorship weekend at their parish in Oakville, Ontario. They have been Chalice sponsors for more than 15 years and have been volunteering at sponsorship weekends since 2019.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to extend our involvement and also to connect with other sponsors in our area," they say. "We would highly recommend sponsors to get involved in sponsorship weekends in any capacity, as the need is great. Like us, we are sure you will find the experience incredibly rewarding."

Chalice staff, the children, and their families, extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the bishops, priests, deacons, and lay volunteers. Your 'fiat' will transform the lives of thousands.



Father Patrick Cosgrove, President at Chalice

Share Hope With...

HBC1584 Devika

Devika may only be 7, but her heart is already set on nursing. The grade 2 student is eager to learn and grow her skills in caring for others. With sponsorship, Devika will have what she needs to make that dream come true.



TON2798 Chelsea



Honour-roll Chelsea loves languages and dancing, and she's the top of her grade 9 science class. She lives with her family of 6 in Manila, Philippines. Sponsorship will help Chelsea reach her goal of becoming a psychologist.

LAS2327 Jose

Energetic Jose loves chasing balls and playing with his brother and sister. The 4-year-old lives with his family in Paraguay and attends kindergarten. Jose wants to be a police officer, catching bad guys instead of balls.



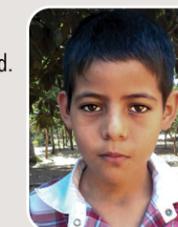
SAM3699 Chainare



Chainare lives with his mother and brother in our Samar site, Philippines. The grade 9 student isn't afraid of challenges and has set his ambitions on architecture. It helps that he loves to draw! Sponsorship gives Chainare hope to pursue his goals.

LAS2108 Alan David

When Alan David isn't out playing with his friends, he loves to read. The grade 3 student lives in rural Paraguay with his parents and 3 siblings. Sponsorship will help Alan David and his family grow up healthy and thrive.



SPA1160 Antonio



Antonio is a doting grandfather and football fan living near our Pukavy site in Paraguay. His grandchildren are the light of his life. Sponsorship will help the 70-year-old access healthcare, nutritious foods, and an enriching life.

SPA1161 Brigida

Sweet, strong, Brigida lives with her daughter near our Pukavy site in Paraguay. At 68, Brigida has health challenges, but she is vibrant in her faith. Sponsorship will help Brigida access the medication and healthcare she needs to shine.



“Pray for a Change for Haiti”

For Wendell, the site director for St. Dominique in Haiti, the struggles of living day to day surround him.

“We stay home after we send our children to school -- when it is safe to,” he said.

Parents in our three sponsor sites in Haiti cannot go to work or run their businesses because they live in fear of violence and abduction. Even on quiet days, most people don't venture far from their houses.

The crisis in Haiti has affected every aspect of the families' lives. Among other problems, gangs have choked the flow of food, fuel, and other essentials from the capital city, Port-au-Prince.

“Famine is affecting families,” says Edley, Haiti North site director. “Seven out of 10 households are unable to adequately feed themselves.”

Says Wendell: “We always count on the day we are going to be called by Chalice to receive support because it is our only resource right now.”

All the families in the Haiti sites are deeply grateful for your support of our Haiti Regional Relief fund. Through it, each family received extra money in their sponsorship bank account to spend on urgent needs.

Some are planning to use their funds on back-to-school needs, while others are hoping to reopen their small businesses that have had to close due to circumstances. Others are thinking of leasing land to start a farm, and some need it for rent.

Throughout these years of hardship and upheaval, sponsorship has been an anchor for these families.

“Sponsors bring joy, love and happiness to our children's hearts,” says



Children and staff in St. Dominique site are delighted with a gift of food and hygiene products.

Wendell. “Every time they receive photos, letters from them, it makes them feel special.”

Edley echoes this. “The special bond formed between sponsors, children and families they support creates a sense of connection and hope that has a truly transformative effect. Sponsors not only contribute financially, but also provide precious emotional support by demonstrating that they care and are present to help.”

Wendell adds that previously “our

daily income could barely cover food for the family. But now by receiving support from Chalice, we can pay for school for our children, or use our savings when days are tough in our business or if we have a health emergency.”

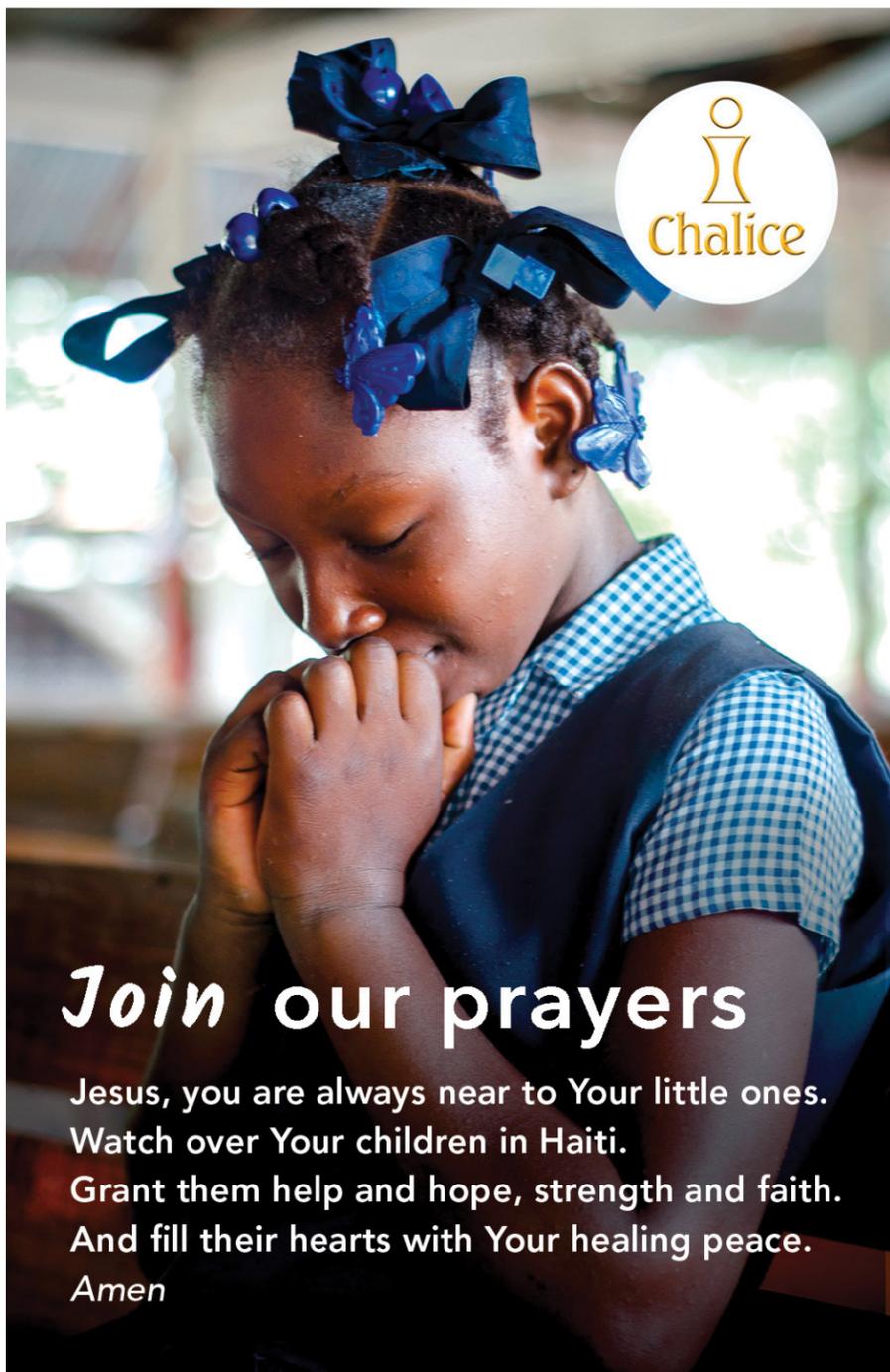
Wendell sends his gratitude on behalf of all the children and families in St. Dominique.

“We love you, think and pray for you every day. Understand that life in Haiti is a struggle, and every donation

that you give is not only changing and saving a person's life, but a family. Your support means everything to us.”

“We would appreciate your prayers for us,” says Edley. “For peace, and for armed individuals to lay down their weapons, to establish a stable country and rebuild for the well being of future generations.”

“Pray for our life, our children, our health,” says Wendell. “Pray for a change for Haiti.”



Join our prayers

Jesus, you are always near to Your little ones.
Watch over Your children in Haiti.
Grant them help and hope, strength and faith.
And fill their hearts with Your healing peace.
Amen



Join our prayers

Loving God, bless and protect these innocent children.

Sow your peace and joy into their hearts and uproot any bitterness or hatred, so that they may blossom in the light of your love and find strength in you.

Amen

