

# CHALICE CANADA

## NEWS MAGAZINE

Fall 2025



# When Art Became Mariya's Gift to the World



When Mariya, our magazine's cover artist, turned 10 years old, her world suddenly became bigger than she could ever have expected. First, she learned that someone far away from her little Ukrainian village had chosen to sponsor her. Shortly after, she discovered art.

"I drew everywhere," says Mariya. "On notebook covers, napkins... I gave my drawings as gifts to my friends and family."

Mariya is her parents' only child. Both live with chronic medical disabilities and cannot work outside

the home. Without the support of her sponsor or the Ternopil site, her parents would have struggled to afford essential food and medicine, let alone the art supplies and classes Mariya longed for.

"Chalice has become a huge support for me and my family in the most difficult situations," Mariya says.

Now 21, she's completing her university degree in visual arts. She plans to become a teacher, although she already is. She teaches art workshops for other sponsored children in the Ternopil site.

## Behind Every Success Lies Sacrifice and Faith

In each news magazine, we try to tell you about the life-changing impact your donations have on the lives of the children and elders we serve. After all, those impact stories are the reason we do our work and perhaps the reason you sponsor and donate. They help us know that we are making differences in people's lives.

With so many stories of success, I wonder sometimes 'does it all look too easy?' I want to recognize the sacrifices, hard work, dedication and commitment that brought these wonderful results.

In Canada, there are sponsors that can't afford to give, yet do. There are donors who commit large amounts to give meaning to the many years of sacrificing and saving. Most of all, there are donors who are giving true offerings of faith and love to Christ.

In our sites, the work and commitment made by the staff, children, elders, and families are all invisible. But together, all of this is the reason we can tell these beautiful stories. Thank you to all, for all you have given. May the Lord continue to bless the sacrifices, the work, and the love that lie behind every good story.



**Father Patrick Cosgrove,**  
Founder and  
President at  
Chalice

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Fall 2025

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### Tondo sportsfest gets everyone outside.

The site's annual *Laro ng Lahi* got thousands of children outside to play, compete and relax. This year featured a new event – the talent show and pageant. "The event truly brought out the child in every participant, and everyone enjoyed the experience to the fullest," says Eunice, the site director.



### Gift catalogue 'blesses' 28 Samar families with home improvements.

"They strengthened their homes, says Maricel, the site director, "which is what binds their love together." Many fortified their roofs and walls against typhoons. Others built latrines or got connected to the electrical grid, who are "happy that they will no longer live in the dark," she says.

### After devastating fire, 34 families rise from the ashes.

With Chalice disaster relief support, 42 Tondo sponsored children and their families built new homes on government-assigned land. With only about nine square feet to work with, they innovated with lofts. Some built shops out front so they could restart their businesses serving their new neighbourhood.

## Rosary Nourishes Her Neighbours One Grain at a Time



Rosary and Jorien stand in front of a new beginning. Jorien recently finished her business degree with the support of her Chalice sponsor. Until recently, Rosary was a full-time mother of four.

But the mother-daughter pair looked around their community and saw a gap in the market: rice. It is a staple in every Filipino home. Selling it, even at an accessible price, could be Rosary's way to put all her children through school. Jorien, itching to put her degree in action, suggested they start their own business.

Rosary's rice business began flourishing thanks to Chalice's gift catalogue, providing not only a livelihood opportunity but also a new way of living for her.

"We have faced many challenges," she says. "Your assistance has not only provided

us with a source of income, but it has also given me a new belief in the purpose and faith in our lives."

In a neighbourhood where many struggle with day-to-day needs, Rosary sees her affordable rice as a community gift. "Inspired by your kindness and generosity, our goal is not only to provide for our own family but also to give back to the community and help others in need," she says.

Rosary also sees Chalice's gift as a vote of confidence in her, and in Jorien, to be faithful stewards of our investment. "You have not only invested in our business but have also invested in us as individuals, believing in our abilities to grow and succeed."

"Your trust in our ability, and commitment to help our small business, has been inspiring and vital to achieve our goals."



# Chalice and Future Pope Leo XIV United for Venezuelan Migrants

When the freshly elected Pope Leo XIV appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, phones in our Chiclayo sponsor site in Peru began lighting up. Our colleagues Yolanda, Gladys and all the sponsor site staff were giddy with excitement. There, dressed in the papal vestments, was their dear former bishop, collaborator and admired friend.

Chalice first collaborated with then-Bishop Prevost during his service as Bishop of Chiclayo during the pandemic. Chiclayo was experiencing an influx of migrants, mainly from Venezuela. The region struggled to provide shelter, food, medical care, administrative support and basic household goods to thousands of economic refugees arriving with limited resources. Bishop Prevost mobilized a commission to partner with Chalice's

site to provide critical care to these highly vulnerable individuals and families.

"Thanks to your incalculable help," said Bishop Prevost, "they helped 82 people with emergency health problems, hospitalization, medical treatments and medicines. They secured shelter for more than 120 families and 51 families received beds and mattresses. They launched four soup kitchens and helped 800 people to obtain refugee documents."

"Your financial support has fed hundreds of people, and we have been able to assist many sick people, many people in times of crisis in their lives because of your generous care and support," he added. He especially thanks our Chalice colleague Yolanda, who was also a leader in the commission. "Know that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers. We truly appreciate your continued interest support for the work of this diocese



and together we are truly living that spirit of communion which the Church which Pope Francis has so much put before our eyes ... which promote authentic fraternity solidarity among all God's people.

"Thank you for walking with us. It's a huge distance between yourselves and ourselves. And yet, because of your care and concern, that distance is always shorter and we truly feel ourselves united in the one family of Christ."

## Math and language arts grades improve among struggling students.

Through Chiclayo site's education support program, 150 students received 72 extra help sessions with tutors. By the end, 93 per cent achieved better grades and moved up to their next grade level. Sponsored student Norma says: "Thanks to my teacher, I have been able to get better grades on my report card, and now I participate more and interact better."



## Gift catalogue builds hope for Leida and Cesar's family.

The couple was raising six children, including three chronically ill sponsored daughters, in a house made of recycled wood and sacks. Through the gift catalogue, the Cañete site built them a house. "A new home called hope not only changed the life of a family," says site director Sister Ana Maria. "It was proof that, with will, togetherness and empathy, the most urgent dreams can also be built."



### Arica's manual skills workshops help dozens of mothers.

Workshops on sewing, weaving, and knitting are turning into home businesses. "In addition, they have unforgettable moments, laugh, share, regain their self-esteem, and feel more valued," says Veronica, site director. "We are thrilled to see them more empowered to be masters of their destiny!"

### Gift catalogue supports Franciscan-run soup kitchen.

Every day 150-170 of the most vulnerable citizens of Santiago come to the parish soup kitchen for a meal, clothes, and, most importantly, kindness and fellowship. But the dining room's roof leaked, and they didn't have enough chairs. Thanks to gift catalogue givers, they could repair the roof and seat everyone comfortably. "The help we have received from Chalice," says Brother Nicolás, "will allow us to increase the quality of service and the dignity of the people who benefit from this charitable work."



### Children love "Playing with Baby Jesus."

The sessions have been a success as about 100 children learned about the life of Jesus through playful games. The Arica site team felt strengthened by seeing the joyful faces of the children forming their faith to be the world's light.

## Alicia's Sweet Dreams on Wheels



Alicia is part of the "Rayito de Sol" Chalice family circle — fitting, for the ray of sunshine she is.

Her daughter, Mía Fernanda was sponsored through our Santiago site in Chile when she was 9 years old.

"Since then, the accompaniment and support she received have made a profound difference in her life," says Jesmarina, a leader in the site. With her sponsor's support, Alicia could cover all of her household needs.

Later on, Alicia seized on an opportunity to start a roadside coffee cart.

"Alicia experienced one of the most exciting moments of her

life," says Jesmarina. Guided and supported by Chalice site staff, Alicia grew her cart into a mobile candy and treat business.

"Being able to work toward her dreams and see her family move forward was a blessing for which she is deeply grateful," says Jesmarina.

Today, Mía Fernanda, has begun her first year of university studying kinesiology. Her achievement "would not have been possible without Chalice's constant support."

"Chalice is more than a project; it's a family with a huge heart," Alicia says. Thank you for walking with us and for sowing hope in our hearts."

*"Chalice is more than a project; it's a family with a huge heart."*



# Standing Tall: A New Chapter for Vasyl

Vasyl is a spirited 16-year-old with dreams larger than his small village. Growing up in a bustling family of seven, he has always been the sociable heart of his home. Sponsored through Chalice's Ternopil site since he was just four, Vasyl understands the true value of community — especially in times of critical need.



In 2024, Vasyl met a new neurosurgeon at a private clinic who recommended complex, 10-hour surgery that would permanently correct the curve and hump. Vasyl and his parents were convinced that it was the right step. The estimated cost was \$16,000 Cdn.

Vasyl's father, Volodymyr, had about a third of the estimate in savings. Olha, a Ternopil site worker, fundraised more than \$3,000 Cdn. Generous Chalice supporters supplied the rest through our critical needs program.

Vasyl set his surgery date. Though

there were risks "his dream of becoming a healthy, normal boy defied his fears," says Oksana. In the end, it took almost 15 hours. Seven days later, he was taking his first steps. By Day 12, he was ready to go home.

Vasyl is undergoing a rehabilitation program with a local specialist, studying from home during his six-month recovery phase.

"He is learning to walk gracefully," says Oksana. "He is very happy with his transformation and gives everyone he sees a smile. He is shining, it shows.

"My heart is swollen with gratitude to you for the support provided and to all who contributed to making this happen. We will always be thankful for this!"

When Vasyl was an infant, his mother, Oksana, noticed a curve and hump in his spine. Orthopedic specialists soon began Vasyl on years of rehabilitation, massages and corrective braces.

## Cultural excursions deepen students' appreciation for their heritage.

Tomorrow's Ukraine needs children educated in their history and traditions. Thanks to Chalice donors, the Ternopil site took 75 students on a field trip to significant spiritual and historic sites. "All the children came back home happy, excited and full of enthusiasm to study," says Khrystyna, site director. "That is so precious!"

## Chalice programs help hundreds with school supplies and groceries.

Through our Pochaiv education program, 680 families received extra support to buy school supplies. Likewise, its nutrition program helped 420 children buy food.

"This is an extremely important program for our children and their families because, during the war, the cost of various categories of food increases several times a year," says Roman, Pochaiv site director.



## Lviv site project renovates Hodovytsia Lyceum.

The main school and a vocational workshop were in poor condition, causing distractions for 136 students and their teachers. The Chalice project installed new floors, replaced the electrical system, and modernized the classrooms. "Thanks to your support, students can master technology and vocational subjects in a comfortable environment," says Ohla, the lyceum director.



### No more math anxiety at Wa School for the Deaf.

Grade 9 students didn't have the tools they needed to learn the geometry curriculum ahead of major national exams. A Chalice supporter donated the resources to give each student the tools — rulers, protractors, compasses — to succeed. "Your donation came at the perfect time," says Collins, a student leader. "Thanks to your kindness, we feel more confident and motivated to succeed."

### Chalice school farm prevents disaster.

Nandom site director Charles says Chalice's school farming program "has been able to ... rescue the Ketuo community school from hunger." The school garden produces enough to feed the students a hot meal three days a week. The corn, beans and vegetables "prevented the school from closing down."

### Five borehole wells, five schools of healthy students.

Thanks to a Chalice project, more than 1,200 schoolchildren of five rural schools now drink clean, safe water. The borehole at Bankpama (pictured) has "been a game-changer for the school and community," says Wa site staff. "With the new borehole, the school has enough water for drinking, cooking and cleaning, and the students no longer have to miss classes to collect water."

## Margaret Holds the Future in Her Hands

For as long as our Konta site staff have known Margaret, she has been determined to become a nurse. Growing up with her family in a one-room mud brick house, her compassion was evident early on.

Margaret landed her coveted spot in a nursing and midwifery program thanks to her Chalice sponsor. But it wasn't smooth sailing.

"The tuition fees at nursing training colleges in Ghana are substantial and without support, she was at risk of being withdrawn from the program," says Nicholas, Konta the site director,

Thanks to generous Chalice donors to the Konta site, Margaret was able to cover her tuition and secure her place in class. Now 20, Margaret is working towards her goal of becoming a midwife to serve mothers and newborns in rural areas with limited access to health care.

"Because of your sponsorship, I'm able to pay my school fees and continue my education without the constant worry of financial struggles," Margaret says. "I want to express my deepest gratitude for your generous



financial support. Your kindness and willingness to invest in my future mean more to me than words can fully capture."

Margaret is determined to make the most out of the opportunity she's been given. "Your support has given me the confidence to focus on my studies and work towards achieving my goals," she says. "I am committed to working hard, excelling in my studies and one day, giving back to others just as you have given back to me.

"Your generosity is not only helping me but also shaping my future in ways I never imagined possible."





# Medicine, Memories, and Maritza's Unseen Gift

At just 21, Brandon is navigating the challenges of medical school, far from home in Guatemala's bustling capital city. But as he embraces his adulthood and career, he reflects on the events — and people — who brought him there.

The first event was when he was six years old: he was sponsored through Chalice's Luis Amigó site. The first person was Maritza, his mother.

"I come from a household led by a single mother, a strong woman who, with effort and love, has carried our family forward," Brandon says. "Despite all the difficulties, she never stopped supporting me, and her example has been a constant source of motivation."

Brandon says that when he was first sponsored, he had "no idea how much of an impact that support would have on me and my family over the years." But, he adds, "from the very beginning, [Chalice] wasn't just a name or an institution — it was a true helping hand."

That hand has been steadfast for 15 years now. He can still feel it 200 kilometres away from



his beloved family. His sponsor's "unwavering support and generosity" has "been a seed of hope and opportunity planted in my life. Every time I receive sponsorship support, it means much more than financial aid—it represents hope, commitment, and selfless love."

He thanks his sponsor "for instilling in me values such as gratitude, perseverance, faith, and service."

"Everything I have learned, and everything I will achieve in the future, will always carry a part of you. Thank you for believing in me!"

## Children have shown remarkable progress in their literacy skills.

The site staff's continued efforts to engage parents in their children's education is paying off. Thanks to the parents' "active collaboration and engagement," children's grades are improving. Parents "are more interested in knowing how their children are progressing in their learning process each day."

## Keidy Dayana is showing significant improvement.

The 14-year-old has been struggling with thyroid challenges for five years, and the public hospitals were not equipped to treat her. Thanks to supporters of our critical needs program, she saw specialists and began targeted treatment. Once constantly exhausted and in pain, Keidy is full of energy and has more mobility in her neck. Keidy Dayana now has access to continuous thyroid and hormone monitoring —essential for early detection and preventative care.



## Field trip to Indigenous Mayan conservation park inspires new respect for forests.

Site staff took sponsored children on an exciting outing to a regional park on protected ancestral land. Brimming with diverse animals and plants, it was a perfect place for the children to reflect on their role as stewards of nature. They learned about illegal tree-cutting, the importance of reforestation, and most importantly, solidarity, friendship, respect, and cooperation.



# Faces of Hope



**Boniface**  
**KGS2087**

MERU, KENYA

Behind Boniface's cheerful smile is a resilient boy who has overcome tragedy. After his father's recent death, his mother has been unable to send Boniface to school. At eight, he's ready to start class and unleash his endless potential. A sponsor will change his future, forever.



**Santiago**  
**CHA4950**

LUIS AMIGÓ, GUATEMALA

Santiago is a small boy with a big appetite and a bigger heart. The pre-schooler loves to devour fish, fruit, and pepperoni pizza, but also to help his mother with chores. A sponsor will feed his dream of becoming a chef.



**Gershom**  
**HMR1563**

KERALA, INDIA

Gershom may be eight, but his favourite people are in their sixties - his grandmothers. Inspired by them, the math whiz plans to become an inventor of devices that help the elderly. Sponsoring his dreams will create a better future for all.



**William**  
**LEM2354**

SUCRE, BOLIVIA

Calm and collected William finds joy in music and play. His single mother works tirelessly for her five children, but every day presents new challenges. She knows a sponsor will take her son from Grade 1 to any future he can imagine.



**Arviel**  
**TON3997**

TONDO, THE PHILIPPINES

At 12, Arviel is the heart of her family, the third of five children. Her daily walk to school - rain or shine - never bothers her. She is passionate about education; her teachers inspire her to one day teach and guide young children, too.



**Richmond**  
**TPJ1468**

WA, GHANA

Two-year-old Richmond is already dreaming of a future where he cares for others as a doctor. But right now, his family's struggle with food insecurity means he's the one who needs care and support. A sponsor will ensure he gets the nutrition he needs.



**Eunice**  
**SMN1790**

SERENJE, ZAMBIA

Eunice's future sponsor will be treated with enthusiastic illustrations on her correspondence. The Grade 4 artist is also a household helper for her family of eight. She's practicing her caring skills to be a nurse someday.



**Amina**  
**MOM2601**

MOMBASA, KENYA

As the youngest girl of eight siblings, Amina knows how to be heard - a helpful skill when she becomes Kenya's first female president! Her parents are rural farmers and will be grateful for a sponsor to help their ambitious daughter find her place at the top.

# The Glow of Christmas: Haiti's Children Celebrate with Joy



The light of Christmas may be as flickering and small as a candle, but as St. Francis of Assisi is quoted, "all the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the flame of a single candle."

Haiti has experienced much darkness, and yet Christmas continues to offer a glimmer of hope, warmth, and fun for the sponsored children. Our Saint Dominique site in Port-au-Prince gathered all the children — both those who live with their families and those at the orphanage — to mark Christ's birth together.

"The children were beautifully dressed and filled with happiness," says Wendell, Saint Dominique site director.

Before the games, meal, and more boisterous activities, Wendell and his team felt it was important to begin with a time of recollection and prayer. It was important to them to reflect "on the meaning of Christmas, especially in Haiti, where insecurity has made life even more difficult," he says. "It was touching to hear the families share their thoughts and experiences."

Then it was time for the light-hearted fun. "We distributed gifts, capturing beautiful moments through photos that will serve as lasting memories. We then shared a delicious meal, enjoyed drinks and danced together to celebrate the birth of Jesus."

"The atmosphere was filled with joy, love and gratitude."

On behalf of all the children and families, Wendell thanks everyone who supported Chalice's Christmas WonderFund.

"Thanks to you, we were able to create a truly joyful and memorable celebration. This special day would not have been possible without your kindness and generosity. Your support brought smiles, warmth and hope to families who needed it most. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making this Christmas so special."



## Christmas WonderFund

Your loving donation will allow children and families from our sites to experience the love and joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.

Contribute to the Christmas WonderFund through this link or using the form on this page.

Donate online at [chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca) or scan the QR code.



### My details

**CHRISTMAS FUND 2025-26**

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate:  \$20  \$50  \$100 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card** I authorize Chalice to charge my credit card

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Credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your loving donation will allow children and families from our sites to experience the love and joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.

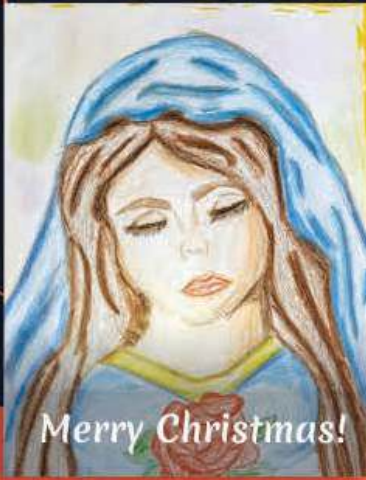


# Cards that carry more than just wishes.



Christmas cards designed by Chalice sponsored children. Give a donation and support children and families in need.

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate:  \$20  \$40  \$60  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cards comes in packets of ten. Quantity of packets to send: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Limited stock

**Credit Card** I authorize Chalice to charge my credit card


**Cheque** payable to Chalice Canada

Credit card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



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 Our mailing address:  
101-26 Union Street  
Bedford, NS B4A 2B5



Your loving donation will allow children and families from our sites to experience the love and joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.

## From Thorns to Roses: Chandrakala's Story of Resilience

Chandrakala is a mother of two sponsored children, Surya and Dinesh; she's a single parent and the sole provider.

"She's a remarkable woman whose life story is one of perseverance, strength, and transformation," says Sister Latha, our Mangalagiri site director.

"Her daily wage, though hard-earned, often fell short of covering the essential needs: food, medical bills, and her children's education," she says. "Yet, Chandrakala refused to give up. She decided to take matters into her own hands by learning tailoring, a skill she hoped would help her make ends meet."

Through her children's sponsors' support, she bought a sewing machine and opened a new chapter in her life.

"The arrival of the sewing machine was more than just a tool—it was the gateway to a brighter future," says Sister Latha. "Soon, customers began visiting her doorstep with requests for skirts, shirts, pillowcases, and even wedding dresses. As she honed her craft, her skills and confidence grew with each new project."

"I never thought I would be able to do something like this," Chandrakala says, her face lighting up with a smile. "Before, I felt like I had nothing to offer. But now, beyond the financial benefits, the sewing machine has given me a renewed sense of purpose and dignity."

Her determination is inspiring her neighbours. The person they once



pitied is now respected as a local businesswoman.

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice that thorns have roses," Chandrakala says, taking this as a personal motto.

"For Chandrakala, the hardships she faced were the thorns, but with the right tools and mind-set, she has been able to turn them into something beautiful—a future full of possibilities," says Sister Latha.

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# Faces of Hope



**Sona**  
**HMR1537**  
KERALA, INDIA

Sona excels in school and finds joy in every corner of her life. Whether it's her Grade 7 classes or playing sports with her sister, she always comes home with a story. One day, she wants to share her spirit with students of her own.



**Luna**  
**TKC2617**  
TUKUY, BOLIVIA

Luna's favourite word is probably 'why.' The five-year-old's parents love trying to keep up with Luna's insatiable curiosity. They also struggle to keep up with her daily needs in their disadvantaged community. A sponsor will ensure Luna never stops learning.



**Angel**  
**HMR1567**  
KERALA, INDIA

Angel shoulders responsibilities beyond her 11 years. With an infant sister and her parents juggling jobs, Angel balances school and babysitting. A sponsor will help her continue to excel in school and achieve her goal of becoming a nurse.



**Oleksiy**  
**LVI3097**  
LVIV, UKRAINE

Energetic Oleksiy enjoys his Grade 4 classes and getting muddy in the garden. War has cast a shadow over his family's life, making every meal a challenge. They grow vegetables to help stretch their budget. A sponsor will help Oleksiy eat well and thrive in school.



**Fátima**  
**VIL3126**  
CMAVIL, PARAGUAY

Fátima is a bright and spirited seven-year-old navigating the ups and downs of life in a close-knit family. With two brothers, a sister, and loving parents, she aspires to a noble career despite the challenges they face. A sponsor's kindness will brighten her life.



**Anastasiya**  
**TER6392**  
TERNOPII, UKRAINE

Anastasiya is happiest outdoors, picking raspberries and mushrooms for her large family. All seven squeeze into a small apartment with no garden, a challenge in Ukraine's war-torn economy. At 11, Anastasiya knows a sponsor's support will mean the world.



When you become a sponsor, you connect directly with a child and show them that their future matters.

call us  
1.800.776.6855

## Sponsor a Child Now

Monthly	\$42
Yearly	\$504





# Education Support Program Paves the Way for Future Healers in Haiti

Claudely and Ive-Landie are both sponsored high-schoolers and both aspire to work in medicine.

Ive-Landie is set on nursing and Claudely on being a physician. They also share major obstacles – with each other, and all students in a troubled Haiti.

Since 2022, tuition fees and school supply prices have increased by up to 20 per cent. Families in Chalice’s Haiti North site to choose between feeding their children and paying school fees. This pushed 26 sponsored children to drop out of school in 2024.

Claudely’s mother supports his family by selling goods on the street from a wheelbarrow, and he often helps out after school. But her earnings were not nearly enough. Both students’ annual school fees are the equivalent of

\$150 Cdn, and Ive-Landie says she was “at constant risk of dropping out despite my strong motivation.”

Thanks to everyone who supported Chalice’s education support program, more than 460 high school students covered their tuition, supplies and uniforms; 95 per cent finished their academic year.

The support covered two-thirds of Ive-Landie’s and Claudely’s tuition and textbooks, which was a huge relief for their parents and allowed the students to focus on their studies.

“I wake up at 4 a.m. every day to



study,” Ive-Landie says. “Every drop of sweat brings me closer to my white nurse’s uniform. Thank you for believing in me!”

“Between classes and helping my mother, every minute counts,” says Claudely. “But now I can study my biology lessons while minding the wheelbarrow.

“Your generosity does more than pay fees, it fuels a future where the doctor in the clinic remembers what hunger feels like. My mother’s wheelbarrow pushes goods today so I can heal lives tomorrow.”

## Pushing back against hunger for more than 1,300 children.

“Haitian families are food insecure and on the verge of famine,” says Brother Marcelin, Haiti South site director. For three consecutive years, Chalice’s nutrition program has given every sponsored child and their family extra funds for food. “Thanks to this financial support, we have bought food for our family members,” said a parent. “This was impossible before.”



## • Saint Dominique business course a surprise hit.

• In a pilot project supported by the gift catalogue, 40 parents took a two-week course on formal business practices. “They were very happy,” says Wendell, a site leader. “It is changing how people view and engage in business. They asked a lot of questions. [Afterwards] they kept calling us and saying that they were very happy because it would bring improvement to their business.”

## • Chalice’s critical needs program delivers urgent, life-changing interventions.

• This year in Haiti North, Ronel regained mobility through hernia surgery after years of pain. Nine-year-old Emmanuel received fracture treatment preventing permanent disability and 13-year-old Chrislain underwent successful leg fracture surgery that restored her ability to walk and return to school.



## Goats and Grit Bring Ulasita's Nursing Dreams to Life

Bijayanti is a determined mother of three who will stop at nothing to see her daughter Ulasita's nursing dreams come true. When a gift of goats arrived through Chalice's gift catalogue, Bijayanti saw more than just animals; they became a symbol of potential and a path to financial independence.

Ulasita, the eldest of her siblings, is in Grade 12 and blessed by a Chalice sponsor through the Orissa site. Her family's income is limited and unstable, relying on her father Sulom's low-wage, seasonal jobs. Though they try not to show it, her parents worry about not affording her nursing school tuition.

"The uncertainty of their situation often overshadowed their hopes," says Sister Sukhalata, Orissa site director, "leaving them feeling vulnerable and discouraged."

The family's industrious personalities and clear goals made them perfect gift catalogue recipients. Sister Sukhalata and her team will always remember the day they arrived with the family's three new goats.

"The moment Bijayanti received the gift of three goats, she was overwhelmed with emotion," she says. "Her eyes filled with tears of gratitude as she gently took hold of the animals, seeing in them not just livestock, but a path to a better future."



"With folded hands and a trembling voice, she offered heartfelt thanks and prayers, saying, "This is more than a gift it is a blessing. You have given us hope."

The goats provide a stable, independent income source. They'll reduce their dependence on Sulom's irregular work and the offspring will generate regular earnings.

"These goats have opened a door of opportunity we never imagined," Bijayanti says. "In just five to six months, we will begin to earn by selling their kids." This income, she explains, will help them "complete our home and support Ulasita's nursing education."

"From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. You have not just given us animals—you have given us hope, dignity, and a chance to turn our dreams into reality."



## Chalice launches Nellore water system project.

Two remote hamlets, home to about 55 families, rely on rain-fed agriculture which makes them vulnerable to failed harvests and food insecurity. Neither has consistent access to any water and can go days without. Chalice and the Nellore site will build a multi-unit water system that will pump filtered water to taps distributed through both hamlets.

## Assam housing project completes 25 new homes.

Thanks to the Chalice project, 100 people (50 children) moved into a sturdy house of their own for the first time. "It has brought immense joy," says Sister Bindu, site director. "The new homes have had a profound impact on their lives: The family finally has a sense of permanence and belonging."

## "Get a goat, give a goat" tradition continues!

Our Kerala sponsor site continued its tradition of families giving the offspring of a goat from the gift catalogue to another family, free of cost. The annual custom began in 2019 with 26 goats. Since then, the families have given 35 goats have been born and gifted to 35 neighbours in need, and there's no sign of the tradition stopping any time soon.



### First graduates from Mombasa’s adult literacy program.

Launched in 2022, today 50 adult learners are in one of three literacy and math skills classes, ranging from basic to advanced. In the beginner course, the youngest student is 35 and the oldest is 62. This year, 36 graduates now hold federally recognized certificates. “It is so heartwarming to see parents more involved with their children’s school work,” says Sister Janefrances, the site director, “and filling in their bank forms by themselves!”



### Asembo site tackles mental health with 450 children, tweens, and teens.

The initiative includes after-school sessions, trained psychologists, and a safe space for young people to share their experiences and seek help. The aim is to reduce stigma and build a healthier community. “We are filled with hope and pride for the progress made in empowering the girls and boys under our care,” Sister Pauline, the site director, says. The site team’s hard work has “equipped our students with the tools they need to overcome challenges, make informed decisions, and confidently pursue their goals.”

### Mikinduri site’s home gardening and school farming program in full bloom.

Four participating elementary schools grew enough produce to serve a hot meal to every student, every day, for the whole term. Each school garden supplies the school kitchen with a minimum of seven kilograms of fresh leafy vegetables every day! A year in, enrolment across the four schools is up 16 per cent, to 1,661. Site director Carolyne says “the profound impact has made us proud.”

## A Harvest of Gratitude for 1,200 Children



In the arid expanse of Kamuwongo, Kenya, the thirsty land has become a rainbow of nutritious, delicious, fresh-from-the-farm food.

As the drought deepened and hunger fears loomed larger at the Mercy Care site, site director Sister Sherly rallied her team to confront the adversity head-on. They partnered with Chalice to launch a sustainable, nutrition-meets-farming program that will help thousands to fight hunger.

Today, 1,200 children eat a daily meal through the program. The site delivers dried staples like beans literally by the ton. For the fresh ingredients, they just have to walk outside. The site planted 26 ‘multi-storey’ vegetable gardens in all eight schools, and papaya fruit trees in four, which add vitamin-rich

produce that is otherwise much too expensive to feed en masse.

“Through the school feeding program, we have increased the happiness of learners [and] enhanced school retention by 100 per cent,” Sister Sherly says. Their other “100 per cent” successes have been in attendance and grade advancement. “They are happy to go to school to learn.”

“Thank you for your endless support for us,” says Ruth, a mother whose children are in the program. “My children have continued an uninterrupted education because of the school feeding program. Indeed, we are able to survive the harsh economic times because of the food supplies we get from you.”





## A Grandmother's Sacrifices Create a Dedicated Doctor

At 22, Marcos is excited enough to look forward and grounded enough to look back. Raised in the embrace of his grandmother, his life was nonetheless shaped by the absence of his parents and financial hardship.

When he was younger, Marcos's future always felt uncertain. His grandmother, Buenaventura, struggled to afford his school fees. He had always wanted to pursue medicine, but the obstacles often felt too great.

"I dreamed of studying," says Marcos, "but I feared that my financial situation would prevent me from achieving it."

Marcos's story changed when he learned about Chalice's sponsorship program through the Don Bosco site. With his sponsor's support, he soared through grade school and, as he'd dreamed, university.

"He faced doubts, fears, and moments when he wanted to give up," says Fabiana, the Don Bosco site director. "However, whenever he felt overwhelmed, he thought about his grandmother's sacrifices and everything they had endured together, and that motivation kept him going."



Today, Marcos is in his third year of medical school. He looks back with pride and gratitude.

"Sometimes I still find it hard to believe how far I've come," he says. "Every achievement reminds me that all the sacrifices were worth it."

Marcos envisions himself as a dedicated doctor, helping others overcome adversities. His message to other young people is clear.

"Don't stop dreaming. Even when everything seems difficult, there are always ways and people willing to help. Don't give up, because every effort, no matter how small, brings you one step closer to your dreams."

## Chalice gift catalogue boosts 21 entrepreneurs.



The Ayolas site gave 21 parents of sponsored children the machinery, equipment and tools they needed to strengthen their small businesses. Pictured is Verónica, a mother of three, including sponsored Rodrigo. Verónica received equipment to expand her salon.



### "Spring with Christ" softens teen hearts.

Though it's autumn in Canada, spring is on its way in Paraguay. Pukavy site director Sister Miguela used the occasion to spread joy to teens with her "Spring with Christ" program. Though initially reluctant, the teens soon "vibrated with joy and emotion, shared teamwork, and their personal experiences," she says. "Our young people not only had a different day, but also opened their hearts so that God can dwell in them and continue to leave his footprints."

### Cousins set an example of community spirit.

Liz and Luz, 11-year-old cousins, are part of our Pukavy site's lunch program. They and 78 other children eat a healthy meal three times a week. With extra time over school holidays, the cousins offered to help around the dining hall "faithfully, as if it were a signed contract," says Ada, the co-ordinator. "You could see in their eyes the joy of those who give out of pure kindness, without expecting anything."





# Nilda Passes Her Hope to the Next Generation

Even from places far from rural Bolivia – maybe as far as heaven — Nilda has always felt loved. But she hasn't always felt optimistic.

Her parents, both hardworking farmers, found it difficult to cover the family expenses. But when Nilda was 12, an Alberta school division sponsored her through Chalice's Yapaquí site. This marked "a profound transformation in my family," Nilda says. Her sponsors eased her parents' burden, "and gave me hope for a better future."

The Yapaquí site team introduced Nilda to a heavenly friend, Saint Don Bosco. The 19th-century Italian priest revolutionized education for the poor, and our staff walk in his footsteps. Their goal is to help

sponsored children discover themselves and their talents.

Through their life-skills workshops, "I learned to trust myself, set goals, and overcome my fears. I have learned not only to overcome obstacles, but also to discover my true potential and to have an optimistic outlook on the future. I feel stronger, more confident, and motivated to continue growing and helping others."

Now 24, she's graduated with honours in business engineering.



She cites the sponsorship program's support for her career growth and its profound impact over the past 12 years.

"The changes have been more than material," Nilda says. "They have changed my way of thinking, feeling, and dreaming. That is why I tell children: 'Even if the situation seems difficult, never stop dreaming and believing in your own potential.'"

"To all of Chalice's sponsors, I want to tell you that the contribution you make truly transforms lives."

## Children and teens with disabilities thrive in home physiotherapy sessions.

More than 150 sponsored children with disabilities in Tukuy site attend an education centre and/or therapeutic and artistic sessions. In 2024, Tukuy offered home services to 34 children. Their sessions not only focus on rehabilitation and independence but also guide families on providing the right support for their loved ones.

## Mothers can 'see the light' through STEAM courses.

Spanning five sessions in rural areas, 20 mothers in our Guadalupe site learned practical electrician skills, safety, and a variety of installations.

"My main motivation was not to depend on men," says Alejandra, who took the course. "I believe that women can also be independent to carry out this type of activity."

## Sucre site raises rights awareness.

Almost 730 children, teens, and parents paraded with banners about girls' rights. "We were moved to see the girls express themselves freely and proudly," says Sister Sandra, Sucre site director. Many also attended their educational fair in honour of Human Rights Day. "It was heartwarming to see our families participating together, learning and dreaming alongside their children."





## This Christmas...Go Jump in a Lake!



Sister Celine and her selfless team at the Neema site brought the magic of Christmas to life for children in need.

"This year, the main Christmas activities focused on spreading joy," says the Neema site director. "made possible by God's grace, our beloved sponsors, and the dedication of the Chalice team."

They decided to break with tradition and give their sponsored children a rare and thrilling opportunity to see the world beyond their villages. Their destination: Lake Nyasa.

"Planning this trip is a large undertaking, as it involves special transportation (two large buses), food preparations, game supplies, and support staff," says Sister Celine. Many of the children this year came from a remote, distant

community called Mkongo. Bringing them to Lake Nyasa took extra preparation for meals and an overnight stay. But it was worth it.

"Their laughter echoed as they played games, shared a joyful picnic, and swam freely in the cool, sparkling waters—an experience that brought pure delight. Sharing delicious food with friends in a new, festive setting created memories that will last a lifetime."

She extends her gratitude to everyone who supported Chalice's Christmas WonderFund.

"The Christmas season was one of joy and blessings for many people at Neema site!" she says. "Their gratitude was deeply moving, and their smiles reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas: love, care, and shared joy."

### Mbinga site brings emergency supplies to flood survivors.

From April to May 2024, the Luhombero region of our Mbinga site was hit by torrential rains, bringing floods and landslides that left almost 10,000 homeless. Forty-five sponsored families and 80 non-sponsored families lost everything. Through Chalice's disaster relief fund, 125 families received a medical kit, mosquito net, hygiene items, food hampers, bedding and clothing. "Your personal commitment is incredibly helpful," says local priest Father Placid, "and allows our people who have been affected by floods to realize a meaningful life."

### "Shiny new bicycles" offer myriad benefits.

Through the gift catalogue, the Neema site gave students 21 bicycles. In rural Tanzania, "a bicycle is not merely a pastime," says Sister Celine, "it is an important means of travel to school." Bicycles improve students' attendance and safety. Spared a long walk, their energy and focus improves, too. Bicycles also give families a way to the market or hospital.

### Outreach to local orphanage offers essentials and more.



Unitas orphanage is home to 33 children who cannot live with their families. They have their own vegetable patch, but the cooks needed extra help with staples like rice and sugar. They also always need hygiene items. Thanks to generous Chalice supporters, Mbinga site staff visited with a delivery of all their urgent needs. More than a drop-off, site leader Father Cino says: "Our visit to the orphanage gives us time to pray with the children, to share and listen to their stories."

## Mexican Christmas Buñuelos

SENT TO US FROM  
LIZETTE G.

### INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
pinch of salt  
1 cup warm water  
vegetable oil for frying  
1 cup sugar  
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon  
secret ingredient: add a pinch of  
anise seeds, instead of vegetable  
oil use butter if possible.

This recipe was shared in Chalice's  
Ladles & Love cookbook, part of  
the special content Lunch Buddies  
enjoy.



Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Gradually add the warm water, stirring until a dough forms. Knead the dough on a floured surface until it is smooth. Divide the dough into small, equal-sized balls and roll each one into a really thin circle with a rolling pin.

Heat vegetable oil in a pan until it reaches 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Fry the dough circles until they are golden brown on both sides, turning them once during cooking. Drain them on paper towels. In a separate bowl, combine the cup of sugar and a tablespoon of ground cinnamon. Coat the buñuelos in the cinnamon sugar mixture while they are still warm.

## Lunch buddies fight hunger

Fight food insecurity  
and famine today.

[chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca)





## Chalice's Light Guided Blessings Through Cancer's Darkest Moments

Hailing from a struggling farming family, Blessings thrived in the loving environment of St. Mary's School for the Visually Impaired. He fell in love with learning and soon wanted to be a teacher himself.

Blessings started his 2024 school year like any other. A few weeks in, a small eye lesion appeared, a common issue for children with albinism. But the itchy, growing wound worsened.

"It was swollen and covered the whole eye — I couldn't see, and I was always in pain. I stayed in bed most days, and I felt scared because I didn't know what was happening to me," says Blessings.

His doctor suspected cancer, but the cost to take him to an oncologist in

the capital was far too high for his parents. Blessings languished in pain and uncertainty for four months, as the tumour slowly overtook his whole eye. The Kawambwa site reached out to Chalice for critical needs support.

"Then Chalice stepped in," he says.

Blessings went to the cancer hospital, where he was diagnosed and prepared for surgery. After the operation, the wound is healing well – his eye is now visible and his appetite is voracious.

"The swelling has gone down, and I can now see clearly," he says. "I'm no longer in constant pain, and I feel stronger every day. I want to say thank you to Chalice staff at Kawambwa site, Chalice, and to my critical need sponsors."



"My family is so happy, and I feel hopeful about my future. You didn't just help me get treatment – you gave me a chance to live without pain and to dream again."



### Overcoming overcrowding in Kawambwa.

Queen of Angels Academy's 260 students were crowding the school's classrooms to twice their capacity. This year, Chalice broke ground on a two-classroom building for both school and community use. "The new school buildings will provide a conducive environment for teaching and learning," says Sister Agnes, "and a source of pride for both teachers and students."

### Chalice programs ease drought challenges.

Through our agriculture and gift catalogue programs, the Serenje site installed irrigation systems for avocados, citrus, vegetables, beans and maize serving 1,350 students and nine villages. "Zambia is still facing drought, so family food security is critical," says site director Sister Catherine. "Many families are not able to harvest much from their farms. The irrigation systems made all the difference."



# Leave a legacy of love

A gift in your Will continues Chalice's mission to help children finish school and access a world of possibilities.

- You can write a Will at any age!
- Gifts to charities leave a legacy of love.
- Leave a gift in your Will to Chalice and fill their world with possibilities.

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## Our Website

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Chalice is a Catholic international aid charity focused on child, family, and community development. We work closely with lay people, religious missionaries, and local communities to serve children and families living in extreme poverty. CRA Charity Registration # 13759 1012 RR0001

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