

# CHALICE CANADA

## NEWS MAGAZINE

Fall 2024



# About Our Cover Artist: **Nayeli!**

Nayeli is studying engineering on a scholarship at a Catholic university near her home in La Paz, Bolivia. She was sponsored through our Guadalupe site when she was young, as her family struggled with the loss of her father. Tragedy struck again when her mother died, when Nayeli was 19.

It was at those times, "your sponsorship was a great help to my family," Nayeli says. Her sponsor made it possible for Nayeli to finish high school and pursue university. The Guadalupe site staff were mentors, "always there to help and are always attentive to what I need, even for advice."

"My biggest dream is to study," she says. "I would like to open my business and make my parents proud of me."

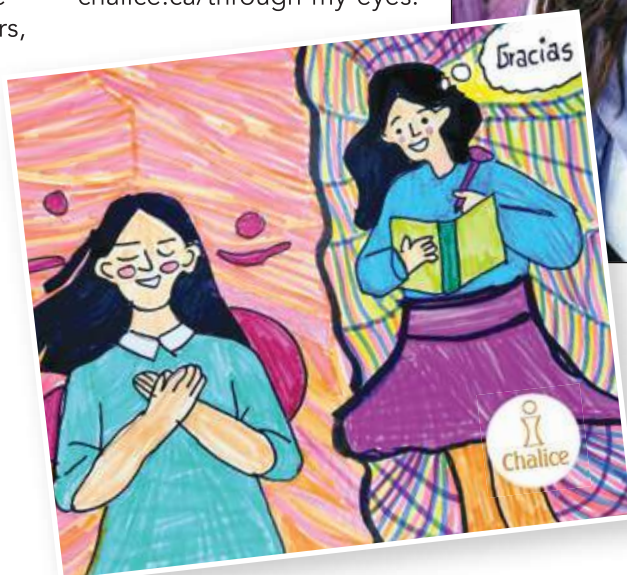
Our cover features her illustration of her experience in the Chalice sponsorship program. We see a smiling young woman surrounded by vibrant, ebullient energy. Even as she studies, she reflects on gratitude.

"Sponsorship helps me to fulfill my dreams," she says, "and for that I am grateful."

Nayeli's artwork is part of Chalice's 2024 "Through My Eyes" project. Sponsored artists from our sites share their illustrations of sponsorship and holidays. We have featured artwork every month in our Mustard Seed e-newsletter. To see the full gallery, check out: [chalice.ca/through-my-eyes](http://chalice.ca/through-my-eyes).



**Nayeli exudes gratitude to her sponsor through her artwork.**



## Love Answers

When you read through our newsletter, you may discover people just like you. Each little story is an encounter with a challenge that you or someone you know may have faced, is facing, or will face. A mother struggling to feed her unwell sons. Can Chalice help? A teenager with a heart condition and the cost to pay for an operation is beyond the capacity of her parents to pay. Can a Chalice donor make a difference? Two young girls hoping for a future in a country torn apart by violence and extreme poverty. Any future won't

come easily. Can they make it? And then there is heart breaking war that tears families apart. Can even a small moment of joy be found?

In the middle of these stories is another one that gives a reply from the heart to our questions. A loving hand can reach out even from afar, even from one who is very young. And that hand can help bring a small miracle into our world. May such love always be found in our world, in our church, and in our lives.



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



Fall 2024

**CHALICE CANADA**

Mailing Address:  
Chalice 101-26 Union St.,  
Bedford, NS B4A 2B5

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*"I really thank you all, beloved sponsors"*

Juan Miguel, pg 8

# "A Gift from God."

## For Ann, Goats Mean Hope

Goats are always one of the most popular gifts Chalice supporters choose from our gift catalogue. With their somewhat goofy reputation, a card that reads 'I gave a goat in your name' never fails to spark a smile.

But for the families who receive those goats, these animals mean the world.

Ann and her family live "in the heart of Mikinduri, a small vibrant community," says Carolyne, director of our Mikinduri site in Kenya. Ann, who has been widowed, lives with her young sons, Amos and Simon.

Both boys live with chronic illness and need to take medications daily.

Since her boys began school, breakfast has been a contest of wills. The boys are supposed to be eating fortified porridge, but they hate it. Try as she might, there would be days Ann couldn't get them to eat it, so they couldn't take their medication. They'd go off to school with neither the right fuel nor the right medicine.

Through Chalice's gift catalogue, Ann was "thrilled and thankful" to receive goats. It's changed breakfast, which has changed everything.

Ann goes out every morning and milks a big mug's worth. She puts half in the porridge straight away and saves the rest for after school.

"[The milk] has made the two boys enjoy it now, every morning," says Ann. Even better, as soon as they get home from school, "they come looking for the porridge which they once hated," Ann says.

"They have shown remarkable improvement in their energy levels

and overall health. [Their] performance and concentration in school has also improved remarkably."

The goats also provide organic fertilizer that Ann uses on her small farm. All her harvest goes straight into her sons' meals. She has a wide variety of crops, but she takes extra pride in her beans, which are an important source of protein.

"I feared losing my children too due to poor nutrition," Ann says, fighting back tears. But the ... milk they give has given me hope. This is really a gift from God."

A far cry from their silly reputation, "each goat stands as a symbol of compassion and enduring spirit of



**Ann's goat from the gift catalogue has infused new life in her sons and farm.**

our community," says Carolyne.

"With continued support and care, these families are on a path to a brighter and healthier future. The goat milk program in Mikinduri is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together to support those in need."

**Christmas starts with one Child**  
*Spread it to all of them!*

**Give twice with the Chalice Gift Catalogue:**  
[chalice.ca/gift-catalogue](http://chalice.ca/gift-catalogue)

# My Neighbour, the Nurse

Neighbours Wildernise and Rose-Carmel both grew up in busy households full of siblings and cousins.

Both girls were blessed with Chalice sponsorship through our Haiti North site. As they grew, the support of their sponsors gave them the confidence to reach for their dreams of becoming nurses.

"Thanks to your sponsorship," Rose-Carmel says, "I was able to pursue my studies without the financial burdens that often hinder the path to education. This allowed me to fully focus on my studies and give my best."

Upon completing high school, Rose-Carmel and Wildernise launched into nursing degrees. That was before the world had heard of COVID-19.

Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, they persevered.

"The nursing sciences program was demanding, but with your assistance, I was able to overcome challenges and rise to the top of my class," Wildernise says. "I know that your sponsorship played an essential role in this achievement. Your support has opened doors and opportunities that have significantly transformed my life."

Both have graduated from their five-year program, but they enter their field at a particularly dark time in a



**Rose-Carmel (left) and Wildernise have seen how sponsorship can change lives. They strive to continue what their sponsors began through their careers in healthcare.**

country that has a long history of suffering. Yet both women look ahead with hope.

"I will strive to honor your trust by pursuing a dedicated career in health care," says Wildernise. "In the spirit of your organization, I am committed to demonstrating the same dedication in my future career as a nurse and contributing to making the world a better place."

Both young women have seen Chalice change their friends, siblings, cousins, and neighbourhood.

"I also want to emphasize the

impact you have on my community and so many other students benefiting from your sponsorship," Wildernise says.

"Your commitment to education and your dedication to young people are a source of inspiration for us all," Rose-Carmel says.

"My success is the result of your support, and I wish to share it with you, dear Chalice.

"Your contribution has been an investment in my future and that of my community, and I am determined to give back by helping those in need."

## Quick sponsorship facts!



**49,356**  
sponsored  
children and  
elders

**36,011**  
Families with  
sponsored  
children



**3,962,037**  
Meals served last  
year.

We work in  
**1,473**  
communities  
worldwide



# Best Christmas Gift Ever



**Viktor, Vira, Nadia, and Solomiya have an emotional visit with their father as he serves his country at war.**

For Viktor and his family, the trip to southern Ukraine to visit their father in hospital “was the highlight and miracle of Christmas,” says Luba, Ternopil site director.

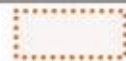
Their father, Viktor Sr., had been on the front lines of combat since the outset of the war. He was hospitalized for a concussion he sustained in an explosion. Thanks to Chalice’s Christmas fund, Viktor’s mother planned an unforgettable gift for her family.

“Their mother, Ivanna, took the children -- Viktor, Vira, Nadia, and Solomiya-- on the trip, but did not tell them what was going to happen.”

Ivanna let them think they were visiting their godmother.

Luba said that when the family got off the train “they saw their father standing on the platform to meet with them. It was a real surprise for them and the best Christmas gift ever! The children could not hold back their tears and emotions of joy!”

“Every day,” says Luba, “we pray for victory and peace.”



*Send a Christmas card to your sponsored friend!*

The children and elders in our sites are always delighted to receive your Christmas greetings!



**Compose**

Create your Christmas greeting! It can be letters, cards, and photos. Please do not include gifts or currency.



**Label**

Write on a piece of paper your sponsored friend’s name and child code.



**Prepare**

Place them together in an envelope ready to mail. Don’t worry about putting them in a greeting card envelope, just the one for the mail is great!



**Send!**

Mail it to Chalice:  
101-26 Union Street,  
Bedford NS, B4A 2B5

We will ensure they are translated (if necessary) and hand-delivered to your sponsored friend.

# Perina's 'Little' Gift



Three 'Terasas' have guided Perina's life: her sister, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Mother Teresa.

"My go-to saint is St. Thérèse," says 16-year-old Perina. "I just love her Little Way, which is something I need to work on," she says with a laugh.

The Grade 9 student lives her favourite saint's simple spirituality -- or tries to -- on her family farm in Combermere, Ontario. She home-schools with her father, Pete. He's always teaching Perina hands-on skills on the farm and around the house and helping her explore her artistic side.

She learned about Chalice through an aunt who sponsored a child. She felt moved to do the same.

"I wanted to do that," Perina says. "I've always loved helping the poor."

It didn't take long to convince her parents. They sponsor Rael, a high school student in Kenya. Rael's family also keeps animals, so Perina has no trouble finding relatable topics in her letters.

Perina always likes reading Chalice's e-newsletters, feeling connected to life in our sites. "Even if they're struggling... hearing about their personal stories and their challenges

and their joys."

As the days grew colder and Christmas approached, Perina felt called to do something extra for them.

"I was like, I need to do something, but I don't know what to do. I do like painting and I like crafts. So I was like, okay, I can do that."

She settled on making Christmas cards to sell to her parishioners and friends.

She painted Christmas scenes that are close to her heart: "a tree with lights; Mother Mary with baby Jesus; angels singing around his manger; families caroling with joyous hearts; and an old church in the woods bedecked with Christmas decorations."

She and her sister Teresa sold them after Mass, at a couple of parties, and even over email. She's a bit shy, but she liked talking to her customers about Chalice.



**Perina is inspired by Christ's words "You did it to me." "I have always kept this in my heart as I painted my Christmas cards."**

"They were all very supportive," she says. "And few people gave more than what the cards are selling for. Their encouragement gave Perina the confidence to sell her cards again this Christmas."

Fittingly, Perina donated her proceeds to Chalice's Christmas fund, which ensures every child gets to celebrate with joy and hope.

Perina brings it all back to a Teresa.

"I was inspired by what Mother Teresa calls the Gospel on five fingers: "You did it for me."



## Order special Christmas cards designed by our sponsored children

Give a donation and support children and families in need.  
\*Limited stock, orders must be received by November 15 to ensure timely delivery.

Order online or fill out the form on page 14!








# Fairytales, Food, and Friendship

Felicia rushes her two children, Juan Miguel and Yelitza, out the door to school. She has to get to work at the bus depot. It doesn't take much convincing for Juan Miguel. The seven-year-old loves to run around and play with his friends.

A single mom, Felicia works long hours to make ends meet. Even still, like many low-income families in Cochabamba, Bolivia, her pantry is often bare.

"She always stands out for being a fighter," says Soledad, PENNT site director. "She moved forward for her two children."

But Felicia couldn't shake the nagging guilt that she could not help her children with their homework.

One day, she caught wind of the PENNT sponsor site's after-school support program. Thanks to Chalice supporters, the program is a safe, supportive place for vulnerable students from Monday to Friday. They eat nutritious meals, get individualized help with their schoolwork, and have space and opportunity to have fun and be kids.

Juan Miguel dove in. He set about making friends with all his classmates. The site staff know they can count on him to volunteer for every activity and game.

"I love reading in my school support program," Juan Miguel says. "All the books and tales are so nice. I also like playing with my friends and enjoy eating meals every day."

The daily hot meal is a big draw for most children and teens in the program. Sample menu items include



spicy chicken and noodles with apple juice and Jello, or empanadas and a glass of milk. The students are highly motivated to stay after school if they're going to be fed.

"When I finish my homework, they give me a meal and snacks," says Juan Miguel. "The snack is very important, since they give it to us so that our bellies are not empty, so we have energy."

Over the course of his first year, Juan Miguel improved in the subjects where he'd been struggling,

and "stood out in his classroom," Soledad says. "Juan Miguel shows a lot of interest in getting ahead by supporting his mother, being a good student, and a cooperative boy."

"All of us really enjoy [the program] and we all are so grateful to you for helping us with your support to continue," says Felicia. "We are so happy."

"I really thank you all, beloved sponsors," Juan Miguel says, "for helping us with the school support, and food too!"

*"All of us really enjoy [the program] and we all are so grateful to you for helping us with your support to continue"*

# Faces of Hope



## Mizzy Kylie

**BHB2849**

BULACAN, PHILIPPINES

You'll find Mizzy Kylie playing volleyball with her friends or zipping around on a bike. She works hard in her grade four classes so she can become a doctor someday. A Chalice sponsor will give her the extra boost.



## Lionel

**TKC1461**

TUKUY, BOLIVIA

If you can't find Lionel, just look up! The friendly 6-year-old loves to climb trees. Lionel has Down Syndrome and delayed speech. He likes working on vowels in the alphabet with his speech therapist. His mom knows he will succeed!



## Zoryana

**TER5964**

TERNOPIIL, UKRAINE

Bouncy kindergartener Zoryana likes to draw, play hide-and-seek, and build her toy construction set. Her family relies on her mother's vegetable garden. A sponsor would be a great friend in troubled times.



## Zaid

**DAC3556**

ARICA, CHILE

Zaid's mom loves her playful and clever little boy. The smiley pre-schooler lives with her at his grandma's house in Arica, Chile. His mom would be 'eternally grateful' to a sponsor to help them make ends meet.



## Ulyana

**TER5398**

TERNOPIIL, UKRAINE

12-year-old maestro Ulyana is a prize-winning violinist and singer. She also loves reading, learning English, and baking cookies and apple pies! A sponsor will bring her family much joy during the difficult times of war.



## Fernanda

**CAN2307**

CAÑETE, PERU

Fernanda is a happy girl with happy feet. The 11-year-old dancer and grade six student lives with her mother and two brothers. Sponsorship will help her whole family access school, nutritious food, and community support.



## Andree

**CAN2306**

CAÑETE, PERU

Andree is as confident in class as he is on the pitch. He loves reading and public speaking, where his warmth and humour shine. He's also a champion soccer striker! Sponsorship will help Andree and his two siblings to keep soaring.



## Celina

**HCG1184**

ASSAM, INDIA

Celina lives with her parents, brother, and grandmother in a brick house in Assam, India. At 14, she already knows she wants to be a doctor. She would love a Chalice sponsor to walk with her on her journey to success.

## Meet Ximena and learn about her new possible!



Ximena, a bright young girl from Peru. Ximena's new possible started seven years ago near our Chiclayo sponsor site.

Ximena says, "to have a sponsor, you feel happy." She attended the "Little Neighborhood School", where she learned to develop skills such as communication, good manners, how to protect the planet, and children's rights. "I learned about my rights, and that they have to be respected," Ximena says.

Spending time with her family is something Ximena cherishes deeply. Their family does everything together. "I have felt happier and more content having a Chalice sponsor," Ximena says. She is deeply grateful for the support and guidance her sponsor provides. "He can give me pieces of advice. And if I feel down, he can write me a letter."

Ximena is thriving thanks to her Chalice sponsor. **Become a sponsor and give a child 'a new possible' today!**

**My new Possible**  
Help a child to complete their education, have a healthy childhood, and achieve their dreams.

[chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca) 1.800.776.6855

## Why sponsorship?

When you become a sponsor, you connect directly with a child and show them that their future matters. And the key to a bright future is education. Chalice sponsorship is focused on giving children all the support they need to attend and finish school.

Sponsored children each have unique experiences of poverty, depending on their community and family circumstances. That's why our sponsorship model gives financial decision-making power to the people who know what the child needs best: their parents and guardians. Empowered with training and supported by staff, the parents get to choose how to spend or save sponsorship funds. They know what to do: they educate their children and uplift their whole family.

Chalice also supports the families with other building-blocks for success, including nutrition, community infrastructure, skills development, healthcare, water, sustainable agriculture, and small-business development.

# Faces of Hope



**Anisha**  
**HCG1185**

ASSAM, INDIA  
Eight-year-old Anisha is an attentive daughter. She loves to help her mother, who is in cancer treatment. In fact, Anisha wants to become a doctor so she can always help the sick. Sponsorship will be a great support in a challenging time.



**Brian**  
**KMC1829**

MERCY CARE, KENYA  
Brian is a curious and helpful pre-primary student. He loves to get crafty, and help his brother tend the chickens and goats. His parents struggle to find work; sponsorship will offer support for the whole family to succeed.



**Jennifer**  
**KMC1859**

MERCY CARE, KENYA  
Jennifer likes pre-school where she can play with toys. She lives with her family of eight in a two-roomed home. Her parents are having a difficult time affording school fees, food, and other basics. Sponsorship will shine a bright light into her family's life.



**Rabiatsu**  
**SFD1878**

KONTA, GHANA  
Rabiatsu is a scholarly soul. She loves to read and wants to be a teacher, which will be a great blessing for her northern Ghana community. With Chalice, Rabiatsu will go far. Our agriculture programs will enhance her family's and community's farms.



**Edina**  
**NBB2065**

NANDOM, GHANA  
"Brilliant" Edina is in grade two. She wants to be a teacher and is serious about school. She's also energetic, playing games and helping her mother fetch water. Sponsorship will help her farmer parents meet Edina's school, health, and nutrition needs.



**Marjorie**  
**SAM3827**

SAMAR, PHILIPPINES  
Introspective book-lover Marjorie is in her high school's honour class. She lives with her parents and two brothers in rural Philippines. Her family relies on her parents' vegetable farm for all their daily needs. Sponsorship will help her reach high with her studies.



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



## Creativity is the star of the show in Tondo



With Advent still a month away, parents in our Tondo family circles were already mapping out their Christmas plans. Thanks to everyone who supports our Christmas fund or gave the gift of a Christmas celebration through the gift catalogue, the sky was the limit.

“They knew that they wanted to make these events extra special and unforgettable,” says Eunice, Tondo site director. They decided to throw two parties – one for sponsored children, and one for all the children in the nutrition program. Weeks in advance, planning committee announced two contests for sponsored children: the most Christmas tree and ‘Parol’ made from recycled materials. Parols are a traditional lantern decoration, ubiquitous in the Philippines at Christmastime.

“The children were eager to showcase their creativity and resourcefulness,” Eunice says.

On the day of the sponsored children’s party, “the children presented their prepared dances and songs, participated in games, and enjoyed a meal.” But the question on everyone’s mind was: who won the contests?

To a rapt audience, site staff announced the winning Chalice family circles: Innovative had made the most beautiful tree, and Persuasive had made the most creative parol. “It was heartwarming to see the joy and pride on their faces as they received their prizes,” says Eunice.

On the day of the nutrition program Christmas party, children make the journey in from neighbourhoods scattered across Manila.

“The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the children enjoyed the games, performances, magic show, and food prepared for them,” Eunice says. Each boy and girl got to take home a ‘Noche Buena’ package – a hamper with all the necessary ingredients for the traditional Christmas Eve family dinner.

“These events were more than just Christmas parties,” says Eunice, “they were moments of joy, love, and hope that will stay with these children for a long time.”

“The children went home with happy memories, new friends, and gifts to share with their families.”



### The Gift of a Christmas Celebration

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 fund through this link or using the form on the back of this page.

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



### My details

### CHRISTMAS FUND 2024-25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Cheque** payable to Chalice Canada

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



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

Chalice's CRA Charity Registration Number 13759 1012 RR 0001. **Chalice's Donor Restricted Gift Policy** - Spending of funds is confined to Chalice approved programs and projects. Each contribution directed toward an approved program or project will be used as requested to be restricted with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason as determined by Chalice, the remaining restricted contributions will be used where most needed, as determined by Chalice.



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.

# Order special **Christmas cards** designed by our sponsored children



Give a donation and support children and families in need.

\*Limited stock, orders must be received by November 15 to ensure timely delivery.



## My details

## CHRISTMAS CARDS 2024-25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



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

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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.

# A New Heart for High School

Dayana was trying to focus on her Grade 9 classes. But she was a little worn out. She had just spent days in the hospital undergoing test after test.

She had congestive heart failure. Dayana has been living with a heart condition since she was seven years old. Now 16, she needed a prosthetic aortic valve inserted into her heart.

But it was a race against time.

The artificial valves aren't covered by Paraguay's public health system, so it was up to her aunt, Claudelina, to get it. She had to find one in another country and get it to Dayana's surgeons before it was too late.

Claudelina, with the support of our sponsor site staff in Villeta, came through. Dayana had successful surgery.

Though her health is what matters, the financial impact was enormous. Dayana, Claudelina, and Dayana's mother, Sonia, all live with her grandparents -- on their pension. Dayana's Chalice sponsor helps with everyday needs.

But this was not an everyday need. The prosthetic valve and Dayana's transportation to the hospital cost more than seven years' worth of the pension.

The site staff put forward a request to Chalice for critical needs funding.



Thanks to your generosity, Dayana is merrily back to the ordinary affairs of high school life.

"Thank God it was a successful surgery and I already feel much better," says Dayana. She had to take some exams she missed while she was sick, but she passed with flying colours.

"The members of the family and the site are very grateful for this show of solidarity with Dayana," says Fátima,

**Dayana gives us a thumbs up from the hospital where she's receiving life-changing heart surgery.**

a site worker. "Her life depended on this device. Thanks to this she now leads a completely normal life."

"I feel that God has given me a new chance at life," Dayana says, "which I will make the most of with my friends and my family."

## We supported 222 Critical Needs in 2023-2024!



# Get your Will Planning Kit today!

Your Will holds all your finest treasures. As you plan, consider leaving a gift to Chalice.

Chalice only exists because of your generosity and your heart for the poor. Decide how you will be remembered and know your legacy will carry on.

Our Will kit is a guide that provides you with assistance so that you can ensure that the good works you've begun can carry on for generations.

Together, we will continue your work to transform the lives of children and their families in need.

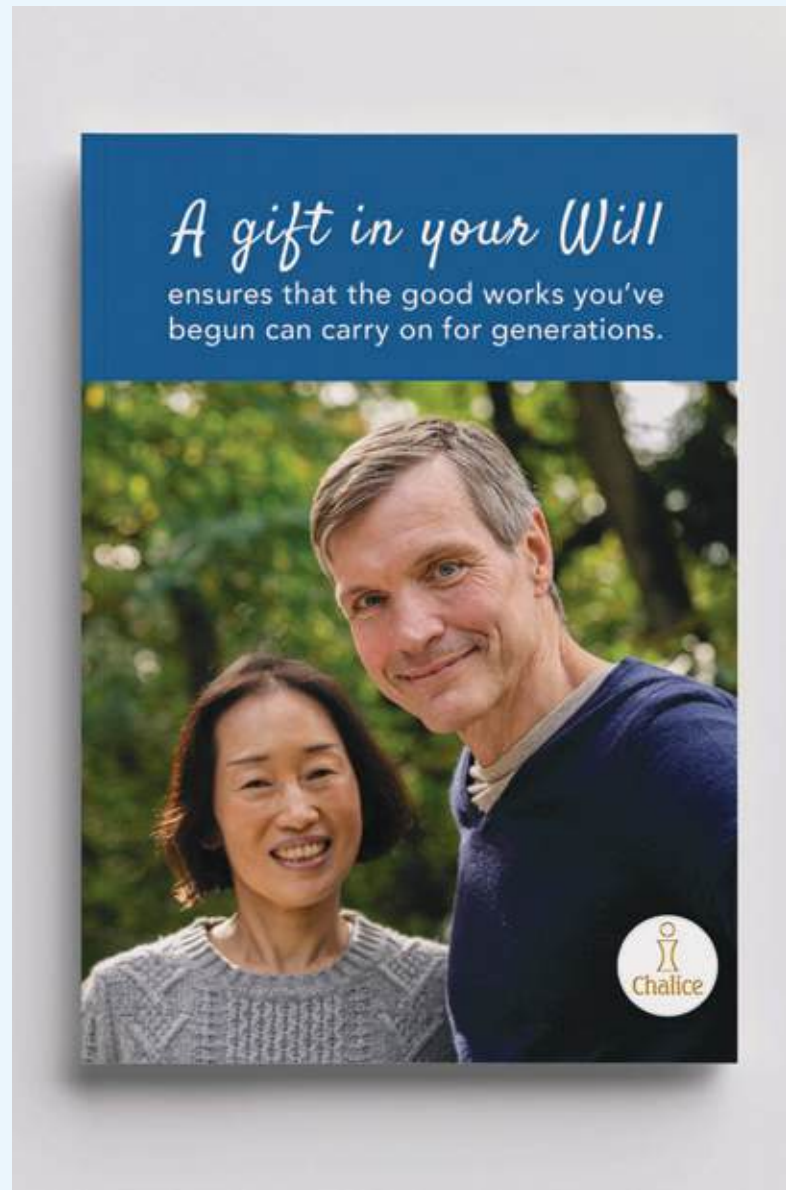
## Call Us

1.800.776.6855

Peter Gordon

## Our Website

[chalice.ca/plan-a-gift](http://chalice.ca/plan-a-gift)



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

*If you have any suggestions for stories or photos you wish to see featured in our newsletter, please mail them to:*

Return Undeliverable  
Canadian Addresses to:

**Chalice**  
101-26 Union Street  
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