

# THE LINK Newsletter

FALL 2015

From Sponsor to  
**SPONSORSHIP**  
ADVOCATE

2015 Ride  
for Refuge  
**SUCCESS**

“We will continue to work out God’s call on our lives to care for the poor and most vulnerable in our communities. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry.”

McDonald Adhikary,  
Director of International  
Needs Bangladesh

## Drop-in Centre for Street Children in Bangladesh

Life for a street child is full of anguish and uncertainty. Many are separated from their families, others are abandoned. There are over 600,000 street children in Bangladesh with approximately 450,000 living in Dhaka, the nation’s capital. The root causes for children living on the streets have been associated with extreme poverty, the breakdown of the family, parental death, illness, and physical or sexual abuse.

Such situations force children to run away from home to major cities in search of a better life. Once on the streets, the children discover that the world discriminates against them and is hostile towards them. They become extremely vulnerable to all forms of exploitation and abuse and lack the most basic necessities such as food, clothing, education, medical care and protection.

Street children are among the most visible children, living and working on the roads and public squares of cities all over Bangladesh. They earn 55 cents a day as garment or factory workers, automobile assistants, porters, rag pickers (rummaging through garbage to find valuables), sellers, shoe shiners, restaurant and shop helpers and vendors. Yet, street children are also among the most invisible and hardest to reach with vital services such as education and healthcare.

Our partners in Bangladesh have opened a Drop-in Centre for street children. This Centre will provide a safe and enriching environment where children can receive nutritious food, education, social and psychological support, recreational activities, healthcare services, and bathing facilities. The project’s objective is to empower street children and help facilitate for them alternatives to street life, reducing the risk of exploitation, violence and abuse and securing for them a more stable and secure future. The Centre will be located at International Needs’ head office in Dhaka.

Help us invest in the lives of Dhaka’s street children by supporting the Drop-in Centre, which will operate 5 days a week after normal working hours. Teachers and staff are hired to serve at the Centre during the afternoons and evenings. **Help us transform the lives of Dhaka’s most vulnerable children.** •

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** To our sponsors and donors who write cheques to us, please note that our bank has notified us that ALL cheques must be made out to **International Needs Canada**, as they will no longer accept any cheques made out any other way. **Thank you.**

## From Sponsor to Advocate A journey of Discovery



**Donna Michalek** grew up on a dairy farm in southwestern Ontario. Married for 31 years, she has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Donna's love of children led her to work in early childhood development for many years. A recent trip to Kenya on one of International Needs' Discovery Tours left a deep impression on her.

**"I saw things I didn't want to see but now they can't be unseen and I needed to do something about it."**

The group visited various International Needs' projects in Nairobi including the work being done with street children. ***"It was heartbreaking to see 6 year old boys living on the streets, unable to go home, sleeping under market vendors' tables at night and scrounging for food wherever they could find it."***

Donna also had the opportunity to see the benefits of child sponsorship when she visited her sponsored child Daniel. *"I was nervous on the way to Daniel's home. We picked up staple groceries for the family and met his mom and 3 youngest siblings. After a lovely visit we went to see Daniel at school. He looked so handsome and scholarly in his school uniform. He was very grateful for the backpack, school supplies, and shaving kit (he is 17 years old) but he was most excited about the solar lamp that would enable him to do homework after dark. Visiting with Daniel and his family was a wonderful experience. It is such a small thing for my husband and I to send \$41 a month to support Daniel and yet it makes such a huge difference in his life."*

On her flight home to Canada, Donna asked God what she could do to help. A children's story came to her mind and Donna took it as a sign from the Lord that this story should be written and published.

The book is called, "Maji Kijana" which is Swahili for "water boy", and has just been published! Congratulations Donna! The book will be sold at various events for twenty dollars. 100% of the proceeds will go towards water projects. This lovely book would make a nice gift for children this Christmas.



Donna is now a **Child Sponsorship Advocate** with International Needs Canada and will be visiting homes, churches, and small groups to share the burden that God has laid on her heart for children living in extreme poverty.

**"I have seen firsthand how child sponsorship works and the impact it has on children. I have also seen hundreds of children waiting to be sponsored so they can go to school and have a brighter future. I pray that God will help me be their voice and find support for them."**

Donna Michalek

Contact Donna at: [donna@internationalneeds.ca](mailto:donna@internationalneeds.ca) •

## PRAYER CORNER

### Items for Prayer

**"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer"** F.B. Meyer

Please pray for the success of the Drop-In Centre for street children in Bangladesh. Pray that many vulnerable children will be helped and encouraged and that the Centre will have all the support needed to run smoothly.



## Ride for Refuge Success

**We asked, and you responded with a resounding yes!** Let me begin by expressing a heartfelt thank you to all who took up the challenge and cycled, walked, or gave towards this year's Ride for Refuge. Nine teams from across Canada participated in our best Ride for Refuge in 4 years. Together, we raised nearly \$20,000 for International Needs' rebuilding efforts in Nepal. A special thank you goes to the following teams:

**50 by Fifty, Road Rascals, Forestview Flyers, Bangladesh Bikers, Umoja Rockets, Wild Hogs, Field of Dreams, IN Pedal Pushers, and Help Nepal.**

The organizers have already announced the date for next year's ride. Ride for Refuge 2016 is scheduled for **Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Please mark this date on your calendars and keep it free for a family-friendly day with lots of fun, food, fellowship and a great cause. •

## Items for Praise

**"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice."** Psalm 34: 1-2

Praise God for a successful Ride for Refuge on October 3rd, 2015. We were able to raise almost \$20,000 for Nepal. Praise the Lord!

## The Beauty of Sponsorship

Julie Roddy counts herself as a blessed woman. She's had the opportunity to go to Uganda twice and meet with her sponsored children, Mercy and Alice. Julie and her husband Gord have been sponsoring children in Uganda through International Needs since 2007.

**"When I had the opportunity to travel to Uganda on a Discovery Tour in 2014, I was thrilled at the thought of finally meeting Mercy face to face. When the children gathered outside the International Needs' office I eagerly scanned the crowd for a glimpse of Mercy. When our eyes met we both broke out in huge smiles, since we recognized each other from the photos we'd exchanged.**

*When it was Mercy's turn to meet me she came up to me and we hugged and held one another for a long moment. It was one of the best moments of my life—holding my sponsored child in my arms! Afterwards, we were able to visit Mercy's home and meet her aunt who looks after her. It was good to see and experience Mercy's home life. While in Uganda we had the opportunity to sponsor another child, Alice."*



In July 2015, the Roddy's returned to Uganda and were able to visit their sponsored children again. What a wonderful time they had! What a privilege to know these girls and to be able to help them achieve their dreams.

*"It was great to see the difference sponsorship is making in our girls' live and families, giving them a chance at a brighter future. International Needs is doing a fabulous job in Uganda. Sponsors should never underestimate the power of their support to give hope and love to these children. We have witnessed it for ourselves. We're so thankful to God for bringing them into our lives." •*

## A Milestone turns into \$50,000 for Zambia



**A group of High School friends** have joined forces to reach their milestone 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a bang. The ladies are raising \$50,000 for ZACTS Income Generating Chicken Project. The

seven women grew up in Bow Island, AB and represent St. Michael's Class of 1984. The idea of using their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday as a catalyst for something meaningful and beneficial to others originated with Clary Fox, one of International Needs' Board Members. Clary shares, "A few years ago, a good friend turned 50. She called it her "Jubilee Year" and celebrated this milestone in her life with friends, travel and new education initiatives. I liked the idea and thought of a number of things I could put into my 50<sup>th</sup> year. One was to find a way to contribute significantly to a project in the developing world, and perhaps travel to that community." Clary knew just the group of women to recruit, her high school friends.

**ZACTS Income Generating Chicken Project** in Zambia was received with enthusiasm.

**"We come from diverse professional backgrounds - education, business, banking, construction & design, social work, an Olympian and several of us are raising families. We are committed to Zambia's Poultry Project and what it will mean to this small rural community. We are also enjoying the opportunity of reconnecting with real purpose."** Clary Fox



**Zambia's Growing Change Poultry Project** will enable ZACTS School for orphans and vulnerable children to become self-sustained by raising and selling chickens. For more information on how

you can support the **50 by Fifty Campaign**, please visit our website at [www.internationalneeds.ca](http://www.internationalneeds.ca).



## Clinique Papillon Receives Canadian Government Visitor

On February 5, 2015, Canada's Ambassador to the DR Congo, Ginette Martin, visited Clinique Papillon in Lubumbashi, much to the delight of the staff and patients.

Ms. Martin shared... "I must say I was very impressed by the condition of the clinic – its cleanliness, its lay-out and its use of technology, but most notably by the strong commitment of the staff and their very obvious respect for their clientele. Truly an impressive accomplishment that made me proud of both the Canadian link and the strong partnership with the Congolese community and staff. I have said throughout my diplomatic career that the true ambassadors of Canada are the many Canadian individual volunteers and non-profit organizations who create such strong linkages throughout the world and the Papillon Clinique certainly proved an excellent example of this. I promised that upon my next visit to Lubumbashi I would visit the school that International Needs is sponsoring, and look forward to doing so." Ginette Martin, Canadian Ambassador to the DR Congo.

