

THE LINK Newsletter

FALL 2016

PLANNED
GIVING

MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH in Guatemala



Improving Maternal and Child Health in Guatemala

International Needs Canada is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Central American country of Guatemala. In association with CAUSE Canada, International Needs will be working to reduce preventable maternal and child deaths in the rural communities of Todos Santos and Comitancillo, by improving health services for 53,900 pregnant and nursing mothers and their babies.

Guatemala has the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world and the highest rate of child and maternal mortality in Latin America, especially in the Western Highlands which is vulnerable to natural disasters and drought. **Many of the maternal and child deaths that occur are preventable with basic health education, improved nutrition and better access to health services.** Malnutrition is often part of a vicious cycle that includes poverty and disease.

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A malnourished child gets sick more often, doesn't do as well in school and can become physically and mentally stunted. This will also cause problems during pregnancy and childbirth and keeps communities trapped in the cycle of poverty.



The **IMPACT Program** will provide nursing workshops and encourage mothers to breastfeed.

The program will also promote good nutrition and raise awareness of pregnancy-related health risks, so vulnerable women are empowered to make sound decisions about health.

Highly skilled physicians who specialize in neo-and perinatal care, will train the midwives through our **Midwife Training Program**. The midwives will then be able to recognize and handle high-risk pregnancies and deliveries, greatly reducing the needless deaths of mothers and babies.

"We're thankful that a group of passionate doctors, leaders and pioneers in their fields are working with International Needs Canada with the hope of greatly reducing preventable maternal, fetal and newborn deaths in Guatemala."
Ingrid Figueroa, Program Manager, Guatemala

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS CANADA

DISCOVERY TOUR

Upcoming Discovery Tours

Ghana Discovery Tour	January 21-30, 2017
Bangladesh Discovery Tour	February 10-22, 2017

For more information please contact Corrie Mulder at 905.637.9411 or corrie@internationalneeds.ca

PRAYER CORNER

Items for Prayer

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." John 14:13-14

Please pray for our new partnership in Guatemala. Pray that God will guide us as we seek to reduce preventable maternal and child deaths in the communities of Todos Santos and Comitancillo.

Planned Giving

International Needs Canada is now offering Planned Giving to its supporters through Christian Stewardship Services. Celebrating 40 years of trusted service, CSS is able to help our donors discover ways of giving that are tax-smart and beneficial to them and to the charities they support.

There are many ways to engage in planned giving and it can be overwhelming. Please take advantage of our partnership with CSS and receive **free and confidential services.**

NEW
to International Needs Canada

"Working with folks who in their hearts have already decided to give and facilitating for them in a way that benefits both them and our partners is an honor."

Maynard Wiersma, Executive Director of CSS

For more information please visit our website at **www.internationalneeds.ca** and click on Ways to Give, then Planned Giving.

TAKE A LOOK THROUGH OUR GIFT CATALOGUE



<http://ingift.r-resourcecenter.com/GiftCatalogue.aspx>

Items for Praise

"I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High." Psalm 7:17

Praise God for the success of the Poultry Project in Zambia. The poultry barns have been built and 2000 chickens have been bought. This will help enhance food security for the school and in the region as well. **Praise the Lord!**



St. Therese Students Lead the Way

A Special group of students from St. Therese School in Dieppe, New Brunswick, put their compassion into action and raised funds for Ephphata School for the Deaf in Lubumbashi, DR Congo. The grade 4 girls wanted to help children struggling with poverty and decided to concentrate their efforts on the DR Congo in central Africa.

"With the help of our teacher Mme. Beaudin, our classmates, our friends and our families, we made banana bread and bracelets and sold them. Mme. Veronik Gallant and her class sold stress balls and gave us the money for Congo."

the friends excitedly shared.

Through various fundraisers and donations, the girls raised \$790 to help equip Ephphata School with the materials they need to achieve maximum learning in the classroom. Tshinyama Kalosa, Ephphata School's principal, was impressed with the girls' efforts to help students living a world away.

"Their kind gift will help us purchase textbooks and special teaching materials for the deaf. We will also be able to add new books to our poorly stocked library. On behalf of the students and staff at Ephphata School, we send warm greetings and heartfelt thanks to our young Canadian friends."

Thank you Heidi, Pascale, Ayla, Chelsea, Maxim, Eve, Mme Beaudin, Mme Gallant and all the students, friends and family who helped. You're an inspiration to us all!

A Second Chance

Mapesho is 10 years old, the second child in a family of four and she is in fourth grade at ZACTS OVC Primary School. Mapesho lost her father in 2015 and felt like her world came crashing down. When her father was living, she had a happy life even though her father was a charcoal burner and earned very little income. At least the family was assured they would have something to eat in the evening. When Mapesho's father passed away, her mother was mistreated by her in-laws and chased away from the village.

Mapesho shares, *"It was the hardest time of my life. We were far from home and far from school. My mother and I would look for small jobs we could do to get a little money to buy food. Sometimes we went for a day or two without any food. Then the principal at ZACTS School and my former teacher contacted me and encouraged me to come and live with my aunt in the community. Someone had made a request to sponsor me. It was truly a happy day."*

Mapesho returned to school and is so grateful to God and to her sponsor for the opportunity to continue her education. The letters she received from her sponsor also gave her renewed hope. Now, Mapesho does not want to miss any of her classes. Her ambition is to study hard and become a doctor so she can help sick people in her community.

"I'm very thankful to God, my teachers at ZACTS School, and my sponsor for helping me when I needed it most. My future looks brighter."



Healthcare at ZACTS in Zambia

In the spring of 2016, a dedicated team of Canadian doctors, nurses, and support staff visited ZACTS School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in north western Zambia. The team supplied medical care for all the students and staff and held medical clinics in local villages. The clinics ran smoothly and efficiently for 6 consecutive days and were well organized by our Zambian partners. In total, 500 children and 132 adults were seen.

The team identified several medical issues which included malaria and poor dental hygiene. **Although Zambia has made strides in malaria prevention and control in the last five years, malaria still kills more children than any other disease or illness.** The most effective means of preventing malaria is sleeping under a mosquito net. Plans were discussed with the school to provide mosquito nets for all the students.

In order to help improve the students' dental hygiene, toothbrushes were provided with instructions on how to use them. Over 200 bottles of children's vitamins were donated; enough to sustain the entire school for at least 6 months. Vitamins and minerals play an important role in the development of healthy growing bodies.

"We are indeed very grateful to God that the Canadian team was such a blessing to our children, and for many of them it was the first time they were seen by a doctor."

Eddie M. Jibusha, ZACTS Principal

The team commended the teachers and staff at ZACTS School for their hard work in ensuring that girls stay in school. Early pregnancy and marriage are still common in Zambia. The country has one of the highest child marriage rates in the world. **ZACTS continues to encourage girls to remain in school and focus on their education, recognizing that the longer they are in school, the more opportunities they will have in the future.**