

THE LINK

Newsletter

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CELEBRATING SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU,

FOR SHAPING A BETTER TOMORROW

In this special issue of the Link newsletter, you will read updates and stories that bring the true impact of your generosity to life.

A Year of Hope at the Kamlapur Drop-In Centre

The Kamlapur Drop-In Centre in Bangladesh has officially been open for one year! This centre is a special place dedicated to helping children who live and work on the streets around the Kamlapur Railway Station. Thank you for your unwavering support for this program. You've already made a significant impact on the lives of these vulnerable children, and we're thrilled to share some of the milestones that have been reached at the centre over the past year:

- When the centre initially opened, just 3 children were able to read and count. **Today, that number has risen to 15, and program leaders say that 13 are ready to transition into formal education!** It's important to note that these children still work daily and have limited time for studying, so it will take some time for others to reach this level. Nevertheless, we are proud to share that every child can now write their own names.
- The children reside and work at the Kamlapur Rail Station, where they sleep on the ground and use public bathrooms for washing. When the children

began attending the centre, around 20% of them required treatment for scabies. **Today, that number has dropped to just 2%!** The children now have access to medical care, bathing facilities, and the ability to wash their clothes.

- At first, it was challenging for program leaders to determine whether children living and working on the streets would be dedicated to coming to the centre and pursuing education. **There are now 22 children who consistently attend the centre every day!** Because of their dedication to improving their circumstances, the next goal for the centre is to provide them with a place to stay so they can go to school. **Keep an eye out for updates on this exciting development!**



The Impact of Sponsorship



BANGLADESH: Pinky's Promise

Meet Pinky, a sponsored student from Bangladesh. Growing up in a family of five, Pinky's father, a fisherman, grappled with the uncertainty of providing for his family; their meals depended on his ability to successfully fish and sell at the market. Amidst these challenges, Pinky's eldest sister was married off to an older man when she was just 13 years old.

Thanks to the sponsorship support that came her way, Pinky's tomorrow holds a different story. Currently in the 8th grade, she dreams of going to university after she graduates and becoming a social worker. **Her goal is to take on child marriage in her community and be an advocate for girls just like her sister.**

NEPAL: Paying it Forward

Meet Philemon, who started receiving sponsorship from International Needs Nepal in 1995. Thanks to this support, he completed his secondary school education in 2005 and went on to pursue higher studies in Kathmandu. After graduating, Philemon worked as an administrative and finance officer with the Group of Helping Hands in Nepal from 2012 to 2022, gaining valuable experience along the way. **In 2023, he proudly joined the team at International Needs Nepal as the new administrative and finance officer, ready to give back and make a difference.** Sponsorship creates so many opportunities for bright young minds like Philemon, allowing them to carve out a promising future and give back to their communities.



Supporter Spotlight: How Two Men Turned their Passion into Purpose



In 2022, Czech cyclist Richard Gasperotti and South African artist Werner Bronkhorst teamed up to turn their passions into a life-changing project.

Gasperotti embarked on a remarkable ride down three volcanoes in Guatemala, collecting ash as he went. After completing the ride, he sent the collected ash to Bronkhorst, who used the ash to create a stunning painting. Titled "From the Ashes", this one-of-a-kind piece was to be auctioned through the Mondraker bike brand, with all proceeds from the auction going to a charitable cause.

Ingrid Figueroa, program director in Guatemala, caught wind of this exciting initiative through her daughter, María Renée, a professional biker herself and part of the team that lead Gasperotti on his adventure. María Renée connected with the auction organizers to share details about "Survive and Thrive," our program that aims to save



the lives of mothers and babies and prepare children to learn and thrive in life.

We are thrilled to announce that "Survive and Thrive" was chosen as the beneficiary of the auction's proceeds! Through the collective generosity of many, nearly \$3,000 was raised for the program.



We love that this story highlights how creativity, collaboration, and commitment can lead to incredible positive change. **If you would like to be involved in a unique and enriching experience yourself, we invite you to get in touch with us!** We'd be delighted to help you in launching your own creative project that makes a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Seeds of Success

Zambia

In late 2022, International Needs Zambia launched a Women's Co-op Pilot Project. The goal of this project was to empower 10 women whose children attend the ZACTS School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. They received training in maize cultivation and running farming businesses. Now, they have maize for their families, earn income, and have improved their financial management skills.

Because of the pilot project's great success, ZACTS will soon launch a new Women's Co-op Project that will benefit 50 women! This time, the project will encompass several opportunities: 17 women will focus on maize production, 16 will be involved in raising chickens, and 17 will grow cabbages, tomatoes, onions, and potatoes. The broader scope aims to provide a range of income-generating options for the women and create an even more sustainable and well-rounded initiative.



We would like to give a special thanks to the group of donors who are fully funding this project! Your support will make a significant and positive difference, not only for the women involved but also for their families and the entire community.



Meet Mary, a member of the original Women's Agricultural Co-op in Zambia. Recently, the women in the cooperative finished bagging the harvested maize and also planted new crops of winter maize. Mary's hard work paid off, yielding 21 bags. She plans to set aside 4 bags for her family's consumption, allocate some to the ZACTS School kitchen, and sell the rest at the market. This couldn't have come at a better time because Mary has just welcomed a baby boy into her family! **She's overjoyed because now she has enough food to feed her loved ones and some extra income in her account, which will help cover various necessities for her children.** With gratitude in her heart, she prays for blessings upon those who have provided her with this invaluable support!

Baskets of Love

Looking for Christmas gifts for you friends and family?

This year, consider giving a Basket of Love in the name of your loved ones, and let them know that they're making a difference in the lives of women and children around the world! To place your order and request gift cards for Christmas morning, call 1.888.702.9805 and ask for Adriana, or check out the gift catalogue on our website at www.internationalneeds.ca.



Upcoming Discovery Tour September 2024

Corrie Mulder, our Director of Operations, welcomes you to join her on a Discovery Tour to Africa! During this tour, you'll have the opportunity to explore some amazing sites and gain a unique insight into the lives of the families and children supported by International Needs and its partners.

The purpose of this trip is to introduce you to another side of Africa. You'll be visiting the ZACTS School in Zambia and the Bella Ciao Safe House in Kenya. This is truly one of the most powerful aspects of the trip – meeting the people right in the heart of their homes,



schools, and communities. Along with this, you'll go on some incredible adventures, including a Kenyan safari, a river safari on the Zambezi River, and a visit to Zambia's Victoria Falls. For more details send an email to Corrie at corrie@internationalneeds.ca.



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Praise & Prayer Corner

Praise: We're thankful to have so many donors and fundraisers who are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Prayer: Please pray for our partners in Bangladesh as the country is currently experiencing a rise in cases of dengue fever.