

# THE LINK

Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter published  
by International Needs Canada

WINTER 2024

REACHING

**NEW HEIGHTS,**

SPREADING **JOY** AND

**CHANGING LIVES**



international needs  
transformed lives, changed communities

[www.internationalneeds.ca](http://www.internationalneeds.ca)



# Looking Ahead at Bella Ciao

The Bella Ciao Safe House and Drop-In Centre in Kawangware Slum, Kenya, has been a source of hope for vulnerable children since its establishment, providing education, healthy meals, mentorship, psychosocial support, and hygiene care. **However, the centre faced a new challenge this year with its growing success; as its positive reputation spread in the community, more children turned to Bella Ciao for support, resulting in a space shortage.** To address this issue, the Bella Ciao leadership team began brainstorming solutions and devised a clever one – to expand upward!

**Thanks to funds from a generous donor and the assistance of volunteers from the Moncton Wesleyan Church, Bella Ciao successfully added an upper level to one of their buildings!** This new space is now a well-equipped office that has boosted efficiency, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose. Meanwhile, the lower level, previously used as the office, has been transformed into a beautiful playroom and counselling area.

It is exciting to see the positive impact of this project and how **with your help, Bella Ciao will continue to grow in the future.** The centre is always grateful to receive support, whether that be with a one-time gift,

monthly donation, or through child sponsorship. With all the new children seeking support at Bella Ciao, your generosity will make a significant impact, and help to expand the centre even further!



# Christmas Celebrations

**On December 15th, our partners in Kibera Slum, Kenya, hosted a Christmas party for more than 600 children! The whole day was a whirlwind of joy, love, and holiday cheer.** They started off with a hearty breakfast, and then all the children gathered to hear the Christmas story and learn what the season is really about. There was singing, dancing, performances, and even some poetry reading.

After all the festivities, it was time for a big lunch feast with pilau rice, stew, chapatti, salad, fruits, and the grand finale — cake! To finish the day, every family left with a food hamper to make sure they had enough to eat over the Christmas break.



**Meanwhile in Bangladesh, on December 20th, a special Christmas dinner took place at the Savar Children's Village!** A total of 213 girls and 30 staff members participated in a feast that included pilau rice, mixed vegetables, lentils with mutton, chicken, and sweet curd. To add to the festive cheer, all the girls received new sweaters to keep warm during the winter months!



**Thank you to all donors who supported Christmas celebrations and gift-giving in 2023, not just in Kibera and Savar, but in Limuru and Bethany too.**

Some supporters even chose to fund these celebrations instead of exchanging gifts among themselves—an incredibly generous gesture that captures the true spirit of the season.

The children and their families enjoyed every moment of the festivities and will cherish

these memories in their hearts for years to come.



# Promoting Health and Nutrition in Ghana



In November 2023, a team from Canada embarked on a medical trip to Ghana! As part of this initiative, a nutrition program was introduced at two schools run by International Needs Ghana. The team diligently collected data while providing nutritional medicines and supplements. **This program, spanning two years, aims to enhance our understanding of the community's nutrition challenges, offer support to families in critical need, and educate the community on the importance of a balanced diet for good health.**



On top of this, the team delivered medical care to a vulnerable community recently affected by heavy floods. The team addressed various health issues, including malnutrition, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, hypertension, maternal and child health concerns, and skin infections.

**Thank you to all that joined us on this medical trip, and to everyone who helped fund the purchase of medical supplies!** In total, 1641 people were treated: 134 men, 487 women, 474 boys, and 546 girls. Your support made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we were able to assist.



Participants in Ghana's Group Empowerment program are actively promoting good health too! Recently, hundreds of students completed a 12km health walk in the community. The walk served not only as exercise but also as an opportunity to share important messages. They carried signs, played instruments, and even danced along the way! After the walk, the students participated in aerobics sessions and were served lots of water and fruits. **This blend of physical activity, community engagement, and health education created a lively atmosphere of learning and fun!** One student shared, "I never knew I could walk so far! The walk and exercise made me feel really strong, and the whole day made me and my friends feel energized!"

# A Family's Journey

Meet Annie and Rachel Milanzi, two young women from a small rural community in Muzabula, Zambia. Their lives took a devastating turn when their father suddenly passed away during their high school years, leaving their previously stay-at-home mom, Maggie, to navigate supporting them through school on her own.

During this challenging time, International Needs Zambia stepped in to help the family. **Not only did they assist Maggie in securing employment, but they also found sponsors to ensure Annie and Rachel could continue their education.**

The impact of these sponsors on the sisters' lives was profound. Struggling in school after their father's death, Annie and Rachel received unwavering support, encouragement, and kind words from their sponsors. **This support extended beyond high school, enabling both sisters to pursue and complete nursing diplomas at university!**

the students' health and wellbeing. **And there's more good news to share: Annie recently got married!** Some staff from the ZACTS School attended the celebration, thrilled to be part of such a special day.



After completing their studies, Annie and Rachel returned to Muzabula, eager to apply their newfound skills to benefit their community. They've even made trips back to their former school, ZACTS, leading educational sessions on important health topics and organizing medical day clinics to support

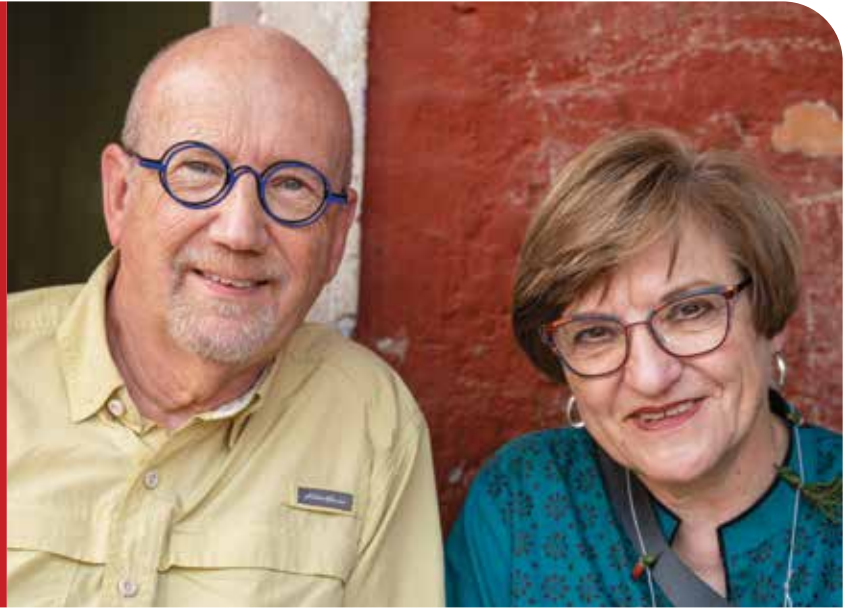
We're so pleased to see the journey these wonderful ladies have taken over the years! If you've been considering child sponsorship, we'd love to match you with a child or children in need of support. **There are many children out there, just like Annie and Rachel, who simply need a helping hand to positively change in their lives.** Reach out to us at 905-

389-1118 or drop us an email at [info@internationalneeds.ca](mailto:info@internationalneeds.ca) to learn more and take that first step today!



## Join us in Welcoming Hans to the Team

Meet Hans, the newest member of the International Needs Canada team! Many of you might already know Hans—he's married to Corrie, our Director of Operations. Hans has been lending his support in an unofficial role for years—building connections, guiding Discovery Tour teams, and capturing beautiful photos along the way. Now, we're thrilled to officially introduce Hans as our Development Associate at International Needs Canada. Welcome aboard!



## Christian Stewardship Services' Winter Webinars

We're pleased to share that our partners at Christian Stewardship Services (CSS) will be hosting another series of webinars this winter! Running until March 21st, CSS will guide participants through sessions that explore topics like:

- Including charity in your will
- Donating life insurance
- Insights on joint accounts and probate
- Choosing an Executor and Power of Attorney
- Cryptocurrency donations and estate planning

To register for one or more of these sessions, simply visit [www.csservices.ca](http://www.csservices.ca) and click on the "Winter Conversation Series" link. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@internationalneeds.ca](mailto:info@internationalneeds.ca). We hope to see you there!



1-800-267-8890 • [www.csservices.ca](http://www.csservices.ca)

### Praise & Prayer Corner

#### Praise

We're happy to see so many new programs and projects gaining momentum, getting back on track after the pause caused by the pandemic.

#### Prayer

Please keep our friends in the DR Congo in your prayers as they were recently affected by a powerful storm, causing considerable damage.