

THE LINK

Newsletter

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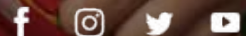
BECAUSE YOU CARE:

Your Generosity at Work

1975
CELEBRATING 50
YEARS OF CHANGE
2025

 international needs
transformed lives, changed communities

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Building Hope: A New Chapter for Savar Children's Village

On the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, stands a school and shelter called the Savar Children's Village. **The school was established over 40 years ago and has grown from supporting 80 children to becoming a sanctuary for 250 girls at risk of child marriage, exploitation, and abuse.**

Time and Bangladesh's unforgiving climate have taken their toll on the school. Despite ongoing maintenance efforts, assessments now indicate that renovation is no longer sufficient – the buildings must be completely rebuilt to ensure long-term sustainability.

While initially discouraging, this challenge presents an opportunity. The new design envisions a multi-story dormitory that will double the school's capacity, allowing Savar to extend its protective embrace to 500 girls. This vertical expansion optimizes the school's limited space and provides additional areas for learning and growth.

The transformation will unfold over several years, but the immediate focus is on Phase One: laying foundations and constructing the new dormitory. **This initial step is crucial in creating an environment where girls will thrive and feel secure.** Once complete, the next phases of the project, new classrooms and a dining hall, will be presented.

Every brick laid and beam raised will represent another girl given the opportunity to shape her own future. Will you join us in laying the cornerstone of this transformative project?



Blessed Visit: Mac and Henrietta's Journey to Canada



For three weeks, Mac and Henrietta Adhikary from International Needs Bangladesh visited Canada, providing a meaningful opportunity to connect with donors and share updates on new initiatives in Bangladesh.

One highlight of their trip was visiting a fifth-grade class at a school in Ontario. Mac and Henrietta spoke about the harsh realities faced by children in Bangladesh, where extreme poverty exposes them to risks like trafficking and child labour.

Inspired to action, the students launched their own fundraising initiative, taking on extra chores to support children at the Kamlapur Drop-In Centre in Bangladesh. They also created Christmas cards for the centre's children, which Mac and Henrietta delivered on their return – building bridges of compassion between young people across the globe.

The visit concluded on a high note as Mac and Henrietta attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of International Needs. Mac delivered a powerful message during this special

milestone event, commemorating five decades of transforming lives and changing communities worldwide. It was an unforgettable evening shared with many supporters and friends.



Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating this milestone, and a special thanks to Mac and Henrietta for their visit.

A New Beginning: Baby Moses Finds His Family

In early 2024, a baby boy barely three months old was abandoned at a daycare in Kenya. After two weeks with no sign of his parents' return, the daycare owner reported the case to the police, leading child services to place the boy at Bella Ciao Safe House. With no information about his origins, the staff lovingly named him Moses.



As Moses settled in, a remarkable connection began to form. Ashley, the manager of Nairobi's Organic Farmers Market and a local partner, was deeply touched by his story. During her regular produce deliveries to Bella Ciao, she started visiting Moses, and it soon grew into a strong bond.

As her connection with him deepened, Ashley started considering a more permanent role in his life. She explored fostering him if efforts to locate his biological family proved unsuccessful. During this time, Ashley brought her daughter, Lisa, to the safe house, allowing her and Moses to form a relationship and giving him a glimpse of family life.

When six months passed without any leads on Moses's family, Ashley began the formal process to foster him, and today, he is thriving in his new home. Moses has been embraced by a family devoted to giving him not just a place to live, but the love, security, and opportunities every child deserves.

Thank you to everyone who supports Bella Ciao and helps keep their vital work going strong. Your generosity creates connections like this, transforming lives every single day.



Years of Progress: Health and Nutrition at ZACTS School

This past October, a team of 17 healthcare professionals and support staff made the long journey to ZACTS School for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Zambia. Over the course of their visit, they provided vital care to more than 1,000 children and families from ZACTS School and nearby villages. Their efforts included treating illnesses and injuries and distributing much-needed items like medications, vitamins, toothbrushes, and eyeglasses.

Several team members who had participated in past medical trips noted a remarkable transformation: once-prevalent signs of malnutrition among children had diminished dramatically! The children at ZACTS now appear healthier and more vibrant, thanks to improvements within the community. Clean water access, parental empowerment programs, the school's agricultural initiatives enhancing nutrition in school meals, and education on healthy eating have all contributed to this remarkable change.

The next step for ZACTS is building a clinic right on the school's property, eliminating the 7km journey families from the community currently make for medical care. This addition will be another meaningful stride forward for the community's wellbeing.



By the end of the week, after visits to the families in the village, several participants chose to sponsor children, offering them a brighter and more hopeful future. **Thank you to the volunteers who generously dedicated their time, expertise, and resources to support the children and families at ZACTS!**



A Circle of Impact: Fighting Malnutrition in Ghana

In November, a dedicated team of 10 Canadians traveled to the Volta Region of Ghana to collaborate with local doctors and teachers in addressing malnutrition among schoolchildren. Together, they conducted health checkups, distributed nutritional supplements, provided guidance on enhancing school meal programs, and monitored the progress of children and families supported during previous medical outreaches.

One of the schools visited was Bubiashie, where Festus Addei, International Needs Canada's Director of Projects and Programs, had once served as a teacher! From 2002 to 2006, Festus taught fourth grade English, Math, Science, Life Skills, Ghanaian Language, Religious and Moral Education, and Physical Education. His return was a full-circle moment, as he was recognized by some of the teachers and parents from his time there.



The trip was a resounding success, bringing meaningful support and measurable impact to the community. **Thank you to everyone who joined us on this trip and to all who contributed to the fundraising efforts that made it possible!**

Important Update:



Moving Appeals to Email

In 2025, we will be sending all appeals straight to your inbox rather than your mailbox. This change will allow us to respond more quickly to urgent needs, reduce our environmental footprint, and direct more of your generous donations directly to the programs and projects.

But don't worry - you'll still receive our newsletters, annual report, and gift catalogue in your mailbox as usual. We value these tangible connections with our community.

Not sure if we have your current email? Please reach out to us by phone at 1-905-389-1118 or by email at office@internationalneeds.ca to ensure you don't miss any important appeals.

Praise & Prayer Corner

Prayer: Please pray for Mac and his team in Bangladesh as they prepare for the Savar Building Project and wait for government approvals and permits.

Praise: We are thankful for Nancy Bolton and Women Making a Difference for raising \$470 through a Victorian Christmas potluck to support the Avakpedome WASH Project in Ghana!