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World Vision 

# childview

WORLD VISION CANADA | THE MAGAZINE FOR CHILD SPONSORS

SUMMER 2015

## Next Comes Now



## FROM THE PRESIDENT |



# ONWARD AND UPWARD

### PRAYER POINT

We pray for continued improvement and effectiveness in how we engage with children and families in their communities. We also pray that as communities graduate to independence, their success and achievements grow in the many years ahead.

**FOR THE PAST 19 YEARS** I have had a dream job—one that touches my deepest values. I have been part of an organization that is profoundly motivated by Christian faith to make a difference in the lives of children and families around the world. And I've had the wonderful opportunity to represent you, as a World Vision supporter, in our shared concern for the well-being of children.

The passion to make a difference is still strong in my heart, but as I begin my retirement June 1, my journey as the president of World Vision Canada is coming to its completion. It's time for another person with the same passion to work alongside you to change the lives of children.

I am delighted to introduce you to World Vision Canada's next president and CEO, Michael Messenger.

Like me, Michael is committed to World Vision's mission. In fact, he's shown that commitment since he first started working with us back

in 1990, when, as a fresh university grad, he was hired as an intern. Michael has gained a wealth of experience since then, both inside and outside our organization. Since 2010, he's been our executive vice president, working very closely with me to lead the organization. He's passionate about the well-being of children. He's a dedicated follower of Jesus. And he's committed to working inclusively with Canadians across this country.

As you get to know him, I know you'll find Michael to be a fervent and trusted advocate. He's keen to hear from you, and to work with you in bringing transformation to the lives of children. And at a time when there is so much change and innovation in our world, Michael has the leadership experience, the curiosity and the creative mindset to find new ways to make our shared work even more effective for kids.

I'm looking forward to seeing the amazing ways Michael and the rest of the team move forward. I'll be praying for God's blessing as they continue to pursue life and bright futures for children. I will continue to be engaged in issues that make a difference for children.

Thank you for making my World Vision work so special. You have been a constant encouragement, and with your support, we've accomplished so much together. Keep Michael in your prayers and watch for exciting things in the days ahead!

**Dave Toyen, President**

## masthead

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## who we are

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. As followers of Jesus, we are motivated by God's love to serve all people regardless of race, religion, gender or ethnicity.

### ON THE COVER

Eliana, 18, at her home in the Ventanilla community in Peru. Photography by Paul Bettings

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## MEET MICHAEL MESSENGER

*A chat with World Vision Canada's incoming president*  
Interview by DEBORAH WOLFE | Photography by MICHELLE SIU

**On June 1, you become president of World Vision Canada. Do you feel a sense of calling?** Yes. In some ways, my vocational journey started when I was very young. My parents were amazing role models of putting Christian faith into action. That became part of my DNA. Those life experiences from childhood, combined with the gifts God has given me, have been critical in my sense of calling to this work, coming alongside children and families who suffer poverty and injustice. I'm humbled, but incredibly excited to take on this role.



Michael with Rona (left) and Virgie in the Philippines in 2013 after Typhoon Haiyan.

**What's it like to be the next president after Dave Toyen?** Dave has an incredible legacy of leadership that I want to build on. As I've thought and prayed about my role, I've asked, "What can my unique gifts bring that will have a lasting impact on kids' lives?" I definitely won't be deciding that by myself. I want to hear from many people, including the children we work with, our donors and our staff about how best to approach the future together.

### Quick Asides

**BORN** Moncton, N.B.

**FAMILY** Michael and his wife, Yvonne, have two high school-aged children, Aidan and Annie. They live in Oakville, Ont.

**SCHOOL** Undergraduate degree in economics from Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., and a law degree from the University of Toronto.

**TRAINING** For the Vancouver Marathon this month (took place as *Childview* went to press).

**READING** *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman and *Love Does* by Bob Goff.

**WATCHING** *The Amazing Race*, *The Good Wife* and a "secret fan" of *The Walking Dead*.

**BAKING** Fruit pie, especially strawberry rhubarb. "If there's pie in the house, I'll have it for breakfast—when you add ice cream, it pretty much covers all the food groups!"



Michael and family.

#### Who inspires you?

I'm inspired by so many people. Jesus modelled care for children so well. He dropped what he was doing to sit down and talk with children. What a great reminder never to let my own agenda get in the way of what's truly important. Our World Vision field staff who work directly with sponsored children inspire me with their generous and joyful lives. The children we work with are so thirsty for change. They inspire because they're resilient and passionate and ready to seize life with both hands if they just get a chance. My family sponsors 10 children, and it's wonderful to play a role in giving them the chance to dream bigger dreams. Closer to home, my wife, Yvonne, is an inspiration. She's a literacy specialist in our school board and her work, especially when she's helping at-risk kids, is literally changing their lives. I learn from her every day.

#### What amazes you most about children?

Their incredible potential and their resilience. I visited the Philippines 18 months ago, right after Typhoon Haiyan tore up huge parts of the country. It wiped out nearly a decade of development work from a physical perspective. But I came across one of World Vision's child-friendly spaces, where kids came together to play and just be kids. They were singing, playing and laughing. It reminded me that development work through child sponsorship is not just about buildings—it's about building and transforming communities. On that trip, some teenagers said to me, "Don't worry. We haven't given up hope. We can rebuild because we have a community around us. We've survived, and we'll keep surviving." ☑

INTERVIEW HAS BEEN CONDENSED AND EDITED.

# UpFRONT

NEWS,  
FACTS  
& IDEAS

Lester (left) plays with his older half-brother, Selvin, in Honduras.



## IN FOCUS

*“Child’s play” is more than a saying—promoting it is part of World Vision’s community programs. Here, kids have some fun with their friends*



FROM LEFT: This team of teen volleyball players from Cambodia started with World Vision’s support in 2013. Children like to hang around the new playground in the Kapan community in Armenia. The Asodesi’s Angels sports club of Colombia is made up of 70 children, with ages ranging from seven to 14.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LAURA REINHARDT, CHEYRITH UN, NUNE HAYRAPETYAN, ASTRID ZACIPA; OPPOSITE: PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAWNA MACKELLAR



## sponsorship highlight /

# A SUMMER HOLIDAY LIKE NO OTHER

*Shawna Mackellar and her two sons travel to the Dominican Republic and make their sponsorship much more real*

by DEBORAH WOLFE

**THE TROPICAL STORM** in the Dominican Republic grew angrier by the hour. Ontario mom Shawna Mackellar and her two young sons hunkered down in their resort, playing checkers with the hotel staff. As the wind howled outside and the rain pounded down on the roof, seven-year-old Chayce turned to his mother in concern.

"He was worried about Maria, the little girl we sponsor," explains Shawna. "We had just come back from spending the day with Maria in her village. Chayce had noticed the fragile homes, some with dilapidated roofs. He wanted to know how the families there could possibly stay safe in the storm."

It's not the kind of question Chayce

would have asked a week earlier. He and five-year-old brother Grayson had seen natural disasters in the news, but hadn't connected them to real-life people. Visiting Maria's village changed that.

"It was such an amazing experience," says Shawna. "We recognized Maria right away. We met her family, visited her school—and even taught her to play checkers!"

Shawna had waited a long time for this day. She had wanted her boys to be old enough to benefit from visiting a developing country; she also wanted them to actively fundraise. The boys helped organize a garage sale, bake sale and lemonade stand, and watered plants at a garden centre while the owners



Left: Shawna with her sponsored child, Maria. Above: Her sons set up a lemonade stand to fundraise for their trip.

were away. The family's vacation savings paid for the flights and low-season resort costs, but it was the boys' hard work that funded the van travel to and from Maria's village.

"As a single mom, I'm very aware that it's up to me to do everything I can to build my boys' character and to teach them how God wants us to live," shares Shawna. "The more they experience at an early age, the more they have to draw on in later years." As experiences go, this one was unforgettable.

"They played baseball with Maria and her little brother, who was incredible with a glove," recalls Shawna. "We walked around the children's school, seeing the different classrooms for different grades. There was a computer lab, a computer training class and an engineering class for the parents, so they can earn more money to support their children. It's so humbling to think we've been a part of all this."

Equally amazing were Maria's words when it was time to say goodbye. "She said, 'I loved you before for sponsoring me and making a difference,'" says Shawna. "But now that I've met you, I really, really love you."

When Shawna and her boys climbed into the van at day's end, they were different people from when they'd arrived. When the tropical storm hit that night, their response reflected the difference. The little girl whose photo hangs above their craft table back in Courtice, Ont., was a real, dear friend. □



Learn about visiting your sponsored child at [worldvision.ca/ambassador](http://worldvision.ca/ambassador)

Steve and Karla show the letter and photo from Jhonny.



**special gift /**

## WHY I SENT MY SPONSORED CHILD A SPECIAL GIFT

*Karla Szauter from London, Ont., talks about writing letters and sending gifts to her sponsored boy in Peru*

**WE USE WORLD VISION'S WEBSITE TO SEND OUR SPONSORED CHILD,** Jhonny, emails. I find that's much easier than sending a letter by mail to his Alto Chicama community in Peru. My husband and I have actually had quite a few letters from Jhonny and his family members. That's been nice. And it's funny—Jhonny says little things in his letters sometimes that remind us of ourselves. He loves soccer, which my husband and I love, too. He likes math, which was my favourite subject in school. We'd also like to visit Jhonny. (I already have my Frommer's Peru book!)

Before we started sponsoring Jhonny, who's eight, my husband and I had sent a special gift to our previous sponsored child. We decided we would send one to Jhonny, too. After we sent the gift, we got a letter and a picture to show what his family was able to get with the gift. We have the photo on the fridge right now. He's got a great big smile on his face. He's standing in front of a little wooden bed with some new shoes and new clothes, which were bought with the gift.

The thing for me is that the gift is tangible. Knowing that Jhonny now has a little bed to sleep on and isn't sleeping on the floor means a lot to us. For other sponsors thinking about sending a special gift, I would say, "Don't hesitate." You don't have to worry that the money is just disappearing. You will actually see how the gift helps. **AS TOLD TO MICHAEL CZOBIT**

**sam says /**

## TALK WITHOUT TECH

*You don't need a smartphone to stay in touch | by SAMANTHA VOLPÉ*

I REALLY LIKE MY GADGETS, especially my phone and my laptop. I love using social media to keep in touch with friends and make plans. I also like to keep up with my favourite celebrities. I'm not sure they like being stalked as much as I enjoy keeping track of their glamorous lives, but it's another entertaining way to stay connected. I know I'm very lucky to have the technology that makes all of this possible.

Chana, the teenager we sponsor in Africa, doesn't have a smartphone so we communicate the old-fashioned way: ink to paper, letter to mailbox. I like breaking out of my high-tech comfort zone to write an actual letter because I want Chana to know



I care. I still type it on my laptop because it's faster than writing by hand and a lot easier to read! I put more thought into the letters I write to Chana than the texts and emails

I send to friends. My reward comes when I get a reply in the mail.

It's more than just opening a letter with my name on it. Reading Chana's letters and finding out about her life make me feel we have a connection, even though our lives are very different. The connection I feel with her touches my heart. It's also a good feeling to send a few small gifts I think Chana would enjoy. The gifts we send are small, practical and good for sharing. The kind of items my friends and I might take for granted. But what's really exciting is imagining the smile on Chana's face when the mail finally arrives with something specially for her. **C**

# RUNNERS, RUN WITH US

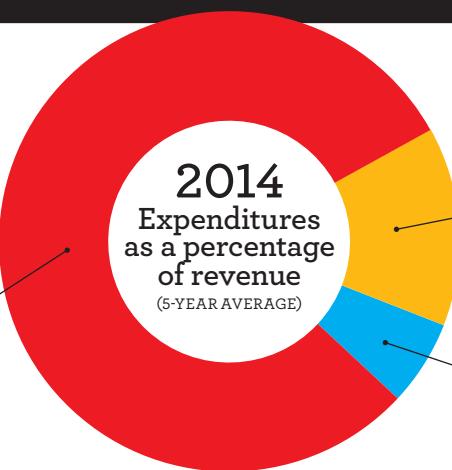
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## FANCY THE WHOLE PIE

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Read our Annual Report and see how you helped at [worldvision.ca/annualreport](http://worldvision.ca/annualreport)

youth /

# STICKING TO IT

*Determined to change the lives of children, youth ambassador Zachary Aubert is a reminder to us all to not give up on our goals | by ALEX NEWMAN*



**ZACHARY AUBERT** still remembers how it happened—how he first learned about sponsorship.

He was 11 years old, in Grade 5, watching the seven-inch TV in his bedroom one night. A commercial beamed onto the screen. It was a World Vision ad that explained how a small monthly donation could change the lives of the poor children he saw on the tube. He was shocked to see their suffering, but encouraged. He knew he could help.

Zach started sponsoring by paying out of his allowance, sometimes resorting to using any extra dollars his grandparents could give. This continued for several years—until Zach, now 18, decided to do more than send money, and increased his involvement in World Vision by applying to become a youth ambassador in 2013.

The one-year role came with responsibilities: create an “impact project” within your community, get the World Vision message out via social media and take up public speaking.

“I’ve always liked the challenge of putting myself out there and taking a risk,” says Zach. While the role was demanding, it also provided invaluable life lessons. Zach organized fundraiser events, cold-called local Edmonton companies for support, and even hit the street to conduct polls about what was known about World Vision at a grassroots level.

Zach’s main event was a coin drive to raise money for clean water projects in Africa. Although 17 other Edmonton high schools he approached declined to participate, his own school principal was enthusiastic.

Initially Zach had advertised through posters put up at school, but changed tactics when those didn’t grab much attention. “You kind of have to be in students’ faces,” he says. So with his grandparents’ help, he came up with the idea to place a notice on every locker in the school. They printed off 1,500 4x4 stickies with a picture on one side and details on the other: Coin Drive, Clean Water for All, homeroom number, and date. The determined teen and his grandparents—with whom he lives—then spent three hours one weekend putting up the stickies.

Zach arrived at school early on the Monday morning to gauge reactions. The students were excited, some run-

ning down the hall pointing to the stickies, others collecting them.

Zach had expected to raise about \$500, but his grandparents thought a more realistic amount might be about \$300. So the amount he actually raised came as a surprise—\$1,227.34, with one science class having contributed \$742 through “science” Jeopardy!—though not as surprising as the additional \$1,000 donated by one of the students’ moms.

Throughout his year as ambassador, Zach regularly posted about World Vision on Facebook, but also organized some in-person events, too. He tapped into junior hockey, using the Edmonton Oil Kings team’s charity program to buy reduced-price tickets and sell them at face value. His sale of over 50 tickets garnered some rewards. Zach got to live his lifelong dream of dropping the puck at centre ice, but more importantly got to see World Vision’s name up on the scoreboard. “It brought back the memory of seeing that first World Vision ad. And I was thinking that maybe nobody would do anything that night, but in a couple of years, a kid might remember back to this night and do something.” And if a kid does do “something,” that kid will be joining Zach by helping improve people’s lives. □



**Zachary (top)** had an eventful year as a World Vision Canada youth ambassador, including going on television (above) and dropping the puck at a charity hockey game (right).



# How to Win at Being a Sports Parent

*Avoid a losing streak with these tips from KAREN STILLER*

## I HAVE NEVER RUN A RACE I DIDN'T LOSE.

This is true, from grade school 100-metre sprints to current-day Sunday School sack races. Close my eyes and I am back in the heat and humiliation of the annual elementary school track meet at Beazley Fields in Dartmouth, N.S.—we didn't have a choice back then it seems—where I would still lose, just in front of more kids from more schools.

This lifelong losing streak may be why my eldest son's house league goalie career was such an excruciating experience—for me. I think he was having fun, but every goal that flew past his butterfly was as a knife to my heart. When he won, I won! When he lost, I lost.

This, fellow sports parents, is a problem.

Sara Dimmerman is a psychologist, author and parenting expert. She offers guidance for confused sports parents like me.

## MOST LIKELY, YOU HAVE THE PROBLEM

"If you're upset about your child not being a superstar," says Dimmerman, "you have to own the problem." Reflection is



the key. "If it's about you feeling they aren't good enough, and they seem to be fine where they are, it's your problem and you need to work on it."

Dimmerman says there are two common extremes. "Parents may be living vicariously through their kids," she says. "Or, they were heavily involved [in sports] and want to pass the baton to their children, whether they want it or not."

Christian tradition includes a spiritual practice called the examen. Basically, it's uncomfortable. You take deliberate time—daily!—to examine your heart, attitude, actions and motivations and invite God to run his redeeming vacuum over your inner mess. Sports parents and their kids would be well served by Mom and Dad conducting regular examens of their motivation behind their kids' lives in sports.

## STOP YELLING AND SCREAMING—EVEN GOOD STUFF

When my youngest son played softball last summer, there was a crowd of very loving moms yelling things like "Way to hold the bat!" and "Way to try!" as the player slouched back to the bench after striking out. It struck me as over the top.

"There is a difference between encouragement and praise," says Dimmerman. She suggests we ask our kids if they find parents yelling at them from the stands a motivating force. "You can go a little overboard," she says. "And it becomes sickening for the kids." Be moderate in encouragement, coaches Dimmerman. Ask your kids: "How do you think you did?" And make your praise, offered at the end of the game, as specific as possible.

## EMBRACE FAILURE AS A WAY TO LEARN, EVEN THOUGH IT STINKS.

My daughter flopped on our bed, full of dread about a swim meet the next day. She had concocted extremely creative reasons why she should not go. She can swim. But her dives are more Mr. Bean than Alexandre Despatie, the former world champion from Quebec. My inner sports failure completely resonated and wanted to let her drop out. Instead, I drove her to the pool at 6:30 the next morning to squeeze in an extra practice. She went to the swim meet. She came in last. And felt good about trying. These moments are "life lessons" and not to be avoided, says Dimmerman. "Support them. Be there afterwards to handle the disappointment. Acknowledge the feelings. Talk about what positive has come out of it."

The bottom line? Win or lose, it's not about you. "Let your child be in the spotlight," says Dimmerman. But being willing to turn the spotlight every now and then on your role, responses and reactions to your child's sporting life can make for a more winning experience for everyone. ☐

A close-up photograph of a red wooden door handle and a brick wall. The door handle is dark red and polished, reflecting some light. The brick wall behind it is made of reddish-brown bricks with visible mortar. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

# NO PAUSE, PRESS FORWARD

As World Vision wraps up in Ventanilla,  
community members continue on the path to success

*By MICHAEL CZOBIT | Photography by PAUL BETTINGS*

Eighteen-year-old Eliana  
in the dining room at her  
home in the Ventanilla  
community in Peru.



# No.1

## Crackling Yuca

### IT'S AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY COLD JULY MORNING IN LIMA, PERU.

Through a space in the ceiling, light shines into the kitchen where 18-year-old Eliana is making breakfast. She's frying yuca that she dipped in a simple egg batter. The carb-rich root crackles in the oil. "I don't have this always," Eliana says. "Sometimes it's scrambled eggs or bread and cheese. Sometimes, I fry cheese." It won't be fried, but it's on the menu: Eliana's mother, Epifania, comes into the kitchen holding a small block of goat cheese. She bought it at an open-air market, so while her daughter attends to the yuca, Epifania rinses the block beneath the tap.

Eight minutes pass as Eliana prepares the main dish. In that time, Epifania has finished with the cheese and has sliced papaya. She asks about the status of the yuca. "Is it ready? Have you finished, my little girl?" Eliana shakes her head no. Outside the small kitchen, near the dining room table, a cat roams. The family has two, neither of which they've named; they've only numbered them.

I'm at Eliana's family's home today to hang out. When I met her the day before, she said she's busy. She attends secretary school and her youth group, and has a part-time job as a nanny and a housecleaner.

But the young lady agreed to squeeze my questions into her schedule.

Later, I ask Eliana's mother about her daughter's name—where she and her husband found it. "We spent nine months looking," she says. "I saw 'Eliana' in a book of names. It's a soft name. We had gone through a lot until we reached Eliana." When I look up the meaning, I read that it derives from Hebrew and literally translates as "My God has answered me."

But now, the only right answer is breakfast. Eliana takes two plates



Eliana's mom, Epifania, a former World Vision volunteer, at the dining table.

of fried yuca to the dining room. On the wall are two calendars, a clock, a poster of Jesus and a framed photo of Mary. Eliana and Epifania sit down, and the daughter says a prayer before they eat: "Thank you for what we have and we pray that we will be supported."

And they have been, by Canadians. Their whole community, Ventanilla, has benefited from the support of child sponsorship since 1998, the year that Eliana registered in the program. My visit comes three months before all of World Vision's activities here are due to wrap up. At that point, Eliana will no longer be sponsored. I've come to meet some of the people World Vision is leaving in charge—the ones who live in the community; the ones who care deeply about continuing its success and growth.

Eliana and Epifania finish breakfast. Voices from outside on the street and the sound of passing motorcycles gently enter the room, a reminder that there's much to get done today. After cleaning up from breakfast, Eliana grabs her chocolate-making tools and her coat, and heads off to the loud market, where she'll buy ingredients to make chocolate later this morning.

# No.2

## A Community in Charge

WHEN I VISIT WORLD VISION'S OFFICE in Ventanilla, a block building at the peak of a high hill, most of the rooms are now unoccupied. Ventanilla's manager, Ronald Llerena, greets me with a smile befitting someone whose community has a list of accomplishments that fits better in a sidebar (see sidebar on page 15). I've never been to a community that is so close to becoming independent. I wonder about the unknowable—the future.

Ronald is confident, because community partners have welcomed and taken up the responsibilities of running the programs that were possible thanks to sponsorship. They're the leaders now, and actually have been for a while. For example, one association has been keeping Ventanilla's "toy libraries" (after-school clubs)



Top row (from left): Eliana starts a fire as Epifanía watches on; Eliana hangs laundry up on her home's roof. Middle (from left): Eliana goes to the market; she places an order for chocolate-making ingredients. Bottom (from left): Eliana inspects a chocolate mould; she prepares to make chocolate.



running without interruption for a year now. What's more, every program World Vision started was designed for sustainability. Community members are equipped to adapt to unexpected events down the road.

And what's happened to the sponsored children? Slowly over the last three years, as Ventanilla's need for financial assistance decreased, so did the number of children being sponsored here. Canadians who were sponsoring in Ventanilla were given the opportunity to continue sponsoring children in other communities. It's a key step in the sponsorship journey and how World Vision continues to reach children, families and communities that are still in need.



**AFTER PURCHASING THE INGREDIENTS** needed, Eliana joins me in the World Vision office. She's decided that the best place to make the chocolate is the kitchen here. Her youth group, Jóvenes Innovando el Cambio (JIC), or "Young Changemakers," has used the space before, and since the World Vision office plans to buy today's batch of chocolate, making it here will cut down on shipping costs (I assume).



**From left:** Eliana fills the chocolate mould; she covers the filling with chocolate.

Helping Eliana is another former sponsored child, 20-year-old Benji, who's also in the JIC. One of the group's activities has been making and selling chocolates. In fact, Eliana first joined the JIC because of her interest in chocolate. Many historians believe that cocoa originated in Peru, which helps explain the pride Eliana and many others in the country have in making something delicious from the bean.

As Eliana and Benji work, they know that time counts: Eliana needs to be finished by noon so she can head to school. Though she's learning to become a secretary, she would prefer to be a chef. After she graduated from high school in 2012, she enrolled in a culinary school,

but she had to drop out because of an illness. She recovered, but wasn't able to return to that school.

I ask Eliana if there is a secret to making chocolate and she answers that it requires dedication. She's considering starting her own chocolate business; Benji might join her in the venture. But for now, she's JIC's head chocolatier. Other members sell the chocolate for a Peruvian sol each (about CAD\$0.38), which earns half-a-sol profit and goes toward funding JIC's activities that focus on advocacy campaigns within both the community and nationally. (Over the last decade, Peru has been one of Latin America's strongest economic performers, but the country's wealth is not shared by all, in sols or in other societal benefits.)

The two finish making the chocolate in good time, and a completely unscientific taste test I conduct hours later reveals that Eliana and Benji really should start their chocolate-making business.

### WHO'S TAKING OVER IN THE Ventanilla Community

-  **A volunteer network** of 250 people
-  **Youth groups**
-  **Churches**
-  **Government ministries** (education, health, women and social development)
-  **Microfinance and banking institutions**



AS I SAID, ELIANA WARNED ME SHE WAS busy, so when I visit her house before dinner on my last night in the community, she's not home, but at her part-time nanny job. Eliana's salary is 300 sols per month (half the minimum salary and about CAD\$116). She works Monday to

Saturday, four hours per day. Though she doesn't mind the work, she hopes that in six months she can start her chocolate business. She is putting half her salary away toward that goal; the other half she gives to her parents for room and board.

I'm not expecting Eliana until much later, which is okay since I came to talk to her mom. Epifania is a 50-year-old house-cleaner and former World Vision volunteer. She's preparing dinner, but takes a break to chat. On the menu is Eliana's favourite: red pasta (ingredients: pasta, tomato sauce, chili and yellow cheese).

Epifania tells me that she and her husband, Carlos, have been married for 27 years. "We have our ups and downs, but we are together." Eliana is the couple's second child. Their first, Graciella, was sponsored for five years, then left for Argentina. Recently she returned to live at home, bringing with her her three-year-old son. "He makes the whole family happy," Epifania says of her grandson.

And how was Eliana growing up? "I cannot complain about Eliana. She's very responsible," Epifania says. "When I was working, I could leave her on her own." Eliana's grades were always good, too, but Epifania says she was shy. "It made me very happy to see her get involved in the [World Vision-supported] workshops."

Eliana told me earlier that in these workshops, she learned about child rights, how to make healthy choices and the qualities of a good leader. She also shook off the shy label through sponsorship. "I am not as timid. I feel more confident when I speak." As well, her friends in the youth group kept her in school, convincing her to not drop out to

work as a waitress.

I turn to the topic of Epifania volunteering for World Vision. "I was motivated because I wanted to help the children," she says. "When you see your child happy, you are happy."

How did World Vision help her family over the years? Epifania says that when she first came to Lima, she was 12 and lived in an area that was all sand and had no sewage system. That was still how it was when World Vision started working in Ventanilla. She remembers how she and Carlos received cement, bricks, sewage pipes and a toilet to build a bathroom at their home. They also received hygiene education. "This is a nice memory," she says. "I will always be thankful to World Vision. The washroom is the thing we first renovated. We replaced hay walls with brick walls in our washroom. Once we had the washroom, we could extend our renovations. We have made our house over eight years."

And what of the sponsors? "I would really like to thank them for many things. They were always sending letters." Not just to her daughters, but also to other children—Epifania knows, because as a volunteer, she delivered letters from sponsors to the children. "It was beautiful to see how excited a child was when she got a letter from her sponsor."

Our conversation comes to a close when Eliana returns home. The rest of her family is already at the table. Eliana takes her seat. Red pasta on everyone's plate. I'm not rushed, but I feel ready to go, to let them catch up on a day's worth of life. And when I leave, I leave convinced they're ready too. ☐



Eliana's family sits to enjoy a red pasta dinner.

## LEADING WITH NUMBERS

in the

# Ventanilla Community

**80 PER CENT OF PEOPLE**  
now have access to safe water  
and sewage services after  
many years of advocacy work  
with the Peruvian government.

**90 PER CENT OF MOTHERS**  
are able to give their young  
children a source of iron at  
least three times a week,  
which has increased health  
and decreased anemia.

**56 YOUTHS HAVE STARTED**  
businesses after receiving  
entrepreneurial training.

**2,000 IS THE MINIMUM**  
number of children and  
youths who have received  
leadership training, helping  
foster social responsibility.

**58 PER CENT OF CHILDREN**  
are now reading at the  
proper level for their age,  
up from 35 per cent.

**15 "TOY LIBRARIES"**  
—safe hangouts for children  
and teens—have been  
established in the community.

**46 LEADERS COMPOSE**  
a network that promotes  
the welfare and protection  
of children.

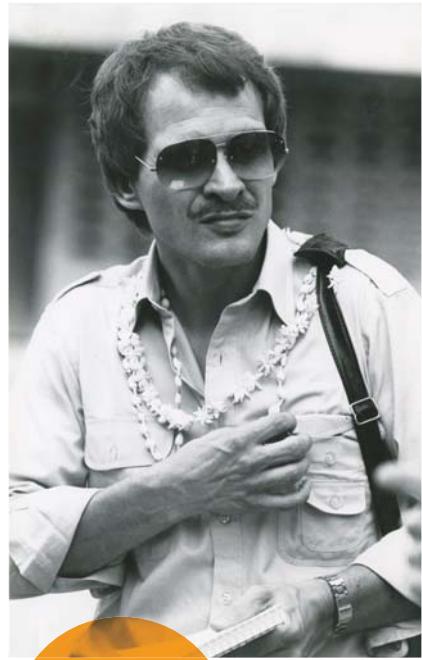
**62 YOUTH GROUPS**  
have been established.

 See more from Eliana's  
community at [wvc.me/Peru](http://wvc.me/Peru)

# THANKS, DAVE!

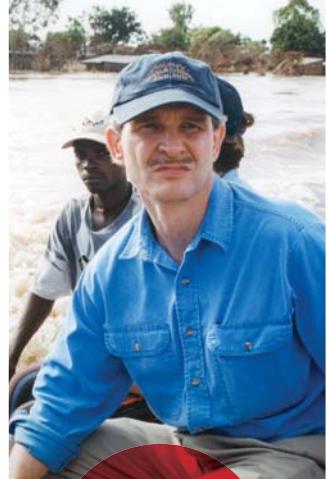
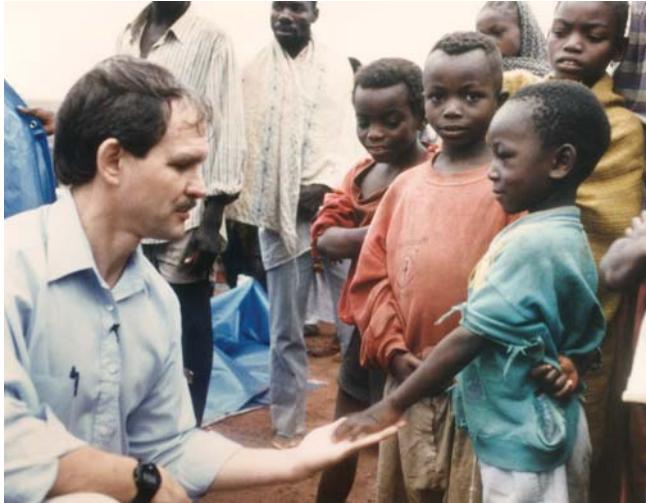
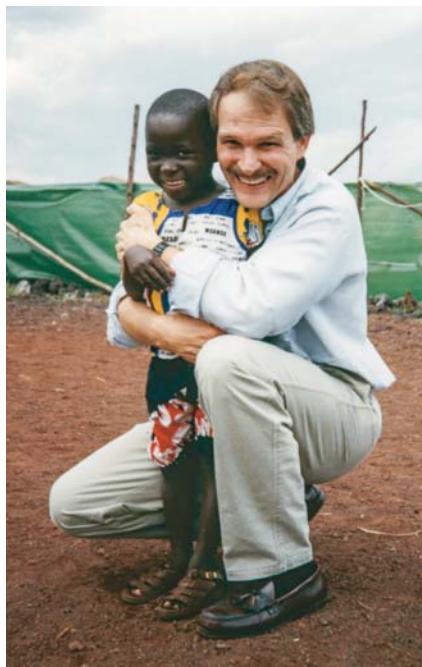
*Celebrating 42 years of dedication and generosity*

In his 42 years at World Vision, Dave Toycen travelled by many modes to lend a helping hand to those in need.



70s

Above: Dave in 1979. Below: Dave with a boy named Gasore in the Congo in 1995.



90s

Below: Dave Toycen and Mayor Hazel McCallion at the opening of World Vision Canada's office in Mississauga, Ont., in 2001.



00s



10s

Opposite page: Some of Dave's notebooks from his travels over his 42 years at World Vision. Right: A portrait of Dave taken in Myanmar.



# A Friendly Face in any Month of the Year

*June Evans is the first person you meet when you visit World Vision Canada's office*

*Interview by MELISSA LEONG*

*Photography by MICHELLE SIU*

**WHEN YOU VISIT** World Vision Canada in Mississauga, Ont., June Evans is the friendly face at the front desk. She also provides the warm voice you hear when you call the switchboard. June is a widow with two sons and five grandchildren. She loves music and dancing, theatre, and nature walks, and has a weakness for high-heeled shoes, all colours.

## I understand the month of June is special to you.

Yes, and not just for the roses and the other wonderful changes in nature. I was born in June and I was baptized with the name June. On my 10th birthday, I arrived in Canada from Belfast, Northern Ireland, with my parents and my one older sister. I also had a June wedding in the 1960s. June holds many celebrations for me and my family.

## How did you come to work at World Vision?

I was moving to Brampton and I was hoping to find a part-time job. While driving one afternoon, I spotted World Vision's building. Led by the Spirit, I quickly pulled into the only available "visitor" parking space. I entered the front lobby, where I was told by the retiring receptionist to apply online. I did. I had an interview and I was hired in July 2004.



## “EVERY DAY IS A BLESSING”

### How has your faith helped you through life's challenges?

My mother was killed in a car accident and my father died 10 years later in his 87th year. It was heartbreaking to no longer have that valuable parental guidance. I came to realize that life is not all beauty, love and kindness. However, the amazing presence and grace of the Holy Spirit gave me great tranquility and joy, and a greater love for all people. When

I was diagnosed with cancer in 1999, I miraculously survived the surgery and treatment, and I knew without a doubt that God had a plan and purpose for my life. Little did I know that I would best serve the Lord at World Vision.

### You must have amazing stories from manning the front desk over the years.

A number of times, visitors have come inside World Vision looking for an optician. It always turns into a humorous situation. Then, of course, I tell them about the great work that is being done here, and quite often, they make a donation.

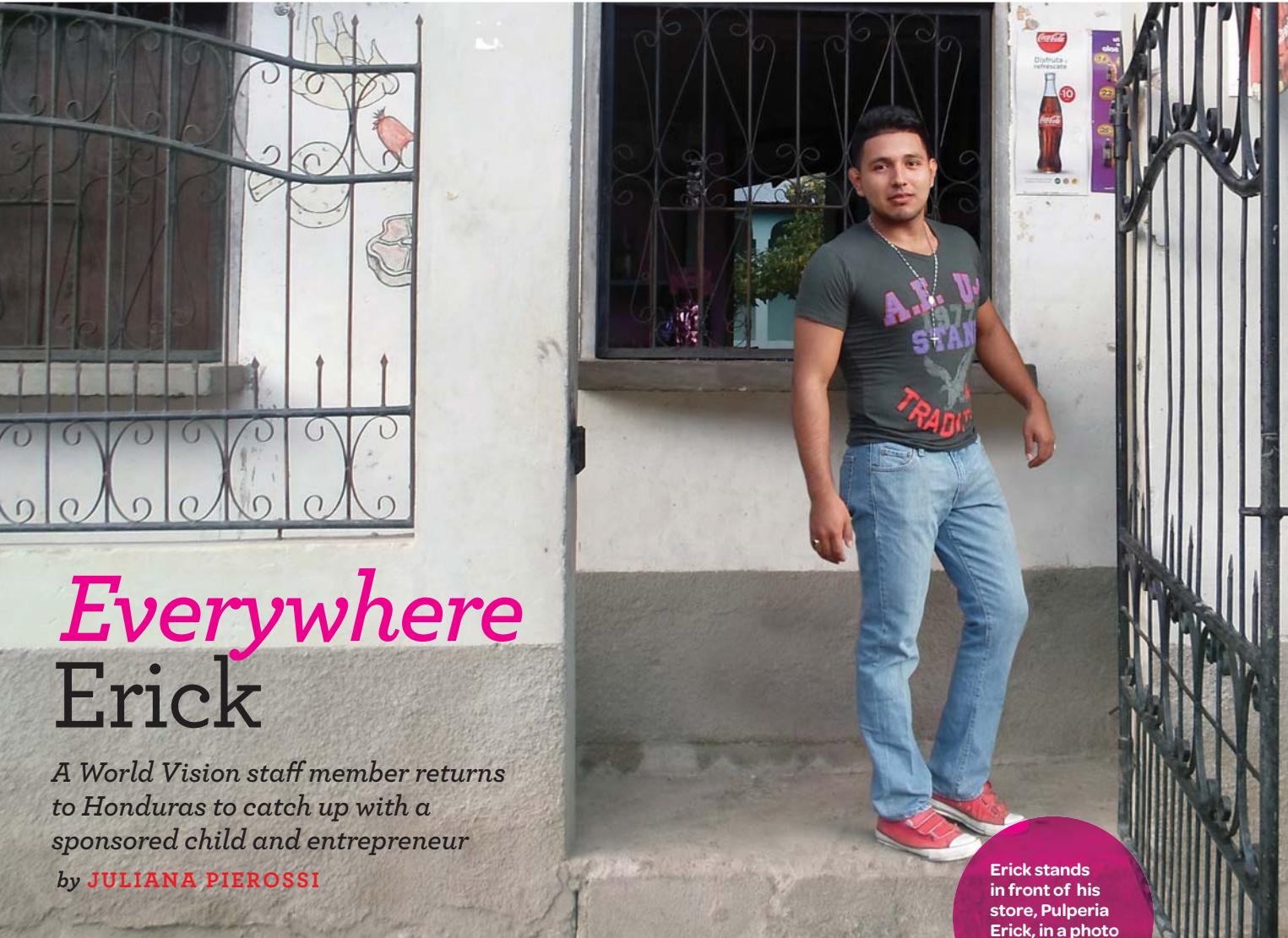
When I think of the thousands of people whom I have connected with over the last 11 years, the number of walk-in donors has been remarkable. I have received personal cheques as large as \$40,000 and individual cash donations in excess of \$800. I specially greet and thank the numerous volunteers who faithfully give their time and talent week after week, and I often pray with them. Every day at reception is a beautiful blessing!

### What are your future plans?

My family and friends sometimes ask when do I plan to retire. I just don't think about it. I'm in excellent health with loads of energy and I delight in opening the switchboard and reception desk five days a week at 8 a.m. I love the people I see every day.

As long as my eyesight and hearing stay intact, and I don't start to drool [laughs], I want to continue serving the Lord at World Vision. **c**





# Everywhere Erick

*A World Vision staff member returns to Honduras to catch up with a sponsored child and entrepreneur*

by JULIANA PIEROSSI

Erick stands in front of his store, Pulperia Erick, in a photo taken earlier this year.

**I**FIRST MET ERICK IN 2008. I was visiting Honduras as a World Vision Canada representative. I had spent the morning hearing local staff present their plans and share stories and statistics of how their work was helping children, their families and the entire community.

Close to lunchtime, we went to visit a community leader, Doña Lucia, who was working with World Vision to monitor children and teach mothers how to cook nutritious meals for their families. World Vision works with many volunteers like Doña Lucia—leaders who work hard to improve the lives of malnourished children. But this lady was special.

She was donating most of her hen's egg production to feed families in need. Doña Lucia put in all the work—feeding and caring for the chicken—but kept little for herself. I was taken aback. By most standards, she was not exactly doing well, and yet she had the will to help others.

When I asked what motivated her, she told me she had a son and, as a single mom, she wanted to set the right example. Doña Lucia was such a strong woman. Her son should be very proud of her, I thought.

As I talked with Doña Lucia, one of the World Vision staff members told me her son was benefiting from another project

that provided business training and loans to local entrepreneurs.

"How old is this boy?" I asked. He was 12, the youngest member of the project.

We crossed the street to a small building with two large windows. Printed above was Pulperia Erick, and sitting quietly on the steps in front was Doña Lucia's son.

I introduced myself to Erick and he invited me inside his convenience store. I quickly surveyed his products. There was food, cookware and personal hygiene products. As we talked, a gentleman came over and placed his order through the window: "Soap, please." Erick promptly responded, as a good businessman should.

The young boy continued to answer my questions: "I started saving when I was six. I collected cans to sell for recycling, and sold plums with salt and pepper, and limes at school. At home we

# Where are they NOW?

always had a lime tree, but my selling strategy was to tell people I bought those limes in the southern part of the country!" He laughed. With those first sales, Erick saved just under US\$211. He used this money to start a small business. "I began selling in the street, small things like hooks, nail polish, lotions and even treats."

"What is that?" I asked, pointing to a certificate I spotted hanging on the wall. He explained it was his official business registration. Doña Lucia had supported her son by taking out two loans with World Vision—one for US\$210; the second, for US\$528. With this money, she built him this small convenience store so he could safely sell his merchandise.

"Erick has always been an entrepreneur. He has big dreams. Since he was very young, he had his goals well defined," said the proud mom. "For me, he is a very special young man with a unique talent for business. Thank God we've managed to legalize his business in order to avoid having problems with the municipality."

Erick told me his business paid him a monthly salary of US\$52, which he used to pay for his studies and help Eloísa, an elderly widow. "Her children left and never come to visit, so she is mostly alone. When I met her, and saw how she was living, it touched me so much I made a commitment to visit her at least once a week," he explained. "I come by to help her in the house. I clean, wash the dishes, take care of the ward. While I am there, I also bring her food, since when I met her she hardly had anything to eat. She is very grateful and I feel happy and satisfied to do this for her—she is one special lady and I love her very much."

"Wow. Why do you do it?" I asked.

"I feel this is part of my responsibility with society and God, because it is thanks to him that I have my business," Erick said.

At that point, a boy came from the house and asked Erick a question about a homework exercise, then quickly returned inside. Erick told me he was tutoring the other boy in math. Even with his business and volunteer work, Erick still found time to attend school. His grades ranged from 92 to 94 per cent, so his teachers had selected him to help other students who had difficulty learning.

I was so impressed. I couldn't wait to come back to Canada and share Erick's

Right: Erick inside his store in 2008. Below: Same setting, but Erick in 2015.



**"I KNOW GOD HAS BROUGHT MY SPONSOR INTO MY LIFE. I'M SO HAPPY SOMEONE HAS CARED FOR ME FROM SO FAR AWAY. I LOVE HER VERY MUCH."**

story, but before I could get all the information, I lost touch with him.

## A REUNION

I AGAIN TRAVELED TO HONDURAS IN MAY OF 2014. On our first day in the field, I immediately recognized the small building with the two large windows: Pulperia Erick. Doña Lucia and I embraced like old friends, and soon Erick arrived to greet us. I must have sounded like a hysterical fan, as I screamed his name and stood to hug him. The now 19-year-old obviously didn't remember me. I described our first meeting seven years ago. He smiled shyly.

In the next hour or so, we enjoyed lunch and light conversation. Erick told me he was a teacher, doing some side work and looking for a permanent job. I needed to redeem myself, so I asked if he would be willing to tell his story on video to share with his sponsor. He agreed.

As we prepared to leave, Erick disappeared into his house. I had missed my opportunity again! We went back to his store for lunch for the next two days, but we always missed him. I began to think my flamboyant attitude had scared him off.

Then on our last day in the Renacer community, we visited a group of young people who were harvesting and selling

honey. And there was Erick. Given his earlier reaction, I didn't ask about the video for his sponsor.

Later in the afternoon, we stopped at the community office, which was Doña Lucia's house. The community manager explained that Doña Lucia was letting World Vision work there for free. A group of volunteers was busy inside verifying the annual progress reports for sponsored children. Erick sat at the head of the table.

I couldn't help but blurt out, "You are everywhere!"

One of the staff members asked to speak with me alone. "You don't want to do the sponsor video anymore? Erick has been talking about it all day." I felt guilty. I had it all wrong.

So I called Erick outside. We walked behind his mother's chicken coup and made the video. He still remembered his sponsor's name, as well as the only letter he received from her back in 2006. He told his story and how he and his family had partnered with World Vision to improve his community.

In the end he cried: "I know God has brought my sponsor into my life. I'm so happy someone has cared for me from so far away. I love her very much."

I couldn't help but cry with him. Erick is for me World Vision's poster child, everything I hope for every sponsored child, including my own. ☩



## Getting to Know

### THE SEARCH

A	E	B	F	D	P	D	N	A	K	F	A
K	T	A	S	W	M	S	U	P	H	U	D
W	C	F	D	G	L	H	A	D	H	Q	A
R	V	C	I	N	C	A	J	C	O	N	J
D	F	G	O	C	U	K	E	N	O	K	H
L	L	S	I	H	P	U	A	Z	S	N	B
S	J	P	C	F	Q	E	A	D	I	G	R
Q	Y	A	C	P	D	M	L	H	N	X	U
Q	M	N	N	O	N	A	P	I	A	L	I
X	L	I	A	M	R	G	M	J	G	W	M
V	K	S	L	Y	R	H	A	D	J	I	T
R	D	H	L	L	O	S	A	M	M	Y	I

GameON

# Peru

Find these words:

Spanish  
Andean  
Amazon  
Inca  
Machu Picchu  
Llosa  
Quechua  
Lima

The stories behind the words?  
Go online to  
[wvc.me/perusearch](http://wvc.me/perusearch)

### THE QUIZ \*

Test what you know about Peru.  
\* (Guesses allowed. Google searches discouraged)

- 1 How many regions and how many provinces does Peru have?
  - a. 20 regions and 2 provinces
  - b. 51 regions and 2 provinces
  - c. 25 regions and 1 province
- 2 What is the name of the Lima region capital?
  - a. Lima
  - b. Huacho
  - c. Cusco
- 3 What is Machu Picchu mistakenly referred to as?
  - a. "The High Aztec Peak"
  - b. "The Hidden City of Cusco"
  - c. "The Lost City of the Incas"

### THE JOKE



## ATHLETE AND ADVOCATE

by MICHAEL CZOBIT | Photography by PAUL BETTINGS

**THAT'S HOW TO DESCRIBE 13-YEAR-OLD LIANG.** She lives in southern Peru in the Pueblo de Dios community, a place World Vision has wrapped up its work. Liang's confident voice and the navy blue jacket she wears call to mind a pro athlete waiting for the signal to enter the game. Liang's sport is volleyball. After her brother introduced her to it when she was four, playing became a part of her life. She plays for two clubs: one for school and the other in a league. The young teen plays one day a week—and practises on the six other days! Though she loves the game, she imagines she'll turn to medicine and eventually become a doctor. She wants to help people.

That gets to the advocate part: The other club Liang's a member of goes by a Spanish name that means "the Network for Children, Boys, Girls, Leaders in Transformation." After she became sponsored through World Vision, Liang joined the club in 2012, learning her rights as a child and a person. "Before, I was afraid to talk in public," she says. "Now I can talk freely."

Liang has also learned that even without World Vision, she has the skills to advocate for a better future. She wants politicians in her community and in her country to be aware of the problems with child health, education and domestic life. She believes she has solutions. She smiles as though she's already won. A coach would take one look, see that confidence, and signal her into the game.



**“Every time I get  
a letter from my  
sponsor, it’s like  
my first letter—  
there’s always a  
fresh surprise.”**

**— Nan**

a sponsored child from the Jatujak  
community in Thailand

**SURPRISE YOUR  
SPONSORED CHILD, TOO.  
SEND a letter or an email.**

**GET STARTED:**

- > By post, visit [worldvision.ca/writenow](http://worldvision.ca/writenow)**
- > By email, visit [worldvision.ca/login](http://worldvision.ca/login)**



**When I first sponsored a child...**

---

“I wasn’t sure how **\$39** every month would uplift an **entire community**. But we saw the transformation. And now, I know what it means for World Vision to create lasting change for children and their families.”

— **Prabhjot Gill, sponsor of Tania, age 2**



Together we can make lasting change.  
**SPONSOR A CHILD TODAY!**

Call **1-800-387-6323**, complete the **attached form** inside or visit [www.worldvision.ca/lastingchange](http://www.worldvision.ca/lastingchange) and join us in making a difference in the lives of children.