



2017 Child Sponsorship Annual Report

Opportunity. Dignity. Hope.



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Children	Countries	Sponsorships
55	Central India	44
60	Guatemala	54
418	Haiti	292
47	Indonesia	26
116	Liberia	55
24	Northeast India	20
259	Philippines	238
48	Sri Lanka	38
649	Sierra Leone	401
2844	Zambia	251
87	Special Needs Child Sponsorship (Sierra Leone)	116
2047	Total # of child beneficiaries:	1535

***The total number of beneficiaries exceeds the total number of active sponsorships, as it includes students waiting for sponsors, who are receiving limited educational support. **Due to the high cost of services for children with special needs, two sponsors are assigned to each child in the Special Needs Child Sponsorship program.*

World Hope International (WHI) and its partners invest in generational transformation, argued to be the most effective way to generate long-term change in a community. This transformation begins by investing in children who will become the community's next leaders. As children are educated through sponsorship, they are no longer limited by the constraints of illiteracy. They can think critically and problem solve—dreaming about what could be. With confidence and the tools to promote change, combined with an emphasis on God's unconditional love for them, sponsored children are positioned to live up to their greatest potential, as agents of love and hope in their communities and in our world.

Child sponsorship as an anti-poverty tool and means of improving adult life outcomes has been validated in academic research. According to a 2013 study¹, of the 10,144 adults examined in over 6 countries (Bolivia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Uganda, and the Philippines), adults that were once sponsored were likelier to complete secondary education and college, have salaried employment, and be leaders in their community than their non-sponsored counterparts. With this in mind, WHI remains committed to increasing the welfare of children through international sponsorships.

¹Journal of Political Economy, "Does International Child Sponsorship Work?"

Sponsorship Impact

WHI aims to partner with sponsors to meet the holistic needs of children and their communities, starting with education. Each country and community where we operate is faced with different needs and barriers for a child to receive an education. In some countries, a child may be too sick or hungry to learn, while in other countries, the school system may be too dysfunctional and lack quality teaching and supplies needed for a child to succeed. Likewise, many communities may not understand the long-term value of sending their child to school and the barrier faced is a mentality that devalues education. For this reason, we work closely with local groups, such as the Wesleyan Church, School Management Committees and Village Development Committees, to build unique programs aimed to address the issues hindering children from access to quality education, while working to form stronger families, churches and communities.

In 2017, sponsors made an undeniable impact in the lives of children they sponsor, their families and their communities. Beyond ensuring children were enrolled in school with the appropriate uniform and supplies, partners of the program helped to increase the quality of education by training teachers and investing in school infrastructure. For instance, new classrooms were built and furniture furnished in programs around the world, to provide classroom space for the abundance of students entering the doors for the first time. And, at two sites in Haiti, solar panels were installed, providing power and positioning the schools to be the recipient of computers in the new year.

A dedication to academic access and excellence is paying off. In Sierra Leone, 100% of students in the program passed the National Primary School Examination (the national average is often only a 75% pass rate). In programs around the world, at least 93% of students successfully completed their current grade and will move on to the next, while more than 30 students graduated from high school.

Batotitik Mission Academy, serving children in tribal communities in conflict-torn Southern Mindanao, Philippines, boasts of being ranked 2nd in their district among primary schools again this year. In Indonesia, Sierra Leone and Haiti, high school graduates are entering a special college sponsorship program, helping more than a dozen sponsored students worldwide pursue a college degree.



In 2017, WHI strengthened our strategy to leverage child sponsorship gifts with funding coming from church partners in our Village Partnership program as well as international grants. These additional resources helped to address generational poverty and livelihood needs that make it difficult for parents to send their children to school and served to increase the quality of education sponsored children received. Through these partnerships, children have gained access to clean water and their families have received livelihood trainings and opportunities, as well as community-wide hygiene trainings and, in some cases, access to clean water.

In Liberia and Guatemala, students received food support during the hungry months and, in India, warm blankets as temperatures decreased. And, for children at risk, anti-trafficking prevention programs have been implemented to provide awareness and protection against both labor and sex trafficking, common in many WHI partner sites.

In areas where WHI partners with an entire school through sponsorship, the formation and training of the School Management Committee (SMC) is critical. In 2017, 16 SMCs were formed and trained. These committees bring awareness to families about the importance of education and institutes laws to correct families who refuse to send their children to school, especially girls. In addition, the committees are involved in the management of the school by having periodic meetings with school teachers and mobilizing the community. When the roof was blown off of a rural school in Sierra Leone, the SMC mobilized to rebuild. The presence of the committee in a community nearby led to 189 new students enrolling in the school there. In Liberia, parents grew in advocacy for their children's education. They are managing a small farm together to raise funds for the school.

Evangelism and spiritual growth activities were enthusiastically provided to all children benefitting from child sponsorship. In Sierra Leone, after school clubs were formed to conduct the morning assembly and organize Bible studies. These groups have created awareness against violence and teen pregnancies and shared the love of Jesus with non-Christian friends in their schools. In Zambia, coordinators conduct home visits where they were able to encourage the children and their families with God's Word and share their testimonies. In Central India, devotion was conducted every day where children memorized Bible verses, shared prayer



requests and learned about Jesus. Other opportunities for spiritual growth included Vacation Bible Schools, Saturday clubs, and local church outreach. Educating vulnerable children about the unequivocal love of God reassures them and allows room for hope for their future.

With more than 428 new sponsorships, the WHI Child Sponsorship program has grown by nearly 23% serving more than 2000 children worldwide. More than 6,000 letters, updates and photos have been shared with sponsors and more sponsors than ever have chosen to correspond with their sponsored child. As the program expands to provide opportunities to eager sponsors both in the US and in Australia, we are eager to see continued growth, meeting more children's needs.



Sponsoring Children with Special Needs

Now completing its first full year, we celebrate that 87 students in the Special Needs Child Sponsorship program are now benefitting from sponsorship. The Enable the Children program provides these children in Sierra Leone (and approximately 500 others there) with physical therapy, occupational therapy, care, and support services. Program staff visit children with disabilities in their homes and teach their families and caregivers how to support them using interactive play, developmental positioning, and feeding support. This highly qualified team also provides counseling for families as they learn how to nurture their children, while simultaneously providing a loving home life.

Beyond medical care, therapy and emotional support, sponsorship allows eligible children to attend school and provides small business start-up grants to families who have had to change their means of work to care for their child. Additionally, Enable the Children works with local carpenters, tailors, and technicians to provide specialized equipment for patients.



Solar Panels Improve Education

A team from SonLight Power, an organization in Ohio that uses solar power to share God's love, installed solar panels at two World Hope partner schools: Terre Rouge and Percin. They plan to install panels at Cité Soleil in February. These installations will provide consistent power to these schools.

To complement the gift of power, Bullen Ultrasonics in Eaton, Ohio donated computers for the schools. As you can imagine, the combination of power and technology is an incredible, life-changing gift to children in these regions.

Change Drive Keeps Waiting Children in School

More than 100 churches joined forces to collect their small change as part of The 5&2 Challenge this fall. Based on the belief that, like Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two fish to feed 5,000, He's not done doing a lot with a little. This combined effort raised more than \$35,000 to help keep more than 500 children waiting for sponsors in school! We're calling it a modern-day miracle.



Project Bai: Empowering Girls in the Philippines

Girls attending Batotitik Mission Academy who are 13 and older are part of Project Bai. This critical program helps protect young women from forced prostitution and early marriage.

The girls attended a workshop earlier this year called “Developing Millennial Women” where they learned valuable lessons in leadership, supported one another and had fun during team building and games.

During the program, the girls identified some experiences they have lived through that have caused anxiety, including:

- “I experienced being bullied and told that I am fat and ugly.”
- “My parents wanted to make me marry, but I wanted to go to school.”
- “I was hit by my parents for no good reason.”

Later, they shared things they are learning as part of Project Bai:

- “Always pray to God as He guides us all the time on our future.”
- “I learned how to respect others and myself.”
- “I learned how to be independent.”

One brave student shared:

“My parents wanted me to get married at age 15 and I was in grade 9. I did not want to marry and my parents hit me with bamboo in my stomach. So, I ran to hide at school (Batotitik Mission Academy). Our teachers helped me and they met with my parents and the social worker. Now I am back in school.”



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Daniel is a college student studying to become a Community Health Officer (CHO), a highly educated medical assistant that runs a Peripheral Health Unit (PHU) in rural areas in Sierra Leone. He became part of the Child Sponsorship program at the age of seven. The program made a positive difference in his educational, spiritual and social life. He shared, “I could have been a dropout by now like many other children out there. But, I am deeply involved with church activities. I play instruments and I sing, too. I am able to do all these because of the support and counseling I am getting from the program.” Daniel is grateful to be part of a special college sponsorship program in Sierra Leone, where his sponsor’s support has helped him continue his education.



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Greetings from Zambia! I feel privileged and greatly honored to benefit from WHI's Child Sponsorship program. My father is a Pastor with almost no income, and could not have managed to provide for my school needs. Because of my good education, made possible by WHI, someone else offered to sponsor me at a teachers' college!



On August 5, 2017 I had my wonderful graduation. This great day made me realize how blessed I was and the significance of sponsorship not only to me but to my family as a whole. Most importantly, I am grateful for your continual support, the letters of encouragement that you sent and your unseasonal prayers. I am a young, proud lady who holds a diploma in teaching, and all credit goes to you and God.

Currently in our country it is very difficult to get employed after training. Again, because of my good education, I had good grades and so I was able to study a subject which is on high demand for teachers—mathematics. So, I am excited to let you know that, by the grace of God, I was among the very few that were employed recently by the government and I will be reporting for work at the beginning of the year 2018!

Mutinta, Zambia



Meet Samuel*, who lives with his grandmother. He is a sponsored child and has been involved with Enable the Children for several years. He has a right sided hemiplegic cerebral palsy and also epilepsy. The Epilepsy clinic has been struggling to get his epilepsy under control so that we could send him to school, and finally he is improving. If he had gone to school with uncontrolled epilepsy, he would have been seen as being demon-possessed and would have been shunned, stigmatized and likely driven from the school. With such progress, we hope that he will be able to join a school in January!

Brima* is another sponsored child. He has had a tough time as his father died when he was trying to help fix a broken-down taxi. He was a kind, helpful man. It has been a massive loss to the family as the mother is now left with three children to feed, two of whom are struggling with tuberculosis. The Enable the Children team is providing ongoing emotional and physical support to the family.

Anna Vines, Enable the Children Program Director

**Names changed for child protection*



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