



CHILDIMPACT INTERNATIONAL

OUR MISSION:

We empower vulnerable children through education and fight to eradicate exploitation.





GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends and supporters of Child Impact,

In this edition of our newsletter, we share with you Child Impact’s core values. I believe you will resonate with these life-transforming statements and the biblical foundations they are drawn from. These core values identify the source of our passion to provide a future filled with hope for vulnerable children.

On my recent trip to Bangladesh, I gained a new perspective on child sponsorship that moved me to tears and shook me to the core. My family sponsors several children through Child Impact, including a 9-year-old boy in Bangladesh. I was excited to meet him in person.



Simeon is a bright young man who is deeply spiritual. He keeps a Bible by his pillow and reads it daily. He has also indicated a desire to be a pastor in the future. I spent the morning with this amazing young man, and together we took in the sights, sounds, and smells of the bustling city of Dhaka. I enjoyed buying him freshly pressed sugar cane juice, taking a rickshaw ride together, and buying him a jersey of his favorite team. During our time together, I asked Simeon about his siblings, and he told me that he had three brothers and one sister...but two of his brothers had died. Naturally, I wondered what had happened. His response was that they had gotten sick.

Dying from getting sick? I couldn’t get this statement out of my mind. I asked a principal at one of the schools where Child Impact sponsors students if they have ever had any children die from getting sick. His emphatic response was no. He explained that the sponsorship funds from Child Impact provide basic medical care, and that if a student encounters serious health concerns, an appeal is made for additional funding to care for their needs.

What about Simeon’s brothers? As I recorded a video about my experience meeting Simeon and the tragedy of his brothers dying, I broke down in tears. I had come face to face with the reality that sponsorship can be a life-and-death situation. I had never really thought about sponsorship in this way before. Sponsorship gives hope, opportunities, and a brighter future as it breaks the chains of poverty. But sponsorship also saves lives!

I invite you to scan the QR code to watch a video of my special time with Simeon. And consider: Is there a “Simeon” you could help? So many children are waiting for sponsors. Your decision to support them could literally save their lives! Thank you for partnering with Child Impact to make a world of difference, one child at a time.



Scan the QR code to watch a video of my special time with Simeon.

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

MISSION STATEMENT:

We empower vulnerable children through education and fight to eradicate exploitation.



CHAMPION

Care Value #1:

We are called to be an advocate for those who are the most vulnerable.

ADVOCATING FOR HOPE AND LOVE AT FALCO'S CHILDREN VILLAGE

If you were to visit Falco's Children Village, you would hear heartbreaking stories. For instance, Miracle Moses was buried alive just hours after being born, James Backus was thrown into an outdoor toilet, and a child has scars from being scalded with boiling water because she was unwanted. Another child lost her twin due to malnutrition. One child was rescued from child marriage, and another, from prostitution. Many of these children have experienced so much trauma at such a young age.

Our partners at Falco's Children Village, Jerry and Valerie Backus, protect, care for, and empower children who have been through unimaginable things.

Valerie Backus, co-director there, shares these words:

These stories may seem surreal, but they are true. With over 90 children to care for, we want to provide them with bright futures filled with hope and love. We welcome children of all ages and provide each child with tender love and care in a family-centered environment. They find brothers and sisters to love, mommas and babas to provide watchful oversight, education, balanced nutrition, healthcare, and God's love.

The children also receive professional counseling and emotional support when memories of troubled pasts seem overwhelming. Each child may have different needs, but all need love.

And all need an advocate. Even in a courtroom, a villain is provided an advocate. How much more does the victim need an advocate?

Falco's children are all victims of cruel and harsh circumstances and have a desperate need for an advocate. Some of our children did not even have a name, and now they have a name and an identity. Jerry has adopted 15 children, and they have taken the surname Jerry Backus.

We are our children's voices, and we echo their call, "Can you help us?"

As Christians, we have Christ as our advocate. He promised He would be with us always and would never leave us. We share with the children that Christ will never forsake them and that nothing can separate them from His love.

And as such, we are also advocates for them. Jesus says, "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me."

God has positioned us where we are acknowledged as a center of hope for orphaned, abused, and neglected children. We are greatly humbled that He would even choose us to take care of His precious jewels.

Furthermore, we are so grateful to have Child Impact as our fellow advocate for Falco's Children Village. We stand together in advocating for these children's rights to have a future, to be loved, and to have family values interwoven with Christian values that will build stronger individuals, families, and communities

— By Valerie Backus, Co-Director of Falco's Children Village,
and Gabriela Garcia, Marketing Coordinator

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute... defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9

HOPE

Core Value # 2:

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment free from exploitation and violence.

FROM CHILD BEGGAR TO ADVOCATE: SWAPNA'S RESCUE

Swapna overcame a lot at a young age. Her name means "dream," and her rescue nine years ago was a dream come true for her. She was one of 300 children rescued in the city of Bengaluru, India.

At the age of nine, Swapna had never been to school. She had been kidnapped as a baby and was part of a begging syndicate forcing young children like her to beg for money.

I was there when we held Swapna by the hand and took her off the street and into our car during the rescue operation. I was there when we admitted Swapna to kindergarten at age nine. Because all attempts to find or trace her birth family yielded no results, I have signed her legal documents as her guardian. For all purposes, I am her mother. Swapna is one of my daughters, and I am proud that she will be graduating this month!

— By Anita Kanaiya, Director of the Freedom Project





“I want to be a social worker so I can fight for and rescue every child beggar, until India has no more children begging on the streets.” - Swapna

MY NAME IS SWAPNA, AND THIS IS MY STORY

It was a day like any other day back in December 2011. I was woken up at 4 a.m. in the morning like the previous day and the one before. The morning was bitter cold—we slept in plastic tents on the mud floor. I was forced to reach the nearby railway station to board the train that would take me to the city railway station. Every day, I had to beg and walk back home with the money I had managed to collect.

I still vividly remember the day when I was rescued and my life changed. I had walked the whole day begging and asking people for money, but I had not managed to collect anything. Desperate and dragging my tired nine-year-old feet, I saw a church building and entered through the gates. I knew this was my last chance to make the minimum amount of money for the day, which was 250 rupees, or I'd face brutal beatings from my “father.”

I remember praying to God and asking Him for somebody to help me by giving me the money I needed. It would have to be a miracle! Sure enough, in an hour's time of begging, a very kind and generous lady gave me the money I needed.

Then, on my way home, I was intercepted and rescued. Unknown to me, God answered not only my prayer for money but also my prayer for a better life.

It has been twelve years since that day. I don't like to think about those dark nine years; frankly, I don't recall much. I am often asked about my past and my story, but I don't like to relive those memories. I do know that my so-called parents were actually my traffickers and that the life I was forced to lead was not normal and should not be for any child. I am grateful I got a chance to finally attend school and get an education. I now live in a

safe home with eight sisters, and I could not have asked for better.

As I graduate this month from school and press on to what God has in store for me, I want to go to college and get a degree that will help me achieve my life's purpose. I want to be a social worker so I can fight for and rescue every child beggar, until India has no more children begging on the streets. I want to advocate for children who are forced to beg; I want to use my voice to help people understand the horrors of the life of a child beggar. I know I am lucky and blessed to have been rescued early, but there are many who are still being pushed into this evil every day across India.

- By Swapna

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

IMPACT

Core Value #3:

Through continuous growth,
we increase our ability
to positively impact
more children.



FROM TWO SPONSORED CHILDREN TO A GROWING IMPACT

Our history as an organization can be traced back to the early 1960s. It all started with Maisie Fook, who saw an ad in a magazine inviting people to sponsor a child in a developing country. She believed that the Adventist Church could also get involved in this noble cause. Thus, she wrote to an orphanage in Korea and began sponsoring two orphan children, which marked the beginning of Asian Aid. Initially, Asian Aid focused on providing sponsorship and support to schools in Korea, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Asian Aid established two key projects. In Bangladesh, we helped keep children in the Monosapara school. And in India, we trained women who lived in slums to embroider so they could provide for their families. In 1989, we first established schools for the blind and deaf. Our sponsorship program in Asia grew to include India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar. We aided over 10,000 children in these five countries.

In the early 2000s, Asian Aid USA was created, and the initial organization Asian Aid was named Asian Aid Australia. In 2017, Asian Aid USA rebranded itself as Child Impact International to expand

our reach to the needs all around the world. We hope by continuous growth to be able to positively impact even more children.

Though sponsorship remains at the core of what we do, we have expanded our services to meet emerging needs. Time and again, we found instances of children being exploited and abused. We had to step in; we had to do something. And so, Operation Child Rescue was born. This program is dedicated to meeting the needs of children exposed to violence and exploitation. Our projects within Operation Child Rescue include preventing child marriage, child labor, sex trafficking, child prostitution, abuse, and baby abandonment.

From sponsoring two children to supporting over 3,300 children in 16 countries around the world, Child Impact International has come a long way. We have also initiated over 15 Operation Child Rescue projects in 13 countries.

We thank God for blessing Child Impact International and guiding us on this journey.

*—By Gareth Rees, Child Impact International Board Member,
with Gabriela Garcia, Marketing Coordinator*



*“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them,
so that everyone may see your progress” 1 Timothy 4:15*



LIBERATE

Core Value # 4:

Education empowers a child to break the chains of generational poverty.

JESUDAS'S INSPIRING STORY: FROM HOPELESSNESS TO OPPORTUNITY

What is generational poverty? A quick Google search will paint you a picture of poor parents having children, who will then most likely grow up poor themselves, have children, and so on.

One of the greatest factors preventing the cycle from being broken is hopelessness. I want to tell you a story about how Child Impact International has provided hope to one man, Jesudas, and has broken the incessant cycle of generational poverty in his life.

Jesudas is from Bobbili, a town in India that is full of families struggling with poverty and hopelessness. Jesudas's birth was complicated: When he was only 15 days old, his mother passed away from health complications, leaving him to the care of his grandmother and blind father. Because Jesudas's father's disability kept him from working, Jesudas's 65-year-old grandmother had to work in the fields every day for a meager wage of 50 rupees. This equates to 60 US cents per day for a full day's work! The family was forced to stretch this small amount of money to feed themselves.

One day, upon returning home from school, Jesudas found his home full of screaming and crying people—his father had passed away. Jesudas was

only five years old when this happened. After this experience, he was introduced to Sunrise Home.

Many children from the town and surrounding hillside were brought to Sunrise Home, an oasis amid a sea of hardship and poverty. Jesudas has shared that he felt at home at Sunrise. The teachers and deans became like his family, and the children would even call the staff "mom" or "dad." At Sunrise, Jesudas was able to experience a loving family environment with access to quality education and exposure to other kinds of people and the greater world around him. Since 2001, 34 children from Sunrise have completed their education and received a master's degree in some field, and 17 of those children have gone on to full-time jobs in medicine, government, or engineering.

Because of the hope that Sunrise Home provided, Jesudas has been able to break the cycle of generational poverty in his family. His story represents the hope that Child Impact International has brought to so many more we have been privileged to work with.

—By Ashley Blake, Finance Assistant



"Set free those who are held by chains without any reason. Untie the ropes that hold people as slaves. Set free those who are crushed. Break every evil chain." Isaiah 58:6

DREAM

Care Value #5:

Every child deserves an opportunity to write their own story.



OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN INDIA

Child Impact believes every child should have the opportunity to write their own story. All of our projects are guided by this value in some way. Our blind and deaf schools in India provide this opportunity to children with disabilities, educating and caring for these children who would otherwise not attend school. The schools have strong leadership and support to help them pursue their dreams.

Hello, my name is Akhila, and I come from Thadilova Village in the Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh state. My life is an example of how disparity can turn into hope. My parents are laborers who work in the fields. They have limited knowledge because they are illiterate.

I lost my eyesight during childhood, and it changed my life forever. My parents mistreated me by not providing me with proper food or clothing and by neglecting my health. During the day, when my parents were away at work, I was left alone with no one to take care of me. As a result, I was unable to attend school and did not receive proper care. The first seven years of my childhood were filled with distress and hopelessness.

In 2010, the principal, treasurer, and staff from the School for the Blind visited my village and found

me in my dreary condition. They tried to convince my parents, but my parents did not believe them. However, they continued to visit my town, showing my parents the school campus and the atmosphere, and at last, they convinced them. I started school immediately after.

I poured all my energy into learning Braille and other adaptive techniques to help me succeed in my studies. I learned many things here. I can walk without anybody's help. I have many friends, and I love playing with them. Everyone here takes good care of all the children. I have received mobility training, food, good facilities with purified water, and special medical care. I enjoy singing songs, reading the Bible daily, and learning about God. One day I hope to be a good singer.

I thank the Almighty God and my sponsors for giving me such a wonderful life. Now I am walking confidently toward greater heights.

Akhila is one of many children whose life has been changed by the work and partnerships of Child Impact. We feel honored to facilitate care and support for our children in sponsorship.

— By Akhila and Gabriela Garcia, Marketing Coordinator

“You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. Job 11:18



SPONSOR A CHILD. RESCUE A CHILD



Provide a path out of poverty by eradicating exploitation and empowering children to pursue their educational goals. Prayerfully consider a gift to the Where Needed Most fund, giving us the most flexibility to meet needs that will arise.

You can help us make a difference! By giving to the Where Needed Most fund, you will be supporting our efforts to meet emerging needs and reach more children in need.

Thank you for joining us in this important mission.



Scan the QR code to donate now and learn more about the **Where Needed Most** fund.



FUELING BRIGHTER FUTURES: GIVE TO HELP CHILDREN ACCESS ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

Join us in our mission to provide essential care and resources to vulnerable children through our Rice, Health, and Education fund.

Your support will ensure that children in our sponsorship program and Operation Child Rescue projects have access to nutritious food, quality medical care, and educational resources to help them achieve their full potential.

Your donation, no matter the amount, can make a significant impact on a child's life, providing them with the basic necessities they need to succeed.



Scan the QR code to donate now and learn more about the **Rice, Health and Education** fund.

CHILD AMBASSADORS

During one of our staff meetings, our Finance Manager, Stacy, shared a piece of mail we received. Our team was shocked to hear what Selah Suppes, a ten-year-old girl, and her family did to help Child Impact. The Suppes family had fundraised over \$1200 in donations and raised awareness for Child Impact among their family and friends.

Jenna Suppes, the mother of Selah, shares the family's experience fundraising for Child Impact:

Although the kids and I have done different Christmas fundraisers for various causes in the past, this time has been more meaningful. We had the wonderful opportunity of witnessing God's restoration in our own lives.

My children Maizey, Packy, Selah, Sully, Avonlea, and I suffered a terrible tragedy in which we lost everything a few years back—our home, vehicle, and all financial support. I was left to raise five young children alone due to a very sad and unexpected situation. It seemed like an impossible task.

The Lord was so gracious and merciful. He provided for our every need. Friends, family, and churches in our local area provided food, gift cards, and money to help when we were in dire need. After some time, our home and vehicle were restored to us in a way that was nothing short of a miracle!

This experience has made me realize all the more how important it is to reach out to others who are hurting.

I wanted my children to know, no matter what situation they are in, that they can always be thinking of others.

Even before I knew if we would have a home to live in, my five kids and I began working on the fundraiser. A few of the fun things the children undertook included sewing items like aprons and craft bags, painting memory verses on wooden signs, and baking desserts. They even created a music CD of their favorite hymns and memory verses (songs can be found on our YouTube channel, "The Suppes Kids").

We soon had enough inventory for our little "pop-up store." When the day of the fundraiser finally arrived, the children were all lit up with smiles and excitement as if it were Christmas morning. Shoppers consisted of our friends, family, and local Adventist church members. They truly helped make this fundraiser so successful! Over \$1200 was raised for Child Impact! Our hearts were filled with joy that day as we sold every last item. The experience definitely brings to light the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Our good friend and her daughter announced that they would like to join us in building our inventory for our next fundraiser. We hope to bring even more smiles to the faces of children being sponsored at Child Impact in the future.

—By Jenna Suppes and Gabriela Garcia,
Marketing Coordinator



YOUR IMPACT IN THE HEART OF THE PALAWAN JUNGLES

In 2021, Jasper Iturriaga, Child Impact International's videographer, became the catalyst for creating the Palawan Jungle Schools after recognizing the great need in these indigenous communities. Children in these communities were vulnerable to child marriage due to economic and societal pressures. As a result, boys would drop out of school and start working on rice farms to financially prepare themselves for marriage. Girls would drop out of school as well—with marriage being the top reason too. Once children get married, it becomes almost impossible for them to continue receiving an education.

Providing these children with an opportunity for education can help address illiteracy challenges and the limit the pressures for child marriage. It will also help break the chains of poverty. These are all reasons why Child Impact International partnered with these schools.

We have been working with the Palawan Jungle Schools for over a year through our Operation Child Rescue program, providing meals and quarterly medical checkups to five jungle schools on the island of Palawan in the Philippines.

In February of this year, our CEO, Tom Evans, visited the schools to see the full impact of our work in Palawan and heard many life-transforming testimonials. Your support has made it possible to help these children and teachers, but we discovered that we could do more.

After praying for God's guidance and direction, we have expanded our influence by enrolling the students into our sponsorship program. These indigenous children previously had not had the opportunity to receive education in their local context.

We are also building an industrial training facility with the goal to keep students in school. We plan to fund a 19x30 all-purpose building equipped with sewing machines, welders, a gas oven, and agricultural supplies. The building costs \$30,000, and an additional \$8,000 will be needed for the supplies. Please consider partnering with us to help these children receive the best educational, spiritual, and industrial training.

— By Tom Evans, CEO, and Jason Churchwell, Field Director





HELICOPTER LOST AT SEA

Just a few weeks after Tom Evans returned to the USA, we learned about a tragic accident with missionaries from our partner organization, Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS). On March 1, a medevac helicopter transporting captain Daniel Lui, nurse Janelle Alder, a patient, and two other passengers did not arrive in Brooke's Point, Palawan. While there have been intense search and rescue efforts with many partnering entities, Janelle's shoes and a pillow were the only things recovered in the three weeks after the helicopter went missing.

It was clear to our team within days of this tragic event that whatever the outcome of the search and rescue mission, the local people would have tremendous trauma to process.

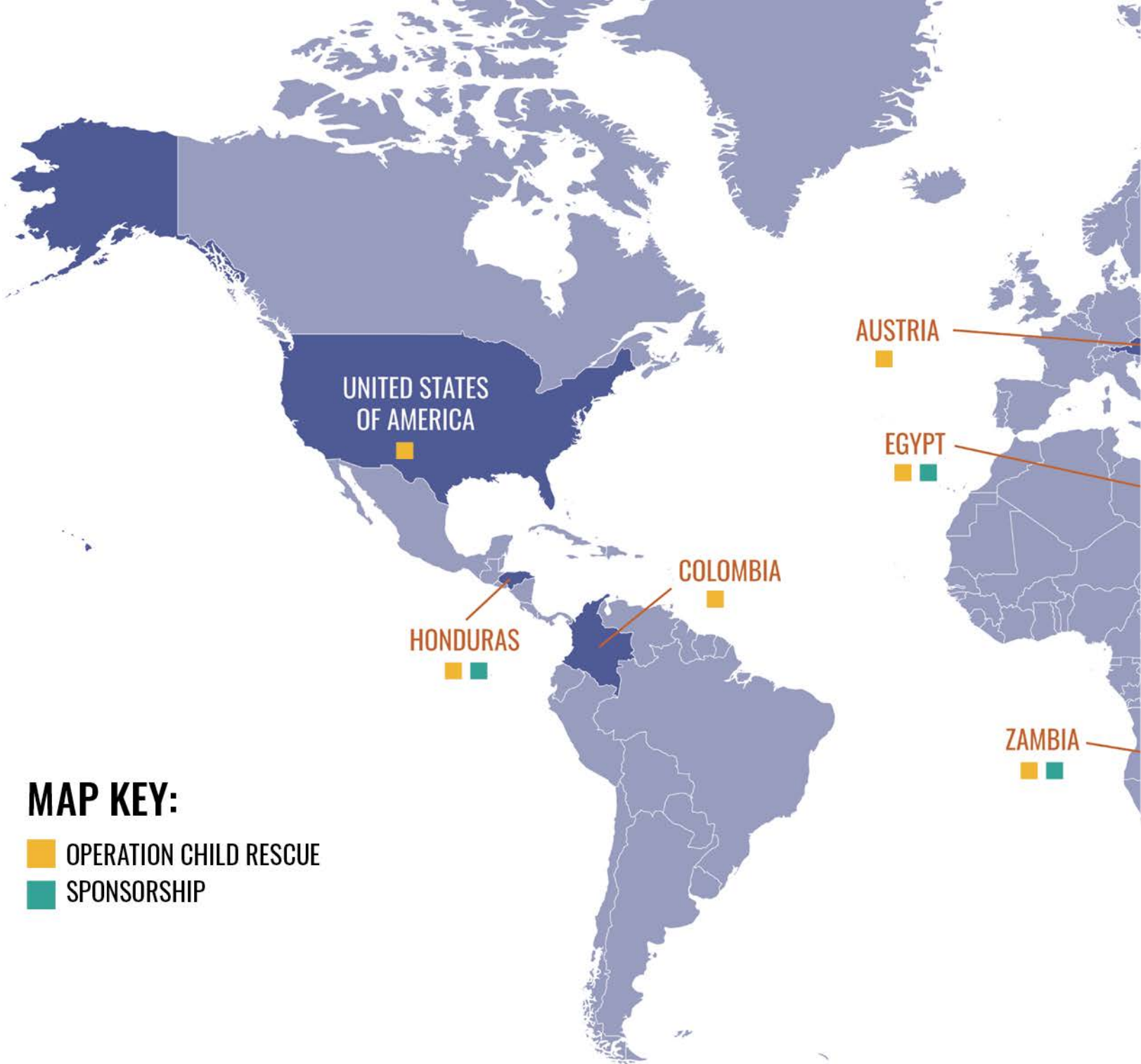
The first step was to explore whether any other organizations were already mobilizing mental health support. One of our Child Impact staff reached out to a colleague at Adventist Frontier Missions because their Palawan staff and volunteers had been affected too.

We also reached out to staff at the General Conference (GC) office to learn the best resources for supporting missionaries through catastrophic circumstances like the one our partners and friends were facing. Dr. Ann Hamel's name came up immediately as the go-to trauma counselor who has been supporting cross-cultural missionaries for decades. Within hours of talking to the GC,

Dr. Hamel was ready to get on the next flight. She spent two weeks on the ground, serving the staff, missionaries, and families who are devastated over this experience. Sean Knapp, PAMAS director, shared that the people are so happy she was there to help them understand the stages of grief and walk beside them through this process.

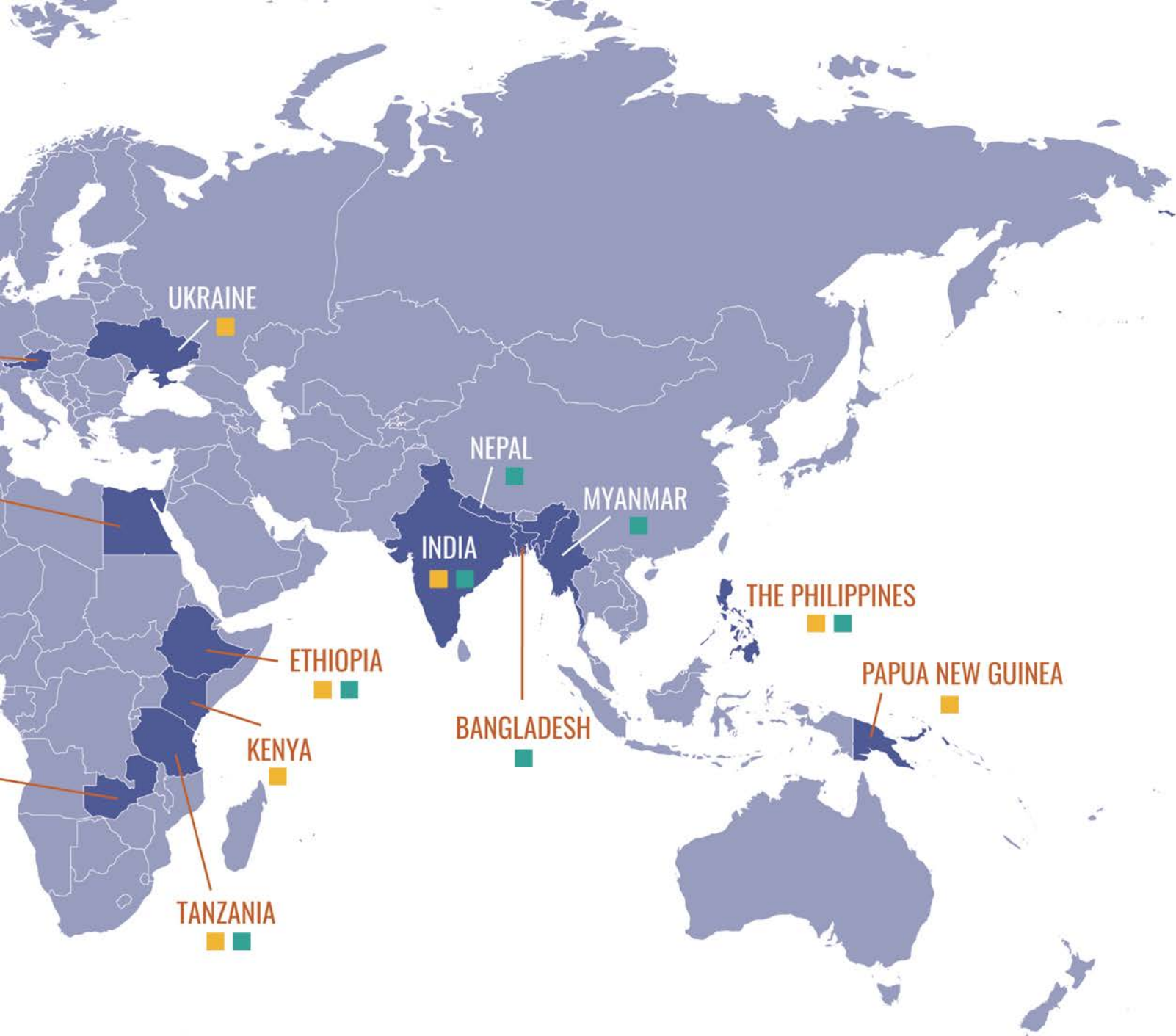
Pilot Dan and Nurse Janelle were PAMAS missionaries who were dedicated to serving the Palawan jungle communities. Pilot Dan was a missionary pilot here because he knew emergency care transportation was critical to the well-being of the people. In addition to caring for their health, he also cared for the children and was a big proponent of the industrial training facility because of how it would expand the mission to serve these communities. Our desire at Child Impact is to continue the work in Palawan that Pilot Dan was so passionate about.

– By Gabriela Garcia, Marketing Coordinator, and Melissa Moore, Development Manager



MAP KEY:

- OPERATION CHILD RESCUE
- SPONSORSHIP



2 children to 3,356 children

Sponsorship growth over the years from the beginning to the present



2,399,840+ meals

provided in 2022



9 new countries

we started working in last year



323 children

are waiting for sponsors



Child Impact International
PO Box 3202
Collegedale, TN 37315

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chattanooga, TN
College Press

OUR CORE VALUES



CHAMPION

We are called to be an advocate for those who are the most vulnerable.



HOPE

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment free from exploitation and violence.



IMPACT

Through continuous growth, we increase our ability to positively impact more children.



LIBERATE

Education empowers a child to break the chains of generational poverty.



DREAM

Every child deserves an opportunity to write their own story.