



CHILDIMPACT
INTERNATIONAL



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



Tom and Gypsy Children

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Greetings friends and supporters of Child Impact International,

When I was kindergarten age, my parents enrolled me in the local public school. I lasted for two days. Things took a turn when my teacher held up a picture of a monkey and said we all came from the animal in the picture. I immediately shot up my hand and confidently stated, "I didn't come from a monkey; God made me." The teacher sternly retorted, "No. That is not correct, Tommy. We all came from monkeys." I continued with my protest as the teacher attempted to remove me from the room. Unable to capture me, she headed to the principal's office. That was my last day of kindergarten. The next year, I was enrolled in first grade at the local Adventist Christian school.

Today, I still firmly believe the words of Acts 17:26, "And He [God] has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings" (NKJV). Everyone has equal value in God's sight. No race is better than another. No human has the right to see themselves as superior to someone else. God has created every human being with infinite value. This message is especially important to individuals who have been marginalized by society: Gypsies in Europe, South Sudanese and Syrian refugees in Northern Africa, remote indigenous populations in the Amazon of Colombia, Brazilians living in favelas (slums) in São Paulo, jungle villagers in Palawan, or untouchables (Dalits) in the slums of India. The list could go on.

Child Impact International's mission through Operation Child Rescue and sponsorship is to empower vulnerable children. We seek to help children in these marginalized groups by providing them with a safe place where they can pursue their dreams and receive proper nutrition to flourish. But that is only part of the picture. These children learn that they are sons and daughters of the Most High God. They were created for a purpose. They have infinite value. Their past does not determine their future. They have a future filled with hope in this world and the world to come.

Thank you for supporting this mission!

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO



Gypsy Child

Core Value:
**We are called to
be advocates for
the most vulnerable.**

MIRACLES IN THE AMAZON

By: Jason Churchwell, VP of Field Operations

Dellys Guerrero is a true hero in the jungles of Colombia. Dellys has dedicated her life to working with indigenous tribes in the Amazon. She has opened her home to countless children living on the street who have been victims of sexual abuse and violence. When I was introduced to Dellys, her dream was to open an official home to rescue as many children as possible. We began laying plans for this in coordination with the local government and police department. Word quickly began to spread about this new effort to save children in ways we could never have imagined.

Initially, a leader of a local rebel group began intimidating Dellys and our team in an effort to stop the construction of the home. Indigenous people are often discriminated against and can be viewed as animals, and these men did not want indigenous people living in their town. Then, in a town hall meeting where the future of the rescue was in jeopardy, a very powerful leader in government stood up and stated that if the rebels were true revolutionaries, they should stand up for the rights of others because that is what revolutionaries do. The man who had threatened Dellys's life stood up and pledged his support to protect her from all future efforts to stop the construction of the home. The way God changed his heart was truly a miracle!

God wasn't finished yet. A new colonel of the police department was transferred to the district, and as it turns out, he's a Seventh-day Adventist! He and his officers have already arrested 70 child abusers as awareness of the widespread issue of violence against children has spread.

Now, Dellys has been asked to sit on an advisory council for the president of Colombia as an advocate for indigenous children. What's more, another evangelical ministry came to the home telling her they had dreams in which God told them to find the Adventists in their community to learn what to do next in their own ministry! God has blessed our efforts to advocate for His children in Colombia, and we give Him all the glory for the miracles we have witnessed. If you would like to support this ministry and help us rescue more girls in the Amazon, please make a donation today to Operation Child Rescue.



Dellys and Children



Two of the girls and Dellys in front of the campus



Model of the campus

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 (NIV)

A New Beginning: Angel's Journey off the Streets

By: Brian Ham, Director of Development

At just twelve years old, Angel had already spent several years living on the streets, begging in order to survive. Faced with an unsafe home life due to a parent struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues, Angel had received little schooling and had little hope for the future.

I met Angel on the afternoon of January 13, 2024, in the town of Kigoma, Tanzania. She was the lone girl in a group of children who were begging for food in one of the town's business districts. Working with local partners at the Twing Memorial Schools, our team was able to get Angel off the streets and into school within a matter of days. No longer subject to the dangers of exploitation, abuse, and food insecurity that go along with living on the street, Angel is now thriving. She's getting to know her new teachers and classmates, receiving healthy and nutritious food, and learning about God's love for her—all in a Christ-centered environment.

I feel privileged to be able to see firsthand how God is working in Angel's life. She has transitioned from a seemingly hopeless situation into a future filled with hope, not only for this life but also for eternity as she grows in her relationship with Jesus.



Brian and Angel

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

KINDNESS IN ACTION

Suzan Kiela serves as the matron (girls' dean) at Twing Memorial Secondary School. On a recent visit to the campus, it was a joy to watch Ms. Kiela interact with the students. Her demeanor was a beautiful combination of firmness and love that exhibited her care for each child. It was equally clear how the students feel about her.

As I spoke with several of the girls, they repeated how kind and caring the matron has been to them. Child Impact and the Twing Memorial Schools are truly blessed to work with such wonderful and compassionate staff members.



Matron Suzan with Angel

**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 (NIV)**



Rescue Project in Indigenous Communities in Colombia

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

THE POWER OF GROWTH IN TRANSFORMING CHILDREN’S LIVES

By: Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

Why is the growth of Child Impact important? Simply stated, the lives of children are at stake. One of the challenges of the work we do at Child Impact is that it’s never done. There are always more vulnerable and exploited children who need the gift of hope. Hope to break free from the chains of bondage and abuse. Hope to break the cycle of generational poverty and chase their dreams. The need is so overwhelming that it’s possible to become paralyzed in inaction. Yet, we believe it’s possible to change the world...one child at a time.

God blessed Child Impact during 2023 with generous donors who partnered with us to bring hope to children. Our annual donations increased by 51.5% over 2022. What did this mean? More projects were funded, we opened work in new countries, and most importantly, more children were helped.

There is so much more we want to do in 2024 and beyond. Again, we see the enormous needs and are overwhelmed, but we are committed to moving forward one child at a time. If you would like to partner with us to share the word about Child Impact, please contact our office or email Brian Ham at bham@childimpact.org.



Sponsorship at the Riverside Farm’s School in Zambia



Sponsorship in Bangladesh

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



Ukrainian Refugee Project



Shoab

Core Value:
**Education empowers
a child to break the
chains of generational
poverty.**

DREAMING BIG: SHOAB'S STORY

By: Lesieli Savelio, Marketing Intern

Does sponsorship really give underserved kids opportunities and hope for the future? Shoab's story is proof of the power of sponsorship.

Shoab is a deaf young man from the small town of Kollegal, India. Growing up in a poor family, he faced a lot of challenges but remained determined to receive an education. He did not let his circumstances get in the way of reaching his goals, and he became a student at the Seventh-Day Adventist School for Speech and Hearing. His teachers say he is talented, hardworking, and bright. Shoab graduated from the School for Speech and Hearing in 2020 and went to the JSS College for the Differently Abled to study electronics.

Earlier this year, Shoab received the opportunity to begin working for Boeing, the international aircraft company, at their new state-of-the-art facility, the Boeing India Engineering and Technology Center.

Thanks to the support of sponsors, Shoab was given the gift of education at the School for Speech and Hearing. He's now able to use his talents and skills to build a better life for himself and his family. We're so honored that God used us to play a small part in Shoab's story. Sponsorship changes lives!



Shoab (left) and classmates

**Become a sponsor!
Scan here for more
information!**



**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
(NIRV)**



Shoab working at Boeing

REWRITING STORIES: THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE IN PALAWAN

By: Jason Churchwell, VP of Field Operations

At Child Impact, we believe every child should have the opportunity to write their own story. That's why we are sponsoring children at eleven jungle schools on the island of Palawan in the Philippines and have just finished construction on a new vocational training school. We sponsor children to attend school where they will have the opportunity to be introduced to Jesus and choose a new path for their lives.

Just recently, I heard a story that is all too common among the indigenous people living in the highlands. Dalisay* is a student in one of our jungle schools. She was the result of a child marriage—her mom was married at the age of nine to a man in his thirties! Dalisay was born when her mom was only eleven years old. After the stress on her health of having four children, Dalisay's mother developed a heart condition and died, leaving her children behind.

According to the United Nations, child marriage occurs when either of the parties in a marriage is under the age of 18. In order for a person to be legally married, they must be able to give full, free, and informed consent, which no child is able to do. Child marriage is a form of forced marriage—and therefore human trafficking—because one person is exercising control over another for the purpose of exploitation, which

may include sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery or servitude.

Child Impact is working tirelessly to fight against child marriage by giving the boys and girls of Palawan a chance to write their own stories. Just this year, we sponsored ten of the children who graduated from our jungle literacy schools and now attend 11th and 12th grade as missionaries in the lowlands. They face immense discrimination among their peers. However, seven of these students are in the top ten of their class, demonstrating what children from the highlands are capable of if only given an opportunity. Please sponsor a child from the Philippines or donate to Operation Child Rescue today. Let's give more children the opportunity to write their own stories!

**Not her real name*

Core Value:
Every child deserves an opportunity to write their own story.



Palawan Students

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

SPONSOR A CHILD



RESCUE A CHILD

Child Impact International is transforming lives in Kigoma, Tanzania. By rescuing vulnerable girls, sponsoring education, and nurturing dreams, we are empowering children. Thirty-three girls who were once at risk of child marriage or domestic work (often a front for human trafficking) now thrive at Twing Memorial School. They are filled with ambition, aspiring to become doctors and teachers. Scan the code to see their journey firsthand!



A \$50 donation will get you involved as a child sponsor and donor to Operation Child Rescue. Visit our website to sign up today or mail in the enclosed envelope, and we will choose a child for you.

MEALS FOR KIDS

Around the world up to 783 million people are living in hunger, leading to many children who don't know where their next meal will come from. Last year, we provided 2,178,020 meals to children in our sponsorship program and rescue projects. That wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of sponsors and donors of the Rice, Health, and Education Fund. Thank you for helping us care for this important need of children.

Little Lambs' Offering: Feeding Children Around the World

For over five years, the Athens SDA Church has been steadfastly providing meals through their "Little Lambs' Offering," lovingly contributed by the children every Sabbath. This initiative traces back to the vision of one of their church members, Janet Thornton. Moved by her own experience as an orphan, Janet felt called to support vulnerable children.

She presented this calling to the church board, advocating for their "Little Lambs' Offering" to be given to Child Impact to help feed children.

Since then, the church has contributed \$11,500, which has provided 46,000 meals for children in various parts of the world. Their commitment to this cause remains steadfast, ensuring ongoing support for those in need.

Thank you to the Athens SDA Church for your dedication!



Janet Thornton and fellow church members

Selling Wreaths to Feed Children

Beth and Clover Greer's fundraising efforts during the holidays were a success. Grandmother Beth and granddaughter Clover crafted beautiful wreaths and sold them to their friends and neighbors to raise money for meals for children. Through the sales and generous donations, they raised \$500.

A big thank you to Beth and Clover Greer for their impactful contribution, which has enabled us to provide 2,000 meals to children!



Beth and Clover Greer

Can you help us provide 2.6 million meals this year? A meal only costs \$0.25! How many meals can you give? To support this project, donate to the Rice, Health, and Education Fund.



Float plane needed to reach these communities



Community Along the Kafue River



Community Along the Kafue River



Zambian Community Along the Kafue River

FLOAT PLANE TO REACH FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Along the Kafue River in Zambia, there are hundreds of children who have never been to school one day in their lives. They live in makeshift villages built on marshy islands in the middle of the river. These islands have no clean water, sanitation facilities, medical care, schools, or churches. In most of them, the only permanent structure is a small shop where locals come to drink alcohol. We would like to place trained students from Riverside Farm, who will live among the people as teachers and Bible workers, in each village. It takes nearly all day to reach a community using a 4x4 vehicle and a small, motorized boat. With a float plane, we could reach over 30 villages within one hour flight time from Riverside. The plane would allow us to support the missionary teachers and provide medical care to the children on the islands. We already have a pilot trained as an airplane mechanic and nurse practitioner ready to go. We are partnering with AngelOne, an Adventist mission aviation ministry, who has agreed to match all donations to this project up to \$250,000!

Total Project Cost:
\$500,000

ANGELONE



Match:
\$250,000

Goal:
\$250,000

NEW COUNTRY

Thailand

In February 2021, Myanmar's military took over the democratically elected government in a coup d'état. Since that time, over 6,300 civilians, including children, have been killed by the military, and 2.6 million people have been displaced. Recently, the military has announced a mandatory conscription of 5,000 men and women per month, which would cause young men and women to fight against their own people. Because of this, there have been stampedes at local passport offices outside of embassies from people trying to leave. Road transportation has become nearly impossible, with many bridges and roads being bombed to prevent citizens from escaping the country.

Child Impact International supports children in ten schools in Myanmar that are facing immense challenges. Our field officer has been unable to travel to all these schools, but the children are doing their best to text updated sponsorship photos and letters to their sponsors!

We recently sent emergency funding to a family whose home was bombed in Myanmar. The family was having evening worship when a bomb fell through their roof, instantly killing their oldest daughter and severely wounding their youngest, who is in our sponsorship program! She has a broken spinal cord and internal injuries to her intestines and pelvis region. She has already undergone three surgeries, and the doctors have advised the parents to try and find a way to transport her by car across the border into India, where they may have sufficient medical supplies.

Child Impact is now sponsoring children on the Thailand border to support mission schools that have taken the influx of refugees escaping the civil war. I just returned from the border and discovered children living in classrooms and churches because their parents begged the border

patrol to allow them to cross over. The border police allowed the children to cross but refused admission to their parents. It was humbling to see how the staff have stretched their resources to provide shelter, food, and education for these young people caught up in this terrible war. We have also agreed to build two new dormitories for elementary-age children, many of whom have come across the border alone. We are beginning construction now to be ready for the new school year beginning in June.



Families Waiting to Enroll Children in School



Children Enrolling to School

IES IN 2024



Mexico Project

Mexico

Child Impact has initiated a new Operation Child Rescue project in Querétaro, Mexico, in partnership with Elda Madai. Our goal is to reach indigenous women and children who are vulnerable to exploitation by providing a safe space and life skills training. We are currently renovating a home that will operate as a community center where we will hold classes in sewing, healthy cooking, music, and painting.

Bulgaria

Have you ever used or heard the word gyp? It's a word equivalent to cheat or swindle. But did you know that gyp is a racist word that refers to a people group in Europe? The largest population of Gypsies is in Romania and Bulgaria. Their origins can be traced back over 1,000 years when they began to migrate out of India into Europe. Sadly, Hitler targeted Gypsies for annihilation during World War II. Today, they still face mistreatment: "In the 21st century, the Roma [Gypsies] continue to encounter openly racist and discriminatory language and attitudes which are widely tolerated and shared in society at large. ... Even extreme forms of prejudice can be expressed without attracting serious condemnation" (Human Rights on the Margins: Roma in Europe, Amnesty International UK, p. 4).

Gypsies rarely go to school past sixth grade, are susceptible to child marriage, lack proper nutrition, and live in cramped conditions and substandard housing (in a cold climate). Worst of all, they endure racism that keeps them pushed down.

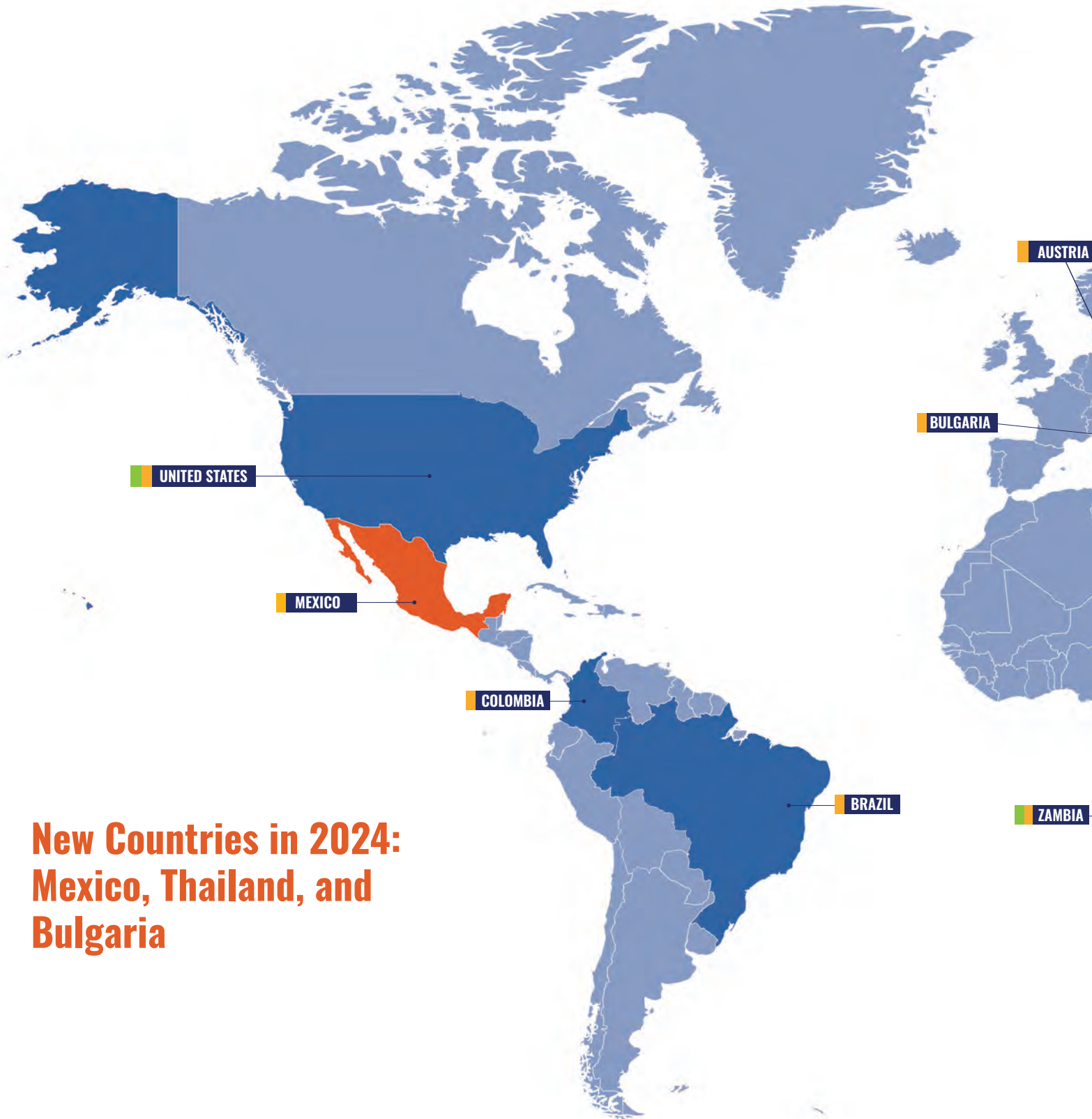
But there are advocates who want to make a difference. Child Impact is collaborating with a Bulgarian social worker to open our first project among Gypsies. We will offer a three-month summer day camp with crafts, a nutritious meal, Bible stories, and a safe place for the children on the streets. An after-school program will continue during the school year to maintain the connections and nurture the children toward positive life choices.



Gypsy Child

OUR **IMPACT** AROUND THE WORLD

SPONSORSHIP SCHOOLS & OPERATION CHILD RESCUE PROJECTS



**New Countries in 2024:
Mexico, Thailand, and
Bulgaria**



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 College Press

OUR CORE VALUES



CHAMPION

We are called to be an advocate for 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.

