



ISSUE 3 | 2025

CHILDIMPACT

INTERNATIONAL



EMPOWERING EDUCATION. **ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.**



Above left: A young girl called Ani stands in an alleyway in the slums of Chirpan, Bulgaria; above right: Tom Evans, CEO, with his newly-adopted daughter from Bulgaria—also called Ani.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Two Girls Called Ani

At Child Impact International, we believe every child's story deserves to be told with dignity, hope, and heart. Jasper Iturriaga, our gifted photographer and videographer, captures those stories through his lens. You'll often see smiles in our photos—a reflection of the hope and potential we work hard to nurture.

But one photo has stood out. It was a quiet, powerful image of a young girl in the slums of Chirpan, Bulgaria. There was no smile—just a raw sense of vulnerability. I remember meeting her. She had been enjoying the activities at our local project, her spirit momentarily lifted. But she lives in a harsh place, wandering the dirt alleyways of a Roma settlement. Jasper had taken her picture as she stood alone in the street, and in that moment, it was clear—this girl needed someone to stand between her and the cruelties of her world.

Just a few hours from that slum, another moment was unfolding—one that changed our family forever. Two girls were waiting to meet my wife and me. After six years as orphans, they were about to become part of a family: ours. That same week, in the capital city of Sofia, the adoption was finalized. The girls chose their new names: Gabriella Evans, age 16, and Angelina Evans, age 10. We lovingly call them Gabi and Ani.

Back in the U.S., when we needed a photo for our Operation Child Rescue (OCR) brochure and event banners, we chose the image of the girl from Chirpan. Her face, her eyes—they spoke volumes. During a conversation in the office, someone asked

if we knew her name. We reached out to our partners in Bulgaria. The answer came back: she's called "Ani."
Two girls called Ani.

"Just a few hours from that slum, another moment was unfolding—one that changed our family forever."

One is now safe at home, surrounded by love, laughter, and the many blessings of life in America. The other is still navigating the difficult streets of Chirpan. Yet, thanks to OCR, her story is not without hope. Through this program, girls like Ani find a safe place to dream, to learn, and to grow. They're mentored by leaders who believe in them, who help them see a future beyond the slums.

In this issue of our magazine, we highlight the work of our Operation Child Rescue initiative. We invite you to join us in making a profound difference in the lives of children like Ani. Whether through a monthly gift to OCR—joining what we call The

Rescue Party—or a one-time gift, your support helps us rescue children from neglect, abuse, and trafficking.
Thank you for being a beacon of hope. Thank you for believing in their future.

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

CONTENTS

Issue 3 | 2025

- 4 OPERATION CHILD RESCUE**
Fighting exploitation around the world
- 6 TAILORED FOR SUCCESS**
Sewing program rebuilds futures
- 7 WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**
Rescuing girls in some of the world's most dangerous countries
- 8 HELP HER SAY NO**
Rescue campus fights forced child marriage
- 10 SETTING THE OPPRESSED FREE**
Fighting modern-day slavery in Pakistan
- 11 THE CHRISTMAS THAT SET THEM FREE**
A church gave what they could so that a family might receive freedom
- 12 SHATTERING CHAINS, IGNITING DREAMS**
A story of grit, grace, and a new beginning
- 13 RESCUE A GIRL. RESCUE A FAMILY.**
Learn about Child Impact's newest Operation Child Rescue initiatives
- 14 OUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD**
Sponsorship schools and Operation Child Rescue projects



EMPOWERING EDUCATION. ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.

Child Impact International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. We believe that education empowers children to break the chains of generational poverty. First launched in 1966 under the name Asian Aid, Child Impact's sponsorship program has grown to support more than 5,000 students. In 2014, Operation Child Rescue was launched to help eradicate exploitation. Over 10 years later, Child Impact is an emerging leader in the fight against human trafficking with 30 projects in 17 countries and counting. Our generous supporters have helped us bring hope and brighter futures to thousands of vulnerable children in over 20 countries.



Tim Taylor, Technology and Innovation Director (above left), smiles with his family at Child Impact's booth during a church event.

WHEN HEARTS ARE AWAKENED

The power of preaching and partnerships

By Tony Dennis

As I write this article, Child Impact International just eclipsed 50 church and school presentations completed in 2025. We've had nine different speakers from our team, five of whom are volunteers, able to present to different congregations and audiences. I'm humbled by how many congregations are opening their doors—and their hearts—to the mission of Child Impact.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025, our goal is to share powerful stories of rescue, hope, and transformation with at least 100 different audiences total—whether in churches, schools, or community venues across the U.S. What happens when doors are opened to this message? Hearts are awakened. Individuals, as well as whole congregations, are moved to pray, give, and act. Through video, testimony, and Scripture, our speakers inspire others to reflect the heart of Christ by standing up for those who cannot speak for themselves. In many cases, they ask the most powerful question of all: What more can we do?

That's where our church and business partnerships come in. We work with pastors, mission leaders, and business owners to develop year-long commitments where a church community, school, or business raises funds for a specific anti-trafficking project—whether that's supporting safe houses, providing trauma counseling, funding rescues, or sponsoring children at risk of exploitation. These partnerships build spiritual momentum in people's lives—especially within church congregations—and provide a tangible way for members to live out their faith.

One church has committed to raise \$200,000 amongst their members this year to help build our rescue campus in the Philippines to protect girls from

forced child marriage. Another church has pledged to raise \$35,000 toward building missionary housing on the same campus. A business we partner with commits 10% of their profits to our Operation Child Rescue fund. Others are interested in supporting our safe houses for trafficked girls in secret locations, freeing families enslaved in the brick kilns of Pakistan, rescuing girls at risk for trafficking in Zambia and Tanzania, and the list goes on.

At Child Impact International, we believe the fight against human trafficking—one of the darkest and fastest-growing crimes in the world—is not just a mission, but a mandate. This is why we are calling on churches, schools, and businesses across the country to join us in our mission to rescue and restore the most vulnerable. These efforts not only change lives overseas—they transform hearts and deepen faith right here at home.

You may be a pastor looking for a way to bring meaningful, Gospel-centered outreach to your congregation. You may be a principal, board member, business owner, or just a caring individual looking to bring hope to a child. Whoever you are, we invite you to partner with us. We ask you to help open doors for Child Impact and let us share the story. Let us bring the reality of modern-day slavery into the light—and equip your congregation, youth group, or business to be part of God's solution.

To schedule a Child Impact speaker or explore a partnership opportunity, please contact Tony Dennis, Strategic Partnerships Manager:

tdennis@childimpact.org or 423-910-0667. ■



By Shana Fairchild

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).

God is calling us to break the chains of modern-day slavery and set captives free. Over ten years ago, Child Impact International launched Operation Child Rescue (OCR) with a project in India, combatting the evils of human trafficking. From that first project, Child Impact now has 30 projects in 17 countries and growing. Through rescue and prevention, these projects fight forced child marriage, sexual exploitation, bonded servitude, abandonment, and abuse. As a result, many children have been set free and now have hope for a bright future!

When Ruth* was a child in Zambia, her father ran up a debt, likely due to alcohol abuse. As his creditors came knocking, her father found he had no way to pay. The creditors asked for Ruth to be given to them in exchange for payment. Her father accepted. However, when Ruth’s mother found out, she refused, and soon after, her father ran away. Yet the creditors were soon back asking for payment.

Ruth was in a precarious situation, vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Again. Sadly, she had previously been trafficked by a relative to truck drivers on the highway and contracted HIV. Ruth became one of the first 36 girls Child Impact helped to rescue and relocate to a safe haven at Riverside Farm.

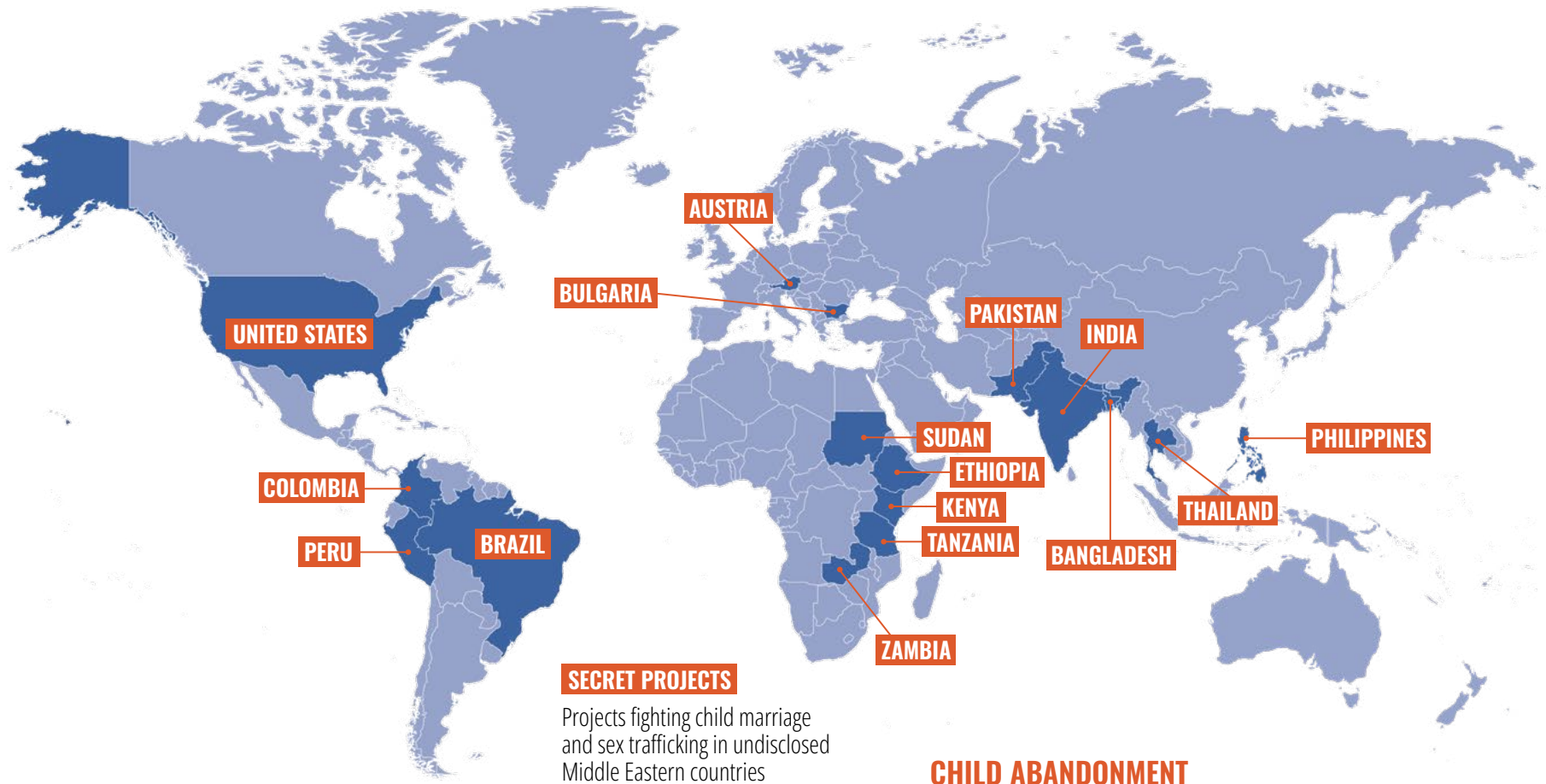
Although she was finally out of harm’s way, Ruth couldn’t stop thinking about her mom, distraught that she might be thrown in jail due to the unpaid debt. Child Impact stepped in to help and discovered the creditors now wanted both Ruth and her younger sister to pay off the debt. Because her mom refused, she was about to be taken to debtor’s prison. Child Impact paid the debt of \$411.

Today, Ruth and her sister are both living in safety, attending school at Riverside Farm and sponsored by Child Impact. They are healing, thriving, and making plans for a bright future—Ruth plans to become an electrical engineer someday. Once overwhelmed with fear and trauma, Ruth now exudes joy and peace.

When a child like Ruth is rescued, our work has just begun. Child Impact ensures each child has a safe home, nutritious meals, and a loving team to nurture their healing journey. Partner with us in our mission to rescue and bring healing to children by becoming a member of The Rescue Party, made up of supporters who give monthly to Operation Child Rescue, providing a lifeline for these precious children: childimpact.org/ocr. Thank you for bringing hope to a child. ■

**Name changed to protect identity*

30 PROJECTS, 17 COUNTRIES AND COUNTING.



SEX TRAFFICKING

Child Impact operates a network of safe homes focused on the rescue and rehabilitation of children who have been trafficked or are at high risk of sexual exploitation. Two of these safe houses are located in secret countries in the Middle East, providing shelter and education to girls who were being offered for sale.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Several Operation Child Rescue projects are focused on preventing forced child marriages, a recognized form of human trafficking. One of the biggest projects is underway in the Philippines and includes a rescue home and campus. Set to be completed in 2025, this project will provide safe shelter, education, and vocational training for girls at risk of being sold as child brides.

CHILD ABANDONMENT

Operation Child Rescue has numerous projects focused on caring for children who have been abandoned or neglected. In Tanzania, one such project provides safety, medical care, and a nurturing environment for abandoned babies. In 2024, close to 40 babies were supported through this project.

CHILD ABUSE

In Colombia, Child Impact operates a safe house protecting indigenous children who are often targeted for abuse and exploitation. As a result of the influence of this rescue campus, over 100 child abusers have been arrested since 2023. This project has received national attention as the only center of its kind in the country.

BONDED SERVITUDE

This form of modern-day slavery begins with a debt, usually due to a medical emergency, that is impossible to repay due to corruption and escalating interest. Families are often trapped by the debts of previous generations and are subjected to hard labor in unsafe conditions. In Pakistan, Child Impact sets these families free by paying their debts and providing them with six months of housing, tutoring for their children, and help for the parents to find new jobs.

The hard facts:

THERE ARE MORE SLAVES TODAY THAN AT ANY TIME IN EARTH’S HISTORY¹—MORE THAN 12 MILLION ARE CHILDREN.²

LESS THAN 0.4% OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ARE IDENTIFIED.³

SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ONLY LIVE AN AVERAGE OF 7 YEARS AFTER BEING TAKEN.⁴

CHILD MARRIAGE KILLS MORE THAN 60 GIRLS A DAY.⁵

¹Walk Free Foundation, 2021; ²Anti-Slavery International; ³Atlantic Council, 2023; ⁴SOS International; ⁵Save the Children, 2021

Join the fight to set the captives free.
Join **THE RESCUE PARTY.**
[CHILDIMPACT.ORG/OCR](https://childimpact.org/ocr)





Girls enrolled in Riverside Farm Institute's tailoring program show off some of the clothing they created during their courses.

TAILORED FOR SUCCESS

How a sewing program in Zambia is helping young women rebuild their futures

By Will Moore

Visiting Africa for the first time was an eye-opening experience. I've heard countless stories from my wife, Melissa, who manages Child Impact International's sponsorship program in Africa—but nothing compares to seeing the work in person. The programs she often talks about came to life, and one that stood out to me was the tailoring program at Riverside Farm Institute, one of Child Impact's partner organizations in Zambia.

Melissa has been closely connected to this project from the beginning. Several years ago, she joined a strategy meeting focused on how to support a particularly vulnerable group: girls who had dropped out of school and faced high risks of being trafficked, abused, or married off at a young age. The solution that emerged became a lifeline.

The staff at Riverside travel from village to village, searching for those in the most desperate situations. When they find them, they offer more than just a seat in a classroom—they offer a second chance at life. The one-year program provides vocational training in tailoring, along with tutoring and English classes. The goal is to give these girls a marketable skill and help them re-enter school to complete their education. For many, it's the first time anyone has invested in their future.

On our first day at Riverside, we met this year's tailoring class. Many of the students shared their stories. Some talked about how surprised they were to be chosen, knowing there were only twelve spots and dozens of applicants. Two of the girls held their babies as they spoke. For them—and many others—this opportunity has opened a door that once seemed permanently shut.

Later that day, we visited the tailoring classroom. Their teacher smiled and said, "Come Sunday for measurements, and your clothes will be ready Tuesday." The

quality of their work was impressive, and I'm proud to wear the shirt they made. It's not just a piece of clothing, but a symbol of growth, confidence, and possibility.

A few days later, we visited the village of two sisters in the program. Their friends and neighbors greeted them with smiles, laughter, and pride. These sisters will be the first from their village to complete secondary school. Several of their friends stood nearby with babies in their arms or wrapped tightly to their backs. Standing there, it was easy to imagine how different these girls' lives might have looked without this opportunity.

In a few months, these students will graduate. Some will pass their entrance exams and continue their education. Others may join Riverside's tailoring shop, sewing uniforms for students and staff. Those who leave will take their sewing machines with them—equipped

with tools to build a more secure future.

The tailoring program at Riverside is more than skills training—it's a turning point. It's more than a program; it's a rescue mission. It's a chance for girls to rewrite their stories.

Your gift to Operation Child Rescue will help expand this program and extend that rescue mission to even more vulnerable girls. ■



To support projects like this fighting human trafficking and exploitation, become a member of The Rescue Party by making a monthly gift to Operation Child Rescue: childimpact.org/ocr.

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Operation Child Rescue works to rescue girls in some of the world's most dangerous countries

By Jason Churchwell

At Child Impact International, we are always looking for opportunities to serve the most vulnerable children in the world. Countries where some of these children live are often controlled by religious extremists, at war, and closed to western/American influences. Finding Christians in these places can be difficult, much less ones who would be willing to risk their lives to rescue children. Simply sending money to these places to operate a project is nearly impossible. While all these challenges seem insurmountable to us, they aren't problems for God.

Over two years ago, I was introduced to a recently-converted family in one of these countries. After explaining who I was and what Child Impact was trying to accomplish through Operation Child Rescue, I asked if they would be willing to help us rescue children who were for sale. They asked for some time to pray and consider the opportunity as well as the risks involved.

It didn't take long for them to respond and commit themselves to the work of running a safe home in one of the most dangerous countries in the world. They quickly formed a team of other converts who began investigating cases of children who were either being forced to work long hours in unsafe conditions or were for sale as child brides. When they found a girl in need, our team would negotiate with the family to bring the girl to our home where she would have

a safe place to live and be given the opportunity to receive an education. We installed security cameras, built high walls around the home, and hired security for protection. We hired teachers and psychologists to help them heal from their trauma.

We now have eight girls living in our safe home and have started a second home with six girls in a neighboring country. These are some of their stories.

Dina* is 13 years old and has been working on the street selling chewing gum every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. since she was only 5. Many times, while working on the street, men would try and convince her to leave with them in attempts to exploit her. Just last year when Dina was only 12, an older man offered to purchase her as his wife for a few thousand dollars.

Leah* is an 11-year-old girl who was in the process of being sold to a 38-year-old man when our team found her. She was about to be traded for a small piece of land.

Ana* is a six-year-old girl whose father unfortunately died two years ago. After her mother remarried, she was sent to live with her uncle and his abusive wife. When our team found Ana, she was being forced to beg on the streets and at risk of being sold to anyone who would pay for her.

Mayra's* father left when she was very young and her mother, a police officer, was killed in the line of

duty. She was raised by an unkind grandfather who made her feel like a burden. With only two years of schooling, Mayra was forced to work to survive and became a victim of sex trafficking. Despite multiple pleas to the police, she received no help. Overwhelmed by hopelessness, she attempted suicide several times, most recently ending up in the hospital after ingesting rat poison. Our team found her selling horoscope cards in the subway.

This work has not been without its challenges. The husband of one of our teachers was sharing about Jesus at his business in the marketplace. Someone discreetly filmed him and told the authorities. He was arrested and has not been seen since, leaving behind his wife and young son who now live in our safe home. A member of our team was investigated by a terrorist organization and had to flee to a nearby country. Through it all, God has blessed our efforts to protect His children and share the good news of His love with them. Please pray for our efforts in these closed countries in the 10/40 window. ■



Support the rescue of girls in undisclosed countries:
childimpact.org/ocr.



Stock photo of a girl hiding her face; due to the dangerous conditions where our secret projects are operating, Child Impact is unable to disclose country locations.



Above: In one of the jungle villages, young mothers stand holding their children. Below: Portrait of Railen, who bravely told her family she wanted to continue her education rather than get married.

HELP HER SAY “NO”

Child Impact’s envisioned rescue campus aims to fight forced child marriage on Palawan

By Shana Fairchild

As school began again after summer break at Child Impact International’s five jungle schools in the mountains on the Philippine island of Palawan, the teachers discovered that nine students hadn’t returned to classes. Concerned, they began to search for the students to find out why they hadn’t come back to school. They soon discovered the answer: all nine had been married off, or were to be married off, despite their young ages.

The teachers also learned something else—one girl named Railen was pushing back against her forthcoming marriage and pleading to return to school. However, in this culture in the mountains, if the parents have accepted the money for a man to marry their daughter, the daughter cannot refuse. Railen’s situation looked bleak.

“I felt I wasn’t important to my parents,” Railen said, “because if I were important to them, they would respect my decision to continue my studies.”

Railen’s forced betrothal is part of a larger cycle that has existed for generations on the island. Sadly, the tradition continues today.

“My mother got married at 10 years old and gave birth to me when she was 12 years old,” Railen said. “This is what happens in the mountains; sometimes they force their children to marry because of money.”

When the teachers learned what was happening, Railen asked them for their help. They soon saw how her parents and relatives rejected her because she didn’t want to go along with the marriage. As her teachers sought to intervene, the family became so angry they told them that if they wanted her to go back to school and study, Railen would no longer be her family’s responsibility; the teachers would



have to take her in and care for her. Railen was facing being disowned. One of Railen’s teachers, Mechelle Magtuba, instantly offered to adopt Railen as her own daughter. She didn’t just offer to provide her with a place to stay and food to eat; she offered her a real family by proposing to legally adopt Railen.

“I told her, ‘Don’t worry. If you have no parents to support you, I will be your parent,’ Mechelle said. Today, Mechelle is not only trying to formalize her adoption of Railen, but she is also trying to adopt all of Railen’s siblings to protect them from also being married off as children.

While Railen’s story has a happy ending and is encouraging, there were eight other children who didn’t stand up for themselves, or felt they couldn’t, in order to continue their education.

There are many other children on Palawan who are in need of a safe place. Child Impact dreams of freedom for these children, for them to realize they have choices and to feel free to exercise those choices. Several students have said, “I didn’t realize I had a choice.” The sad reality is that every time students go on a break from school, more and more get married off.

Child Impact, in partnership with Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) is working quickly to provide these children with a safe haven where they can exercise their choice to continue their education. The planned rescue campus will provide a protective and stable home for children coming from unsafe homes or for those at high-risk for forced child marriage. Will you join us in our mission to help children like Railen have the choice to say “no” to child marriage? ■

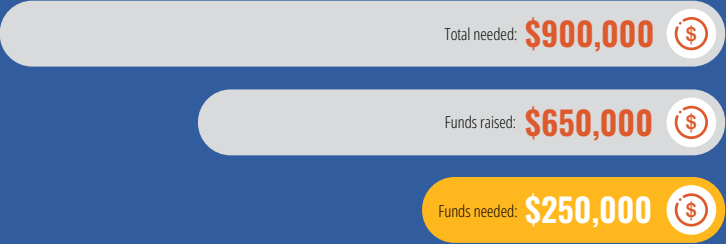
“My mother got married at 10 years old and gave birth to me when she was 12 years old.”

2025 Operation Child Rescue Project: Palawan Rescue Campus

In 2022, Child Impact International and Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) formed a partnership to bring education to unreached indigenous communities living in the mountains of the Philippine island of Palawan. Child Impact currently supports nearly 300 students studying in five jungle schools.

Now, Child Impact and PAMAS are joining forces to spearhead the construction of a rescue campus dedicated to the safety and well-being of over 100 children. The envisioned rescue campus aims to establish a protective and stable home for children vulnerable to unsafe homes or at high-risk for forced child marriage, rescuing them from situations of neglect, abuse, or other forms of harm and providing them with a refuge where they can learn and thrive without fear.

Through our efforts to combat child marriages, one of the most prevalent forms of human trafficking in the world today, we align with the United Nations’ ambitious goal of eradicating child marriages globally by 2030.



To learn more and to make a gift toward the rescue campus, visit ChildImpact.org/SafeHouse.



PALAWAN RESCUE CAMPUS

An AI rendering of the envisioned rescue campus shows the layout and buildings planned for the property.

SETTING THE OPPRESSED FREE

Operation Child Rescue’s new “Rescue a Family” initiative fights modern-day slavery in Pakistan

By April Espinoza

At Child Impact International, our vision is to create “a world in which every child has a safe, nurturing place to call home and the chance to achieve their full potential.” Yet, today in Pakistan, countless families remain trapped in a cruel cycle of debt and exploitation in the brick-making industry. It is modern-day slavery cloaked in the term “bonded labor.” Despite laws intended to protect human rights, this injustice persists in brick kilns across the country. Parents and children alike are forced to work in grueling, dangerous conditions with no hope of freedom.

Often, the head of the family takes out a loan to cover essential needs, believing it will be repaid. However, due to the oppressive and exploitative nature of brick kiln owners, these families often fail to repay the loan for many years. The entire family is forced into labor to repay the debt which continually gains interest. Children who should be in school spend their days forming bricks in the scorching sun, their dreams buried beneath layers of soot and clay.

Sajad is a 43-year-old father working tirelessly in a brick kiln to care for his wife and their 14-year-old son, Moazam, who is both blind and physically disabled. The child’s physical condition not only adds to the family’s emotional burden but also increases their financial challenges. Each day, Sajad faces the arduous task of producing a set quota of bricks. Any shortfall in this quota adds to their debt, further deepening their financial struggles. Despite his unbreakable spirit, Sajad’s labor is never enough. Their living conditions are poor, and the hope of breaking free from the vicious cycle of bondage and debt seems nearly impossible unless someone steps in.

Sajad’s story is not an isolated one; many other families face similar struggles. Somewhere near the village of Jia Bagha Rana Faisal, Ashiq and his wife Nasreen borrowed an initial loan that has been consistently increasing over the past 25 years. Despite their relentless efforts to provide a better future for their family, life has become a constant struggle filled with hardship and sickness. Nasreen and her

son are both disabled and unable to work. Their two other children, who should be building their own lives, are working tirelessly to help repay the family debt. They work from dawn to dusk under grueling conditions, only to see their debt increase. Ashiq and his wife dream of a day when their children can marry, work freely, and achieve a respectable livelihood.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan estimates that at least 2 million children are working in slave-like conditions. We cannot ignore this reality. That’s why we’ve launched the Rescue a Family initiative—an urgent mission to bring lasting change.

Children who should be in school spend their days forming bricks in the scorching sun, their dreams buried beneath layers of soot and clay.

With just \$5,500, a family can be fully freed from debt. This amount covers:

- Full repayment of their bonded-labor loan
- Six months of housing, and basic living expenses
- Medical care for sick or disabled family members

- Tutoring and educational support for the children
- Support to find a new job

Most importantly, this initiative offers something far greater—hope. We also share the Word of God with each family, so they can find strength, dignity, and purpose through Him as they rebuild their lives.

Our goal is to set a total of 25 families free by this Christmas. Each gift you make is more than a donation—it’s a lifeline. It’s a mother’s prayer answered, a father’s burden lifted, a child’s future restored.

Together, we can break the chains. Together, we can set families free. ■



To learn how to rescue families trapped in modern-day slavery, turn to page 13 or support our work by making a monthly gift to Operation Child Rescue: childimpact.org/ocr.



A boy works to make bricks in one of Pakistan’s notorious brick kilns. Families, including children, often work long hours daily in grueling conditions at the behest of kiln owners to whom they’re indebted.



The newly-freed family of nine (one child not pictured) smiles with Child Impact’s partners and stands by their packed belongings, ready to leave 50 years of servitude behind and begin a new life.

THE CHRISTMAS THAT SET THEM FREE

A small church gave what they could so that a family halfway around the world might receive freedom

By Donna Willey

In a quiet rural town, nestled between frost-covered fields and winding roads, stands a small church with a weather-worn building and a heart much bigger than its size. The people of the Richland Bridge Seventh-day Adventist Church didn’t have much by the world’s standards, but they had something priceless: compassion and a desire to live beyond their walls in search of a deeper meaning of Christmas.

During the first Sabbath of December, as the snow began to fall, lay Pastors Rod and Donna Willey shared something that would stir the hearts of their congregation as well as their own hearts.

Child Impact International had shared the desperate needs of a family of nine—a mother, a father, and seven children—faces streaked with clay dust, eyes dim with quiet pain. They lived in Pakistan, working as bonded laborers in a brick kiln. Fifty years earlier, a medical emergency had forced the grandfather to borrow money from the kiln owner. The debt, though small, had grown like a shadow, impossible to repay. They were trapped, along with their children and grandchildren. Generation after generation of families like theirs lived and died making bricks, never free.

“We can’t fix everything,” Pastor Donna said, her voice broken with emotion. “But maybe... this Christmas... we can change everything for one family.”

The church sat in silence. Then a single voice broke the stillness.

“Let’s make our gifts smaller this year.”

“I don’t need another sweater,” someone else added with a smile.

“I’ll talk to my kids,” said another. “We’ll give up a few presents. They’ll understand.”

Generation after generation of families like theirs lived and died making bricks, never free.

Envelopes of cash, checks, and even a few crumpled bills from children saving their allowances began coming in. The church gave sacrificially, joyfully, and worshipfully.

By Christmas Eve, they had raised enough. Their funds would pay the debt AND six months of food, clothing, housing, education, and medical expenses to get the family on their feet. But the greatest gift was a church family waiting for them, ready to share the story of the One who had paid their ultimate ransom.

The funds were sent through Child Impact

International. And in a dusty brick kiln halfway around the world, a miracle happened: a kiln owner was paid, a debt was erased, and a family stepped out of bondage into freedom—for the first time in 50 years.

On Christmas Sabbath, as the church gathered to sing “The Little Drummer Boy,” a photo arrived: the family, now free, standing beside an old truck packed with all their belongings—a mattress and some clothing. The mother smiled with tears. The aged father’s broken hands told their story. A hope they had never experienced before gleamed in each of their eyes.

The congregation wept. They gave their best. They gave for Him.

There were fewer gifts under the tree that year, but more joy than we had ever known. We had given a little, and in doing so, a family halfway around the world had received everything.

This is what Christmas means: “He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the captives... to set the oppressed free.” —Luke 4:18

Are you seeking a way to lead your church beyond the walls of your building, beyond your own Christmas celebrations, beyond your own family traditions? In the brick kilns of Pakistan, countless families are longing—desperately—for a chance at freedom. You could be the one to help set them free. ■

SHATTERING CHAINS, IGNITING DREAMS

A story of grit, grace, and a new beginning in Zambia

By April Espinoza

For nearly 60 years, Child Impact International has met the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of vulnerable children, breaking cycles of generational poverty through education and fighting against exploitation. We deeply believe that education doesn't just open doors—it shatters chains. Marsharin's story is a living testament to that truth.

Marsharin grew up in Chirundu, a small town in Zambia, where poverty, instability, and abuse clouded her childhood. Her days were filled not with learning, but with survival. She once had access to free education through a government program, but when funding ended, so did her schooling. Left with no choice, she spent her days in the marketplace selling vegetables, going from house to house trying to earn enough for food and the hope of returning to school.

But even in the face of relentless hardship, Marsharin carried a spark—a quiet, unshakable desire to learn. That spark became a flame the day Eliana Manda, executive assistant to the director at Riverside Farm Institute, visited Chirundu to identify vulnerable children in need of intervention. Among many faces in the crowd, it was Marsharin's, standing there selling vegetables, that caught her eye.

Though many children registered for the aptitude test, only a few were chosen: those who showed not just need but also resilience. Marsharin was one of those who stood out, and she was offered a place at

Riverside Farm, Child Impact's partner organization in Zambia. There, her life began to change.

Riverside doesn't just offer education; it provides transformation. Students are mentored and taught employable skills, from agriculture at the banana farm and life skills to evangelism and internships supporting Child Impact's sponsorship program. It's a place where students aren't just educated—they are

They see in her a girl who once stood where they stand—afraid and full of untapped potential.

equipped to rise.

When Marsharin arrived, she wept with joy. She couldn't believe she had been given a second chance. She made a promise to herself that day: to always work hard.

And she kept that promise.

"Emotionally, she became more confident and hopeful. Physically, she grew healthier and stronger in the supportive environment of Riverside. Academically, she's become more focused and determined, driven by the desire to support her family

and build a better future," said Eliana. "She's matured into a responsible, inspiring young woman."

Marsharin didn't just excel—she led. At Riverside, she is known for her kindness, her humility, and her hunger to learn beyond the classroom. She lifts others up, even as she continues to climb. She has become a role model, a sister, a light.

She recently scored the highest in her secondary school exams across a wide range of subjects and received a scholarship to go to university, where she will study engineering. Her success is not just a reflection of her intelligence but of her resilience, work ethic, and the power of what happens when a girl is given a chance.

Today, Marsharin's story inspires girls across the program and beyond. They see in her a girl who once stood where they stand—afraid and full of untapped potential.

Because of girls like Marsharin, Child Impact launched the new Rescue a Girl initiative. For \$2,400, one girl can be rescued and provided with safe transportation, a secure home, bedding, medical care, living expenses, and education for an entire year.

This year, our goal is to rescue 125 girls. Will you help rewrite a girl's story?

Your gift won't just provide an education—it will restore dignity, build confidence, and ignite dreams. It will give her a future filled with hope and purpose. Be the reason a girl like Marsharin gets a second chance. ■

OPERATION CHILD RESCUE

RESCUE A *girl.*
RESCUE A *family.*



At Child Impact International, we believe every child deserves to live free from fear, exploitation, slavery, and abuse. Our new **Rescue a Girl** and **Rescue a Family** initiatives are a bold effort to put our belief into action: pulling girls out of human trafficking—or preventing them from ever falling into it—and rescuing families trapped in modern-day slavery, sometimes for decades. These initiatives aim to provide them with everything they need to begin a new, hope-filled life.



A Rescue a Girl sponsorship of \$2,400 (or \$200/mo) includes:

- Rescue and transportation
- Medical care
- Dormitory set-up
- Living expenses for one year
- Education expenses for one year

A Rescue a Family sponsorship of \$5,500 includes:

- Full repayment of bonded-labor loan
- Six months of basic living expenses
- Medical care
- Tutoring and education for the children
- Support to find a new job
- Spiritual care

This is more than rescue—it's restoration.

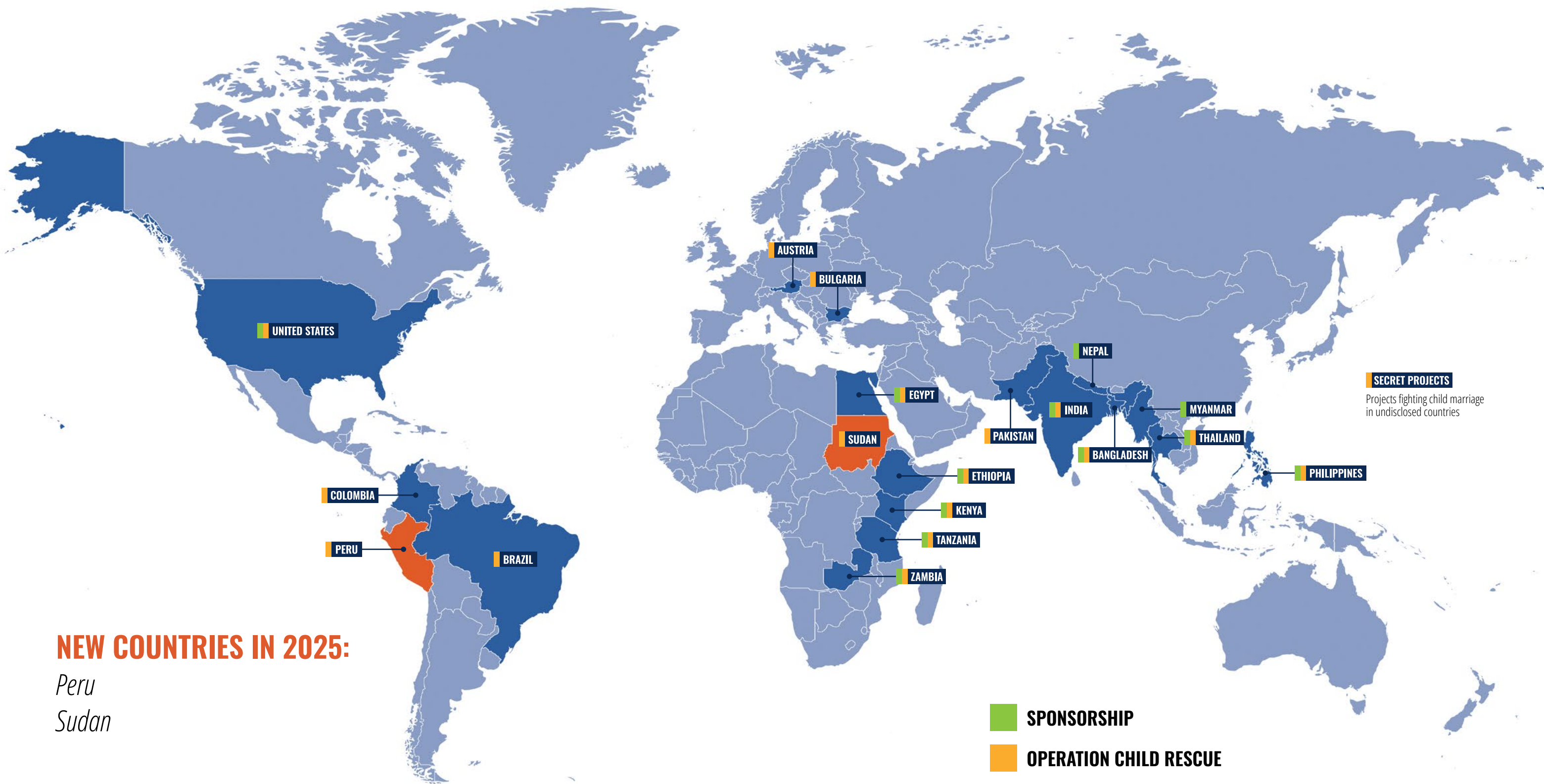
To learn how you or a group can step in to rescue, contact Tony Dennis at tdennis@childimpact.org or 423.910.0667.



Portrait of Marsharin, who overcame poverty and abuse and was given a second chance at Riverside Farm Institute. She recently graduated and will head to university to study engineering.

OUR **IMPACT** AROUND THE WORLD

Sponsorship Schools and Operation Child Rescue Projects



NEW COUNTRIES IN 2025:

*Peru
Sudan*



Child Impact International
P.O. Box 3202
Collegedale, TN 37315

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THE RESCUE VESPERS

Join the fight to rescue girls and families from exploitation

Human trafficking is an underground crime affecting approximately **50 million** individuals worldwide. For over 10 years, Child Impact International has been dedicated to fighting against human trafficking through our Operation Child Rescue initiative. In honor of the World Day Against Human Trafficking, join Child Impact for our annual event: The Rescue Vespers. During this special evening, learn more about our new rescue projects, hear stories from our field partners, and enjoy special performances by musical guest *Alive*.



SATURDAY, JULY 26 | 5 PM ET



COLLEGEDALE, TN | LIVE ONLINE

Join us in person or live online. Learn more at childimpact.org/rescuevespers.

