



CHILDIMPACT
INTERNATIONAL



EMPOWERING EDUCATION. ERADICATING EXPLOITATION.



L: Portrait of Vera the day she arrived at Twing Memorial School. R: Vera, with Child Impact International CEO Dr. Tom L. Evans, shows off a football.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Vera's Story

On December 12, 2023, I found myself standing with our partner, Musa, from Twing Memorial Schools at a bus station in Kigoma, Tanzania. It was the middle of the night, yet my heart was wide awake with anticipation. A group of girls had just completed a 24-hour journey across the country, clinging to the fragile but beautiful hope of a new life.

The next morning, as I sat at breakfast with them, I met a girl named Vera. She was smaller than the others, thin, yet her smile was impossible to miss. I couldn't help but wonder what her journey had been like. In the region she came from, the path for girls her age—just 12 to 14 years old—was heartbreakingly narrow: either forced into child marriage or lured by the false promise of a job across the border, only to fall into the trap of human trafficking.

But this time, Vera's story would be different. She had arrived safely at Twing Memorial School, a place where she would find safety, nourishment, education, and, most importantly, the chance to dream.

Fast forward to February 6, 2025—I saw Vera again. What a transformation! She had grown taller, stronger, and her eyes radiated a confidence that only hope can bring. She and a few of her friends asked if they could sing. Their voices rose together in a chorus that touched my heart

to the core: *"I'm no longer the same!"*

What a profound truth. Vera's story is deeply personal for me because my own family sponsors her. Sitting with her over lunch, I listened as she expressed her gratitude. Yet the truth is—I felt like the one most blessed. As

I left Twing Memorial School that day, my heart was overflowing with joy.

To each of you who give, pray, and sacrifice to make stories like Vera's possible, I want to say *thank you*. You are changing lives in ways you may never fully see this side of heaven. But children know. Vera knows. And together, we are writing stories of transformation.

Please continue to share this mission with others. There are still so many children waiting for the same hope and bright future that Vera is now experiencing.

With gratitude and hope,

Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO

"Their voices rose together in a chorus that touched my heart to the core: 'I'm no longer the same!'"

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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.



CHILD IMPACT IN THE FIELD



A Child Impact International supporter meets children who are involved with Child Impact Colombia's programs.

A JOURNEY THAT MULTIPLIES HOPE

When was the last time you were moved to action?

By Liz Thomsen

When was the last time you felt truly moved, so deeply that you had to do something? Not just a fleeting thought or a tearful moment but a decision that changed the course of your life—and someone else's?

I'm Liz Thomsen, Director of Development & Global Engagement at Child Impact International. It is my privilege to invite you on a new experience. While I enjoy travel, traveling with a purpose is so much more meaningful.

Mary* was one of those people who sought travel with a purpose. At 73 years young, Mary didn't just reflect on making a difference; she packed her bags and flew halfway around the world to a small country in Africa. Why? To spend time with young people who were suffering and needed hope. She wanted to "walk" in their shoes, to see life from their perspective. What happened next changed her life—and the lives of many others—forever.

What Mary found was both heartbreaking and hopeful: children and families living with unimaginable hardship, poverty, abuse, and neglect, yet clinging to hope. To them, help didn't mean thousands—it meant \$50 a month to provide education and food for a child. It meant \$500 to start a small business that could grow into a stable income and feed an entire family.

Often we hear, "Why travel? Wouldn't my donation go further if I just sent it?" While

financial gifts are powerful, stepping into the world of someone else—seeing, hearing, and feeling their daily struggles—creates a deeper impact. Mary's journey didn't end when she flew home. It began there. She became an ambassador, sharing her story with friends and family, on social media, in churches, and in her community. Soon, others followed her lead.

Moved by her passion and first-hand experience, people gave. People stepped forward. More children were sponsored. More families were lifted out of poverty. Hope shone brighter because she chose to act. What started as a single step of faith turned into a ripple effect that transformed entire communities.

At Child Impact International, we believe in the power of personal impact. Yes, your gifts matter, but what about your presence, your passion, and your story? They can ignite change in ways you can't yet imagine. We invite you to step out in faith like Mary did. Join us on a life-altering journey. See with your own eyes what hope looks like. Share your story. And watch as your one small step becomes a powerful movement of love and transformation. Because sometimes, the greatest change happens not just when you give but when you go.

To find out more about Child Impact's new Donor Experiential Trips, visit childimpact.org/trips. ■



Upcoming Donor
Experiential Trips

December 1 - 14, 2025: **Philippines and Thailand**
March 11 - 22 and March 18 - 29, 2026: **Zambia**
September 6 - 20, 2026: **India**
November 29 - December 10, 2026: **Philippines**

A LIFELINE IN BOGOTÁ

Supporting Colombia's most vulnerable children fighting cancer

By Tom Evans

Child Impact International's commitment to serve the most vulnerable children takes on deep meaning through a project in Bogotá, Colombia: supporting children battling cancer and providing their families with essential resources.

Cancer is one of the most feared words in the world. More than half of Americans have faced it within their own family, according to a CBS poll. For my family, it became heartbreak on April 13, 2023, when we lost our precious 14-year-old son, Andris, to leukemia. He spent three birthdays in the hospital, surrounded by exhaustion, desperate prayers, and the crushing weight of helplessness. Cancer doesn't just strike a child—it shakes the entire family. My wife stayed in Nashville with Andris while I cared for our other children at home. During the cancer journey with Andris, both my wife and I ended up in the emergency room due to stress.

Mothers from remote villages, bringing their children weakened by cancer, arrive in Bogotá with nothing but hope—only to be overwhelmed by the big city and a medical system they don't understand and have difficulty navigating.

Yet, even in the darkest days, we were held by a network of love: pastors, hospital staff, and social workers along with meals delivered and housing provided through Ronald McDonald House. The Austin Hatcher Foundation offered counseling, fun activities, and priceless moments of joy. One unforgettable highlight was when Andris played soccer with professional athletes from Chattanooga Football Club. He laughed, scored goals, and was treated like a VIP. Those memories remain treasures in our hearts.

Now imagine children and families in Bogotá walking through the cancer journey without that safety net. For most, there are no pastors to pray with them, no social workers to guide them, no housing or foundations to provide counseling or moments of joy.

For 15 years, Ruth Alfonso and her volunteers have stood in the gap for the poorest families facing cancer—about 70% supported by a single mother. They've seen nearly 50 children abandoned at hospitals, parents never returning. They regularly encounter mothers and children walking for weeks from Venezuela, desperate for treatment. Ruth recalls one mother living in a park with no food but filled with joy that her 4-year-old son was receiving care. Ruth's team stepped in to meet her desperate needs.

The care provided goes far beyond what medicine alone can provide.

They offer puppet shows and fill rooms with music and laughter, take families on outings to spark joy, and provide counseling when grief and fear overwhelm. They help with housing, transportation, and healthy cooking—bringing practical support and hope to families who thought it was lost.

Through Child Impact's partnership, Ruth and her team have been able to extend services to 74 children and their families this year. But the need is far greater. Your gift can bring comfort and support where there is despair. Together, we can make sure no child fights cancer alone—and no family is left behind. You can support this project by making a gift to our Where Needed Most fund.

Special note: Child Impact International is prayerfully considering renting or purchasing a residence facility near one of the two major hospitals in Bogotá that provide cancer treatment for children. This would offer desperately-needed housing for families and allow for greater access to resources from our team. To discuss this solution, call 423-910-0667 or email help@childimpact.org and ask for Tom Evans or Jason Churchwell. ■



To support project opportunities like this one, make a gift to our Where Needed Most fund at childimpact.org/wnm.



Clockwise from top: A mother and child at the hospital in Bogotá; Child Impact team members pray with project leaders; Mara Evans (L) and Tom Evans (R) with their son, Andris (C), who passed away in 2023; a volunteer brings joy to one of the cancer patients at the hospital.



Jason Churchwell, Vice President of Field Operations, smiles with children at one of the Brazilian communities along the Amazon River.

HOPE ON THE AMAZON

Rescuing children from abuse and exploitation in Brazil

By Jason Churchwell and Nicole Bertelli

In most of the countries where Child Impact International works, government officials and community leaders insist that child abuse and human trafficking don't exist in their communities. They are embarrassed to admit they have failed to protect children. But in the Brazilian Amazon, the response is strikingly different. Community leaders, church pastors, and parents are crying out for help.

When we began looking for areas to expand our work in Brazil, Nicole Bertelli, Child Impact Brazil's Country Director, placed call after call to NGOs working in the Amazon, trying to verify the extent of child sexual abuse and human trafficking. The responses were devastatingly consistent: "It's everywhere." One contact went so far as to say that the abuse was so widespread it was considered a "part of Amazonian culture."

Pastors confessed they had to remove church members for harming children. The youngest victims we heard about were just four years old. Boys and girls alike are exploited in their homes, on small boats along the river, and on the streets.

It gets even worse as we realized most victims have nowhere to turn. Children who find the courage to speak out are often silenced by their own families. Mothers sometimes blame their daughters for the abuse and dismiss their claims. Even when reports reach the authorities, there is no shelter or foster care system to protect the child.

And in an unimaginable twist, perpetrators, once convicted, can be released early due to "good behavior" or prison overcrowding, often returning to the same homes as their victims.

One young girl recently confided in a Child Impact Brazil social worker, saying "I was abused by my uncles this morning." She was broken, yet had no safe place to go.

"The Brazilian Amazon is beautiful ... But beneath the canopy of green and along the winding rivers, children are suffering in silence, trapped in cycles of abuse and exploitation. For too long, their voices have been unheard."

Sarah's Story

Among the many heart-wrenching testimonies we heard on our recent visit, one mother's story stands out. We'll call her Sarah. Sarah was just a teenager when she left home and became pregnant, not by accident, but as a desperate attempt to escape the sexual abuse she endured at home by her older brothers. She believed that motherhood would free her from her abusers. Instead, it set her on a path of hardship. Her first husband turned to alcohol, often being dragged home at night by his friends. When Sarah left to protect herself and her children, she found herself alone and struggling to survive.

Sarah eventually remarried, but the family still lives in deep poverty. When she takes small jobs cleaning homes or hosting events, she often has no choice but to leave her children unattended. During these times, her children have been abused by neighbors. She spoke through tears describing her dilemma: working to feed her children or staying home to protect them.

To make ends meet, Sarah recently took a job cleaning a local brothel. There, she encountered children as young as 12 being trafficked. One girl was selling her body for the equivalent of four U.S. dollars, just enough to buy food for the day.

When we visited Sarah's home, six children crowded around her. Her oldest daughter, only sixteen, was already pregnant with her second child. The cycle of exploitation continues.

Breaking the Cycle

Faced with this reality, Child Impact International launched a new project this June

under our Operation Child Rescue initiative. Our mission is to break the cycle of abuse through education, prevention, and intervention.

- For teachers: We are training them to recognize the signs of abuse, respond to disclosures with compassion, and report cases to the authorities.
- For children: We are teaching what safe and unsafe touch looks like, empowering them to say "no" and seek help if someone threatens them.
- For teenagers: We provide education on sexual abuse prevention and pregnancy prevention, addressing a crisis where nearly one third of pregnancies last year were among teens.
- For parents: We equip them with knowledge on protecting their children, since most abuse happens inside the home.

Our work doesn't stop at education. We have a psychologist who provides counseling for children who have suffered abuse. We are also creating safe spaces for children to play in town. A local leader cleared a soccer field so we could host sports and other outdoor activities. He even goes door to door asking for spare weed-eater string to keep the field clean. This may seem small, but for children who lack any extracurricular opportunities, it is a chance to experience joy, build friendships, and stay away from drugs and exploitation.

The obstacles remain enormous. Reporting cases of abuse is hindered by something as basic as the police station being closed on weekends. Imagine calling 911 only to find no one answers because it's Saturday or Sunday.

The greatest barrier, however, is the lack of safe housing. Without shelters or foster care, children are forced to remain in the homes of their abusers. The state is currently suing the local city for failing to provide a safe house. The need is urgent, and we are convicted that Child Impact should step in to build and operate a safe haven where children can heal, learn, and dream of a brighter future.

The Brazilian Amazon is beautiful. Parrots and toucans fly constantly overhead, perching in the palm trees. But beneath the canopy of green and along the winding rivers, children are suffering in silence, trapped in cycles of abuse and exploitation. For too long, their voices have been unheard.

Through Operation Child Rescue, Child Impact International is committed to changing this reality. We cannot allow child sexual abuse to be accepted as a "part of the culture." Every child deserves an opportunity to live without fear and chase their dreams.

We invite you to join us. Your prayers and your financial support make it possible for us to rescue children, equip communities, and build safe spaces. The need is urgent, and together we can bring hope to the most vulnerable children in the Amazon. ■



To support projects fighting exploitation and abuse, make a gift to Operation Child Rescue: childimpact.org/ocr.



The Amazon River winds past communities in Brazil's interior.

FROM ZAMBIA TO OUR HEARTS

*Two sets of twins,
one shared journey*

By Melissa Moore



"When Riverside confirmed the girls were twins, I immediately called my twin sister and told her there were two twin girls who were vulnerable to exploitation or may have already been exploited. She didn't hesitate to jump in..."

*L: Melissa (center) meets Jessica (left) and Mailise (right).
R: Melissa (right) and her twin sister hold up their sponsor pictures of Jessica and Mailise.*

Mailise and Jessica are twin sisters who grew up in Zambia. Like most twins, they were very close. They grew to rely on each other even more after their brother passed away. Their parents faced enormous challenges providing for them, and when it came time for the girls to start school, money was scarce. They remember how difficult it was even to enroll in grade one. They missed the first two months of the school year and only began classes thanks to the kindness of someone who offered to help pay their fees. Life at home remained a daily struggle: finding enough food to eat and meeting basic needs were never easy. Despite these hardships, the girls made friends easily. Both describe themselves as naturally social, and they quickly connected with classmates who were willing to share knowledge and help them catch up in school.

When staff at Child Impact International's partner organization in Zambia, Riverside Farm Institute, first met them, they shared that they were selling shoes in Zimbabwe to earn an income. Cross-border trading like this is common for people in their community, but it's not without risks. The business is tough, competition is high, customers are unpredictable, and some days they return home without making a single sale. Safety was also a concern, but the need to support their families pushed them to continue trying.

For girls struggling to earn money, there is often pressure to make money from the hundreds of truck drivers who are crossing the border daily. Although there are laws in Zambia that state the prison sentence for child prostitution is 20 years to life, the process to convict a perpetrator is almost impossible. With a lack of physical evidence, several witnesses are almost always needed to secure a conviction. At border crossings, there is a concentration of this kind of activity because truck drivers are difficult to track, especially when they leave the country.

In the midst of this difficult reality, my own life was soon to intersect with Mailise's and Jessica's. When the girls were born, my own twin sister and I were college students. During their lifetimes, we both graduated, got married, and each had two children. Our paths connected with them in 2022, shortly after I began working at Child Impact International. During our first annual Rescue Vespers that July, our goal was to find sponsors for the first 35 vulnerable girls moving into a rented dorm at Riverside. As I was printing the profiles for the event, a girl's name stuck out to me: Mailise. It sounded like a unique variation of my name, Melissa. A few pages later, I saw another profile with the same face, but a different name: Jessica. The birthdate was exactly the same as Mailise. I messaged Riverside's leadership team to see if there was an error or if these girls were twins. When Riverside confirmed the girls were twins, I immediately called my twin sister and told her there were two new twin girls at Riverside who were vulnerable to exploitation or may have already been exploited. She didn't hesitate to jump in to help, and we both became sponsors of Mailise and Jessica.

We were able to celebrate with them when they graduated school this past December. Our children know they have a "big sister" in Zambia whom we pray for regularly. Over the years, we have written them messages and sent photos of our families. When my husband and I were in Zambia this

past May, we were able to connect with the girls in person, and it was an unforgettable experience! Three years ago, we had photos and a paragraph of information about each of them. To be able to hug them, pray for them, and encourage them was amazing. It seemed unreal!

Today, Mailise and Jessica are part of the vocational training program at Riverside. They've been developing practical skills that will help them earn a living after graduation. When asked about their future plans, both girls said they dream of doing mission work. They know that achieving these dreams may require sponsorship or further support, but they remain determined and hopeful.

Mailise and Jessica will always be a special part of our families. I pray they find a path to become missionaries someday, and I praise God that we were able to be a part of their stories. There are 100 additional vulnerable or exploited girls that will move into Riverside's second girls dorm in January 2026. If you want to support the rescue of one of these girls, I invite you to explore our new Rescue a Girl program. ■



To rescue a girl, visit childimpact.org/rescue-girl. To sponsor a child, visit childimpact.org/sponsor.

A LIGHT OF LEARNING IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

Providing stability for Myanmar students through sponsorship

By Christina Donesky

At Child Impact International, we believe that every child deserves the chance to learn in safety. Sadly, for many children in Myanmar, that chance is slipping away. Decades of ongoing civil war, mandatory conscription, and frequent bombings have forced families to flee their homes in search of refuge. For hundreds of students, migrant learning centers in Thailand like Sunshine Orchard Learning Center, a partner organization of Child Impact, offer not only an education but a lifeline. Behind each student is a story of hardship and hope.

K'Nyaw Paw, whose name means "Karen flower," is a twelve-year-old girl from Myanmar and a member of the Karen ethnic group. The Karen are one of the largest ethnic minorities in Myanmar, with a long history of conflict, marginalization, and displacement. For decades, many Karen communities have lived along the southeastern border of Myanmar, often caught in the crossfire of civil war and facing persecution by the military. As violence has escalated in recent years, large numbers of Karen families have fled into Thailand, seeking safety and the hope of a better future for their children.

K'Nyaw Paw came with her family for registration at Sunshine Orchard and passed all the necessary placement tests to be considered for fourth grade. After registration day, she returned to her village, anxiously waiting to see if she would be granted a spot or placed on the long waiting list. Several days later, the list of accepted students was released, and K'Nyaw Paw's name was on it!

Weeks passed, and the school year began. K'Nyaw Paw crossed the river separating Myanmar and Thailand, arriving in her uniform with her books in hand, ready to start her first day of class. As the teacher read the names of the students, K'Nyaw Paw was confused because her name was not called. She made her way to the administration office, where they explained that she had not confirmed her spot by the deadline. As a result, another student had been given her place. The staff told her that if she waited, they would do a final count and see if there was still space for her in fourth grade. She waited all day in hopes that she could begin her studies. The school administrator, Anna, said she would call the next morning to confirm whether a place had opened. That night, there was a bombing on K'Nyaw Paw's village, and seven bombs were dropped. Only four exploded, one at

midnight, one at 1 a.m., another at 3 a.m., and the last at 5 a.m.

The next morning, Anna called K'Nyaw Paw's family to let them know that the school had added an extra desk for her in fourth grade. The family was relieved that she could attend school but asked if she could begin that afternoon or the following day. They explained that the bombs had landed near the house where she was staying, and K'Nyaw Paw had not been able to sleep.

K'Nyaw Paw is just one example of the many students in Thailand who need sponsors. These children come from a country devastated by civil war. When they hear a drone or airplane, they run, unsure if a bomb will follow.

Young men, even under the age of 18, live in fear of being conscripted into the army.

Of the 394 students who came to register at Sunshine Orchard, only 172 could be accepted. This brought the school's total enrollment to 879 students. K'Nyaw Paw is just one of 879 students currently enrolled at Sunshine Orchard Learning Center. Each of them carries a story marked by conflict, displacement, and fear. Yet through your support, these children are now stepping into classrooms filled with

hope. They are learning, laughing, and dreaming again. But many of these enrolled students still do not have sponsors.

Sponsorship does not always bring in new students. It ensures that the ones who are already here, like K'Nyaw Paw, can stay. It means a child can continue their education with the security of knowing they have the resources they need. It means a uniform, school supplies, daily meals, and the care of teachers who are committed to helping them learn and grow.

Your support can provide stability and hope to a child who has already made the brave journey across the border in search of safety. Together, we can make sure that every desk at Sunshine Orchard is filled not just with a student, but with the promise of a brighter future. Would you consider sponsoring one of these students today? ■



To sponsor a child affected by war like K'Nyaw Paw, visit childimpact.org/sponsor.



L: K'Nyaw Paw attends class at Sunshine Orchard Learning Center. R: Registration day at Sunshine Orchard saw 394 new students and their families attempt to register for school.



L: Staff carry new solar panels to install at one of the schools. R: Ciin showcases the new solar power kit installed at a school.



MEETING CRITICAL NEEDS

Solar power kits bring light, water, and hope to children in Myanmar

By Christina Donesky

Due to Myanmar's isolation caused by civil war (the longest ongoing civil war in the world), I regularly communicate with our field partner there named Ciin. We exchange multiple emails daily and speak via video call every few weeks. During one of these calls earlier this spring, Ciin expressed a serious concern.

Because of the ongoing conflict, citizens in Myanmar have access to electricity for only one hour per day at most. Some can use generators, but because of rising costs and scarcity of fuel, this is made increasingly difficult. Ciin explained that at the boarding schools where Child Impact International sponsor students, the dormitories had no access to light or water due to the lack of power. As a result, students were using candles and flashlights to move around at night, and many were developing skin issues due to poor hygiene. Some had even been hospitalized because of the severity of their conditions.

I immediately asked her to find out what could be done to restore power and water to these schools. A few days later, she emailed to let me know that she had spoken with the schools and found a solution: solar power kits. These kits included solar panels, an inverter, and batteries. She explained that different sizes were available

depending on the school's needs and assured me that they would be powerful enough to provide the essential needs of water and light.

After collecting all the information, the Child Impact team decided to move forward immediately by providing a solar kit for one boarding school. Choosing which school to start with was not easy because many were struggling with the same issues. Ultimately, we selected a school, and installation began.

During that time, we brainstormed additional ways to meet the urgent need and decided to share the story with our supporters through our weekly Friday Field Report email newsletter and online Gift Catalog. In the email sent on Friday, April 25, 2025, I shared a few stories and highlighted the need for solar kits at three large boarding schools and five smaller ones. The total amount needed to support all the schools requesting solar kits was \$110,000.

The following Monday, I logged into my computer to check reports. To my surprise, more than \$50,000 had come in over the weekend since the Friday Field Report was sent. I immediately called Ciin to share the incredible news that more schools would be able to receive solar kits. She was overwhelmed and overjoyed.

As the week went on, donations continued to pour in. Gifts of \$10, \$50, \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, and even \$50,000 came in from generous supporters. By the end of the week, more than \$112,000 had been raised, fully funding the Solar Kit Project for all the sponsored schools in Myanmar.

Since April, solar kits have been installed at all four large boarding schools, and several of the smaller schools have also received theirs. Thanks to your generous support, thousands of students now have reliable access to electricity and water. These essentials are dramatically improving their daily lives and learning environments.

Because of your support, children no longer must study by candlelight or walk in the dark. They can now wash, cook, clean, and study in safety and dignity. Teachers are better equipped to care for their students, and the entire school environment is now more stable and secure. Your generosity has not only met a physical need but has brought renewed hope to children who are growing up amid conflict and uncertainty.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. You saw the need and responded with compassion. Your kindness is making a real and lasting difference in the lives of students in Myanmar! ■

DRIVEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How a classic car is helping to fuel the fight against child marriage

By Shana Fairchild

When a vintage 1969 Ford Bronco called “Baby Blue” started gaining popularity on social media, its owner, Katie McGrath, saw an opportunity to make a difference for girls in need through Child Impact International.

After hearing at church about Child Impact’s project to build a rescue campus for girls at risk of child marriage in the Philippines, Katie felt compelled to act. “When I learned what is happening to these girls—in 2025—I wanted to

find a way to help,” she shared.

What began as a personal gift—a custom-modified Bronco from her husband, Bobby, a classic vehicle expert—quickly became a platform with purpose. Baby Blue was already turning heads online for its unique, soft-blue patina (a color no one has been able to replicate). The growing social media following gave Katie an idea: why not use the page to raise awareness and money for the rescue campus?

That’s exactly what she did. Once her Facebook page was eligible for monetization, she turned on Facebook’s income features and committed 100% of the proceeds to Child Impact. “My first month I made 35 cents,” she said, “but I kept posting consistently and this number has grown. It grew a lot, fast, when I decided to use this income stream to help support a ministry!” Every

like, comment, and share now directly supports a cause that’s close to her heart.

Since things really began to take off in January 2025, the results have been impactful—not only in terms of dollars raised, but also in the conversations started and connections made. “The most rewarding part is knowing that such a little thing, like using Baby Blue’s Facebook page, can make a difference,” Katie said. “It’s not really about how much each person can do, but it is about how many people are willing to do something. By myself, as just one person, I can’t really do much, but working together, we can make a huge difference!”

As her following continues to grow, Katie plans to expand to YouTube to reach even more people. “I hope to continue to be able to produce content for people to enjoy and consequently be able to continue to support ministries that speak to my heart.”

If you’d like to help, every interaction with Baby Blue’s content helps generate funds that support Child Impact’s work! Follow Baby Blue Bronco online:

- Facebook: facebook.com/BabyBlueBronco
- YouTube: [@babybluebronco](https://youtube.com/babybluebronco) ■



Katie poses in front of her 1969 Ford Bronco lovingly called “Baby Blue.”

EXPANDING THE REACH

Child Impact International’s mission reaches audiences in Canada

By April Espinoza

As Child Impact International continues to grow, we see God opening doors we didn’t think possible. Recently, Dr. Tom L. Evans, CEO, met Neskens Jr. Dorcelus, founder of Dorcelus Empowerment, an organization providing training designed to foster unity, collaboration, and organizational effectiveness. Through his work, Neskens serves schools, non-profits, and various organizations. When he learned about Child Impact’s mission and Operation Child Rescue, he knew he wanted to get involved.

“What immediately stood out to me was that this mission serves a niche many people often overlook,” Neskens shared. “Supporting children experiencing sexual exploitation and slavery is a calling we can’t ignore.”

Since joining our speaker team, Neskens has used his gifts to spread awareness across Canada. For him, this role is more than just speaking; it’s an opportunity to amplify our mission and invite others into the work of rescue and prevention. “This role allows me to increase the organization’s visibility while also raising funds to support the mission of Child Impact.”

Neskens is excited to reach these audiences. “Canadian churches and

communities have a unique opportunity to serve as both educational and preventative hubs,” he said. “By equipping them with knowledge, we can create safer environments and mobilize action against child exploitation.”

Audiences in Canada have already been deeply moved by what they’ve learned through Child Impact. “When it comes to Operation Child Rescue, the focus in Canada and the U.S. has been on prevention and education,” Neskens said. “Audiences here are often shocked by the realities they learn about, and many express a strong desire to monitor and limit youth activity on social media to protect them from potential dangers.”

Looking ahead, Neskens hopes to see a Child Impact trafficking prevention curriculum in Canadian schools in order to equip young people with tools to protect themselves online and to raise up communities that are proactive, not just reactive, in the fight against exploitation.

Neskens’ voice and dedication are already making a difference. Together, we believe the impact has only just begun. Learn how you can book a speaker today at childimpact.org/speakers. ■

STEPS THAT MATTER

Running for a brighter future

By April Espinoza

Since working at Child Impact International, I have realized my job is so much bigger than just going into the office every day. Our work changes lives, not only the lives of the children we serve, but also our own. Hebrews 12:1 urges us, “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.” Every time we give our money, time, abilities, or talents to a mission like Child Impact, we are stepping into that race, the one God has prepared for us, and running it with a purpose—to help those in need, just as Jesus did when He was here.

For Francine, an engineering student at Andrews University, that race has taken shape in an unexpected and literal way: running marathons. She first began running in 2020 during the stillness of COVID-19, determined to stay active during an inactive time. “I was intrigued by running because it requires discipline and commitment, two traits I constantly strive to strengthen,” she said. But her running took on a whole new meaning when a friend introduced her to Child Impact.

“I have seen in my own life how quality education has opened doors for me,” Francine explained. “Education can transform a child’s life and give them opportunities they would never otherwise have. That’s why Child Impact speaks to me personally.”

Last year, Francine ran her first half marathon for Child Impact. She was deeply moved to see how many friends and family members rallied around her through donations and prayer. Yet the race gave her more than a sense of accomplishment; it gave her perspective.

“I was able to reflect on the experience and sit in a place of gratitude—for my health, for the platform God gave me to raise awareness, and for the people in my life who graciously support me.” By the time she crossed the finish line, she’d raised more than she had originally thought possible. “You don’t need much to make a difference in someone’s life. When you walk with God and choose to focus on others more than yourself, you will find ways to serve that don’t require anything tangible. All I needed was my phone for GoFundMe and a pair of running shoes. God provides the rest—the dedication, strength, and commitment to help those around you.”

With her first full marathon on the horizon, Francine plans to keep running for children who need hope, education, and a brighter future. The need is great, but so is the opportunity. Every prayer you lift up and every gift you give can open doors for a child in need. Will you join us in the race?



Francine smiles for a selfie after completing her first half marathon.



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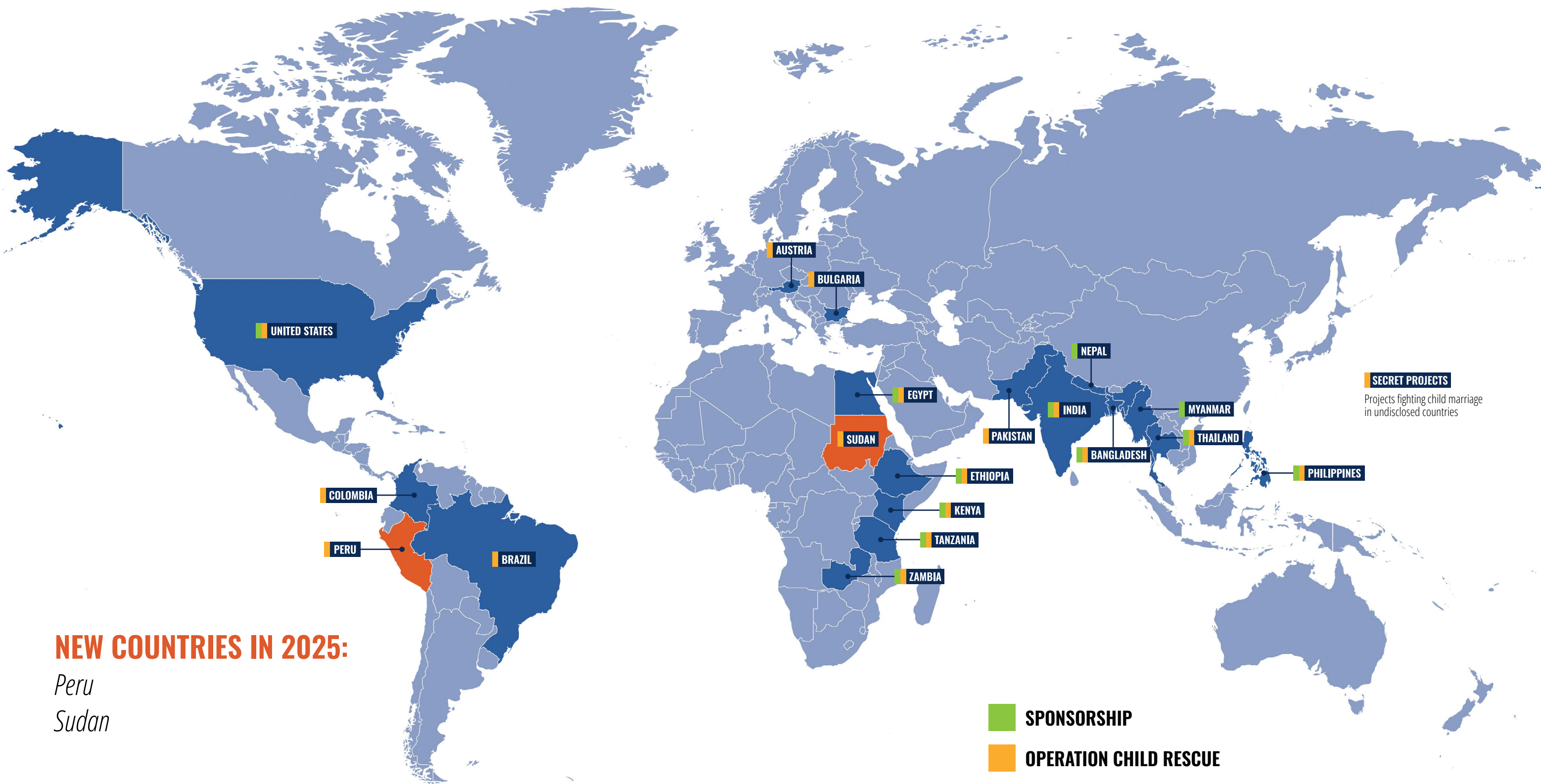
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"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
—Matthew 25:40

At Child Impact International, we're calling on churches, schools, and businesses to join us in our mission to reach, rescue, and restore the most vulnerable. By partnering with us to raise funds for a specific project—whether that's supporting a safe house, freeing families in slavery, funding rescues, or providing meals to children in need—these efforts not only change lives overseas but transform hearts and deepen faith right here at home.

Partner with us and equip your congregation, youth group, classroom, or business to be part of God's solution for reaching the least of these.

To explore a partnership opportunity, please contact Tony Dennis, Strategic Partnerships Manager, at tdennis@childimpact.org or 423.910.0667.

