



Fall 2020

*Macleans and MoneySense magazines both rank Chalice as top international charity in Canada!*

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# COVID: Quick Action Alleviates Food Shortage in Kenya

The global pandemic of COVID-19 has affected everyone, but the most vulnerable have been hit especially hard. Because of your help our staff in Canada and in the field have been able to provide vital resources to those in need.

Our family funding distribution method which deposits sponsorship funds directly into bank accounts has given families the means to feed their families and purchase other essentials. We are also so grateful for your enthusiastic response to the COVID disaster fund which has raised over \$350,000 to provide emergency funding to our sites.

An emergency situation with three care centres for children run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Mombasa in Kenya was resolved quickly thanks to a generous donor and quickly administered through the disaster fund. The Sisters run an orphanage, a rescue and rehabilitation centre for boys who are rescued from the streets of Mombasa and a rescue centre for girls who are victims of physical abuse. In all, 320 children are loved and nurtured by the team of dedicated nuns.

The COVID-19 pandemic isolated the care centres due to government regulations requiring institutions to keep their children indoors and allowing no visitors.

The Sisters of St. Joseph took quick action to appeal to people of goodwill to help them with food and even after reallocating funds designated to pay water and electrical bills to food, their pantry soon ran low. In May, the



Young girls and their caregivers at St. Bhakita Rescue and Care Centre.

sponsor site submitted an application requesting \$30,584.93 to buy a three months' supply of basic necessities – especially cereals, maize, beans, rice and cooking oil to feed the children.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support though this most difficult time. Because of you we can fulfil our mission to bring Christ to the poor and the poor to Christ.



# The Real Meaning of Christmas

Christmas celebrations at our Guadalupe sponsor site in Bolivia are used to value and to deepen the real meaning of Christmas. According to the site the celebrations should prepare their hearts for the arrival of our Saviour, in communion and love for each of the 16 family circles and the community which included 515 sponsored children and 770 family and community members.

Through activities that included leading lectures for each week of Advent, the celebration culminated in a Christmas feast with all the families of sponsored children and members of the community. The site united their community through their feast of sweet bread with



Guadalupe sponsor site performs a nativity play during their Christmas celebrations.

filled families with joy and they joined in prayers of hope.

With a contribution to the Christmas Fund, you can make it possible for every site to make the Christmas season a time of happy memories and community togetherness. The Christmas Fund ensures that everyone is included in

raisins and dry fruit and hot chocolate, showing solidarity and sharing the happiness of the families in the arrival of Christ our Savior. A nativity play

the merriment. Donors can make their donation by mailing the paper slip included in their newsletter, by phone, or at Chalice.ca.

To subscribe to receive a notice to view or download our newsletter please visit:

www.chalice.ca  
email: heatherlittle@chalice.ca  
1.800.776.6855

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*If you have any suggestions for stories or photos you wish to see featured in our newsletter, please mail them to:*

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

**Heather Little, Editor**  
**Chalice**  
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Bedford, NS  
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## Faces of Faith

### KGS1884 Collins

**AUGUST 1, 2011**  
Collins lives in Maua, Kenya with his mother, brother and three sisters. Bright and active, Collins is praying for a sponsor to help him achieve his dreams.



### BHB2863 Mary



**SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**  
Poised and confident, Mary lives with her mother and eight siblings in the Philippines. She studies very hard so she can help her family when she grows up.

### HCF1267 Simran

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**  
Simran lives in India with her parents, brother and sister. She is in grade one and loves numbers class. An active and funny child, Simran needs a sponsor to ensure she can stay in school.



### LAM1157 Tomthinganba

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**  
Living in India with his parents and sister, Tomthinganba is a happy and active child. Sponsorship will give his family the resources they need to care for their family.



### SAM3381 Val

**FEBRUARY 20, 2013**  
Kind-hearted Val lives with his parents and seven siblings in the Philippines. It is very hard for his parents to provide all of their needs, a sponsor will bring security and stability to the family.



### NDS2274 Anaissa

**JULY 31, 2016**  
Anaissa lives in Haiti with her mother. A cheerful child, she enjoys reading books. Sponsorship will ensure she has nutritious food and can stay in school.



### NDS2299 Vedly

**JANUARY 13, 2016**  
Vedly lives with his brother and parents in Haiti. Happy and active he loves going to school and playing with his friends. His parents pray for a sponsor to help Vedly stay in school.



# Oksana Rejoices for the Gift of a Well



"I am writing this letter with tears of gratitude in my eyes," says Oksana, mother of a sponsored child from our Ternopil sponsor site in Ukraine. "Your generous donation with Chalice has made it possible for my family to build a new well and I thank you deeply."

Oksana and her four children live in an old house in a small village. Their house never had running water, but had a well outside to get clean water for their daily needs. Like the house, the well was old and in poor condition and eventually broke beyond repair. Thankfully a neighbour let them draw from their well but it wasn't long before their well broke too. Then Oksana and her oldest son had to fetch 20 buckets of water each day, through the hot summer and frigid winter, from a spring 650 feet away.

"Water is something you always need," says Oksana. "You need it to cook and wash clothes. The small farm we have also needs a lot of water.

**Oksana is thankful she no longer has to fetch water from a nearby spring.**

Having water is not a privilege. It is a necessity. Water is the main source of a clean and healthy way of life, but we could not afford it."

She prayed to God for a solution and rejoiced when she was selected to receive a new well and automatic pump through the Chalice gift catalogue.

"We thank you sincerely for sacrificing a part of your income to help a family you have never met receive a desperately needed gift," said Oksana. "After all the trials we have gone through we are smiling. You helped us keep the faith that God will always come to our rescue when we need it."

Keep an eye out in your mailbox for your copy of the Chalice gift catalogue to help a family like Oksana's. For more information please visit [chalice.ca](http://chalice.ca).

## Chalice Connection Agency

"I don't know how I can help really, I don't like asking for money," she said." I understand what she means I feel exactly the same. Then I hear about a man like Bert who for more than 20 years has taken something he loves to do and made it a gift to others and realize there are many ways we can help.

Imagine, this conversation. "Hi Bert, what are you doing lately?" "I'm going to ride my bike for Chalice, again." "Getting a bit old for bike riding, aren't you Bert?" "Not a bit, I love biking and besides it goes to a great cause. We help kids that have little chance in life, go to school. Want to sponsor me?"

Thanks Bert! You may inspire someone to walk, run or bike to help a child in need.

One time someone told me that Chalice is a connection agency. "A collection agency?" I laughed. "No, a connection agency," they clarified. "You connect those who have little with those who have more, and hope for the best outcome - like a dating agency." Well, that was certainly an original way describing us, I thought, but when I hear how Oksana of Ternopil or Ian in the Philippines has been helped, and then read of Thresia's family starting an endowed fund I get the connection. There is someone who struggles daily, living with poverty and then through Chalice there is someone who cares because they understand - they have been there, or someone the love has been - and a connection of loving concern is born.

Thank you to everyone who has made that connection. I think it connects us all to God as well.

Father Patrick Cosgrove,  
President

## Consecration to Mary, Mother of Our Church

Chalice celebrated our inaugural Feast Day on June 1, 2020, the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. Led by Archbishop Emeritus Martin Currie and our President, Father Patrick Cosgrove, we consecrated Chalice and our mission to Mary. COVID-19 has encouraged us to pray together in new ways, and so we were blessed to virtually join with members of Chalice from around the globe to reflect on the Scriptures, and to offer prayers of thanksgiving, petition, and song.

Our Chalice Staff begin each workday in prayer, and we invite you to join us by sharing in our daily offering:



**Chalice Daily Offering**

Holy Mary, Mother of our Church, today we entrust and consecrate the Chalice family and our mission to you. We humbly request your intercession so that we may continue to work for those who ask for the opportunity to thrive and live with dignity. May we remain dedicated and faithful in our mission to the children, elders, families, communities, and the church in which we are privileged to serve. Most of all, through your intercession, help us always to keep the greatest commandment of your beloved Jesus, to 'love one another as I have loved you'.

## Mission Trips Update

We have been monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak closely. Chalice has suspended all international travel for the time being. We cannot reasonably plan for mission trips until the pandemic has passed, international travel restrictions are lifted, and travel would not expose our Chalice family (in Canada and abroad) to an unreasonable level of risk. For now, we are cancelling our previously scheduled mission trips to India and Ukraine. Hopefully by the spring of 2021, we will be in a position to start planning for our missions once again. At that point, our India and Ukraine trips will be a priority, with a goal of hosting our mission to India in November 2021.

# Sponsorship Helps Ian Flourish

Ian and his family lived for many years in a shack in the mountains that surround our Cotabato sponsor site in the Philippines. Life was difficult but a little support through



the Chalice sponsorship program gave them the helping hand they needed to change their circumstances.

“Some people need just a little help from others to improve their lives, making the most of an opportunity provided to them,” writes the sponsor site. “This is the story of Ian.”

The sponsorship program pairs with other Chalice programs to give a family the resources they need to grow and thrive. Every child is filled with potential, that when nurtured can flourish into confidence, motivation and a bright future.

Ian and his family are forever grateful for his sponsor who has changed their lives. One year he received special money for his birthday which his family used to buy livestock. “Thank you for the birthday gift you have given me,” he wrote to his sponsor. “It really helped me a lot. I just want to share to you that I have two carabaos (water buffalos native to the Philippines) and ten pigs.”

Ian is showing determination to finish his studies along with his efforts to work on his family’s small farm. Before the pandemic Ian also enjoyed serving in his church as an extraordinary minister of the Holy Communion on Sundays.

Ian has grown from a very active and playful child to a well refined and disciplined young adult. He is determined to reach his goals and is very thankful to his Chalice sponsor for helping his family grow together and make his dreams a reality.

## 21 Years of Biking for Chalice

For the past 21 years Bert Van Vulpen from Wentworth, NS has been biking to raise money for Chalice, “I believe the [fundraising event] Biking for Chalice started in 1998,” said Bert. “I missed that first year. In those early years we had over 20 people in the group. We had a lot of fun and got to meet some really dedicated people.”

Bert recalls people participating from across Canada and the first trip lasting three days as they biked from Springhill, NS to Pictou, where they boarded the ferry to Prince Edward Island, riding the bridge back through New Brunswick before returning to Springhill. In the following years the group biked from Lower Sackville, NS to Bridgewater and up to the Annapolis Valley and back, overnighing in church halls along the way.

Bert first heard about the biking fundraiser from Father Patrick Cosgrove and estimates he’s raised about \$2000 a year. He sends a sincere thank you to all the people who have supported Chalice through his fundraising over the years.

Even though the official event, Biking for Chalice ended in 2010, Bert continues to bike and fundraise each year, averaging 150-200 kilometers over a couple of days. “Chalice uses the money to help educate people so they can improve their lives, and their families’ lives,” explains Bert. “I enjoy biking and this is a small way I can make life better for other people.”

Born in the Netherlands Bert has been biking all his life, “I received my first bike in the Netherlands when I was six or seven years old. Everyone rides bikes there.”

It is clear when speaking to Bert that he has a generous spirit and great sense of humour.



Thank you Bert for so many years of dedication.

“What I remember about Bert is that he just had a plain bike, no special clothing or shoes and that he made it look easy,” recalls Sehne

Connell, former Senior Manager of Fund Development with Chalice. “He also had to have a glass of milk at the finish.”

## Faces of Hope

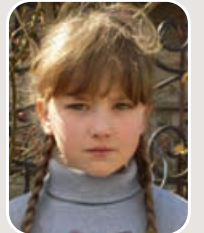
MIK1912  
**Tessy**



**APRIL 28, 2016**  
A joyful child, Tessy lives in Meru, Kenya with her mother. Without a sponsor she won't be able to go beyond primary school because her mother can't afford school fees.

TER5657  
**Mariya**

**OCTOBER 5, 2011**  
Mariya lives in Terbovlya, Ukraine with her parents, brother and sister. Bright and creative she loves reciting poems and acting. A sponsor will help her achieve her dreams



VDM2619  
**Ivan**



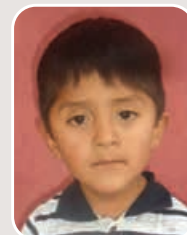
**MARCH 25, 2019**  
Ivan is adorable and loves to make people smile. He lives in San Pedro, Paraguay with his parents, brother and sister. A sponsor will provide security for the whole family to thrive.

FAP4248  
**Yakelin**

**JANUARY 25, 2009**  
Studios Yakelin lives in Champerico, Guatemala with her grandmother and sister. She needs a sponsor to make sure she can finish school and make her grandmother proud.



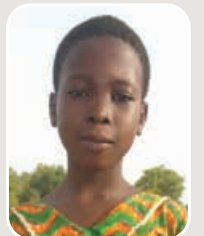
LEM2096  
**Deyvi**



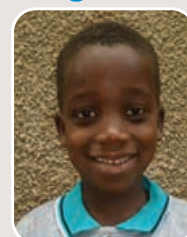
**FEBRUARY 1, 2015**  
Deyvi lives in Sucre, Bolivia with his parents and brother. Bright and caring, he wants to be a police officer so he can help people. A sponsor will help his dreams come true.

WPD1357  
**Abigail**

**MARCH 8, 2010**  
Kind, caring and smart Abigail lives in Wa, Ghana with her grandfather. She loves math class and wants to be a nurse when she grows up so she can care for people in need.



KPH1253  
**Elijah**



**MARCH 11, 2014**  
Elijah lives with his mother and six siblings in Wa, Ghana. Since his father passed his mother struggles to support the family. A sponsor will relieve the strain and help the family survive.

# Legacy of Faith and Love for Future Generations

On April 22, 1921, a special child was born in Changanacherry, a busy market town in Kerala, India. She was the 8th of 13 children, named Thresia after St. Teresa of Avila. When Thresia was growing up, her father was a candle maker for the Changanacherry diocese. When her parents faced health and financial issues, Thresia had to leave elementary school to care for her younger siblings.

As was tradition in her part of the world, Thresia had an arranged marriage to a young man from her hometown of Changanacherry. Together, they had 10 children (three who passed in early childhood).

At age 55, she made the courageous decision to immigrate to Canada with her husband and two youngest children, joining a son who had settled in Canada several years prior. Thresia undertook a major role in the upbringing of her grandchildren. As a devout Catholic, she was a role model to them, and helped nurture their faith, often reminding them to pray and



Thresia with three of her grandchildren.

give to the poor.

Even though Thresia faced many health issues in her older years, she always stood strong with amazing resilience. On the morning of February 6, 2020,

with family members by her side, she passed away peacefully, the light from her eyes extinguishing like candles after prayer.

Thresia was the beloved

grandmother of Dr. Joseph Vayalumkal, a Chalice supporter. After her passing, Joseph has worked with us to honour Thresia's life in an incredibly meaningful way. Because one of her biggest regrets was that she was not able to continue her education as a young girl, her family has created a special legacy in her honour. All donations received in Thresia's memory will be pooled to build an endowment fund to educate young girls from southern India and other regions.

An endowment fund is a gift that keeps on giving, as the income of the fund is used to fulfil the wishes or legacy of the donor who established it. The fund remains a receptacle for gifts given for years to come. Thresia's endowment fund will surely benefit the education of many young girls well into the future.

To donate in Thresia's memory or for more information about endowment funds, please contact Marilyn Hall, our Planned Giving Coordinator, at [marilynhall@chalice.ca](mailto:marilynhall@chalice.ca) or at 1-800-776-6855.

## Building Much Needed Sanitation in Haiti



Before and After: Clean and safe latrine is ready for use in Haiti North.

Now more than ever proper handwashing and access to sanitary bathroom facilities is essential to keep communities healthy. Community projects at our Haiti North and Haiti South sponsor sites will improve the health and living standards for thousands of students and community members.

Unlike Canada where the majority of the population has access to our own clean, indoor bathrooms, in Haiti not only do most people not have a personal latrine, the latrines available are often in disrepair without handwashing facilities. This means new, safe and clean outdoor bathrooms being built near a school will also be

used by the surrounding community members, improving the health and hygiene of all.

In Haiti North a latrine was recently completed at Ecole Notre Dame de Lourdes, replacing the dilapidated outdoor bathroom facilities used by 505 students and teachers as well as patients of the Grand Bassin medical clinic which is located near the school. The current latrines were old and falling apart and highly unsanitary with no hand washing stations.

Identified during Chalice's 2018 Medical Mission Trip to Haiti, the community members are so thankful for the donors who made this project possible.

In June a project to make much needed repairs at the Immaculate Conception School in Roseaux at our Haiti South sponsor site was approved and should be completed later this year. The auditorium and the toilet block are in deplorable condition. The girls' washroom facilities are in the worst condition, with no water or electricity. The repairs will ensure a safe and sanitary environment for the 900 students and 2400 community members who use the facilities. The community would like to send a sincere thank you to the donors who funded this project and are looking forward to using the new facilities soon.