Our Samar site in the Philippines is located on an island called Laoang. Due to lack of employment opportunities, the main source of income for many families is fishing, or seasonal daily wage work.

At the site, we have children attending elementary school, high school, and university. All of the children who attend the elementary school are sponsored. Until just a few years ago, most, if not all, of the children would come to school and fall asleep in class. Their stomachs were empty, as their last meal could have been anywhere from the previous night’s dinner to the previous day’s lunch. The constant hunger hindered the children’s ability to learn. During lunch break, children would go home for lunch and not return.

When Chalice introduced a school feeding program at the elementary school, everything changed. The effects were immediate—children gained weight and were more attentive in class. During recess, the yard was vibrant, with children shouting, calling out to each other, and running about. The children’s performance in school improved and they became competitive in sports tournaments.

With all the good things happening, however, the teachers had complaints. Teachers were becoming exhausted as the newly energetic children were loud and naughty in class! The teachers had a constant shouting match. They had to be a few decibels above children in their classroom and talk over noise emanating from adjacent classrooms, as the school’s walls are made of cocoa wood—which is not soundproof!

Food for the feeding program comes from all over the community. Many of our Chalice Family Circles, comprised of sponsored children’s parents, run small businesses producing poultry, eggs, pork, and baked goods. Food is sold to the school at retail price so that parents can enhance their income. The school also has equipment to make noodles. The tasks of cooking, making the noodles, serving the children, and cleaning are managed by the parents, too!

“Your contribution through the sponsorship program and our nutrition fund has made an immense impact not only on the children, but on the community as a whole,” says Ambrose, our International Manager for India. “Thank you, and God bless!”

For 19 years, Chalice has worked in partnership with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod in Berhampur, India. There are six Chalice sites throughout Berhampur, offering sponsorship and support to children and elders in need.

Our Berhampur sites also receive donations through our gift catalogue. Thanks to the kindness of our supporters, vulnerable families and communities received a bounty of useful gifts last year!

Sewing is a profitable skill in India, but many families lack the equipment and supplies to run a business. Five women received their own sewing machines, and are now able to supplement their household income.

Madhab, a father looking for work, was thrilled to receive the gift of plumbing tools. “He is able to make use of them and is earning money for his family now,” says Fr. Mahendra, our Berhampur site director.

Animals, especially goats, are commonly kept by families in India for food and extra income. Thirteen families were blessed to receive the gift of breeding goats! Within a year, goats start multiplying, so just two goats can make a big difference for a struggling family.

Fathima Boys’ Hostel provides care to nearly 200 children in need of food and shelter. The hostel was facing issues due to the scarcity of water, especially in the summer months. Thanks to a generous donation, the hostel received a borehole well! Plenty of fresh, clean water is now available for children and staff.

SG Girls’ Hostel also received a very important gift. Due to frequent power failure, the children at the hostel went without necessities and their studies were often interrupted. Thanks to the gift of solar panels, the hostel now has reliable lights, fans, refrigeration, and many other things.

“We would like to specially thank all of the dear donors for your generous contributions,” says Fr. Mahendra. “They are all of great help for the poor people here at our site in many various ways. May the good Lord bless you abundantly! Thank you!”

To give a meaningful gift to a family or community in need, please see our enclosed spring gift catalogue.
**Happy Problems to Have**

Upon hearing of the new problem of teachers having to speak loudly over energetic children at our Samar sponsor site in the Philippines, I was reminded of those problems I grumble about that others may well hear and think, “if only I had such problems.” The teachers of Samar of course only jokingly complain when students are no longer lethargic and unresponsive; it is a problem that in truth they are glad to have.

Our children in Samar and around the world would not be enjoying this new energetic life without the programs and projects that are made available to them through the generous support of sponsors and donors. But that is only the beginning. The input and assistance of so many others are required to bring life to each sponsored child. Parents and family, teachers, and school staff, site staff and Chalice workers and volunteers, the priest who allowed us to speak at their church and the champions who helped at the appeals, many of whom our sponsored child will not know. It all made me wonder how much I have received in my life unaware of those making the effort and the kindness that motivated them. As Easter passes and I consider the gift of life offered in Christ and the cost to offer me that gift, I want to take a moment to be grateful to everyone known and unknown who brought goodness into my life. No matter the hardship or sorrow there were always those who showed kindness. Perhaps this is true for you as well. Thank God. Thank them. Thank you.

Father Patrick Cosgrove, President

---

**Sponsorship**

Sponsorship truly changed the lives of both Liudmyla and her grandmother. Liudmyla was able to attend school with all of the books and school supplies needed to learn. The family was also able to afford more balanced meals rich with fruits and vegetables. Each year in early spring, a special package arrived from Liudmyla’s sponsor. It contained a bounty of fruit and vegetable seeds meant for her and her grandmother to plant in their garden! They planted the seeds together each year and enjoyed a generous harvest of beets, carrots, pumpkins, peas, and more throughout the year.

As Liudmyla grew older, she began to contemplate a career. Her academic excellence allowed her to choose from many different paths. She decided to enter the field of medicine, and studied to become a doctor. After many years of hard work, she graduated from medical school and began her profession.

Now a grown woman, Liudmyla was just 10 years old when she lost her mother to cancer. Her father remarried soon after, but the new couple didn’t have the means to support Liudmyla. Thankfully, her grandmother on her mother’s side offered to take her in, and she went to live with her family in a nearby village in Pochiv, Ukraine.

Liudmyla’s grandmother suffered from arthritis, and her income was a small disability pension. She was able to feed Liudmyla, but struggled to send her to school. Her grandmother prayed for guidance, and her prayers were answered. Liudmyla was chosen by a Chalice sponsor, who continued to support her for over 12 years.

Liudmyla, but struggled to send her to school. Her grandmother prayed for guidance, and her prayers were answered. Liudmyla was chosen by a Chalice sponsor, who continued to support her for over 12 years.

---

**Faces of Faith**

**AS01041**

**Santiago**

November 27, 2003

Santiago lives in Bolivia with his parents, brother, and four sisters. He likes gym class, and loves to play volleyball. Since he has special needs, Santiago needs to have access to different therapies. Sponsorship will allow him to continue his education and receive essential support.

**CAP1963**

**Zoe**

November 2, 2013

Zoe is a sweet, active child who enjoys riding her bike, playing with her sibling, and taking care of animals. Zoe is in preschool, and loves art class. She lives in Paraguay with her family. Zoe thinks she would like to be a doctor when she grows up.

**GS14462**

**Harshitha**

April 25, 2009

Harshitha’s parents work as daily laborers, so they have trouble making ends meet. Harshitha lives in India with her parents and three siblings. She loves to dance. Sponsorship will enable her to get a quality education and work towards her dream of becoming a teacher.

**GS01436**

**Oviya**

February 5, 2009

Oviya is in grade three, and lives in Tamil Nadu, India. She is active, and likes to dance and play. She lives with her parents and two sisters in India. Oviya is very smart, and wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

**IF2809**

**Mykhailo**

Mykhailo

March 5, 2013

Three years ago, Mykhailo’s dad suddenly passed away. Since then, it’s been difficult for his mom to make ends meet, even though she works full time as a nurse. Mykhailo lives in Ukraine, and is grade one. Sponsorship will allow Mykhailo to attend school, and will ease the financial burden on his mom.

**KBN1203**

**Richard Phiri**

November 7, 2009

Richard’s parents passed away, so he and his sister live with their grandparents in Zambia. Richard is in grade one, and loves math class. He also likes to play football. Sponsorship will help Richard’s grandparents provide for him and allow him to get a good education.

**Haiti North’s Breakfast Program Gives Students a Boost**

It’s a sunny morning in the school yard of Notre Dame de Lourdes elementary school in Grand-Bassin, Haiti. Located near our Haiti North site, the students outside to sing and dance, a distraction from the threats of hungry mouths this morning’s big event: their breakfast nutrition program. After a few songs, they go into their classrooms. Each child receives a bottle of drinkable yogurt and a boiled egg.

Haiti North began its nutrition program in 2016, supported through our nutrition fund. Our site director, Edley, describes the usual nutrition programs in Haiti: “Usually in the schools they receive food like rice, just rice. It doesn’t have vitamins, just fills their stomachs.” Our Haiti North team knew that they needed to choose foods that are rich in the vitamins and protein, and decided on yogurt and eggs. These foods are also popular with the children because they are too expensive for the average family in Haiti to buy. “If a family has six children, one egg costs 15 gourdes (56 CAD). It’s very difficult to buy eggs for a whole family,” Edley explains, as many families don’t even make 1,50 CAD for a full day’s work.

The eggs come with benefits besides their nutritional value. Chalice began its poultry co-operative program in Haiti in 2015. In addition to training families, Chalice maintains a laying barn for 200 hens. The eggs are sold at the “Agro shop,” a Chalice-run feed and supply store connected to our office in Terrier Rouge.

Our site purchases flats of eggs from the shop to distribute to schools. Many eggs found in the town have been illegally imported from the Dominican Republic, and people caught in possession of them can be arrested. Locals love knowing that the eggs in the Agro shop are locally raised and safe to purchase.

We offer our gratitude and thanks to all of the donors that support our nutrition program. Thanks to you, these precious children in Haiti North, and thousands more around the world, are able to eat healthy school meals.

To support our nutrition fund, you can give the gift of school lunches through our gift catalogue, or visit chalice.ca for more ways to give.
Chalice Wins $10,000 Grand Prize in Charity Contest

This past fall, Chalice staff, donors, and volunteers were overjoyed to learn we’d won the $10,000 grand prize in Grant Thornton’s Campus Charity Campaign. Each year, instead of handing out promotional material to students, Grant Thornton, a reputable accounting firm, takes the money that would have been spent on “swag” and decides to support Canadian charities. Grant Thornton urges Canadians to vote for their favourite charity online, and donates $10,000 to the one with the most votes.

Grant Thornton’s Charity Campus Campaign runs each year from approximately Mid-August to the end of October, and focuses primarily on Canada’s student demographic, but anyone can vote for their charity of choice. Chalice was honoured to be one of the three Canadian charities chosen to participate in 2018’s contest. We were blessed to be competing alongside two worthy causes: The Rick Hansen Foundation, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada.

Each participating charity takes home a cash prize, with smaller amounts given out for second and third place. Charities also benefit from the publicity and buzz from the contest. “We have run the Campus Charity Campaign for many years now, and all the charities have come to us and spoken to the increased exposure they gained because of the campaign,” says Brandon London, Grant Thornton’s national campus consultant. “Wefigured this would be a great opportunity for Chalice.”

We turned to our amazing donors and volunteers to ask for support throughout the campaign. We spread the word any way we could—through email, e-blasts, social media, phone calls, and more.

Not only did we take home the grand prize, we had more votes than the other participating charities combined. In fact, we had more votes than any total amount of combined votes in the last 10 years of the contest! We offer our sincere thanks to each and every person who voted for us throughout the contest. We decided to put the $10,000 prize in our nutrition fund, allowing hungry children in the developing world to eat healthy, nutritious meals.

Fr. Patrick Cosgrove and a few Chalice staff join Grant Thornton’s staff at their Halifax office for the cheque presentation.

Beauty’s Successful Small Business Continues to Grow

When Beauty got married nearly 15 years ago, she and her husband never imagined they would be blessed with so many beautiful children. Today, Beauty is a mother of 10, and lives with her family in Kawambwa, Zambia.

Beauty and her husband were both peasant farmers in their community. The little income they took home, however, never helped them much in providing for their children. With so many children to feed, the family struggled to make ends meet. Beauty always wanted to expand her farm and start a small garden. Four years ago, she began attending workshops held by Chalice staff on entrepreneurship, and strengthened her business planning skills to reach her goals.

With some planning, Beauty was able to start her garden. Her son, Cosmos, would often go with her to sell some of the garden vegetables at the market. After meeting Cosmos, Chalice site staff invited him to join the sponsorship program, and he was sponsored soon after, reducing Beauty’s burden.

Soon after, Beauty had the incredible opportunity to further expand her farming efforts. Along with two other women, she joined a joint poultry project. With the assistance of Chalice, the women were able to share resources and sustain their own small businesses! Her poultry business has grown, and she now keeps over 25 chickens. Every morning, she collects 25-30 eggs, and they are always sold before noon. She has more customers than she has capacity for; some people even book her eggs in advance up to a week at a time.

Thanks to Beauty’s hard work and success, she’s able to send each of her 10 children to school. She feels that managing her household has become easier, and she has the resources to feed, clothe, and care for her children. Her confidence has soared, and she’s eager to tackle life’s challenges!

Beauty is currently saving to expand her business, and wishes to build a new home for her family. She hopes to eventually sustain over 100 chickens to meet the demands of her customers. Sr. Agnes, our Kawambwa site director, is thrilled with Beauty’s passion and success: “She has so much potential and very big dreams!”

Keeping poultry is an excellent source of income for families at many of our sites in Africa.
Laura and Francis, from Lloydminster, Alberta, are both long term Chalice supporters. They each have Chalice a sponsored child: Luz, 12, from Paraguay, and Victor, 22, from Cameroon. Laura and Francis were initially family friends attending the same parish, and grew close over the years. “Life circumstances brought us together, and God did the rest,” says Laura.

When Laura and Francis decided to get married last summer, they wanted to do something a little different at their reception. In lieu of wedding gifts, they invited their guests to make donations to those in need through our Chalice gift catalogue!

“Chalice’s gift catalogue has a great variety of items that can be donated,” explains Laura. “Most of our guests chose gifts in a very generous and personal way. A friend of ours, who is passionate about sewing, chose to donate a sewing machine to a family in need.”

The wedding fundraiser was a resounding success. Guests, friends, and family members contributed a grand total of $3,205 CAD to our gift catalogue in honour of Laura and Francis’s wedding!

“We were very pleased with the support provided by Chalice,” says Laura. “Our guests were thrilled with the display and with the fact that they could contribute in a meaningful on the spot’ way during the wedding itself. Also, being able to contribute online allowed some of our guests to do so when it was convenient for them.

We would like to extend our thanks to Laura and Francis, and all of their wedding guests for their heartfelt contributions. If you would like to hold a fundraiser for Chalice at your wedding or event, please contact us at info@chalice.ca or by calling 1.800.776.6855.