



Impact Report 2020

Chalice Christmas Fund



Introduction

Dear _____

Thank you for your donation to our Christmas fund last year.

Even though Christmas 2020 was unlike any other, through your generosity, children and families were still able to enjoy a truly Merry Christmas.

We are elated to share stories with you of children, families and communities who found joy and peace at Christmas time, despite the darkness and difficulties they faced.

Home-made Christmas puts smiles on faces

Christmas in the Guadalupe sponsor site in La Paz, Bolivia, is typically one filled with music, dance, theatre and festive cheer. But of course, Christmas in 2020 was going to be different. Nevertheless, the site staff and parents worked hard to bring the holiday magic to the children, even if it took a little more imagination.

They took a two-pronged approach. Their first activity was dubbed "Living Advent Time."

Each Sunday of Advent, families hopped on the group messaging apps on their phones and spent time socializing and sharing their thoughts on the meaning of Christmas.

Thanks to the generosity of Chalice supporters of our Christmas fund, the site had funds to entrust to the leaders of the family circles of parents of sponsored

children. With the guidance of the site staff, each family circle planned their own small, safe Christmas festivities. The parents set to work preparing special gift bags for all the children.

On the day of their group's event, the families arrived, sanitized their hands and were seated in their own bubbles. Each partygoer enjoyed a steamy cup of hot chocolate, a slice of the traditional panettone bread, and the mothers' homemade sweet treats. The children and their families listened attentively to a short talk about the coming of the infant Christ. At the end of the gathering, each child received their special gift.



“ Your thoughtfulness made it possible to bring a smile to the children’s faces. ”

Site Staff, Guadalupe sponsor site in Bolivia

The site staff and parents were deeply grateful to the Chalice supporters who enabled them to bring the light of Christmas to their children in a dark and difficult time.

Don Bosco site staff take on a 'beautiful task'

The staff at our Don Bosco site in Paraguay knew that the families had faced a great deal of change and challenges in 2020. Together they decided that what the families needed most at the end of that year was to "feel the joy, hope and love that brings the Feast of the Birth of the Baby Jesus," writes the site staff.

Even in typical years, it is a tradition for the Don Bosco staff to prepare Christmas hampers for each of the sponsored children.

"We undertake the beautiful task," they write, because "this gift is eagerly awaited by all families in the program."



"The savior was born to us, the Emmanuel, the God with us, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Site Staff, Don Bosco sponsor site in Paraguay

They gathered up staple foods and all the essentials for a Paraguayan Christmas dinner, including a popular sweet bread, and packaged the hampers. Two delivery dates were set, one for each subsite. When the days arrived, they brought heavy rain with them. The Don Bosco team were undaunted, and families took the rains as encouragement - "[they] were seen with a hopeful air that renews everything in its path."

The deliveries brought the light of Christmas to the families, whose faces shone with happiness and gratitude. Everyone said that their greatest hope for 2021 was to reconnect with their loved ones.

Sabena Mary can still celebrate in style



"With a cheerful face, I thank Chalice and my sponsors for the gift sent to me."

Sabena Mary, Madurai sponsor site in India

Bright-eyed Sabena Mary is in grade five in a school in our Madurai sponsor site. She has six brothers and sisters, some of whom have started families of their own. When she was in grade three, Sabena Mary learned that she had a Chalice sponsor, who has been helping her parents afford her education and household needs.

Sabena Mary loves Christmas. In her own words, she says "I attend the Holy Mass. I am very fond of the infant Jesus. I love this baby with a puffy and fleshy cheek."

In a typical year, the families would all gather at the site and celebrate Mass together, but restrictions did not permit that this year. Sabena Mary and her family were undaunted and had a joyful celebration together. Thanks to everyone who supported Chalice's Christmas fund, every sponsored child and their families had a little extra budget for a gift, which Sabena Mary's used to buy her beautiful blue dress.

Many blessings in Baseco



“ Covid-19 may have grabbed the fun of the season, but in the quietness of every heart, the joy remains knowing each is truly blessed.”

Site Staff, Tondo sponsor site in Philippines

The Tondo site staff were determined to bring Christmas cheer despite the pandemic.

They went to the community of Baseco, one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in Manila. Following local health protocols, the children assembled wearing their favourite clothes, but also face masks or shields. A local sponsor donated 303 hampers of groceries, worth 500 pesos each, a day's work at minimum wage. The hampers had all the necessary ingredients for a Noche Buena, the traditional Christmas Eve family dinner. The children received their gifts with giddy excitement, and then sat down for a pre-packed feast of spaghetti, hotdogs and juice.

While it was difficult not to share more of a celebration together as a Chalice family, the hampers ensured that each child's parents and siblings had a Merry Christmas.

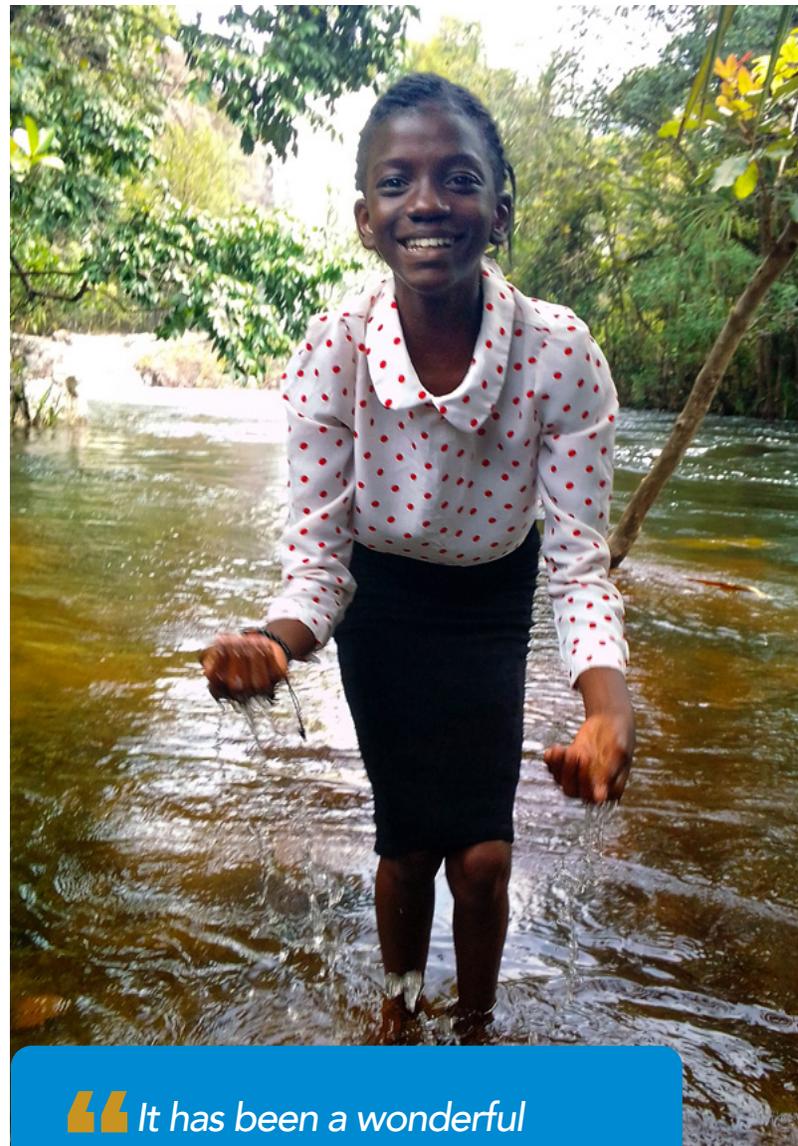
An adventure is the cure for homesickness

In a typical year at our Kawambwa site in Zambia, the boarding schools hold a festive celebration and meal before the children go

home to their own communities to celebrate the holiday with their families.

This year, however, some students could not go home, and so the Sisters who run the site needed to find a way to help them make happy memories from this difficult year.

The Sisters decided to gather them into the bus and take them on an adventure. The children were thrilled to go to a nearby waterfall and river park. They could splash around, take selfies, and enjoy this beautiful space.



“ It has been a wonderful venture as most of the children have never been to such places in their lives.”

Sr Agnes, Site Director of our Kawambwa sponsor site in Zambia

Give a gift



Give your friend or loved one a special gift and improve the lives of the families and communities we serve.