2020

GRATITUDE REPORT

Updates for the benefactors of World Villages for Children and the Sisters of Mary

OVERVIEW:
- Letter from Sr. Maria
- Your Impact
- A Life You Have Transformed
- Country Profiles
- Your Gifts

This gratitude report in a small way shares with you our gratefulness for your abundant generosity. Through doing so, we also hope to report back to you the undeniable and transformative impact your support has in the lives of children around the world. Two simple words - but for us they mean the world - THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

From everyone at World Villages for Children and the Sisters of Mary, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and for being with us in the fulfillment of our mission of uplifting the lives of the poor and preparing them for a bright future. Your generosity will continue to radiate hope towards the poor and the suffering. You play an important role in this noble cause of giving a bright future to impoverished children.
From the Superior General and WVC Chair

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the many things that happened in 2020, indeed, everyone was faced with many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we believe that something good can always come out of difficult times.

We have had to cope with our daily routine without the on-site assistance of our teachers and workers. Nevertheless, it is comforting to know that we have such dedicated and generous friends like you to stand by us, namely, with your unwavering support and concern for those under our care.

Food and other essential supplies were scarce; prices had increased but still we were able to manage. Graduates and local benefactors assisted to identify places where we were able to go to get supplies.

The change and adaptation to our normal routine was accepted by our students. They were so cooperative for they know that this opportunity is priceless. Classes and acceptance of new children continued as usual.

Thank you very much! May God reward you abundantly. We remember you in our prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Maria Cho, SM
Superior General, Sisters of Mary
Chair of the Board, World Villages for Children

Joyful service in times of peril

Joyful service is an integral part of the education supported by World Villages for Children. When lockdowns began, the Sisters and students went to work by making thousands of masks, gowns, and protective gear for neighboring hospitals and communities. Protected in the villages, the students were able to share the skills they’ve developed with those in need. Lessons like these, born of the pandemic will stay with these children their entire lives. While everyone suffers during times of upheaval, the poor are often hit the hardest. Helping the children to serve those with the greatest need multiplies your charity many times over.
YOUR IMPACT

20,800
CHILDREN SERVED BY THE SISTERS OF MARY
Relying completely on your generosity

2,476
GRADUATES
Setting out to share their gifts with the world and bring their families out of poverty

WHERE DO YOUR DONATIONS GO?
All around the world - 18 schools in 6 countries throughout Asia, Latin America and Africa
Graduate Story: A Life You've Transformed
By Luis Armando

I remember working from the time I was 10 years old to try and help support my family. We were very poor. I worked in several areas, an ice cream vendor, a brick mason, a gas distributor – from six in the morning until six in the evening. I had to cycle 45 minutes each way to arrive at the city center. My mother encouraged me and said "son, you have to look for an opportunity."

I found it with the Sisters of Mary. When I passed the exam and entered Villa de los Niños, things took another direction. They helped build me up, both spiritually and academically. To move on to a life where I wanted to fight for myself.

After secondary school with the Sisters, I was able to study business administration and now I'm starting a master's degree in project formulation and evaluation. At Potencia Diesel Repuestos, I'm the general manager of the warehouses and my job is to watch over the control of all the food. Villa de los Niños changed my life, allowing me to get where I am today. If Villa de los Niños had not given me the opportunity to continue studying, I would probably be very poor with my only opportunity being working in the fields.

I'm married now, and I have a son. Now I can support my parents, my siblings, and even more, I can support everyone who comes through the generations, because here, there are opportunities for years to come.

Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much! Without the support of God, of Villa de los Niños, and mainly of people with great hearts like yours, it is not possible. Thank you very much!
In all the campuses, the students remained at our schools and classes continued using the student-teachers with the online guidance of the teachers working from home at the start of the pandemic. However, starting in May, we had blended learning modality – combining modular distance learning and scheduled face-to-face classes. Our sister-school principals selected some teachers who were willing to stay-inside our campuses to teach face to face. This had greatly helped the students to clarify their doubts on certain topics handled by the student-teachers and had given them the opportunity to have some actual activities and hands-on learning, while strictly complying the social distancing, handwashing and wearing of face masks. Also some workers and graduates were allowed to work inside, thus, lessening the weight of work which fell on all the sisters who did all the work of caring for the campuses and buildings together with the students.

Meet Yen
I come from a broken family. My mother has to live apart from us to earn money. She sends us only money and rice when she is able. My older siblings looked after us. Now that I am studying in the Sisters of Mary School, I am fulfilled with my life and can eat 3 times per day. I am very thankful to this school and to those generous benefactors who continue supporting us. In return, I will try my best in my studies and pray for all benefactors. I want to graduate and go to college if there are opportunities for scholarships. I will continue what I have started for a better future and for my family.
In Chalco Girlstown and Guadalajara Boystown, classes were done using Zoom and Google Meet. It is good that the students were cooperating well with the student teachers as well as with those teachers and workers who volunteered to stay. Sisters have to be much busier but thanks be to God, everyone was safe and healthy. In August, we were able to accept new students, whom we separated in one of the buildings for two weeks. No cases of COVID-19 were found and everyone was enthusiastically studying.

### Field Report

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### Meet Juan

When I was two years old, my mother died, leaving me with my sister, brother and father. My father and stepmother started to maltreat us. One occasion I remember, she threw a plate and coffee pot at me. My arm was fractured and my stomach badly burned. My father did not like to listen to us. He drank a lot, and would throw things and beat us. My father would tell me that I was useless animal. One day in our school, the news about the Villa de los Niños was heard and I was so motivated by this great opportunity. Now, thanks be to God, I am very happy because I am studying without any cost. The benefactors help us. The sisters are very concerned about us and they give us a very good education. I know I have to study hard to become successful and someday be of help to my brother and sister.
Classes continue to be taught to the students by teachers online. We have had to connect more smart TVs and internet connections were upgraded. We were able to accept new students and also there were graduations in both Boystown and Girlstown but the virtual speech was delivered by Ministry of Education authority and told them that they were lucky since they were able to graduate because in outside schools there were no graduations since students did not have classes, thus, graduating students were not able to do their mini-thesis writing. Clinic has been closed for outpatients and it is serving only for our children.

**GUATEMALA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Sisters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone 13 Girlstown</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 6 Boystown</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Care</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field Report**

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**Meet Cecelia**

I have four brothers and three sisters. My dad works in the fields, but what he earns, he doesn't give to my mom, but he spends it on drinking. My dad said that women don't study, that they can only serve to cook and give children. But I wanted to study, so I went to work in the fields to buy my notebooks. I decided to come here because I wanted to continue studying. I want to study to achieve something in the future. I hope to be a light to my family and my community. After graduating from the Villa de las Ninas I am going to get a job to help my family for a while, and then I want to study at the university. I want to help my family and my community by sharing my knowledge.
In Sao Paulo, classes were suspended in the daycare as well as in the primary level. However, our sisters prepared lessons and parents got their modules every week and submit the assignments weekly.

Our Girlstown in Brasilia has been one of the only schools in the region to remain open through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have taken many health precautions and our girls are very flexible because they not what a special opportunity it remains to study.

I am from the northeastern part of Brazil. I came from a poor family. My mother had no means to raise me because she was too young and I do not know who my father is. Since young I have been living with my grandparents and uncles who are living in a poor condition. So many times I had to find job to gladly give my grandmother funds to contribute to the monthly expenses.

I experienced many troubles and violence among my relatives, especially some of my uncles and cousins. The lack of education induced them to choose the wrong way of alcohol and drugs. That is why, I was very anxious to study in the Sisters of Mary Girlstown. I heard many good stories from the graduates who are already self-sufficient and are already helping their siblings to pursue higher studies.

Now I am here and I am so happy, thanks be to God and the goodhearted people, our benefactors. Thank you for changing many lives and stories like mine. I will never forget your kindness.

**BRAZIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Sisters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brasilia Girlstown</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasilia Daycare</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Paulo Daycare</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Paulo Elementary</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Field Report**

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**Meet Emilly**

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Field Report

In the Girlstown, classes were held with the teachers being remote using Zoom and some stay-in graduates were helping. There was no home visits nor parents visiting day. Parents from different states were sending some vegetables, fruits and their farm products to support our students. Also, the Order of Malta gave donations of beans, school supplies and commodities of the children. Colgate Palmolive also donated shampoo, cream, soap and other products.

Students had different activities and also joined in online competitions and this keep them motivated through the pandemic. Recruitment of new children was done via WhatsApp video calls with the help of our contact persons in different states. Since many children have not had classes as schools shutdown throughout the country, we think that those coming for school year 2021 will not be as prepared as before. New students were accepted in January.

Meet Edwin

I am 12 years old. I have three brothers. My parents are simple farmers who till the soil for us to survive.

In the year 2019, I was with my father to try migrate in United States, thinking for a brighter future for my family, but it was useless. My mother, my twin and other two younger brothers are at home, praying for our safety. During the travel, I had seen and experienced many difficulties; the shortage of money, hunger, tiredness, lack of shelter and many others. I had the fear too of some people having guns, rifles, I thought it will be the end of my life. When we reached the border of the Mexico to United States, we were traveled in the Bravo River by night through a plastic boat. After crossing the river, while walking, the soldiers had captured and brought us to prison, in one cell with many migrates. The next day, they had sent us back to Honduras by bus.

When I returned my mother had found another opportunity with the Sisters. I dream to finish school and I want to continue my studies in college. I wish to be a mechanic engineer because I’m interested with cars. I thank God every day and for all the people who continuously helping me to reach my dream.
With the outbreak of the pandemic all children were required to be sent home. Classes resumed face to face in June 29. Construction of the 5-story building, gymnasium, water treatment plant and others were delayed but finally inauguration was done on December 10, 2020.

In July, the Sisters started recruitment for new students in different regions. They could see that people are becoming poorer. More than 3,000 applied for the 160 available slots.

Plans for a 7-story school building have been completed and construction commenced February 2021 to be completed end of the year. External development of basketball courts and sports facilities will be started also. All will allow the Sisters to accept more students. Plans are also being developed to build a Daycare Center and a Tailoring and Baking Training Center in order to help around 100 to 120 toddlers and 80 out-of-school youth (female) be given education, training, and care. There are so many poor people in the area, so this place is very important to provide opportunities.

Meet Bendeta
Benadeta’s father was killed last year. He was found dead on the road and nobody knew who killed him. They are now living with her grandfather together with another family in a one-room house. There is very little work. Their neighbors from time to time give them food or rootcrop when they can. Benadeta works for neighbors to help her mother. When Benadeta’s teacher told her that the Sisters of Mary are coming to interview and give an entrance examination for a free secondary education, her mother was so happy. Benadeta was accepted to the incoming class.
YOUR GIFTS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 20</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Mail Revenue</td>
<td>$1,794,676</td>
<td>$1,966,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$2,937,618</td>
<td>$2,342,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income and Endowment</td>
<td>$2,210,493</td>
<td>$3,262,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$6,942,787</td>
<td>$7,571,152</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 20</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor and Rent Allocated</td>
<td>$587,410</td>
<td>$428,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Direct Costs</td>
<td>$663,392</td>
<td>$1,104,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Direct Expenses</td>
<td>$257,480</td>
<td>$223,241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Indirect Expenses</td>
<td>$1,359,989</td>
<td>$1,309,215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$2,280,861</td>
<td>$2,636,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writeoff/Charges Overseas</td>
<td>($61,771)</td>
<td>$199,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Disbursement to Sisters of Mary  $4,600,155       $5,133,659

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
The immense tragedy of poverty around the world can feel insurmountable. Our hope is that by sharing a bit about the impact of your support - you will see that lives are being changed. For these children and their families - you mean the world! Especially during such a time of universal trial, you have looked beyond your situation to think of others. That’s remarkable! You are in our daily prayers of thanksgiving!

THANK YOU
SALAMAT
감사합니다
GRACIAS
OBRIGADA
ASANTE

HOW ARE YOUR OPERATIONAL DONATIONS USED?

*This statement reflects the unaudited financials from 2020. In accordance to our commitment of transparency and accountability, audited financials, as well as our 990 will be available on our website later in the year. Please contact our office if you would like additional information.
2020 GRATITUDE REPORT

World Villages for Children
180 Admiral Cochrane Dr. #240
Annapolis, MD 21401

worldvillages.org
1-800-662-6316