



November 2023

Dear Friends,

If you are like me, you may sometimes feel a bit helpless in the face of devastating news stories from many parts of the world. And when innocent children are the victims, our sorrow can almost immobilize us. But take heart my friends—we do have a way to alleviate their suffering.

### **New Beginnings – Annual Campaign 2023**

Accompanying this letter you will find two newsletters. One is our 2022 Annual Report that looks back at all the good that you accomplished last year. It is always astounding to see what we can achieve when we work together. The New Beginnings newsletter launches the 2023 Annual Campaign.

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**Our campaign theme, New Beginnings,  
reflects a shift to helping orphanages  
in new areas and a new  
beginning for the children who live there.**

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### **Stepping Back in Time**

When we began partnerships with these orphanages and learned of their needs, it was like we stepped back in time to 2010. At the Acts of Mercy Children's Home in rural Kenya the children were drinking out of the river and as a result, cholera swept through that home. Their toilets are a hole in the ground with flimsy metal sheets separating one toilet from the next. It reminded me of the orphanages in India 14 years ago.

Shortly after taking over as executive director for World's Children in 2009, I visited 41 orphanages we were supporting in India at the time. What I saw was both horrifying and heartening. An odd mix of feelings, I admit. What shocked me was the dangerous and unhealthy conditions at most of the orphanages. Dilapidated, 50-year-old buildings looked ready to collapse, roofs leaked, electrical wiring was exposed and dangerous, no child slept on a bed, meals were taken sitting cross-legged on the floor or outside on the ground. Remote toilets required the children to be fearful when they left the safety of their dormitory at night just to use the bathroom. Beds without mosquito nets and windows without screens left the children exposed to disease-carrying mosquitoes.

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**The juxtaposition of those terrible conditions  
was offset by the profound love and concern  
the orphanage caregivers had for the children.**

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Although these caregivers provided unconditional love to the children, they could not guarantee their safety. They just didn't have the resources they needed to do that.

## **You Changed Everything**

When I informed you of the problems, you came forward, as determined as I was, to fix those living conditions and allow the children to have a safe, healthy and enjoyable life.

It was clear to us that sponsorship funds ensured the children had what they needed day-to-day—like food and clothing. But it was not enough to make critical improvements. In 2010 we held our first annual campaign to improve life for the children whose fate it was to grow up in an orphanage.

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**And, boy, did you ever respond to our  
appeal—and you did so for the next 12 years!  
Little by little you made the orphanages  
safe and homelike.**

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## **New Homes with Old Needs**

Now we are beginning to experience similar needs with our new partners in Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Haiti, Mexico and Ukraine. When you read the accompanying campaign newsletter some of the names of the orphanages will be ones you have not heard before. But the common thread is that each home has a heroic adult who gave up the opportunity to have a comfortable life in order to help children who had no one to turn to.

They took in children who were abandoned and living on the streets. They cradled babies who were left at the gates of their orphanage or on the steps of a local church. Tribal chiefs in Africa no longer just provide leadership for their tribe. Now a primary role is to find sanctuary for abandoned children.

Ukraine children fled with their mothers as bombs were dropped all around them. Their homes were destroyed and these innocent children are now psychologically damaged and afraid. Suddenly, their new home is a refugee camp or a foster family. Just as you made life better for India's children, now we are asking you to do the same for orphaned and impoverished children in other parts of the world.

## **A Gift for All**

I sometimes say to the World's Children team that we have been given a wonderful gift that creates a way for all of us to really help the vulnerable. Certainly, World's Children has improved the lives of tens of thousands of orphaned and impoverished children over the past 58 years. But it is also a gift to all of us because by providing a way to help, we find meaning in our own lives.

Just as you have made life safer, healthier and more comfortable for children in India and Ethiopia over the past 12 years, now we are asking you to include children in Africa, Mexico and Ukraine. Please give to the 2023 campaign. Let's welcome these children and give them a new beginning.

With heartfelt thanks,



David Purviance  
Executive Director

PS To visit the 2023 campaign on our website, use the QR code or go to: [www.worldschildren.org/projects/annual-campaign](http://www.worldschildren.org/projects/annual-campaign)





World's Children



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## 2023 FALL CAMPAIGN — NEW BEGINNINGS



**“Everyone dreams of a rapid end to the war and return of the children’s fathers. We dream of having a home again because ours are completely destroyed.” —a Ukrainian displaced mother**



**The girls at Fatima Home asked for desks and chairs to improve their ability to do their homework.**



**Thieves broke into Happy Home for Children recently. To keep them safe, they have asked us to fix their wall.**



**World’s Children partially funded a project request from Bridge of Hope to paint their dorms and upgrade their furnishings. They still need our help to finish the projects.**

**“The scaffoldings that we have used to paint the residences is from wood. We can not keep it much longer because of the changes of the seasons.” —Tsion, BOH Administrator**



**You can see why Acts of Mercy has asked us to build some new toilets for their children.**



## 2023 FALL CAMPAIGN — NEW BEGINNINGS

Home Name	Total Kids	COMFORT & SAFETY	Cost
Fatima Home, India	47 girls	Desks and benches so the girls have a place to study off the floor.	\$1,184
Pandaravedu, India	67 children	Lights and a fan. The children need lighting in study areas and a fan to circulate air to keep bugs away and the temperature more comfortable.	\$1,374
Nirmala Matha Home, India	280 children	Nighttime solar lights for bathing rooms and toilets located outside the dorms so children don't step on poisonous snakes and scorpions.	\$6,803
Athipet, India	194 children	A grid solar lighting system to extend the effectiveness of their current solar panels.	\$4,066
Anna Vitiello Home, India	64 children	Solar panels to aid in electricity costs.	\$13,172
Annai Scholastica, India	66 children	Nighttime solar lighting for the children's toilets, bathing rooms and the study hall.	\$5,176
St. Anthony's Orphanage, India	135 children	Solar panels for continuous electricity for water supply and lighting for studies.	\$10,924
Nambikkai Illam, India	96 children	Generator for backup power and also for outdoor lights at night.	\$8,930
		<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>	
Happy Home for Children, India	90 children	Extend compound wall to protect the children and their caretakers from thieves and intruders. Thieves recently broke into the compound.	\$2,987
Anna Vitiello Home, India	64 children	The inside of the home has not been painted for 20 years.	\$4,187
Garden of Eden, Kenya	45 children	Replace muddy path with a paved entrance road.	TBD
		<b>WATER &amp; SANITATION</b>	
Pandaravedu, India	67 children	Water purifier so they don't need to purchase bottled water.	TBD
Acts of Mercy, Kenya	130 children	Construct six new toilets.	\$2,400
		<b>HEALTH</b>	
Mab's Haven, Zambia	6 girls	Refrigerator to preserve food.	\$600
Fatima Home, India	47 girls	Refrigerator to preserve food.	\$600
Casa Hogar, Mexico	20 children	Feed for chickens, cows, goats, pigs and seeds for vegetables for children to eat and sell for extra income.	\$1,023
Acts of Mercy, Kenya	130 children	Rabbits and chickens for children to eat and sell for extra income.	TBD
Bridge of Hope Children's Village, Ethiopia	78 children	10 homes need to be refurnished with: sofas, lockers, chairs, table, desks, beds, bedding, refrigerator and stove. Cost: \$5,429/home.	\$54,287
		<b>UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RELIEF</b>	
Displaced Children, Ukraine	192 children	Helping displaced mothers and children who fled their homes during the Russian invasion. They need firewood, medicine and school supplies.	\$10,000

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