

# GLOBALLINK



Giving Hope Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SPRING 2021

Photos: Mark Yan



Active and impassioned youth making a difference in the response to HIV-AIDS and general health in Chikankata, Zambia.

## A LASTING LEGACY

By Kathy Nguyen

*“Young people have the potential to save the world. All we have to do is let them do just that.”*  
— Elliot Harris, United Nation’s chief economist

Around the globe, children and youth are paving the way for a new day and age. Recognizing this, The Salvation Army has been a focal point for youth empowerment in all 131 countries where it serves. Whether through Salvation Army colleges, youth outreach services or summer camps, the Army is setting the stage for what it means to equip and mobilize youth worldwide.

Tucked in the heart of Chikankata, a rural village in Zambia, a group of active and impassioned youth are making a real difference in the response to HIV-AIDS and general health.

“We have so many children in Zambia that are orphaned due to HIV-AIDS,” says Samuel Lance, the community health development manager of Chikankata

Mission Hospital. “We needed to improve the knowledge gap surrounding health within our communities.”

When the Salvation Army Chikankata Youth-Friendly Space was created, an education program was launched to help narrow the gap. Volunteers are trained by a nurse about health-related issues, including HIV-AIDS prevention and awareness of unplanned pregnancies and early marriages. The volunteers then travel to various communities and schools to share what they have learned.

Atwall knew he wanted to be a part of this program in his senior year of high school.



Continued on page 2





A few years ago, I had the privilege of being appointed as the director for Ontario Camping Ministries, an appointment that for me was a “dream job,” overseeing two Salvation Army camps in Ontario, Newport Adventure Camp and Jackson’s Point Camp, and working directly with youth.

Each summer, more than 165 young people were hired as camp counsellors, kitchen staff, program staff and maintenance staff. These jobs mobilized youth for mission and provided opportunity for capacity building and leadership development.

As director, I personally saw how these opportunities for ministry awakened their spirits, piqued their curiosity and opened their minds to new possibilities.

Cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

As you read through the stories captured in this edition of Global Link, you will see the eagerness of our young people to lead by example, through fundraising, education and participation.

I believe that our young people are a force for positive change and heroes within our communities. Because of this, the international development department continues to support and mobilize youth at local, national and global levels. Together, we will continue to raise and amplify the voices of the young—our guardians for the future.

Sincerely,  
**Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray**  
*Director of International Development*

Continued from cover...

“I find that many young people are uncomfortable speaking to their parents or guardians about these kinds of topics,” says Atwall. “But they know they can speak to someone they can relate to—they know they can speak to me.”

Driven by youth, for youth, the Youth-Friendly Space is founded on the pillars of trust, comfort and a safe community space. With young individuals volunteering their time and committing to this program, the Chikankata Youth-Friendly Space is

making an impact on the community at large.

“While we can’t completely stop the transmission of HIV-AIDS or infections, we know that we can help to reduce it,” says Atwall. “‘Education is the key to success’ is our group’s motto, and that’s the legacy we want to leave behind.”

This program is highlighted in the Partners in Mission Self-Denial 2021 campaign. To learn more, visit [Salvationist.ca/PIM](http://Salvationist.ca/PIM).

## COAL-ITION FOR CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda is helping to support the COAL (community orphans, vulnerable children and livestock banking) project, a transformational initiative benefiting more than 300 orphans and vulnerable children across three communities in Mozambique.

Resource media co-ordinator Kathy Nguyen spoke to Major Dyson Chifudzeni, former projects’ officer in the Mozambique Territory, to learn more about this initiative.



### What is the COAL project?

The COAL project was developed to provide life-saving support to orphans, vulnerable children and their guardians in the communities of Panda, Xai-Xai and Zobue. We have three main objectives: to ensure children have the means and resources to go to school, to increase food security, and to raise socio-economic standards through income-generation and livelihood development activities.

### What were lives like before the implementation of this project?

Before the COAL project, the communities we worked in had high rates of child marriages, early pregnancies and school dropouts, and many families were going hungry because they were living off less than \$1 USD a day.

### Can you share how important this assistance has been to orphans, vulnerable children and their guardians?

This project has been active for more than a year now. While COVID-19 caused many disturbances, we are grateful that The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda supported us with a supplementary budget to ensure activities resumed safely.

In the past year, we’ve provided 300 children with school uniforms and educational materials, and more than 300 vulnerable families are benefiting from regular meals and income, thanks to the provision of livestock (two chickens per household and over 200 goats and pigs spread across three communities) and agricultural inputs. Because of COAL, there is hope—hope for zero hunger; hope for sustainable income; and hope for continued education and brighter futures.



Photos: Major Dyson Chifudzeni



This project is partially funded through The Salvation Army’s ethical-giving program, Gifts of Hope. If you would like to contribute, visit [SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](http://SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope)

# THE FUTURE OF THE SALVATION ARMY

By Kathy Nguyen

*"I bind myself to Him in this solemn covenant to love and serve Him supremely all my days, to live to win souls and make their salvation the first purpose of my life."*

—The Salvation Army Officer's Covenant

Did you know that The Salvation Army is operated and supervised worldwide by trained, commissioned and ordained officers – men and women who devote their lives to share the love of Jesus Christ and advance the mission of The Salvation Army? To become an officer, cadets must undergo vigorous training and development at an officers training college.

Their time in college allows them to know God; to know themselves; and to know their mission, helping to prepare them to be future leaders of The Salvation Army. Near or far, we work diligently to ensure that cadets training for officership have the tools and resources needed to prepare them for ministry.

That's why the Canada and Bermuda Territory's international development department provided The Salvation Army Officers Training College in Liberia with the resources needed to grow and prosper.

With your support, we supplied handwashing and sanitary supplies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on school grounds, purchased six sewing machines to add to the cadets' skill sets and learning, and provided new textbooks to ensure up-to-date and quality learning.

When we support cadets, we support the future of The Salvation Army.



The Salvation Army Officers Training College in Liberia recently suffered a devastating fire prior to the publishing of this story.

To find out how you can support, email [world.missions@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:world.missions@salvationarmy.ca)

## COPING DURING COVID-19

By Major Heather Matondo



Photo: Joel Johnson

COVID-19 has caused emotional and mental turmoil for most of the world. The past year has developed new stressors for everyone, including children and youth. That's why we're making it a priority to protect the mental health and well-being of the children entrusted to The Salvation Army's care.

With Sri Lanka being in and out of lockdown over the past year, many of the children we care for at our children's homes and development centres were unable to attend school or go home to their families. The pressures of a pandemic mixed with the strangeness of a new way of life can be daunting for children.

The staff at our children's homes and development centres are helping the children process their feelings through various methods.

At the SwedLanka Boys Home, the administrator brought pet rabbits to help the boys cope.

"They enjoy cuddling and taking care of them," says Sergeant Heidi, project and sponsorship secretary at The Salvation Army in Sri Lanka. "It was an emotional time for the boys to be away from their parents for so long. Being around pets was good for them."

The centre also prepares arts and crafts activities, which helps create a safe space for the children to explore and express their feelings.

At the Dehiwela Girls Home, the girls started small kitchen gardens, which provided them with an outlet to keep busy and learn a new skill.

"They were so proud when they saw the results," says Sergeant Heidi.

The Salvation Army will continue to provide practical and emotional support to children through this unusual and difficult stage of their lives. Every child deserves a bright future and our aim is to support them with any means possible. Thank you for your generous support.



To learn more about children's sponsorship visit [salvationist.ca/brighterfutures](http://salvationist.ca/brighterfutures)



# CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU(TH)

By Robyn Goodyear



Photo: Lt-Colonel John Murray

Aliyah in the THQ studio for a Partners in Mission campaign video production.

The Salvation Army in Canada recognizes the important contributions that youth can make around the world. From raising awareness on important issues to rallying others for a common cause, young Canadians continue to show how they can be a transforming influence in the lives of others.

Nataly, a high school student from Vaughan, Ont., chose to spend her Christmas raising money for our ethical-giving campaign, Gifts of Hope. While many were worried about how they would spend Christmas in a pandemic, Nataly was worried about how communities beyond our borders would spend theirs.

“I wanted to fundraise for the international work of The Salvation Army so that I could be a part of a positive change,” says Nataly. “During Christmas, I had a strong urge to help others in need.”

At Immanuel Christian School Society in Whitby, Ont., students from Grade 3-5 spent their time and efforts raising money to purchase goats for vulnerable communities in Malawi.

“Our goal was to raise \$600 in order to send 15 goats to Malawi,” says their teacher, Katelin Kingsley. “In total, we beat our goal and raised \$1,001!”

And while fundraisers offer practical and tangible assistance, supporting the international ministry of the Army doesn't always have to be monetary—sometimes it means spreading the word and educating others.

Last year, Aliyah, an 11-year-old junior soldier from East Toronto Corps, volunteered her time and talents to star in a Partners in Mission campaign video, where she teaches others about important ministry happening in the Bahamas.

These are just a few examples of how children and youth have made a difference from the comfort of their own communities—proving that no matter where you come from, or how old you are, change starts with you.



Contact the International Development Department at territorial headquarters, [world.missions@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:world.missions@salvationarmy.ca) to learn how you can help mobilize a generation of change-makers and take action in the fight against global poverty.



Generational poverty ends where opportunity begins.



[Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures](http://Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures)

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