

GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SUMMER 2021



Gifts of Hope ethical-giving program provides agriculture training in the rural communities of Malawi.



INVITING FARMERS TO THE CLASSROOM

By Kathy Nguyen

Since its establishment in 1865, The Salvation Army has continuously responded to human need in practical, holistic and transformative ways. The international development department in the Canada and Bermuda Territory implements projects that are long-lasting and sustainable in nature, which is why many of our programs are rooted in education and community mobilization.

With support from our Gifts of Hope ethical-giving program, The Salvation Army in Canada funded an integrated project combining literacy classes with conservation agriculture trainings in the rural communities of Funwe and Matapang'ombe, Malawi.

Of all regions, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of illiteracy, with rural areas most often being deprived of quality education.

"Many people in these communities lack formal education," says Ibrahim Thawani, project manager for The Salvation Army in the Malawi Territory. "Addressing illiteracy is a high need for alleviating food insecurity."

With six literacy committees trained in adult literacy management, more than 170 farmers received classes in basic literacy and numeracy skills.

By teaching farmers how to read and write, they can read training manuals independently; are better equipped to handle loans and savings; have better control on their marketing and business efforts; are afforded the opportunity to diversify their ventures; and most importantly, are able to learn beyond the classroom.

Continued on page 2



Holism is defined as “the belief that everything in nature is connected in some way.”

Working with a holistic approach provides a foundation for individual and community transformation. The international development department strives for integrated development, which is evidenced in our projects. In this edition of *Global Link*, you will learn how our programs weave together education, livelihood assistance and meaningful partnership.

We are pleased to launch our new “Hope Around the World” series, which will run over several issues to introduce you to some of our international project officers. This month, we highlight Noelia Pintos from South America.

In addition, you will see how combining literacy and conservation agriculture supports farmers in Malawi. Utilizing a holistic approach, local project officers engage communities in discussion to identify together programs that bring about sustainable change.

We can’t forget about the effects of COVID-19. Writer Damian Barr says, “We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm. Some are on super-yachts. Some have just the one oar.” Read how your funds are supporting communities in Nigeria, Mozambique, Malawi and Liberia as they respond to COVID-19.

In these unusual days of a global pandemic, it is our hope that you are kept safe and healthy. Thank you for continually supporting others beyond our borders.

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
Director of International Development

Continued from cover...

“The classes were beneficial for farmers willing to follow new farming technology,” Ibrahim says. “They were all willing to learn how to read, write and make simple calculations.”

Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations, once said, “Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

At The Salvation Army, we know that opportunity begins in the classroom. When farmers learn how to read and write,

they aren’t just improving food security but also building pillars to lifelong learning.

Thank you for continuing to support some of the world’s most vulnerable farmers and for contributing to a world without hunger.

To support rural farmers overseas, visit:
[SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/giftsofhope)



STAYING INFORMED ACROSS AFRICA

By Kathy Nguyen

“Information is power, and these initiatives had a positive influence on community behaviour regarding cleanliness, proper handwashing and social distancing.”

— Major Dyson Chifudzeni, project officer, The Salvation Army Malawi Territory

It’s been more than a year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. As we look back, we observe how this pandemic has exposed the perils of global poverty and the effects of the digital divide—those who benefit from a rapidly growing digital age and those who do not. While some countries made efforts to make information more accessible, such as in South Africa, where access to the government’s COVID-19 website was free of charge, with no data required, many who live in absolute poverty lacked the resources to learn accurate and credible information about the virus.



With more than 600 million people in Africa lacking basic access to electricity, The Salvation Army around the world had boots on the ground, ensuring vulnerable individuals and communities remained well-informed to protect themselves against COVID-19.

With your support, here’s how The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory financially supported information dissemination initiatives over the past year:

- **The Salvation Army in Nigeria distributed 250,000 flyers and 4,000 posters with COVID-19 messaging.**
- **The Salvation Army in Mozambique provided information, education and communication materials across four communities, making information on COVID-19 accessible to more than 2,000 individuals.**
- **The Salvation Army in Malawi deployed a trained team to disseminate information to communities, craft messaging for radio stations and distribute informational posters.**
- **The Salvation Army in Liberia created awareness campaigns, distributing 2,000 flyers, posters and banners across three cities.**

When the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the need to spread information on how to combat the virus was critical. Recognizing that the internet or television aren’t always viable options, your support allowed us to accommodate and mobilize, providing the necessary funds for international Salvation Army officers, employees and volunteers to safely spread the message and help prevent the spread.

As we look back on more than a year of COVID-19, we thank our fearless Army across Africa, and our faithful Army here in Canada—our donors—who enabled us to mobilize quickly, keep the vulnerable informed and potentially save countless lives.



HOPE Around the World

The Salvation Army is blessed with knowledgeable and dedicated personnel who are committed to providing hope and support for vulnerable people and communities around the world. These project officers and personnel are instrumental in facilitating meaningful partnerships across the globe, as well as implementing projects that have a lasting impact on the future of our world.

In our “Hope Around the World” series, we will connect with international Salvation Army project officers to learn more about their work, hear some of their fondest memories, and see how your support has impacted them and the communities they serve.

CHANGING LIVES IN SOUTH AMERICA WEST

By Robyn Goodyear



The Salvation Army South America West Territory’s reach stretches across Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. During her 18 years as project officer in South America West, Noelia Pintos has witnessed life-changing ways the Army has gone above and beyond to bring hope to those in need.

In Bolivia, families would often resort to cutting down the already-limited trees in their communities to use as firewood for cooking. Through a project supported by The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda, families in three communities received solar cookers and training on how to use them. These gifts reduced the negative environmental impacts of logging and allowed beneficiaries to spend more time at home.

Noelia recalls a mother’s excitement at baking a cake for her child’s birthday for the first time. “It seems so simple to us,” she says, “but it was life-changing for them.”

Like the rest of the world, South America has been rocked by the effects of the pandemic, but The Salvation Army in South America West remains dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable. “We are committed to the community,” Noelia says. “And we are ready to serve.”



THE MARVELS OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

By Kathy Nguyen

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

— Proverbs 22:6 NIV

The Salvation Army’s Brighter Futures Children’s Sponsorship Program seeks to nourish, build and uplift vulnerable children in more than 20 countries.

Our sponsors provide the funding to keep children’s homes stocked with food and furniture; schools stocked with supplies and textbooks, and students with uniforms on their backs and their school fees paid for.

And while sponsorship pays for the immediate needs of the children, we also focus our efforts on building their faith, fuelling their imaginations, and helping them gain cognitive, emotional and social life skills.

Ten-year-old Marvel has been living at the Depansar Boys’ Home in Bali, Indonesia, since he was six years old. This home provides him with essential living necessities, such as housing, food, school and clothing. Beyond that, he’s provided with entrepreneurship courses, including English classes, tie-dyeing, digital art, sewing and gardening.

“We do many activities here, but my favourite is the tie-dye course,” Marvel says. “I can be as creative as I want, and I create colour patterns according to my heart.”

When Marvel grows up, he wants to become a pilot. Through strong support from his sponsors, his friends at the home and his faith in God, he is confident he’ll realize this dream.

“This home teaches us how to be closer to God, so that we can achieve our goals,” he says. “I want to thank my sponsors in Canada. Every day, we pray for you, and we hope that one day, you can visit us in Bali.”



To find out how you can become a Brighter Futures children’s sponsor, visit: [Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures](https://salvationist.ca/brighterfutures)



LEARNING BEYOND BORDERS

By Robyn Goodyear

Every year, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda financially supports several emergency relief projects around the world, including in Liberia, a country in the Liberia and Sierra Leone Command that is especially prone to fire and storm-related disasters. We recognize that funding these projects isn't enough; one of the key fundamentals in successful and sustainable development work is partnership that includes sharing of knowledge and expertise, as well as resources.

The Canada and Bermuda Territory's emergency disaster services typically offers in-person training and development for employees and volunteers across Canada and Bermuda. With a shift to online learning during the pandemic, there have been new opportunities to expand training beyond geographical limitations.

As part of a pilot program to provide technical support to our partners, project officers from Liberia were invited to participate in virtual courses led by our territory's emergency disaster services. "Introduction to Emergency Disaster Services" provided a baseline for emergency response practices, while "Foundations of Emotional and Spiritual Care" focused on the care of a whole person, through emotional, spiritual, ethical, intellectual, environmental and physical wellness.

After participating in these courses, the international projects officers will be better equipped for developing emergency response projects on the ground in Liberia.

"The training was rich and resourceful," says Major Abraham Collins, project officer for The Salvation Army in the Liberia and Sierra Leone Command. "It prepared me to organize a locally trained disaster management team, and to conduct myself in a manner reflective of the compassion and dignity of Christ."

Their involvement also benefitted the Canadian participants. Recognizing diversity as a strength and adding the voices of these experienced project officers to the discussions provided an opportunity to hear new perspectives on current practices. These perspectives allow us to identify what we may take for granted in emergency response, and how we can improve to bridge those gaps.

"Experts agree that investing in disaster preparedness and mitigation not only saves money during a response but reduces the social impacts of potential hazards," says Perron Goodyear, territorial director of emergency disaster services in Canada and Bermuda. "By helping to build capacity of partner territories, we hope to reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience to cope with hazards."

Through this sharing of knowledge and perspectives, our partnerships across The Salvation Army world are strengthened. Together, we can build our capacity and resiliency when disaster strikes.



Brighter Futures

THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP



Thank you!



Canadian sponsors support more than ten children's homes around the world.

Today, help us give vulnerable children a place to call 'home.'

Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures



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