

GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

FALL 2023



Robyn Goodyear looks over children kept busy by Captains Loyda and Mario in Usulután, El Salvador.

COMING TOGETHER IN EL SALVADOR

By Robyn Goodyear

In my role as the international project support co-ordinator in the international development department, I was privileged to visit El Salvador, part of The Salvation Army's Latin America North Territory, where I learned the deeper meaning of the term "community development."

After stepping off the plane in San Salvador and meeting the regional officers, Captains Mario and Loyda, the sense of pride and the love they have for their community were immediately apparent. That trend continued as we travelled to The Salvation Army's ministries in Usulután.

The officers explained that in El Salvador, crime, trafficking and recruitment for gangs are major concerns for families in El Salvador, especially in major urban areas.

The Salvation Army's corps in Usulután provides programming for children ages 5-14, including educational support and special activities such as arts and crafts, physical education, dance and drama. The educational assistance supports children's learning and reduces early dropout rates.

The children receive nutritious meals and snacks at the corps, which are often the only meal they have in a day. The program provides a safe space for children during the day when not in school, reducing the likelihood of gangs recruiting them.



Continued on page 2



It is that time of year when we start to see back-to-school sales. The cooler days are returning and our thoughts transition from summer to fall. Memories of hot days sitting by a lake or under the shade of a tree fade and our focus shifts to the cooler days of fall.

I remember the excitement of the first day of school, having picked out something special to wear and proudly displaying my new book bag and school materials as I left home, waving to my mom. Oh, those are such great memories. And we want to give these memories to children around the world.

In this edition of *Global Link*, you will read about some of the Salvation Army children's homes in India and how generous Canadians have provided infrastructure and essential school resources. You will also learn how The Salvation Army in Congo (Brazzaville) helps children experience the joy of Christmas thanks to your support of the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program.

We hope that as you read the stories and testimonials contained in this newsletter you will take joy in knowing you have made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." May that be true for us all.

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
Director of International Development

Continued from cover...

Since the corps building is a 20-minute drive away from the community and there is no public transportation available, soldiers and members of the church open their homes every day for the children's activities to take place closer to home. Each day, the corps officers walk through the neighbourhood to pick up the children and safely accompany them to the program. Volunteers prepare the food, plan lessons and organize special activities.

Though there were language barriers between us, the sense of community and pride in Usulután needed no translation.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors to the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program, The Salvation Army can support hundreds of children in urban communities in Central and South America.

STORY OF CHANGE

By Charley Mbotani

My name is Charley Mbotani and I'm 19 years old. I would like to present my sincere gratitude to The Salvation Army who has enabled me to change my life today. Indeed, the death of my parents during the civil war that broke out in 1998 has negatively affected my life.

I couldn't imagine this life of misery, loneliness, deep distress, and I didn't even have enough to feed myself.

One of my friends, who completed her training in hairdressing at The Salvation Army's Baongo Vocational Centre (in Congo-Brazzaville), strongly advised and invited me to participate in the graduation ceremony of finalists. That day I felt the joy of my heart when I saw other vulnerable girls who were in my situation become independent through training in vocational skills.

I decided that day to change my sad life into the life of a woman, full of hope, who will bring change to others through my testimony. Today, Baongo Vocational Centre has not only trained me in sewing but I have also benefited from the spiritual life, how to become a worthy woman according to the Word of God.

I thank God for the change of my life. I decided to be faithful to him in all circumstances of life and I would be ungrateful if I forget the blessings that The Salvation Army has given me. May the Lord bless my life and The Salvation Army.



TO BUILD A HOME

By Kathy Nguyen

The care of children and youth is an integral part of the international work of The Salvation Army as shown through the hundreds of children's homes it operates around the world. Without these homes, many of the children entrusted to the Army's care would be homeless or living under duress, with little to no opportunity for a quality education.

This is why it's so important that these homes are supported, and why partnership is such a critical factor for these centres to thrive.

Through our partnership with The Salvation Army in India, we're working together to ensure three children's homes in western India can flourish.

Thanks to our Brighter Futures children's sponsors, we have provided new computers, desks, chairs, beds, kitchen appliances, toys and sporting equipment to the Hope House Boy's Home, the Jeevan Asha Boy's Home and the Aruna Girl's Home.

This would not have been possible without the partnership of you, our sponsors, who enable us to work together with the international Salvation Army to provide holistic and practical care for vulnerable children.

Because you care, more than 70 children who live in these homes will benefit from the housing, educational and recreational support.

Thank you!



For more information on the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program, visit salvationist.ca/brighterfutures

CHRISTMAS IN THE CONGO

By Major Heather Matondo

Christmas can be an exciting time for children as their thoughts are filled with the promise of Santa, presents and celebrations.

Recognizing that not every child gets to experience these things, The Salvation Army in Congo-Brazzaville launched a special mission to bring the joy of Christmas to children all around their country.

For the past two years, the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship program has supported this initiative, enabling more than 500 children to gather in four different locations to enjoy a day of games, food and even a visit from Santa himself! Some of the most vulnerable children in these communities—some living on the street, others from low-income families, and orphans—have all been given the opportunity to create special memories and experience the joy of Christmas in the Congo.



CREATING LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Empower a child today and become a sponsor.



Become a sponsor by scanning the bar code or visit Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures

Your generous support will contribute to school supplies, tuition fees, nutritional support and more.



Brighter Futures

THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP



**INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

GLOBAL LINK – FALL 2023

Published by The Salvation Army International Development Department
Territorial Headquarters for Canada and Bermuda
2 Overlea Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario M4H 1P4

Phone: 416-422-6224 Email: SAID@salvationarmy.ca
salvationist.ca/international-development

© 2023 The Salvation Army. All rights reserved.

@salvationarmy

[salvationarmyincanada](https://www.facebook.com/salvationarmyincanada)



To learn more, visit:
un.org/sustainabledevelopment