

# GLOBALLINK



Giving  
Hope  
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SPRING 2023



Dedicated teachers and students at Kawama Primary School in Zambia.

## “GOD HAD SAVED US”

By Major Heather Matondo

In October 2022, I conducted a monitoring visit to our sponsorship projects in Zimbabwe and Zambia, my first international trip since managing the Brighter Futures Children’s Sponsorship Program.

After more than two years of COVID-19, everything I knew about these projects came through regular reports that I was reading. However, stepping onto the soil of Africa, I was able to witness first-hand how lives are being changed by the generosity of people who give on a regular basis to Brighter Futures. The words I had been reading on paper came to life and the reality started to come into focus.

I visited several schools and was able to walk through classrooms and see where the children sat every day, learning, playing and growing under the care of their dedicated teachers. I listened to their stories of thankfulness and heard of their dreams.

A young student in Grade 6 told me she wants to be a judge when she grows up so that she will have enough money to help her

family and orphans, just as she has received help from The Salvation Army.

In Zambia, we were able to visit Richard, a recipient of sponsorship funds that helped pay for his school fees, uniform and school supplies. He also received two goats, which will provide milk, food and income for his family for years to come.

When Richard’s uniform package arrived, at a time when there was no money left, Richard’s father said, “God has saved us.”

While we may not always see the lives that are being changed first-hand, I am blessed that I was able to meet just a few and walk away knowing the impact is great and life-changing for so many children.

Your support makes a real, tangible and practical difference for so many children and youth around the world.



Become a sponsor today at  
[SalvationArmy.ca/brighter-futures](https://SalvationArmy.ca/brighter-futures)



# FOOD RELIEF AMIDST DROUGHT

By Kathy Nguyen

*“Unfortunately, we have not yet seen the worst of this crisis. If you think 2022 is bad, beware of what is coming in 2023. What that means, is that we need to continue to engage.*

*We cannot give up on the needs of the population in the Horn of Africa.”*

— Michael Dunford,

United Nation’s World Food Programme Regional Director for Eastern Africa

Recently, Kenya has experienced the worst drought they’ve seen in 40 years, with four successive failed rainy seasons. This extreme weather crisis erupted a humanitarian crisis, leaving millions thirsty, malnourished and impoverished.

The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda responds to natural disasters in every corner of the world, and with your help, we provided support to 59 schools across Turkana, Kenya.

As a result of this drought, Kenya is suffering one of the worst food crises in decades. That’s why the local Salvation Army is providing each school with food relief, including water, maize, beans, rice, cooking oil, sugar, and more.

More than 12,000 students, alongside the teaching faculty and staff, will benefit from nutritious meals.

The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda, in partnership with The Salvation Army in Kenya West, the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary, and Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes, has combined efforts and funds to cover the expenses of food for the next three months, ensuring that every student receives nutritious meals five times a day (three main meals and two snacks).

No student deserves to go to school hungry. And because you care, students across Turkana won’t have to. Thank you!



On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck parts of Turkey and Syria, violently shaking the ground and destroying thousands of buildings. As of February 10, it was reported that more than 22,000 people had died and thousands more had been injured. Such tragic loss impacts the very heart and soul of communities.

Natural disasters, drought, war and political unrest negatively impact an individual’s agency and well-being. The Salvation Army responds through emergency disaster and rapid response projects and, depending on the extent of the situation, develops longer-term support. These humanitarian relief and development projects are locally developed and led, ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed.

In this issue of *Global Link*, you will learn how The Salvation Army is responding to the drought crisis in the Turkana region of Kenya, how we are supporting refugee children landing in Bulgaria and Georgia, how the repair of a school building in Chile helps children stay in school, as well as other stories of interest.

I hope as you read the articles, you will sense the incredible support you are providing when you give to international development. Every dollar makes such a difference in the lives of individuals. Thank you for “Giving Hope Today.”

Sincerely,

**Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray**

*Director of International Development*



# A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army has been advocating for quality education worldwide for more than 150 years. Recognizing that holistic care is pivotal in the education sector, we've implemented multi-pronged projects to tackle various matters. We've not only provided schools with new books, but training and professional development for teachers. We've not only provided students with paid tuition fees, but with livestock so that their families could earn an income.

That's why when a school in Las Acacias, Chile, needed a new roof to protect the classrooms during rainy season and beyond, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda responded.

The Las Acacias Kindergarten is a small but mighty kindergarten and pre-kindergarten school that provides learning and nutritious meals to more than 80 children, ages two to five.

When heavy rains caused damage and water leakage to the roof, Canadians helped provide the funds to have the roof replaced with a new and stable roof to ensure a safe place to learn and play.

"The Salvation Army's mission is to provide quality education without the risk of any disaster," says Noelia Pintos, territorial projects secretary for The Salvation Army in South America West. "For this reason, we are grateful for the opportunity to improve the conditions for a better education for our children."

To ensure a great learning experience, we need to first ensure a safe learning experience.

With your support, we can do that for students beyond our borders. Thank you!



# UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE: BACK TO SCHOOL

By Robyn Goodyear



Photo: Stuart Thomas/PA, UK

Nearly a year since the crisis in Ukraine began in February 2022, millions of families have fled their homes to seek safety in surrounding countries. As the unrest continues, refugee children displaced by the crisis must register for school in their new communities to avoid further major disruptions to their education.

Having left most of their belongings behind in Ukraine, children are faced with starting school in a new country without the backpacks, basic clothing and school supplies they need.

As part of our ongoing response to the Ukraine crisis, we've partnered with The Salvation Army in Eastern Europe to address this dire need.

With your support to the Ukraine crisis, we're providing essential school supplies, including backpacks and clothing, for 500 refugee children in Georgia and 1,000 refugee children in Bulgaria.

Leaving everything you know as a child and youth can be a scary and daunting experience. With your support, families who come from crisis can rest a little easier knowing they are better prepared for the school year.



# HOPE FOR HAITI

By Robyn Goodyear

Food insecurity continues to be a rising concern around the world. With widespread political instability in Haiti combined with debt and natural hazards, many children are going to school hungry. Not only does this cause health issues, but hunger makes it harder to concentrate in school.

The Salvation Army's Rossignol School in Haiti, the oldest and most respected school in its community, is providing quality education and support to 44 children and their families.

With funding from The Salvation Army's Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program, we're providing students with hot meals every school day, prepared by caring volunteers. The community around the school runs a garden at the school, growing crops and cultivating seeds. This ensures nutritious food is available at the school in the short term but also prepares for the future. The program also equips children with textbooks and school supplies.

This project is part of The Salvation Army's long-term strategy for breaking the cycle of poverty through children's nutrition and education. Thanks to your generous support, children in Haiti can receive a well-rounded education in the absence of hunger, giving them the tools and hope for a brighter future.



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THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP

## Transform A Life Today

With your sponsorship, children and youth in more than 20 countries are attending school, receiving regular meals, and living in safe accommodations.

Become a sponsor today:  
[SalvationArmy.ca/brighter-futures](https://SalvationArmy.ca/brighter-futures)



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