

STORIES OF IMPACT

The difference you're making



**International
Development**
AUSTRALIA

Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Donors like you took Juthika from struggling to read to being a confident business woman

*Thank you for sponsoring Self-Help Groups in Bangladesh, Myanmar and India. A Self-Help Group means Juthika can now help her children with their schoolwork and earn an income. **Read more on page 2.***

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**CARING FOR ORPHANS
IN MALAWI**

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**BAKING THE WAY TO A
BETTER FUTURE FOR
OVERSEAS COMMUNITIES**



BANGLADESH.

With opportunity comes hope

Your support as an education sponsor is helping families live life to the fullest



Juthika is a 33-year-old mother who loves helping her son and daughter with their homework. She reads their school books and supports their learning at the local Bangladeshi school.

Three years ago, this simple parenting task would have been an impossibility for Juthika. Like many children and adults in her area, Juthika never completed school. A lot of parents in south-western Bangladesh take their children out of school so they can help the family.

But thanks to a Self Denial Appeal funded project, Juthika joined a Salvation Army-run literacy program, “Now I am very happy that I can read, write and count,” she says. “It is a pleasure to ... observe my children study.”

EMPOWERING AND UNITING COMMUNITIES

For many years, Juthika and her husband, Provash, were struggling to make ends meet. He earned a low wage as a van driver and Juthika sold her handmade bamboo baskets.

In late 2016, The Salvation Army started a comprehensive community capacity building (CCCB) project in Juthika’s village. The project is designed to unite communities, improve participants’ skills and empower them to enjoy life. So far, the project has reached 13,305 people – of which 65 per cent are female.

In the first three years of the project, children, youth, parents, teachers, leaders and other community members attended various seminars and training opportunities. Topics included social issues, gender equity, nutrition, and maternal and child health.

A focus was also given to starting Self-Help Groups for vulnerable women. With the support of education sponsors like you, Self-Help Groups are benefiting women and families in other parts of the world such as Myanmar and India.

Self-Help Groups encourage small groups of women to work together to improve their quality of life. At least 40 people with disabilities are part of these groups.

Juthika’s Self-Help Group encouraged

her to start saving. “Every week I save Tk20 (0.35AUD),” she says. “Now my savings is Tk2300. It is very [pleasant] that I had no savings but now I have Tk2300 (40AUD).”

THANK YOU FOR HELPING JUTHIKA EARN AN INCOME

After her initial literacy training, Juthika also enrolled in a tailoring training course through her Self-Help Group.

“I took a Tk5000 (87AUD) loan and purchased a sewing machine and cloth,” says Juthika. “I started a small tailoring business in my house.”

Juthika now meets local villagers’ orders for blouses, petticoats and baby dresses.

“Per month I earn at least Tk4000 (70AUD). This income is increasing day by day and I am contributing to my family. I am dreaming I will establish a tailoring shop one day.”

Because of Juthika’s new-found income, her children will be able to finish school and can go on to live their lives to the fullest, just like their mother is now.

SIMBA sponsors – thank you for changing lives



2343 educated

– So far, 2343 adults and children have been educated as trainers of anti-human trafficking programming throughout six communities, with more to be trained before the project's conclusion in 2020. This training enables the project to continue effecting change in the area.



75%

– Government officials and community leaders in 75 per cent of the communities reached so far are sensitised on anti-human trafficking.



41 clubs

– Up to the reporting period of June 2019, 41 schools in both rural and urban areas of Kenya had established Rights of Children Clubs, educating youth about the risks of, and prevention strategies for, human trafficking.

WASH sponsors, this one's for you! A refreshing change for students and teachers

Kenyan primary schoolteacher, Josephine, is passionate about helping children thrive. She hated seeing children bringing dirty water to school when the school's two rainwater tanks ran dry. And she was always disappointed by the high absenteeism due to illness, resulting in low levels of academic performance.

Sponsors, like you, of the Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) initiative and the Salvos Gifts catalogue changed everything. Items such as water tanks, toilets and boreholes have a long-term, widespread impact on many lives.

MORE TEACHING TIME LEADS TO BETTER FUTURES

“The school now has clean water and the chance of contracting waterborne

diseases is rare,” says Josephine. “The pupils are washing their hands after visiting the toilet since we now have several handwashing units. The school also has enough latrines for the teachers and pupils through the combined efforts of the project and the parents.”

With fewer health-related absences and more teaching time, Josephine says academic performance has improved.

“My hope is that our pupils will attain their life dreams and be of great help to the community and entire nation,” she says.

Thank you to our priority sponsors for protecting vulnerable children

In Malawi, one million people have HIV. In 2018, 13,000 died from HIV/AIDS related illnesses.¹

An AIDS-related death is tragic in any circumstance. But, in Malawi, many of the orphaned children are left incredibly vulnerable. There is very little support. Children like Mesi* are fortunate to have a grandmother to care for them. Others have no guardian – like Abikanile* – and drop out of school because they cannot afford the associated costs.

Some find low-paying jobs while others resort to begging or get caught up in crime. Girls may turn to early marriage to support themselves – some end up with unplanned pregnancies and HIV as a result.

But, because of Australian priority sponsors like you, many of these vulnerable children have hope.

A project, called *Let's Take Care of One Another*, has so far established 42 Village Savings Loan Associations. These are helping seven Malawian communities improve their financial security through teaching more sustainable farming methods that

increase crops production while protecting the environment.

The project is also increasing awareness of the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. And, in turn, through the funds raised via Village Savings Loan Associations, communities are finding ways of supporting orphans without guardians, and vulnerable children with their guardians.

For instance, in 2019, 420 children received school uniforms, blankets and educational materials via kids clubs connected with the project. This community-based approach helped Abikanile get back to school. The project officer says, “She looks happy and is working hard at school.”

Abikanile, at one of the nine kids clubs, also received much-needed counselling, support and empowerment.

Thank you for helping protect vulnerable children and giving them hope for a better future.

*Names changed to protect privacy.
1 unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/malawi



Thank you!

Over the Christmas season, you bought nearly 600 individual items from the Salvos Gifts catalogue, including:



118 chickens



70 goats



67 farming starter kits



28 maternal health training



42 toilets



20 water tanks

Because of your generosity, families can grow crops and raise animals for nutrition and income. Schools and communities have clean toilets and water to improve their health. And mothers and infants are able to receive life-saving education and support.

Did you know you can shop from the Salvos Gifts catalogue year round?

Here's some inspiration:



Poultry training (\$35) and **chickens** (\$12) make healthier alternatives to Easter eggs.



Maternal health training (\$18) for Mother's Day is a great way to appreciate your mum's care of you.



Give Dad a **hand shovel** (\$32) for a farmer overseas this Father's Day instead of another tool for his own collection.



And you can never go wrong with **toilets** (\$100), **nutrition education** (\$52) or an **anti-trafficking workshop** (\$38) for birthdays. Choose something that suits your friend or family member's personality and passions!

Shop today at salvosgifts.org.au

*Allow two weeks for gift cards to be posted or select the print-at-home version.



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PHOTO CREDIT: COWRA GUARDIAN

Meet a donor: someone like you who's making an impact

Through the sale of her recipe books, Major Cathryn Williamson is giving people overseas hope and a future

Major Cathryn Williamson (corps officer for Cowra and Grenfell, NSW) has a tea cup that reads, "Big things often have small beginnings."

Her goal in 2015 was to donate \$1000 to an international project in the Ukraine. Called *I Will Survive* the project teaches at-risk or vulnerable young women and men important life skills. She figured she'd write a recipe book, have her dad print it and sell about 100 copies. But that same year, Cathryn transferred \$15,000 to the women's project.

"I believe God [took] my small offering and blessed it to do 'big' things through the money raised," she says.

Authoring a recipe book – called *2 Thumbs Up: A Dozen, Dozen Sensational Slices* – was a natural fit for Cathryn who has been an avid baker for many years. "Cooking for me is an opportunity to recharge, but it's also a ministry [cooking for morning teas and the like]," she explains. Cathryn and her husband, Mark, have even earned prizes at the Brisbane Ekka and Sydney Royal Easter Show.

That first book led the way to two more books in the *2 Thumbs Up* series: *A Dozen, Dozen Brilliant Biscuits* and *A Dozen, Dozen Cakes, Loaves and Muffins*. All contain 144 recipes, which Cathryn makes and photographs herself.

Cathryn has sold almost 10,000 copies of her three books, combined. This has seen her donate close to \$50,000 to various projects, including women's health in Africa, Joyville Children's Home in the Philippines and an after-school project in Myanmar.

"I have a passion for the work of The Salvation Army worldwide, but particularly those countries that need a bit of extra funding," she says of her

reason for supporting international projects. "We have so much here [in Australia] it's nice to be generous with what we have and allow others to continue the work they are doing"

In addition to the sale of her recipe books, Cathryn bakes for her community's regular market and cake stalls. She raises about \$7000 each year, which also goes towards international development projects. As part of her responsibilities as corps officer, Cathryn is also inspiring the next generation of chefs through a kids cooking program called *Salvos Kids in the Kitchen*.

It may have started as a small dream, but Cathryn's impact has grown. Her message to others who want to have a global impact is simple: "Do what you can. Every little bit helps." What will your story be?

To purchase a copy of one or all of Cathryn's recipe books, email two.thumbs.up@hotmail.com