

January 2016

Dear Friend,

This past year, individuals and nations alike have struggled to respond to the growing global refugee crisis. With 60 million people—more than half of them children—displaced by violence and other threats, it's the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today.

While a political solution continues to be elusive, the immediate plight of refugees has remained a priority for World Vision staff as we seek to follow Jesus' call to serve children and families in the world's hardest places. For 65 years—since the start of the Korean War—we've been reaching out to those impacted by poverty, oppression, injustice, and conflict.

Our mission has led us to serve those affected by violence in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan, and now Syria and the surrounding nations. More than 6.6 million people are displaced within Syria and over 4.3 million have fled to nearby countries, creating additional strain in communities already facing poverty and insecurity. Since the Syrian conflict began in 2011, we've touched the lives of 2 million of those made most vulnerable.

I'm deeply grateful to faithful supporters who gave this past year to help those impacted by the Syria crisis, as well as many others. With your donations and prayers, we responded to over 120 humanitarian emergencies around the world, from the conflict in and around Syria to the devastating Nepal earthquake to the food shortage in South Sudan.

I'm also thankful to our faithful child sponsors and other partners who enabled us to continue our proven long-term poverty-fighting work. This year our child sponsorship program provided millions of children, as well as their families and communities, with sustainable access to life essentials—clean water, nutritious food, basic healthcare and education, economic opportunities for parents, protection for children, spiritual nurture, and much more.

We know that fullness of life requires a full solution. That's why we partner with communities for around 15 years—or until they are self-sufficient—helping them to solve the puzzle of poverty and open the door to a brighter future for their children. In nearly 100 countries, our staff and volunteers are working tirelessly to serve children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, with the goal that every child will have the opportunity to experience a full and abundant life (John 10:10).

This is the work that you support when you give a gift to sponsor a child, provide clean water, deliver medical supplies, and more—walking alongside communities as they lift themselves out of poverty.

In 2015, with the support of nearly 1 million individual donors, over 12,000 churches, and 270 corporate

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donors in the U.S., we helped open the door to hope for millions of people around the globe, including:

- Approximately 10 million disaster survivors, refugees, and displaced people affected by 128 global, national, and local humanitarian emergencies
- 4.1 million children and their families in over 1,600 sponsorship program areas worldwide
- The families in 28 U.S.-donor-supported sponsorship program areas, with populations ranging from 30,000 to 300,000, where World Vision's work has concluded thanks to the achievement of community self-sustainability goals
- 2.2 million children and adults who, for the first time, gained access to clean water as well as improved practices for sanitation and hygiene
- 3.9 million children whose parents were equipped by microloans and business training to improve their families' standard of living
- More than 2.7 million children and adults in the U.S. who were assisted through leadership training, disaster response, and access to basic necessities
- Nearly 4.7 million children and youth worldwide who participated in discipleship activities and values education

Our identity as followers of Christ guides us to love the refugee and the stranger; to show generosity to the poor; and to serve the widow and the orphan. We do this from the mountains of the Andes to Africa's Rift Valley and in many of the world's hardest places.

And regardless of the size of the crisis or the breadth of the development project, what remains most important is each life that is touched and transformed by God's love, demonstrated through your compassion. This has been the heart of World Vision since our founder, Bob Pierce, gave five dollars to care for one little girl in need in China.

Thank you for partnering with World Vision to offer hope, one life at a time. Whether it's life-sustaining aid for a refugee child, first-time access to clean water for a community, or new doors of opportunity for a sponsored child, hope is spreading. And it begins with you.

I look forward to seeing how God continues to change lives through our partnership in 2016.

Blessings,



Rich Stearns
President, World Vision U.S.

