

January 2018

Dear Friend,

In my 20 years with World Vision, I've logged more than 2 million air miles and traveled to 65 countries. No matter where I go, I've found one thing to be universal: people everywhere want their children to lead lives filled with promise and possibilities. We all believe that children deserve the chance to realize their God-given potential.

World Vision's program model is built around this belief. Convinced that God creates each child with a purpose, our work is *child-focused*. Understanding that children need healthy communities to thrive, we're *community-empowering*. And seeking to bear witness through our work to the good news of the kingdom of God, we are *Christ-centered*.

In many of the places we work, poverty has burrowed deep, burdening families and threatening children's futures. The cynical world sees only the problems. Not us. We see possibilities. We envision productive parents, healthy children, and communities where schools are full and churches standing-room-only. Our vision is for every child to have life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Our work toward that goal is the fruit of our faith.

With God's sustaining power and your faithful support, we are doing more than just "helping the poor." We're unleashing human potential. This is great news!

And here's more good news: In fiscal 2017, our revenue growth of 3 percent meant that we were able to commit \$20 million more to our child-focused, community-empowering, Christ-centered programs—totaling \$855 million of resources to yield countless possibilities in God's kingdom. And as good stewards, we've also reduced our overhead expenses. Don't miss the [letter from our CFO](#) for more financial highlights.

What do such results mean in the life of a child? Last summer in Kenya, I got to see how one child's story had turned out. I met Jackson Ole Sapit, who was only 5 when his father died, leaving a large family to struggle in poverty. By all accounts, Jackson was just another vulnerable child without much hope for the future. But a faraway family chose to sponsor Jackson through World Vision, and the support helped him survive a hunger crisis and stay in school, where he learned about Jesus. He continued his education and eventually earned a master's degree in the U.K. Today, he is

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Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit, the head of the 5-million-member Anglican Church of Kenya and a strong advocate for Kenyans living in poverty.

Jackson's sponsors helped unleash his potential to become a role model and a leader in his country. Globally, World Vision child sponsors are assisting 4 million children, each filled with potential just like Jackson was 40 years ago. How many of them are future doctors, teachers, pastors, government ministers, or diplomats? It's exciting to consider the possibilities.

Here are some of the ways we're working together to help these children by removing obstacles that block them from reaching their potential. Last year, we:

- Reached one new person with clean water every 10 seconds. In 2017 alone we helped provide access to clean water for 3.2 million people, improve sanitation for 3.3 million, and improve hygiene for 3.9 million—and we're on target to reach everyone, everywhere we work, by 2030.
- Engaged with 15,737 churches in the U.S., equipping them to bring hope and healing in communities worldwide as they grow closer to God's heart for those in need.
- Supported 1.2 million budding entrepreneurs by disbursing 1.5 million microloans for small businesses, creating jobs and stabilizing the families of 4.4 million kids.
- Cared for children suffering from malnutrition. In 2017, we treated 109,968 children with acute malnutrition in 13 countries, with more than 85 percent making a full recovery.
- Came to the aid of families affected by 170 emergencies around the globe, including the refugee crisis, the East Africa hunger crisis, and hurricanes here in the U.S.

Reflecting on our joint accomplishments in 2017, I'm so deeply grateful for your partnership. Thank you for believing, as we do, that every child has a special purpose, that solving poverty is possible, and that God is mightily multiplying our efforts in the world He so loves.

Blessings,



Rich Stearns
President, World Vision U.S.

