

HOPE

News • Impact Stories • Prayers • Campaigns • Project Updates

NEVER GIVING UP

How the care and commitment of our partners helped one boy hold onto hope through a season of despair.

P3

IN THIS ISSUE

FACES OF RESILIENCE

Pictures of hope from life after the invasion of Goma.

P5

A RECIPE FOR TRANSFORMATION


How a cooking competition is addressing some of the biggest challenges facing families in Southwest Sumba.

P9

A LIFETIME OF HEALING, A LEGACY OF HOPE

How one nurse's heart for helping others lives on, even after she's gone.

P11



“Partners in Hope – Carrying our corner of the mat.”

I was speaking at a church recently and as the pastor was introducing me, he shared that their church has been partnering with WorldShare to support one of our African ministry partners for over 20 years!

Working in partnership is central to our mission at WorldShare (*to be equipping vulnerable communities to break the poverty cycle and share the gospel through Christian partnerships*) and in that moment, as I was stepping up to the stage, I was reminded again of the power and importance of partnership in everything we do.

In Luke 5, we encounter a vivid scene of true partnership: a paralysed man, unable to reach Jesus on his own, is brought to His feet by a group of faithful friends. Each friend holds a corner of the mat, undeterred by the crowd that blocks their way. Together, with determination, strength and unity, they lower their friend through the roof, refusing to be hindered by obstacles. Jesus, seeing their unified faith, responds with both forgiveness and healing.

This powerful story is a living parable for us as an organisation devoted to equipping

vulnerable communities. The work we do is not a solo effort; it is grounded in the same partnership that carried the paralysed man to Jesus. In every project, every relationship, and every prayer, we witness the impact that comes from sharing the load, lifting others, and refusing to let barriers stand in the way of transformation.

We come alongside our global partners as friends carrying a corner of the mat. Vulnerable communities face overwhelming challenges: entrenched poverty, lack of educational opportunities, food insecurity, and spiritual isolation. On their own, these issues can seem insurmountable. But in partnership with you, our supporters, we all become part of the tapestry of hope, seeing lives transformed through Christ's love.

Through our partnerships, we don't just address material needs, we point people to the ultimate source of hope. As our partners engage and equip vulnerable communities to break the cycle of poverty, they are privileged to share the gospel, introducing people to the transforming love and grace of Jesus.

Our purpose is clear: to equip, empower, proclaim and partner. **Like the faithful friends in Luke 5, every action we collectively take – every training session, every small loan, every child educated, every business supported, every Bible shared – is a step towards self-sufficiency, a step towards breaking through obstacles, and a step towards Jesus.**

And what's more, as needs are met and lives transformed, communities become agents of change for others, spreading and multiplying the impact of our partnership.

We're privileged to see many examples of individuals, families and communities once bound by hopelessness, now flourishing because someone refused to let them journey alone and we're excited to share some of those with you in this edition of Hope magazine.

I would also like to take this moment to invite you to come and see the power of partnership first-hand by joining us on our upcoming insight trip to Cambodia in November. It will be a powerful

and life-changing opportunity to see what God is doing.

And if you cannot make it to Cambodia, why not invite WorldShare to your church or small group to get an update on all that God is doing through our work overseas and explore how you can partner (or deepen your partnership) with us.

The mission to break the poverty cycle and spread the gospel across the world is too big for any one person or group. But together, sustained by prayer and guided by Christ's love, we become powerful agents of lasting change and hope.

Let us be those who carry a corner of the mat. Let us pursue partnership, not just as a strategy, but as a sacred calling. As we equip the vulnerable and proclaim good news, may we do so in the spirit of those friends in Luke 5: **hearts full of faith, hands joined in service, and eyes fixed on the One who heals and transforms.**

And together, we'll step forward, as partners in hope for those we serve.

Glyn



Dr Glyn Henman,
CEO, WorldShare



How can we pray for you?

As a team, we meet regularly to pray for our ministry partners overseas and for you, our supporters. So, if you have any prayer requests that you'd like us to join you in prayer for, please get in touch by emailing prayer@WorldShare.org.au or calling 1300 009 109

Never giving up

How sponsorship, and the love of our local ministry partner, helped one boy hold onto hope through a season of despair.



Right from the very start Dany's* life has been filled with challenges. Shortly after he was born, his father died in a traffic accident, leaving him and his mother to fend for themselves.

In time his mother remarried, and they moved into a cramped zinc-roof cottage with his stepfather, and two younger stepbrothers in rural Cambodia.

But even then, life was a constant struggle. His stepfather worked in construction far away in Phnom Penh when his health allowed, but frequent illnesses meant irregular income and regular medical expenses. His mother tended their small home and grew vegetables, but it was never enough. They struggled to provide the kids with daily meals let alone afford sending them to school.

But then, a few years ago, new hope arrived when our local partner invited Dany to join their sponsorship program. Suddenly, he had everything he needed for school: books, pens, a bag, and even a bicycle to ride to class.

The real transformation though came through something more personal – the home visits. Our partners didn't just drop off supplies and leave. They sat with Dany, encouraging him to study hard at school and work hard at home. They explained why education mattered for his future and taught the family about hygiene, child rights, and safety. These visits filled Dany with hope and determination.

“This kind of support encouraged him and made him so happy,” reflects his mum.

He became a keen and hardworking student and began helping around home. The family's health also improved as they embraced better hygiene activities. For perhaps the first time, Dany and his family began hoping for a brighter future.

Then heartbreak struck. His mother took a small loan to start a pig-raising business but when disease swept through their herd, the family was forced to sell them at a loss, plunging them deeper into debt.

Desperate, Dany's parents moved to Phnom Penh for construction work, leaving him alone with his stepbrothers. At just 13, he became parent and provider – cooking meals, helping with homework, and searching the rice fields at night for fish and frogs to feed his family. Exhausted and

overwhelmed, he began arriving late for class and eventually started missing school entirely.

After some time, he made the painful decision to drop out of school and leave the sponsorship program.

But here's where our model of partnering with local grassroots organisations truly shines.

Our partners never gave up on Dany's family. As part of the community, they continued visiting the three boys, often bringing them food support packages to ensure they didn't go hungry. This unwavering support was a lifeline in their darkest time.

Thankfully, Dany's parents eventually returned home to the village. His stepfather found local construction work, and his mother began collecting and selling scrap materials.

Seeing their renewed hope and determination, our partner provided the family with a loan to expand the scrap business. This time, success followed. The

loan allowed them to expand their business and sell materials strategically when prices peaked.

“We can now save money, pay debts, and handle emergencies,” his mum reports with joy.

Most importantly, this stability has rekindled hope. With improved family income, Dany now has the prospect of returning to school – a dream that seemed impossible during those difficult years caring for his brothers.

Dany's story is an example of how, through partnership, your generosity, our local partners' dedication, and a family's resilience, can transform lives and restore hope, not just for survival, but for an education and future they once thought were gone forever.

Pray with us!

Praise God for our partners and the commitment and care they have for the communities they serve.



Sponsorship – a powerful connection

Child sponsorship is a powerful way to support vulnerable children like Dany, providing them with opportunities to reach their full potential through education, healthcare and family support.

Studies show sponsored children are more likely to reach higher levels of education, secure better employment, and give back to their communities. But sponsorship offers something even more valuable – the chance to share your life and God's love through exchanging letters and prayers.

Last year, thanks to generous sponsors like you, **964 children** were given the opportunity to flourish through education, healthcare and family support while experiencing Jesus's love through connections with Australian Christians.

Exciting news! We've recently expanded our sponsorship program in Cambodia and launched a new program in Indonesia. This means there's a number of new opportunities for Australian supporters to connect with children and families in these communities.

Are you ready to transform the lives of children like Dany and their families?



Scan here to find out more.

Faces of Resilience

Images from life after the invasion of Goma.

Earlier this year, the civil war in the DR Congo reached a tipping point when rebel forces attacked the city of Goma.

In the midst of the battle, our Goma-based partners reached out for prayer and support. We launched an emergency appeal, and you responded with overwhelming generosity in prayer and financial support.

Your support made an incredible difference for the most vulnerable people in Goma at this most critical time, and you can find some examples of your impact over the following pages.

Today, while the initial battle is over, Goma remains under rebel control and continues to be marked with violence, chaos and shortages of food and basic necessities.

Yet, amongst the devastation and despair, there are glimmers of hope in the people of Goma.

Our partners recently passed on a collection of images from a local photographer, which offer a glimpse into what life is like in Goma today. These photos and captions show some of the daily hardships facing people in the city, but more than that, they reveal the resilience, dignity and hope in the faces of the people.

The challenges are far from over, and we'll continue to bring you updates of the situation and the impacts of your support, but for now, these images restored some hope in our hearts and we're sharing them so they might do the same for you.



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE GROUND

1. "Along with a shortage of food, there has also been a severe water shortage in Goma. This woman was in for a long journey with her young son to get a day's worth of water for their family."

2. "In the midst of such hardship, it's amazing to see how children can still find simple ways to bring joy into their day!"

3. "This girl was separated from her mother when soldiers attacked their village, and they fled for their lives. She now cares for her infant sibling alone. You can see the determination in her eyes, but still, this is a burden no child should bear."



4

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE GROUND

4. "Even with severe food shortages there are still people willing to provide for others."

5. "Even though it's not clear what awaits them, some families are now returning home to the villages they were forced to flee."

6. "This family's home was destroyed during the bombings... but you could see their resolve... they knew they just had to keep carrying on."



5



6

Rising to a crisis

Thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity and support for our emergency Goma appeal.

In the past few months since the invasion of Goma your generosity and ongoing support:

- provided medical supplies and generator fuel so our partner could keep their hospital running. Their usual capacity is around 250 patients but at some points during the initial battle they were receiving around **600** casualties.
- provided emergency food packages (including beans, rice, sugar, corn flour, salt and vegetable oil) for **385** people in the deaf community, who were especially vulnerable and afraid to leave home during the violence.
- allowed our partners to reopen their primary school in the displaced persons camp (most schools weren't able to reopen) and provided **317** of the area's most vulnerable children with nutritious meals, trauma counselling, and a safe place to learn, play, have some sense of 'normalcy' amidst the chaos of the current situation.
- enabled our partner to rebuild their church for the deaf community, which was bombed during the initial battle (this was funded through gifts to our evangelistic programs).

And as the challenges are far from over, your support will continue to fund emergency and ongoing community work into the future.

Pray with us!

Please continue to pray for the people of Goma. Pray for an end of the daily violence and crime, pray that the airport and banks might reopen and that supplies of food and clean water can get into the city soon.

A recipe for transformation

How our partner in Indonesia used a simple cooking competition to address some of the biggest challenges facing families in Southwest Sumba



Earlier this year, thirteen families gathered around cooking fires in Southwest Sumba, Indonesia, hovering over pots filled with rice, cassava leaves, dried fish, and coconut milk, all simmering together. But this wasn't some community cook up; it was an ingenious approach to addressing some of the region's most pressing challenges.

Families in the remote villages of Southwest Sumba trail far behind the rest of Indonesia in terms of poverty and living standards. Poor soil, rainfall, and agricultural practices make farming a constant challenge. The impact on children is devastating: over 40% of

children under five suffer from stunting, a result of chronic malnutrition. Beyond food security, families struggle with access to clean water and understanding of good health and hygiene practices. Cultural expectations also mean that fathers often remain disconnected from childcare, leaving mothers to shoulder family responsibilities alone.

Our Indonesian partners saw an opportunity to address all these issues through one brilliant solution: a cooking competition that would tackle nutrition, hygiene, family dynamics, and parenting – all at once.

What made this competition special wasn't just the food,



but the teamwork. Among the thirteen participants, six were parent pairs – mothers and fathers working side by side. In a culture where household responsibilities typically fall entirely on women, seeing dads roll up their sleeves to cook was profound.

The competition involved gathering local ingredients, cooking, plating, and the most tender moment – feeding their children. Judges assessed nutrition and taste, but also hygiene practices and how well parents collaborated and engaged with their children during mealtime.

As families competed, something beautiful was

happening. Each element of the competition became a demonstration of growth – families showed their understanding of nutrition, practiced essential hygiene habits like handwashing, and most importantly, modelled family unity, caring and shared responsibility.

These weren't just random skills; they were putting into practice knowledge developed through our partner's programs over recent months, proving to themselves as much as the judges what they had learned.

When the final results were announced, the message was clear: the top four winners were all couples who had collaborated from start to finish. It was heartwarming validation that parenting works best as a partnership.

One staff member captured it perfectly:

“That day became a classroom of love, where every spoonful served was a reminder that parenting truly is a team effort – one dish at a time.”



Give a gift of empowerment

If you want to help contribute to the holistic health of families like these you can check out our **HARVEST OF HOPE** gift catalogue and give a gift that will provide hygiene kits or empower a family to feed themselves.



Scan here to discover gifts



Unleashing people's potential

There's more to health than just better nutrition and medical care. Which is why many of our partners' programs also focus on food security, family support and child protection.

So far this year, thanks to your generous support:

775

children have a better understanding of child rights.

350

people have improved health outcomes (for example: undernourished children putting on weight)

312

families have increased the number of meals they eat each day through growing their own food.

286

people have better access to healthcare.

174

families report having healthier relationships because of project activities.

Pray with us!

Praise God for the creative and effective ways our partners are addressing the challenges facing their communities.

A lifetime of healing, a legacy of hope.

How one nurse's heart for helping others lives on, even after she's gone.



Helen's heart for helping others touched countless lives during her time here on earth. As a nurse she spent a lifetime healing, comforting and reflecting Jesus' love towards the people in her care; and as a committed supporter of WorldShare for over 50 years, she extended that same heart to many of God's most vulnerable children overseas.

When she passed away, her generous spirit lived on through a special gift in her will – ensuring her legacy of caring will continue transforming lives for generations to come. We recently caught up with her sister to discuss the impact of Helen's generosity and to reflect on a life lived caring for others.

A LIFETIME OF PARTNERSHIP

"Helen supported mission through WorldShare for most of her life," her sister reflects, "so it came as no surprise when she approached me to discuss including WorldShare in her Will."

Helen's journey with WorldShare began in the early 1970s when she was still at high school. "WorldShare – although you were called CNEC back then – visited our church at Cessnock Baptist. I think it was '71 or '72. I know for sure that Helen was still at school, because a few years later she went on a trip to visit some of your ministry partners throughout Southeast Asia. And that was around the time she moved down to Sydney to study nursing."

A SPECIAL CONNECTION

"Our family was always quite involved with our church and supporting God's mission overseas, but I think Helen was the one most connected with the mission of WorldShare."

"Even after she moved away... whenever a ministry partner would visit from overseas, we would usually host them in our home for a week or so (while they visited churches around

the Newcastle region) and often Helen would make an effort to come up from Sydney to visit and spend quality time with them."

A TRADITION OF GIVING

Over the decades that followed Helen was a constant and committed supporter of WorldShare's mission, with a particular heart for health programs and child sponsorship. But it was when the family would come together around Christmas time that her passion would shine brightest.

"Whenever we'd get together for Christmas, we had a tradition of putting a box under the tree and people would put money in there throughout the day, and then at the end we all would sit in a circle, with your gift catalogue, and make our way around, each of us choosing what gifts to buy and what projects to support."

"As a nurse, Helen had a heart for the medical and health programs, which were often the most expensive, but she would always find herself being the 'finance' person on the day, so she had the power and would make sure they'd get covered (laughs)... Me and our other sister are involved with education, so we would support

sending kids to school, and then after I had my two boys, we also started supporting the safe childbirth programs."

And Helen's influence lives on in the next generation too.

"We still do this, and my sons look forward to it every year... one lovely thing is that even though Helen is no longer with us, my daughter-in-law is a nurse and so we still make sure to support the health programs."

A FINAL GIFT

After a lifetime of caring for people both here and overseas, when it came to the end of her life, Helen wanted to continue supporting those in most need.

"All her life, Helen was very aware of what her money could achieve in helping others. How

far it could go to change lives," her sister explains.

"So, like I said before, it came as no surprise, when she asked me to help put together her will, that she wanted to include WorldShare along with two Christian organisations that focused on specific medical challenges."

Helen's motivation was simple yet profound: "She would always joke that 'the money wasn't going to do her any good', so she wanted it to benefit others. She knew that her support could transform lives in ways that would continue long after she was gone."

A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON

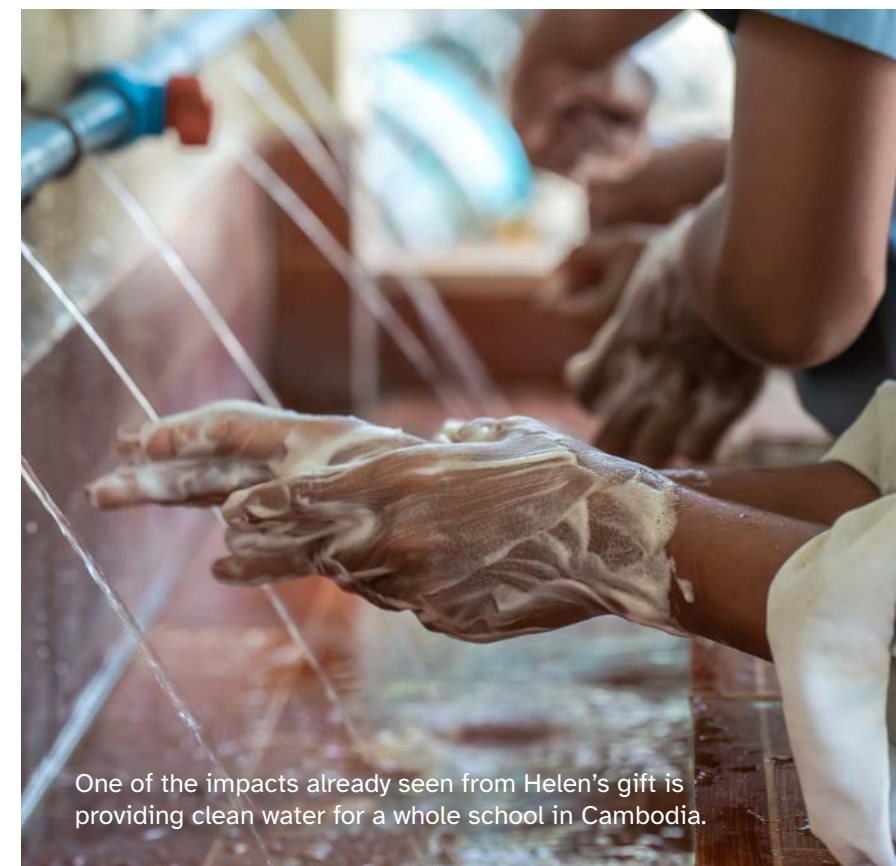
Today, Helen's final gift continues the partnership she began as a teenager

– supporting health programs, training medical workers, and bringing hope to vulnerable communities around the world.

Helen's story reminds us that our impact can extend beyond our lifetime. Through her generous bequest, her heart for healing continues to bring transformation to communities she'll never meet, but whose lives will be forever changed by her love and care.



Helen was a long-time supporter of WorldShare's medical programs.



One of the impacts already seen from Helen's gift is providing clean water for a whole school in Cambodia.

Leaving a gift in your will is a powerful way to continue seeing lives transformed through Jesus' love for generations to come.

To find out more you can head to www.worldshare.org.au or give us a call at 1300 009 109 or



scan here to find out more.

Visit the field

Come see the transformations for yourself!

There is nothing as powerful as seeing the work of our partners with your own eyes!

Visiting the field on one of our insight trips means you can feel the ground and smell the air; you can witness the challenges our partners are facing and see the impact of your support on the faces of the people we serve.

Last chance for 2025!

We're currently in the planning stage of our insight trip for 2026, but there are still a few spots left for our trip to Cambodia this November (2025). Time is limited though, so, if you're interested to join or find out more, please get in touch at worldshare@worldshare.org.au or give us a call at **1300 009 109**.



Let's church together!

We believe that church communities like yours are a critical part of being partners in hope for the vulnerable overseas.

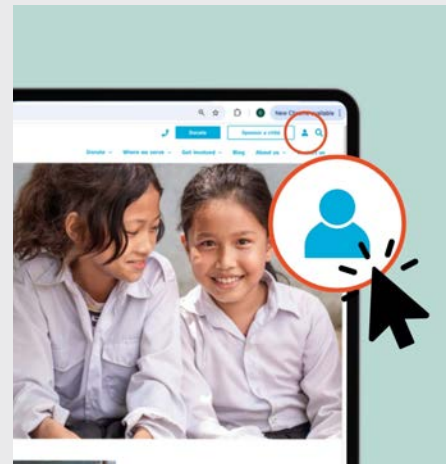
Right from the beginning, in the book of Acts, we see the early church following Jesus' example in loving the vulnerable and outcast. Which is why we'd love to join you at church one Sunday, to encourage you and explore ways you can share this love of Jesus today.

The members of our church relationships team, (led by our new Church Relationships Manager, Bruce Boyle, pictured above) have over 60 years ministry experience between them, and they delight in sharing stories of Jesus' love

with church communities like yours.

We can be as involved as you'd like – from giving sermons, to short presentations up front, right through to just having a display and presence up the back after the service – and between our church ministry team we'll be available to join you on almost any Sunday (or mid-week bible study) of the year.

So, if you'd like to connect with us and find out how, together, we can support and empower your church community as they strive to become more like Christ and play their part in God's will being done, then please get in touch at worldshare@worldshare.org.au or give us a call at **1300 009 109**, we'd love to join you.



Have you seen our new supporter portal?

We're so excited to be able to offer supporters a place where you can easily and securely update your contact and payment details, write to and read letters from your sponsor children, download annual tax statements and more.

Along with being easier and more secure for supporters, the portal also reduces postage and staff costs so we can ensure that more money goes to our ministry partners and the vulnerable communities they serve.

To check it out, head to WorldShare.org.au and click the "Account's icon in the top-right corner of the page.

Urgent needs & exciting opportunities to transform

Our partners currently have a number of urgent needs and timely opportunities that require additional funding.

Each of these projects is an incredible opportunity to transform people's lives and communities overseas. We've included a quick overview of three of the most urgent needs below and so if you are interested in funding any of these projects, or would like to know more, please get in touch.

Provide clean drinking water for an entire school in Cambodia



For kids in Cambodia, a lack of clean drinking water is a significant barrier to them living a full life, and it especially impacts their ability to get an education.

In fact, at the schools that we partner with in rural Cambodia children regularly miss class due to preventable illnesses, as a result of unsafe drinking water and poor hygiene.

Our ministry partner in Cambodia is addressing these challenges by installing large-scale water filtration tanks in their schools, so that students and teachers (and the surrounding community) can enjoy clean drinking water, better health and make it to class more often.

We've seen great success with this initiative at three schools so far, and your support would enable us to expand this into another one of the schools (and communities) we serve that urgently needs these facilities.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$6,400**

Building ventilated toilet blocks at the Centre for the Deaf in the DR Congo



The DR Congo is currently experiencing a severe cholera outbreak, with 38,000 confirmed cases and 951 deaths reported in July this year alone. A large contributing factor to the spread is the lack of clean water and sanitation systems.

At our ministry partner's Centre for the Deaf, students and staff are currently using toilets that are unsanitary, damaged and without basic features such as doors and paving. These conditions pose serious health risks and infections, especially for children.

Improving the toilet facilities at the centre is a vital step toward enhancing hygiene, reducing disease transmission, and safeguarding the health of the deaf community.

Your support for this proposed toilet construction project would provide the Centre with a brand-new toilet block, equipped with 10 cubicles and a handwashing facility, giving students and staff a better chance to protect themselves from the spread of disease.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$41,920**

Provide handwashing facilities for a school in Cambodia



Poor hygiene is another significant barrier to kids in Cambodia having a chance to reach their potential. Waterborne illnesses and gastrointestinal diseases are common in these communities and regularly keep kids from attending school.

And yet, simple handwashing with soap can reduce many of these diseases by almost 50%. Sadly, more than 1/5 schools in Cambodia do not have access to handwashing facilities.

Funding this project will install handwashing stations at one of these schools and help around 120 students learn about safe water and good hygiene at school. These kids can then take this knowledge and these practices home and share them with their families.

In this way your support will not only help reduce school absenteeism, it will also give kids and families a better chance to protect themselves from illness and live fuller lives.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$1,600**

Get involved!

PRAY



Sign up for our monthly prayer and praise newsletter with daily prayer points from our partners in the field.

worldshare.org.au/get-involved/prayer-praise



GIFT



Give your friends and family a gift that shows your love for them and share's Jesus' love for the outcast and forgotten through our Harvest of Hope gift catalogue.

gifts.worldshare.org.au



JOIN



Join in our Transformation Project by signing up to give on a monthly basis.

worldshare.org.au/transformation



SPONSOR

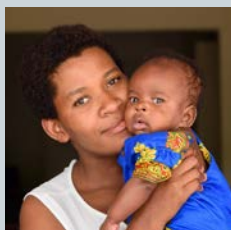


Transform a vulnerable child's life through child sponsorship.

worldshare.org.au/donate/sponsor-a-child



LEAVE A LEGACY



Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most powerful ways to see lives transformed through Jesus' love for generations to come.

worldshare.org.au/donate/leave-a-gift-in-your-will



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