

Child WORLD

SPRING 2008

Christian Children's Fund

See catalog
insert pages 6-7.



These beautiful children are thrilled with their new school, recently constructed in the Gulu area of Uganda through a grant from Refugees International-Japan. CCF sought this grant to further strengthen its existing programs there. The funds donors entrust to CCF have an even greater impact when supported by grant funding.

(See story page 11.)

Sponsorship Changes Lives for Both the



Esther (2nd from left) visited her sponsored child (center) in Brazil. She has sponsored Gerlania since she was four, and now she is nearly 18. They have built a strong relationship over time, and Esther has made a tangible difference in Gerlania's life.

*By Sandra Shelley,
Special Correspondent*

Esther has watched her sponsored child grow up. Her sponsorship began when Gerlania was four—now she is nearly 18. “I see how this little girl has grown, and am amazed at how time flies,” said Esther.

She described her sponsored child as “beautiful and very shy” when they first met in 2003. Esther, taking part in a CCF study tour, met Gerlania and her mother in Fortaleza, a city on the northeastern coast of Brazil. “It was very emotional. This child I had seen for so many years only in photos came to life. We immediately recognized each other,” she said. “It was a feeling I can't describe.”

Gerlania and her mother traveled four hours by bus to meet her sponsor. It was the first time that either had been that far from home, and it was also their first trip to the ocean.

Esther was unprepared for the gratitude of the family. Gerlania's mother

“kept thanking me for all I had done...I had done so little, but never realized how much it meant to them until that day.”

Although her meeting with Gerlania was short, Esther also had the opportunity to meet other sponsors and visit communities where CCF works. “I was so impressed with all of the CCF staff in Brazil. Every single person I met was dedicated and determined to help these children...it was very touching to see.”

Inspired, Esther returned to Brazil in 2005 to do volunteer work at an orphanage in Salvador founded by Mother Teresa, and also traveled to Gerlania's village, a trip organized by CCF. The visit included a tour of the primary school Gerlania attended. Sitting in a circle with the school-children, Esther took their questions. “One little girl raised her hand and asked for a hug,” she said. After she hugged the little girl, the others jumped up and got in line for one as well. “They are so affectionate.”

The children put on a show for her “which, I think, turned into a town event. The windows were filled with little faces peering in, just trying to get a glimpse of the show and listen to the music and see the person who came all the way from America to meet her sponsored child.” A villager presented her with a pair of sandals and a poem written for her.

At Gerlania's current school, Esther met a teacher who was himself once a CCF-sponsored child. He had continued on to college, and now felt it was his turn to give back to the community. As he hugged Esther, he said he had never met his own sponsor, but wished his sponsor knew how much his life had been changed.

Esther said her trips to Brazil have

Children and the Sponsors

helped her grow closer to her sponsored child, and she has enjoyed seeing CCF's work firsthand. "I tell everyone I meet about how great the CCF program in Brazil is, and encourage them to be a sponsor...it truly does work, and it does make a difference."

When asked how her sponsorship has helped Gerlania, Esther said, "I think it has opened doors for her that would otherwise have remained shut." Gerlania recently graduated from high school and plans to attend a trade school. She enjoys the photos her sponsor sends from her journeys and hopes one day to travel herself. "By keeping in touch with her, Gerlania's

gotten to see a different world through a friend's eyes. I hope that has broadened her outlook on life."

"I was so impressed with all of the CCF staff in Brazil.

Every single person I met was dedicated and determined to help these children...it was very touching to see."

CCF Receives \$5.5 Million for Education Programs in the Philippines

Deplorable working conditions and emotional strain caused by forced labor around the world often crush children's hopes and dreams for a positive future. Christian Children's Fund addresses this issue by educating families and entire communities about why child labor is harmful and how it serves only to continue poverty's vicious cycle.

Recently, CCF's efforts to battle children's rights violations in the Philippines got a big boost thanks to a large grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The \$5.5 million grant will be used to help combat child labor issues through education, and will be provided through Christian Children's Fund, World Vision and the Education Research and Development Assistance Foundation.

There are approximately four million child workers between the ages of 5 and 17 in the Philippines who are employed in hazardous occupations on

"This grant furthers CCF's work to combat child labor in the Philippines," said Anne Lynham Goddard, CCF President and CEO.

sugarcane plantations, and in commercial agriculture, domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, mining and quarrying, garbage scavenging and pyrotechnics.

The four-year project hopes, through education, to remove 18,000 children from hazardous work sites and professions and keep another 12,000 children from being exploited. Activities will focus on reducing child workers' barriers to attending formal school; expanding skills and business-based learning opportunities for children ages 15-17 years old; and improving the access of the children's families to community resources relevant to the improvement of their economic status.