

World Forgotten Children's Foundation

NEWSLETTER

701 E. Chocolate Avenue, Hershey PA 17033-1240, USA
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Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.



**Providing Helping
Hands to Less Fortunate
Children of the World**

The Power of Play

In a beautiful fall afternoon in an affluent neighbourhood of West Vancouver where the typical conversations are around business transactions, luxury houses and cars, and lavish trips, I met with a young couple that had a very specific concern. Sohnia and Reza were concerned that all the kids around the world should be able to play, and

“Let Kids be Kids.”

The young couple were energetic, lively, and enthusiastic. They were about to leave their comfortable life in a peaceful and beautiful mountainous city of Squish near West Vancouver to start an adventurous journey: to build as many playgrounds as possible for as many kids as possible to let them play, let them be kids!

Reza and Sohnia explained to me that they both felt a strong urge to do something meaningful with their lives— something that would make the world a better place. They came to realize that of all the suffering that takes place in the world, the suffering of children is the absolute worst of it. Children are the seeds of our planet. We must raise a generation of children that have known happiness, play and love, for one day these humans will be the ones taking charge of our world.

They founded **The Power of Play** foundation www.thepowerofplay.net with the vision of a world in which all children have access to free play so that they may learn, grow and thrive in their youth to reach their full potential as adults. The mission of “The Power of Play” is to build playgrounds for children in developing countries that are in need of a space to play. Play has an important role in the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of all children, and every child deserves a playful childhood. The not-for-profit organization strives to create safe, fun and innovative space where kids can learn, play, grow, and just be themselves!

Since starting their journey in 2016, Reza and Sohnia have built a total of 11 playgrounds. Currently, they are in India where they have teamed up with 2 other organizations to build an additional 50 playgrounds across the entire country! Their effort in India has been focused on low-income government schools, where many of the children who attend are simply there for the daily meal that is provided by the school.

The first playground was built for a group of South Sudanese orphans that were living as refugees in Northern Uganda. This war-torn country is full of refugee camps and according

to the UN report more than two million people have fled the country.

The situation is so dreadful that thousands of orphans, many of them less than six years old, have witnessed their parents and siblings being slaughtered. Many who flee are attacked on the road and killed, robbed, or raped. In South Sudan's war, children bear the brunt. Based on a UNICEF report from Uganda, all refugee children, but especially orphans who have witnessed their parents being killed, carry deep psychological wounds. The post trauma disorder is so severe that many of these children have stopped talking or socializing with others. Both WFCF and Power of Play organizations are striving to extend helping hands to this unfortunate group of genocide survivor children that are orphaned and are either physically or mentally incapacitated. In one of my recent correspondences, I asked Reza what has been their main challenges thus far? He wrote to me that they encountered many challenges while trying to build the first playground in the refugee settlement. Since there were thousands of refugees coming to the area on a daily basis, there was a shortage of just about everything. In order to build the playground, they had to source materials from villages and towns that were quite a distance away.



When I asked Sohnia what the most memorable moment in their journey was, she said: *“There have been countless memorable moments on this journey, but I think the one that stands out the most was the day we finished the very first playground for the group of orphaned refugees from South Sudan. That was the first time the entire camp got filled with the children's laughter, play and joy. In that moment we knew beyond any doubts, that both of us were exactly where we were meant to be and that we would continue with our mission for the rest of our lives”.*

Reza and Sohnia hope that the readers of WFCF Newsletter feel inspired to bring about positive changes in their own lives as well as in their communities. They are hoping that more individuals and organizations alike, will get involved with the missions of WFCF and Power of Play to provide support and care to the orphaned children that are living with physical or mental disability.

Contributed by: Mr. Saeed Otufat-Shamsi, a member of the WFCF Advisory Board

WFCF Has Lost a True Supporter

Regrettably, our longest Advisory Board member and strong supporter, Mr. Gary James passed away on March 5, 2017. Mr. James was a man of deep commitment and provided limitless and unselfish support to others in need. May his light shine eternal and provide us with his strength for generations to come.

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African Community Project

Supporting the Children of Chibolya Community School

Recently, WFCF funded \$500.00 to support new equipment for three children at Chibolya Community School through **African Community Project**. The purchase of a wheelchair and two walking crutches has not only improved the daily lives of three disabled orphans, but it has also helped other orphans since the outgrown equipment will be passed on to others in need.



Children attending Chibolya Community School are in continual need of larger and new mobility aids as their bodies grow and equipment wears out. Lack of properly fitting or functioning mobility aids can keep the students from participating in school activities and negatively affects their quality of life. Unfortunately, a lack of funds can prevent them from visiting with physiotherapists and receiving the equipment and care they need.

The funding of this project allowed these children to be transported to a physiotherapist in Mazabuka. During these visits, they were assessed and measurements were taken to ensure the new equipment would support their needs and be properly fitted for their growth.

Mary received a new wheelchair that will enable her to be fully mobile. **Joseph** and **Chipo** each received a new walking crutch. Having newly fitted walking crutches will give them the mobility needed to be active and independently mobile without the risk of further physical restrictions caused by the use of improper equipment.

In conclusion, this new equipment gives these children increased mobility and quality of life. Additionally, their outgrown equipment will be passed on to younger children and will continue to serve the students of Chibolya Community School.

Under The Same Sun

Learning Aids for Orphaned and Visually Impaired Children in Tanzania

For the 15,000 school age children with albinism in Tanzania, education does not always come easy. Those with albinism, must overcome often severe visual impairments and other high-risk health complications, in addition to added disabilities caused by physical attacks due to local witchcraft practices.

Recently, WFCF provided \$3,301 USD to enable **Under The Same Sun (UTSS)** to purchase reading stands and textbooks for 70 students with albinism in the Lake Zone in Tanzania.

The reading stands allow students with low vision to adjust books and papers to their eyes. While this may sound like a simple solution, the stands have proven to alleviate headaches, as well as back and neck pain for these bright, young students.

Textbooks were also provided for 37 students who are taking state-level exams this year. Prior to this donation, books were being shared by students. Sharing a book with a visual impairment means the student with a disability must strain and lean and squint to study, this of course, is no way to study for the big test.



Through the generous gift of WFCF, these students can continue their education and look to their future.

World Forgotten Children's Foundation is proud to be a registered charity with Benevity Causes. Please check with your organization for opportunities to expand your giving through matching funds.



www.igi-global.com

IGI Global is pleased to provide 5¢ of every dollar generated through their online bookstore as a donation in support of WFCF causes around the world.

Should your organization like to consider a similar arrangement with WFCF, please contact: Help@World-Forgotten-Children.org

A few ways that *you* can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills



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WFCF is a 501(c)(3) Private Operating Foundation under IRC Section 4942(j)(3)