## Table of contents

### 2018 key accomplishments
- Letter from the president ........................................ 7
- Facts and financials .............................................. 8
- 2018 by the numbers ............................................. 10

### Global impact
- Boosting children’s health ...................................... 12
- Improving access to education ................................. 16
- Teaching crucial life skills ..................................... 20
- Launching stable careers ...................................... 24
- Community centers: Building a legacy ...................... 28
CI implements a personalized case-management approach to childhood obesity in Ecuador and Mexico.

Into Employment® launches in Zambia.

Resilience training and Career Readiness programs launch in India.

CI graduate Brandon Peñaserrera attends World Change Makers, a workshop and competition in Ecuador, where he wins $3,000 to implement his youth employment proposal.

Health volunteers in Guatemala and India pilot a new tool to identify children at risk of malnutrition.

The Crisfé Foundation in Ecuador offers a college scholarship match for 50 CI students.

Laufer Family Campus opens in the Philippines.

A program to improve health services, called “Community Scorecard,” launches in Guatemala in partnership with CARE Malawi.
A program to improve health services, called “Community Scorecard,” launches in the Dominican Republic in partnership with CARE Malawi.

Supporter Laird Malamed raises more than $75,000 for CI, running 20,000 marathon miles.

children.org wins the peoples’ voice award for best website in the 22nd Annual Webby Awards.

Chikwe Mbweeda joins CI as agency director in Zambia.

CI partners with the Institute for Reproductive Health at Georgetown University to redesign our adolescent health program curriculum.

CI+ Phase 2 pilot, which aims to build a set of metrics to test and enhance program performance, launches in Ecuador.

The Citi Foundation provides a substantial grant to both CI agencies in Ecuador for the 12th year in a row. Citi Foundation supports Aflateen and Into Employment® programs.

Partha Rudra joins CI as agency director in India.

Angel More, 15, swims Lake Tahoe to complete the California Triple Crown marathon, breaking a world record and raising $40,000 for CI.
A year of innovation, partnerships, awards and impact

More than 1,800 kids are sponsored in 30 days during an innovative month-long marketing campaign.

CI kicks off Project India, a long-term funding opportunity to stabilize and grow programs in India.

Minneapolis-based Plus Relocation names CI its year-end giving recipient, ultimately raising $50,000 to support education.

The funding proposal for a community center in Ecuador wins top honors for nonprofit communications excellence.

Sergio Ontiveros joins CI as the agency director in Mexico.

CI youth Nayyirih, 13, competes and wins three medals in rollerblading during the Pan American Skating Games in Mexico.

Sally and Dick Roberts of the Coyote Foundation conclude filming of their documentary on the CI music program they fund. The documentary is set to premiere in 2019.

Robert King joins CI as national director of gift planning.

Brad Cloverdyke begins his chairmanship of the CI board of directors.

2018 Annual Report | 5
Dear Children International supporters,

Thank you for sharing our commitment to removing the roots of poverty through innovative and practical, evidence-based practices and programs. Our approach ensures the children most at risk in the world have the opportunities and individualized support they need to create a better future.

When I envision a brighter tomorrow, I imagine a world in which Children International has helped eradicate poverty for those we serve. Although the road to that finish line is long, we have made progress. Looking at a graph of global poverty over time, we see a precipitous drop in recent decades. Despite significant population growth, more than 1 billion people have escaped extreme poverty in that span. Together we are making progress.

Facts and experience shape my sense of optimism for what lies ahead. Children International is building on a solid foundation of accomplishments in 2018 that will strengthen our organization in the years ahead. Our partnerships are growing, our innovations are proving successful, outside organizations are recognizing our work and our investments to better serve children are paying off.

Last year, 88 percent of our expenses went directly to our transformational programs, and we continue to earn high ratings from charity review organizations. We are currently serving 200,000 children and youth — and are increasing program coverage to more of them. In fact, we have more than doubled our empowerment and employment investments. We also have enhanced our education programs. Now, in addition to school supplies, kids have access to vital resources like tutoring and computer classes.

The inspiring results we see happen are because our programs work and our kids work hard. For example, 99 percent of children and youth receiving scholarships completed their year of study. I am especially proud of youth in Into Employment®, our job training program. Seventy-five percent of graduates successfully find jobs within six months.

Your partnership with Children International is an indispensable part of this progress. Together, we never stop learning, always paying attention to data and research and working to achieve sustainable results. We start with a simple, powerful, idea: Providing safe places and caring teams around the world can guard our children’s hope. Then, together with you, we grow and strengthen that hope through education and empowerment until the children we serve can contribute in their own unique ways to create a ripple effect that changes the world!

Thank you for all you do to support Children International. I hope you feel enriched knowing your support helps more children and youth claim their place in the world and go on to create more good for others.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Susana Eshleman, PRESIDENT & CEO
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To access our full audited financial statements, visit [children.org/accountability](http://children.org/accountability).
Donors join John Clause, vice president of global philanthropy, on a November visit to Children International community centers in Zambia.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Susana Eshleman, President & CEO  
Bill Brewster, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
John Clause, Vice President, Global Philanthropy  
Carol Hall, Vice President, Information Technology  
Jack McCanna, Vice President, Global Programs  
Danielle Mitchell, Controller, Finance

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Brad Cloverdyke, Chairman  
Dean Oskvig, Treasurer  
Liderman Duin  
Susana Eshleman  
Tara Frank  
Mike Reilly  
Robyn Wiens

88% OF OUR TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2018 went directly to the programs and activities that help sponsored children, and we’re proud of the high standards we met in achieving that number. At Children International, your money goes a long way toward changing lives.

Children International ranks highly among charity watchdog groups.
Multiplying good around the world for 80+ years

Where we help:

**COLOMBIA**  
10 community centers

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
8 community centers

**ECUADOR**  
10 community centers

**GUATEMALA**  
7 community centers

**HONDURAS**  
5 community centers

**INDIA**  
5 community centers

**MEXICO**  
5 community centers

**PHILIPPINES**  
14 community centers

**UNITED STATES**  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**ZAMBIA**  
3 community centers

Children International’s approach provides:

**A SAFE PLACE**

- **10** countries
- **13** agencies
- **67** community centers

**A CARING TEAM**

- **169,741** supporters
- **1,462** in-country staff
- **9,000** volunteers

**A TRANSFORMATIVE PATH**

- **4** key areas of development
- **32** programs
- **230+** in-country partners

All nonfinancial data in this annual report is for calendar year 2018.
Children International's approach provides:

- 177 headquarters
- 177 staff
- 200,000 children & youth participating in the program
Boosting children’s health

165,940 medical exams were provided within our clinics.

111,213 children and youth received dental care, such as exams and preventive services, directly from Children International.

33,926 children and youth completed our Handwashing & Safe Water Promotion program. Before the program, just 38% knew when they should wash their hands. After completing the program, 89% of participants demonstrate correct handwashing (with soap and water) and report washing before eating and after playing outside, using the toilet and handling the garbage.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES: In some countries, governments have been successful at increasing health coverage. To avoid duplicating efforts in these areas, our field staff teaches families when and where they can get medical treatment, the importance of preventive care and more. In Colombia, for example, our health coordinators hold sessions with parents about health as a “right,” and explain what kind of care they are legally entitled to receive. Our coordinators also guide parents through the process of filing for official government-issued health cards.
When children come to the community center, they make sure to use the bathroom to wash their hands and faces because getting access to a clean bathroom with running water is a big deal to them. These children started out in complete poverty, and now have so many opportunities and bright futures ahead of them, all thanks to Children International."

– Anika Rally, supporter and advocate
Our volunteers in Guatemala are trained health promoters and recently began using a new tool to identify children at risk of malnutrition. The program is returning early positive results, which we will be announcing soon.
Virtually all Children International programs and services benefit greatly from the dedication, work and support of volunteer parents. In our health programs, in particular, volunteer parents are vital. They help ensure kids show up for medical and dental appointments, attend health education and awareness seminars, and so much more.

Children International volunteers are often mothers and fathers whose children participate in our programs. With a priority to put the power in the hands of those we serve, we give these dedicated volunteers meaningful work and a way to blossom into informed and engaged agents of change in their families and communities. They join our work as a way to give back and tell us they receive so much more than they ever expected. Volunteers often remain engaged for years or decades.

**INNOVATIVE ENGAGEMENT**

In Guatemala, volunteers are trained health promoters and in 2018, they learned to use a new tool to identify children at risk of malnutrition. The program is returning early positive results, which we will announce later this year.

Jenny, a volunteer in Quito, Ecuador, encourages children and young adults to take advantage of available programs, resulting in higher attendance. Jenny became a teacher for health and nutrition education, giving personalized talks about eating habits to parents.

Our staff also train mothers and fathers to teach other families healthy behaviors like proper handwashing and water sanitation. Because many of our volunteers — and those they reach out to — are not literate, we use large, illustrated flip charts to help with information sharing. The goal is to equip and train volunteers to educate others so we can extend the reach of our work, improve community health and ensure as many people as possible know how to access available health services.

**SELFLESS VOLUNTEERS**

At Children International, we celebrate our volunteers. They are courageous, determined women and men who have made a shift from voiceless victims to agents of positive change who help their children, and all children, live better lives.

Volunteer involvement, particularly in health programs, stands as a testament to one of Children International’s core values: “Human connections matter.” What human connection is more powerful than that of a parent and child? Especially when both are actively inspired by the hope of a better, healthier tomorrow.
Improving access to education

95% of computer course participants increased their digital literacy. They learned how to use the internet and Microsoft Office, which gives them an edge in school and in future employment.

11,472 scholarships were awarded for primary and secondary education, and 99% of recipients completed their year of study.

92% of kids in tutoring improved their math and reading comprehension.

PROGRAMS IN ACTION: Several of our agencies have implemented robotics programs, which help generate interest and create excitement around computer courses. The robotics programs also introduce participants to programming and engineering — career fields that are in demand in most of the countries where we work. In Guatemala, for example, a group of female youth attended the first-ever robotics competition sponsored by the Ministry of Education and National Science and Technology Council. They earned second place!
The kids we serve have such great enthusiasm for our programs. Children and youth come to the centers motivated to learn. Natural leaders among the youth emerge and selflessly share their knowledge and skills.”

– Hermelinda Guarín, agency director

COLOMBIA

Jefferson, age 10

COLOMBIA
Fátima’s family didn’t always live in a pigsty that had been renovated into a home. They were staying afloat before being forced to move there.

“It was a dramatic change for all of us,” says Fátima’s mother, Adriana. “It rocked me. I felt this was not what my daughters deserved so, for a time, I was very depressed.”

The kids had to enroll in new schools. Between school fees and trying to make the pigsty livable, the family’s meager savings quickly dissipated.

Making matters worse, their community is minimally policed — leaving a void that negative influences are eager to fill.

“It’s dangerous,” Fátima says. “There are gang members who spend all day getting high, harassing people, stealing. And they fight each other.”

The family’s need for positive intervention was mounting. Fortunately, Adriana’s sister knew about Children International, and Fátima was put on the waiting list. Months passed. Then, one morning the phone rang. Fátima was getting a sponsor.

“My first reaction was to yell with excitement. Next, I felt peace,” Adriana says. “Children International changed our lives. It wasn’t just financial relief from school and health-related burdens, but it also helped me emotionally.”

Through Children International’s sponsorship program, Fátima has flourished. As tutoring helped her dramatically improve her grades, Fátima became more outgoing and confident, and she is always eager to learn more. As soon as she finishes one workshop, she enrolls in another. Her future looks bright, and she is motivated to help others.

“I would like to open a free daycare so little kids can have a better upbringing,” Fátima says. “There also are things that aren’t material that I’ve gained at Children International, like love toward people who have given me theirs.”

—as Fátima, 12
Teaching crucial life skills

19,487 kids completed Sport for Development
— a 62% participation increase since 2015, when Children International began investing more in programs instead of material gifts. Sport for Development teaches kids teamwork and builds confidence.

4,063 teens serve as Youth Council members
— these are democratically elected groups of sponsored youth in eight countries who are concerned about the state of their communities and work to improve them.

151 youth-led service projects
were completed in 2018 — benefiting more than 150,000 people across their communities.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES: Participants in our Social and Financial Literacy program in Kolkata, India, are truly paying it forward. Children and youth spearheaded a campaign to sell gently used clothing to impoverished community members. With the US $950 they raised from the project, one club funded 42 scholarships for nonsponsored students at 18 local schools.
Youth know they finally have a voice. All through the after-school program, the youth leadership, the youth council, they’ve had an opportunity to have a voice. We sit back and let them take the lead and show them exactly how to empower themselves, their families, their community.”

— Paula Rogers, education coordinator, USA
The universal language of music is powerful. For Glenny Garcia and Marlon Martínez, music was in their hearts, but pursuing their passion was nearly impossible.

Both grew up in poverty in the Dominican Republic. They lived in the barrios — overcrowded communities with limited infrastructure — where violence and drugs are common.

“In the neighborhood where I grew up, the situation is delicate,” Glenny says. “There are not many opportunities, and young people usually do not want to look for them.”

Yet, thanks to The Sally and Dick Roberts Coyote Foundation, hundreds of children and youth in the Dominican Republic and Colombia can pursue their passion for making music. The foundation partnered with Children International to give kids the rare opportunity to study the arts. Music gives these children a sense of purpose, achievement and responsibility, and opens the door to opportunities they wouldn’t have otherwise.


Although Glenny and Marlon have both graduated from the music program, they are still captivated by music; specifically, the cello. Last summer, the two musicians were selected to travel to Washington, D.C., and perform at the OneWorld Symphonic Music Festival. The event gathers musicians from around the world every year to perform as a single symphonic orchestra exemplifying world unity.

“Music is a pathway out of poverty. Children and youth begin to realize they have within them the power and potential to create beauty.”

— Dick Roberts, longtime supporter

“It has been one of the best things to happen — to share music with people from all over the world,” Marlon says. “Even though we did not know each other, we were united for the same purpose.”
Launching stable careers

1,693 youth ages 18 to 24 completed our Into Employment® program, an 18-month program that teaches the skills local employers are looking for in employees, places youth in internships with our partner businesses and helps graduates quickly find formal employment.

75% of graduates from our Into Employment program landed jobs within six months of completing the program.

92% of HOPE scholarship recipients completed — and successfully passed — their year of higher education. Recipients can use HOPE scholarships to subsidize their specialized, long-term schooling in university or technical colleges.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES: We don’t just award scholarships; we take the next step to help scholarship recipients find jobs. Many of these youth are the first in their families to become formally employed. So, our staff prepares them for the job search process by providing guidance on résumé writing, interviewing, dress codes and more.
It’s easy to simply give up if your life is based on the cycle of nothing. The children don’t have an opportunity to progress from childhood to teen to adult. They simply survive. Children International ... is the path out. Children International gives them what they need to survive and then thrive.”

– Larry Phelan, donor
Melvin’s story: Working hard to achieve his dreams

Melvin tips the heavy mug with one hand, carefully directing the stream of frothy milk into the caramel-colored coffee with the other. Slowly, a rippled design begins to coalesce as he continues tipping and pouring. When he’s done, the large, heart-shaped pattern atop the aromatic cappuccino brings to mind Children International’s logo.

It’s not much of a stretch to imagine how that image represents the ripples of change through Children International’s Into Employment® program.

Prior to becoming a barista, Melvin and his family fought for survival. Every day of their lives in their remote village in Honduras had been a laborious challenge — from gathering firewood and cooking over an open flame to working the land to grow corn and red beans. Melvin’s parents encouraged him and his siblings to study hard in school to achieve better lives. Eventually, though, Melvin had to drop out of school to help his father.

Melvin had resigned himself to a life of farming — until he learned about Into Employment. With his parents’ encouragement, he applied and was selected for its hospitality training.

Upon completion of the 18-month program — which teaches life skills, technical skills and provides career resources — Melvin was offered a job in San Pedro Sula at a coffee shop. Even though many of the applicants had high school diplomas, the interviewer, Elisa, saw something special in Melvin. After a successful two-month trial, she offered Melvin a full-time position.

“Now, four years in, he is supporting his father’s business and paying for his younger siblings’ schooling.

Melvin is passionate about his craft and has competed in local barista competitions. He recently won second place and has been invited to train other young baristas in San Pedro Sula.

“All of this leads me one step closer to my dream of traveling to Italy and specializing in the art of coffee,” Melvin says. “I believe Children International’s Into Employment program has forever changed my life.”

She told me, ‘Despite your education level, I like your desire to learn and your motivation.’”

—— Melvin, 24, program graduate
Generous donors unite in a legacy of love

The Sperber, Neal and Zinni families personify Children International’s vision of bringing people together to end poverty for good. Thanks to their generosity, children in the La Colmena community of Quito, Ecuador, will this fall open the doors to a new safe haven where they can learn, dream and build better lives.

In 2018, Children International’s long-time friend, supporter and champion for children, Louise Sperber, bequeathed nearly $1.35 million to the organization for constructing community centers. Part of her estate gift provided the initial investment needed to build, operate and maintain a new center in Quito. Houston-based supporters Ron and Mary Neal and Ed and Sue Zinni partnered to match Louise’s gift, which will cover the remaining construction costs and sustain operations for one year after the center opens.

These gifts are a legacy of love for the children and youth in La Colmena, where the situation had become urgent. Young people there face instability, violence and cramped conditions at home, and the place that should be their oasis — our Children International community center — was unstable as well. Over the years, we’ve invested in emergency repairs and improvements to keep the center functioning, but flooding and sinking land had made the center virtually unusable. The children of La Colmena needed a new community center, and a generous group of donors came together to make it possible.

As a teacher, Louise believed deeply that all children should have a place to learn and grow and a team of committed mentors to help them reach their full potential. Her legacy will live on in Quito’s newest community center, which will bear her name. Room naming rights are still available.

To learn about ways to turn your support into your own legacy of love for children, contact Robert King at 816-943-3738 or start by visiting mycilegacy.org.
Louise Sperber was an old-school firebrand: a college athlete, avid skier, girls’ field hockey and lacrosse coach and a respected Pennsylvania public high school teacher for 33 years. She traveled across the country on a motorcycle later in life and remains an inspiration to many, even after her sudden death at age 78 in March 2017. Louise will always be a treasure to Children International. Her generosity, worldviews and rallying, determined, inviting approach to life mirror the personality and purpose of our organization.