



Through your support of the supplemental feeding program in Ethiopia, two-year-old Yewagitu grows stronger every day!

YOUR IMPACT

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Karate is one of the methods Radha uses to help girls become more empowered.

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL

KICKING CHILD MARRIAGE TO THE CURB

Radha, a child-rights activist in Bangladesh, escaped a forced marriage when she was 14. Now she uses her love of karate to help banish this practice once and for all.

Child marriage is common and deeply rooted in discriminatory cultural

practices and poverty. Forced to give up their educations and their dreams, girls struggle to raise families before they are ready. Violence, sexual abuse, and premature pregnancies put their health and wellbeing at serious risk. Many die in childbirth.

Because of you, Radha's story is different. By taking part in one of our **Because**

I am a Girl life-skills and leadership training projects that included karate, she strengthened her confidence, found her voice, and developed the courage to stand up to the practice of forced marriage. Now her "wedding busters" group uses karate demonstrations to increase awareness of girls' rights and educate entire communities on the risks of these marriages.

Your generous support helps us reach nearly 350,000 people in Bangladesh to provide age-appropriate reproductive health and education classes, enhance child protection strategies and practices, and strengthen health clinics. Because of you, girls like Radha realize their rights and become ambassadors of positive change in the world.



Lovesick employees participate in a training on **Because I am a Girl**.

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

LOVESICK SUPPORTS GIRLS' EDUCATION IN BURKINA FASO

Plan is excited to collaborate with Lovesick, a new retail chain offering trendy, affordable fashion and accessories for young curvy girls. Committed to empowering girls, Lovesick will donate 1% of all sales until April 2017, up to \$100,000, to **Because I am a Girl** to provide items such as tuition, uniforms, and supplies in addition to voluntary roundup of purchases to the next dollar.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN ACTION

NOURISHING HOPE IN ETHIOPIA

“The rain that used to come did not fall...My husband left us alone, because he couldn’t feed us anymore.” Etaferahu’s child Engisu quickly became malnourished, weighing just 11 pounds when she took him to the local health clinic.

Thanks to your support, Engisu soon recovered. After just one week in Plan’s supplemental feeding program, he gained a pound-and-a-half and could eat and drink on his own again.

Ethiopia, where most of the population lives in rural areas, is in the midst of a severe drought caused by the aftermath of El Niño—their worst in 30 years. It has devastated crops and livestock, leaving entire families without food.

By April, malnutrition had skyrocketed. Ten million people, mainly children and nursing or expectant mothers, struggled for their lives. Sadly, 2.2 million were younger than 5 years old.

Your quick action and generosity have raised over \$43,000 since April to feed more than 1,400 hungry women and children. You’re also providing drought-resistant seeds and emergency aid to families whose crops failed.

This crisis is far from over, but because of your heartfelt giving, hundreds of Ethiopian children grow stronger every day—ounce by ounce. You have eased their suffering and saved lives. Thank you.

If you would like to make a gift to feed more women and children in Ethiopia, please visit www.planusa.org/food-crisis.

Hundreds of children like Engisu have recovered from malnutrition thanks to you.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

VIEWING THE WORLD THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

Ellen visiting Plan sponsorship staff in Egypt.



An employee on a luxurious cruise ship, Ellen Landes bears witness to fortune and material wealth daily. Yet, when the ship ports, the lives of local children stand in stark contrast to what she sees on board.

“There’s so much poverty and need in the countries where we stop,” she said. Sponsoring a child “costs less than one nice dinner out.”

“I communicate with my sponsored children and learn about life in their communities,” she continued. “I was also blessed with an opportunity to visit the youngest, Malak.”

When passengers splurged on their vacation expenses, Ellen couldn’t help but think of the villages at the end of the dock. She decided to sponsor three children in Egypt.

Malak even wrote Ellen a small note.

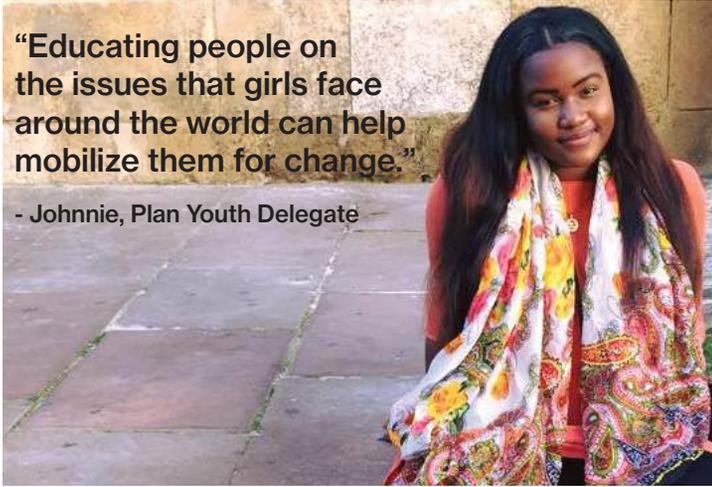
“Isn’t it amazing that this little girl got a chance to learn how to read, write, and count at the age of 5?” she exclaimed.

We are truly grateful to sponsors like Ellen. Her experience beautifully illustrates how sacrificing one of life’s small luxuries can foster a powerful connection, changing lives forever.

ENGAGING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

“Educating people on the issues that girls face around the world can help mobilize them for change.”

- Johnnie, Plan Youth Delegate



An articulate high school senior with three older brothers, Johnnie knows how to speak up and take action. Her direct experience over the past six years with Plan International USA's **Because I am a Girl** initiative, including International Day of the Girl events, inspired her to become a young change-maker in the field of political science and international relations – subjects she will pursue in college.

“I think if people would try to be more aware of the influence of gender in their day-to-day life, it would be a small step to help them understand gender inequality,” she said.

Johnnie started as a member of Plan's Youth United for Global Action and Awareness, a network of U.S. teenage activists who educate schools and communities on global challenges and engage them in finding solutions. Now a Youth Advisory Board delegate, she works directly with our Board of Directors and Executive Team to shape policy and programming in support of girls' rights around the world.

“Every day strides are being made, and the challenges that women face are becoming more widely recognized, but we still have a long way to go,” she added. “Gathering data is crucial...It can help paint a better image of the needs and challenges faced by a community.”

Your generous support of Plan helps young leaders like Johnnie develop the skills to become exemplary human rights' advocates with balanced, educated perspectives that come from real-world experiences. Together we work to ensure that all girls have the opportunity to learn, lead, decide, and thrive!

GIFTS OF HOPE

A FAMILY TRADITION KEEPS HOPE ALIVE

For Plan sponsor Mick Mlinar, exchanging Gifts of Hope has become a holiday family tradition. As a strong believer in giving back, Mick wanted a way to involve the next generation in making charitable contributions.

“It's great that the Gifts of Hope catalog comes out around the holidays,” he says, “because that's when everyone is together.” His son and daughter are now married and live out of state. When they gather, they share the gift catalog and talk about the different giving opportunities. Then, each person chooses the gifts that speak to their hearts.

“Some years they pick goats and chicks, some years it's education,” says Mick, who makes the contribution on behalf of the whole family from a Donor Advised Fund.

Mick created the fund several years ago, after his wife passed away, to facilitate his charitable giving. He hopes that by creating a tradition of giving, his children will carry the habit throughout their lives. “The future depends on the generation behind us,” he says, “and everyone enjoys Gifts of Hope!”

Check your mailbox and visit givedifferently.org to start your own family tradition!



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