

SPRING 2018



*"Before I was hungry...
Now I can't wait to
finish 8th grade..."*

FLUSHING
PERIOD TABOOS
IN BOLIVIA

THANK YOU,
DISASTER HEROES!

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

**BRAVE
GIRLS**

*WHO KNOW
WHAT THEY WANT*

Grateful

In his own words, one
sponsor describes his 40+
years with Plan.

**YOUR
IMPACT**

For people who
TAKE ACTION

FOUR BRAVE GIRLS WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT

Champions of Change

The girls' faces fell. Plan had come to their town and described an amazing opportunity. Then, it was pushed just out of reach. Beatriz, Cecilia, and Flor are all 11 years old. Lisseth is 10. Plan's age requirement for Champions of Change? 12.



Your compassion made a difference in these girls' lives.

Thank you.

"I lost hope when I saw the age limit was 12, and that we could not participate," Cecilia said. "We were saddened because we would not have the opportunity to learn and participate."

The girls were disappointed, but they didn't give up. They went to their teachers, their parents, and Plan staff asking for an exception.

"The project helps girls and boys to become equals, without any differences," Lisseth said. "I became interested in being taught about boys' and girls' rights and how to protect myself."

Because of their persistence, Plan allowed the girls to join the program. And within only a few months, they became some of the best participants in the group.

"I want to grow and become a person who is an example for my family and for other girls," Beatriz said.

THANK YOU, DISASTER HEROES!

Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund

In March, we asked for your help to replenish Plan's Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund. So far you've donated nearly \$40,000 to help children recover from man-made and natural disasters around the world.

Thank you for giving young people like Josephine in South Sudan the strength to stay in school, fulfill their potential, and help their communities recover.

"Before I was always hungry, because we didn't have any food at home," Josephine said. "I couldn't concentrate in class. Sometimes I was so tired, I'd have to leave school before lessons were over. Now I can't wait to finish 8th grade and go to high school. I want to be a doctor!"



With more than half of its young people out of school, South Sudan has the highest proportion of children missing out on an education in the world. Violent conflict, an economic crisis, and food insecurity are perpetuating cycles of poverty, hunger, and instability. **Children are suffering—but you're coming to their rescue.**

Because of Disaster Heroes like you, Josephine's school and many more in South Sudan are now able to serve students nutritious lunches every day. This means fewer schools will close because of poor attendance, and more kids will have the chance to fulfil their potential.

We can't thank you enough!

It's not too late to help more children overcome disaster and get the education they deserve. Give online at planusa.org/disasterhero.

“ETERNALLY GRATEFUL” FOR 40+ YEARS OF SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship Update

For more than 40 years, Michael Wright has sponsored children from South America to Africa. This Army veteran has dedicated his life to serving others. In his own words, he shares why he’s so grateful to be able to make a difference in the world with Plan.

It’s difficult to condense my journey with Plan into just a few paragraphs, but I will do my best.

My journey began in 1976 when I decided to sponsor a child. I wanted to give back and help children in a way I knew worked. As a 20-year-old airman stationed in Hawaii, I was barely over the age when sponsored children graduate from the program.

What really maintained my interest was (and still does) are the progress reports I receive about the children. There’s no greater feeling than to know that when you help a child grow physically, cognitively, and emotionally over the years, and you say goodbye to them at 18, you have left a permanent impression on that young adult that will never be erased.

As I am multilingual, I try and sponsor children in countries where I can write them directly in their language, since communicating with them helps keep

me sharp and appears to bring them joy as well. **Through the decades, I have retained many of the letters my sponsored children have sent me.**

My current sponsored child lives in Togo, Africa, and I take pleasure in writing to him in French, although that is not his native dialect. I am equally pleased to see him grow and hope someday I might be able to visit him, too.

I am eternally grateful for having had the opportunity to share these experiences, which Plan has facilitated over the years. As a retired military veteran, a licensed social worker, and an active Christian chaplain, I could not have asked for a better non-profit organization with which to have embarked on this journey. I look forward to many more years of sponsoring, and I thank all the people at Plan for this rare opportunity to share my journey.



“There’s no greater feeling than to know that when you help a child grow physically, cognitively, and emotionally... you have left a permanent impression on that young adult that will never be erased.”

MICHAEL WRIGHT



Read Michael’s full story at planusa.org/feb-sponsor-2018.

New For You: 1937 Society and Legacy Circle



You go above and beyond by supporting children around the world. So, we want to say thank you.

Named for the year in which Plan was founded, **the 1937 Society** honors donors who contribute \$1,500 or more in a single calendar year. This includes donors who sponsor four or more children.



The Legacy Circle honors those individuals who have thoughtfully included Plan in their estate planning or other deferred giving arrangements. This includes donors who have created an endowed sponsorship.

To learn more, log on to your MyPlan account at planusa.org.

FLUSHING PERIOD TABOOS IN BOLIVIA

Impact Partners

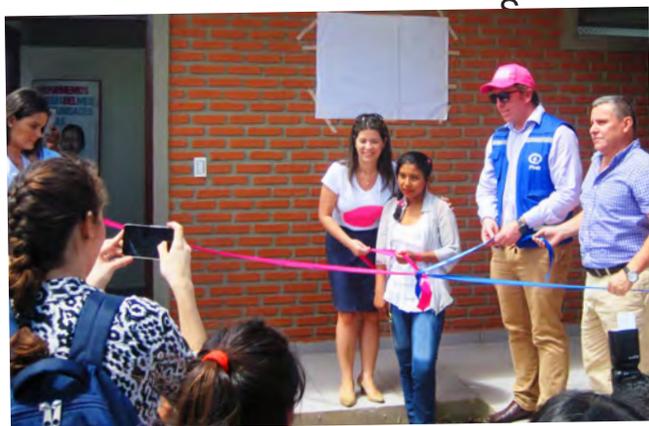
When girls lack access to safe, private, sanitary bathrooms at school, **menstruation can be a serious barrier to their rights and education.** With your support, Plan partnered with Kimberly-Clark Corporation and the Kotex brand on our Keeping Girls in School project, targeting four schools in rural Bolivia where existing facilities and behaviors were holding girls back. **The results are inspiring!**

Now nearly 700 students have access to safe, sanitary new bathrooms at school. Students and teachers are working together to overcome misinformation, cultural



taboos, and shame around periods too. **They're becoming advocates for change** after attending Plan trainings on sexual health; gender and reproductive rights; and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

"These bathrooms are clean and private. Thank you," said 17-year-old Dayana. "The workshops were very useful," she added. "We talked about hygiene, menstruation, and fertility, and learned a lot. This knowledge will help us take better care of ourselves and our new bathrooms too."



If your corporation would like to partner with Plan to change the lives of girls and women, email Brittney.Rocourt@planusa.org or call 202.617.2260.

Make an Impact This Spring With Your Gifts of Hope!

Spring Gifts of Hope are here! Are you excited? In addition to old favorites like education, livestock, and water gifts, you also have three new gifts this season that help support thousands of girls as they strive to finish school, learn valuable job skills, and build strong social networks to realize their rights!

What's your hope for girls? Plan sponsor Deborah Winter says, **"I want girls to be able to choose their own life path.** Whether they want to raise children, work in professional arenas, or take spiritual vows. I want them to be empowered to make choices that best fit their skills and passions. **Plan gives me a way to help girls and address some of the huge problems I see at a global level. My life as a female has been extraordinarily blessed, and so I'm profoundly grateful for how Plan gives me a chance to help others."**

Help bring us all a little closer to a brighter future. Shop Gifts of Hope online at givedifferently.org.

