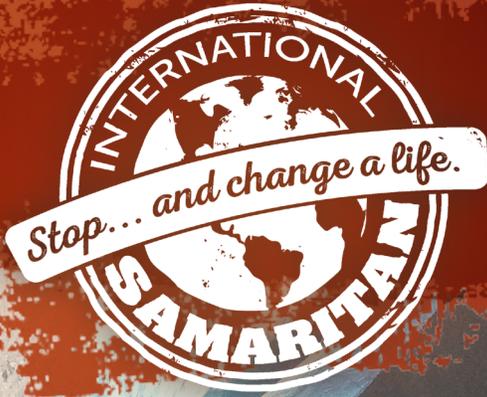


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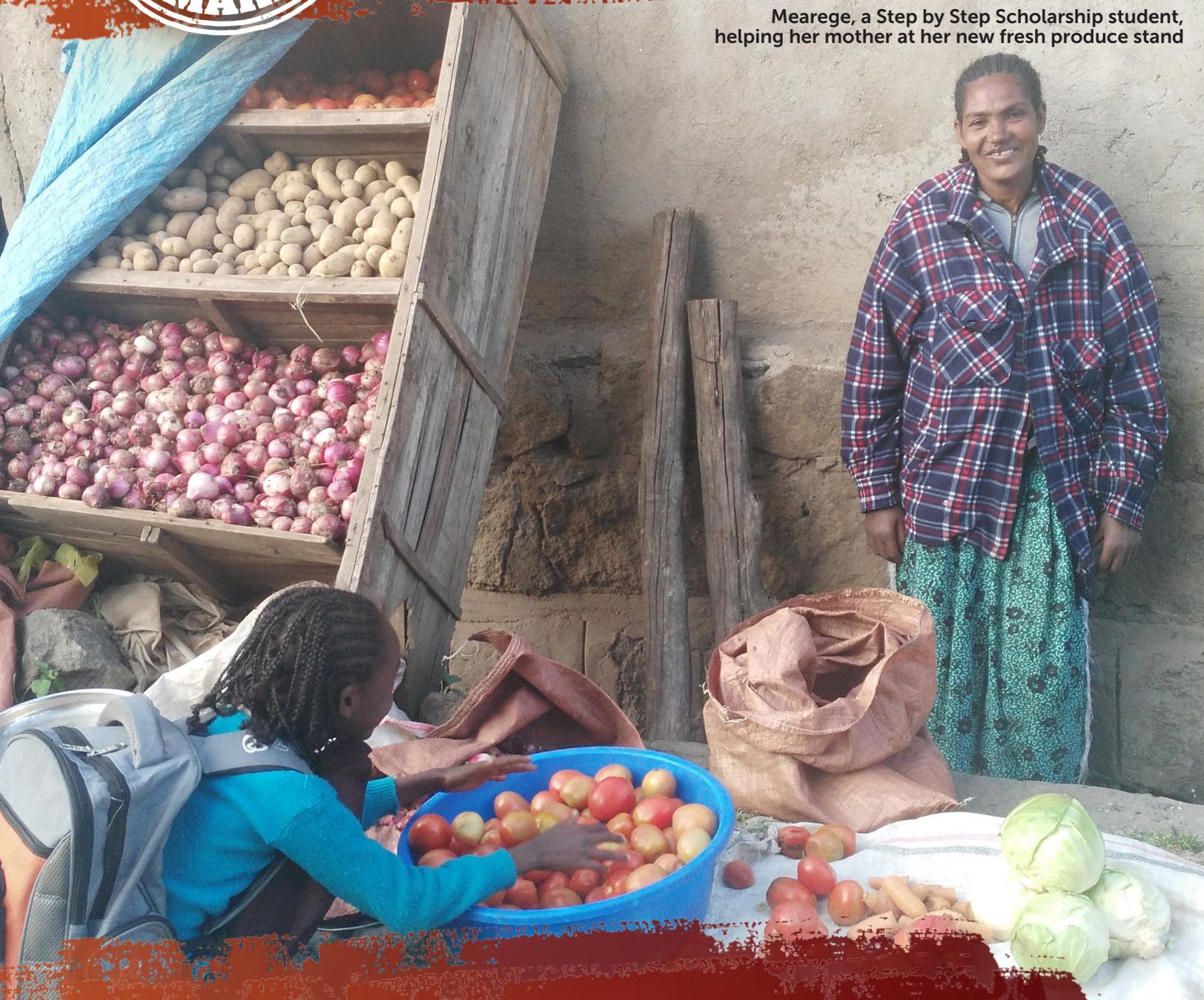
intsam.org

Winter/Spring 2018

SAMARITAN WORLD

News for the friends of International Samaritan

Mearege, a Step by Step Scholarship student, helping her mother at her new fresh produce stand



Life Transformation: Garbage to Fresh Vegetables
- An Opportunity to Make a Bigger Difference
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Dear friends,

Make an impact.

At International Samaritan, we measure our success by impact, not by outcomes.

At International Samaritan, we are currently maximizing the value of our data to show the impact of how our work effects the progress of our marginalized friends. Some non-profit organizations choose to highlight the outcomes of their programs, like the specific number of meals fed or jobs created. We have previously collected data like this. Now, we are using our data to more effectively measure its long-term impact.

The story of Ana Sofia, who was a student in the Step by Step scholarship program, exemplifies this concept. The chart on the next page compares her projected lifetime income with her mother's. Ana Sofia will earn significantly more than her mother over time, and furthermore, will substantially exceed the minimum wage in Guatemala. Her participation in the Step by Step scholarship program has made this possible.

What is impact, and how is it measured?

Impact is the positive difference made by an organization based on its mission; therefore, International Samaritan has called upon Impact Matters to audit IS's influence on the children whom we serve through the Step by Step scholarship program. We are focused on the link between education, future earnings and life expectancy, keeping in mind IS's mission to serve victims of severe poverty in developing countries by partnering with them and others to alleviate hunger, homelessness, endemic disease and ignorance.

In this newsletter, you will read about another impact, that of IS's housing projects. With every house built with International Samaritan's support, a family realizes a better life: increased income, better school performance for their children, fewer assaults and robberies, and improved overall health. None of this happens without your prayers and your contributions. You offer hope and alleviate suffering to the children and their families of garbage dumps.

Thank you for stopping to change many lives.

Most Sincerely,
Oscar Dussán
President
International Samaritan



Sponsor

Help send children to school to escape poverty.



Donate

Give money, hold a local fundraiser, send children to school. Every dollar helps.



Volunteer

Join service immersion experiences to help teach, build houses, provide medical services.



Lead

Contact our office about starting an I.S. campus chapter at your high school or university.

Story from the cover:

Mearege no longer sells garbage scraps with her mother

Mearege Arage, age 8, is a student in the Step by Step scholarship program in Ethiopia. Three years ago, she lived a hard life in a makeshift home. Mearege's mother had a serious lung disease from working in the garbage dump, and the family struggled to fulfill their basic needs. After three years in the Step by Step scholarship program, Mearege ranks at the top of her class and wants to become a doctor to help her community. In addition, Mearege's mother has been able to focus on supporting her family and recently opened a small business selling vegetables.



We must never surrender

One of eight children, Step by Step Scholarship alumni Ana Sofia has had to overcome many problems in her life. At age 5, she was hospitalized on Christmas Eve when a firework placed in her mouth exploded. Later, the family's home was lost to fire, destroying their possessions and leaving them without a place to live.

Her parents worked in the garbage dump. Unfortunately, her older siblings did not contribute to the household and the family remained poor. One brother went to prison due to substance abuse, and Ana's father died a few years ago.

We must never surrender

Despite these challenges, Ana resolved to not give up. She studied hard and focused on the goals she had for her future -- to finish her studies, to get a better job to help take care of her family, and, eventually, to have and care for her own children.

"I always tell myself that I cannot surrender, no matter what happens," Ana said. "... life put many obstacles in my path, but we must never surrender before those obstacles."

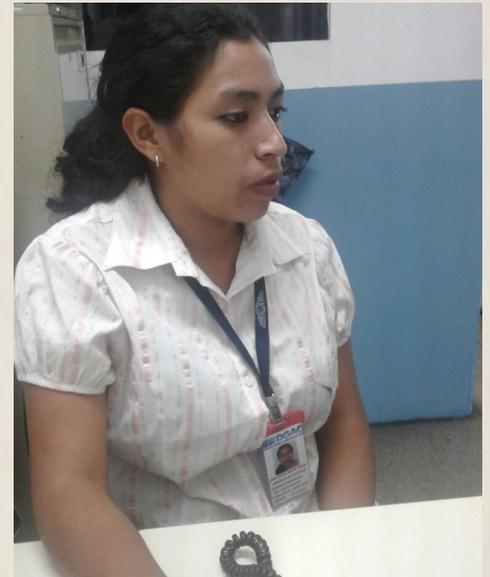


Ana Sofia and her mother at their house, grateful for the support they receive from the Step by Step Scholarship

Because of the Step by Step program, Ana went to a private school and proved to be a good student, graduating with a degree in Science and Letters. Now 23 years old, she used the education the program provided to find employment outside the confines of the garbage dump.

Ana Sofia is promoted at the Guatemala City Airport

After graduation, Ana worked in the cleaning department of La Aurora International Airport. Showing herself to be a responsible, respectful, young woman, she was offered a position as an assistant in the airport's administrative department making an average of \$1,000USD per month.



Ana Sofia working as an administrative assistant at the Guatemala City International Airport

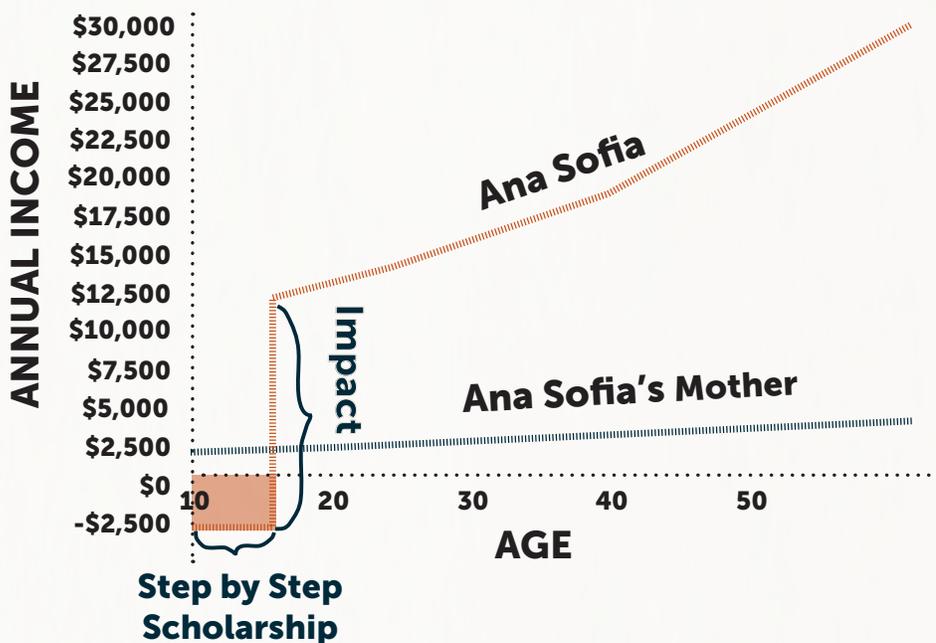
Return on investment

Ana Sofia's life continues to change for the better. With the training and assistance she received from the Step by Step program, Ana looks forward to a life of improved opportunity and a better standard of living.

Your contributions have a lifelong influence. Your short-term investment in Ana and other Step by Step Scholarship students is realizing fantastic returns and making an incredible long-term impact in the form of a lifetime of higher income, greater prospects, and better health.

Please continue your support of the Step by Step Program. The long term impact is remarkable.

Ana Sofia and Her Mother's Annual Income

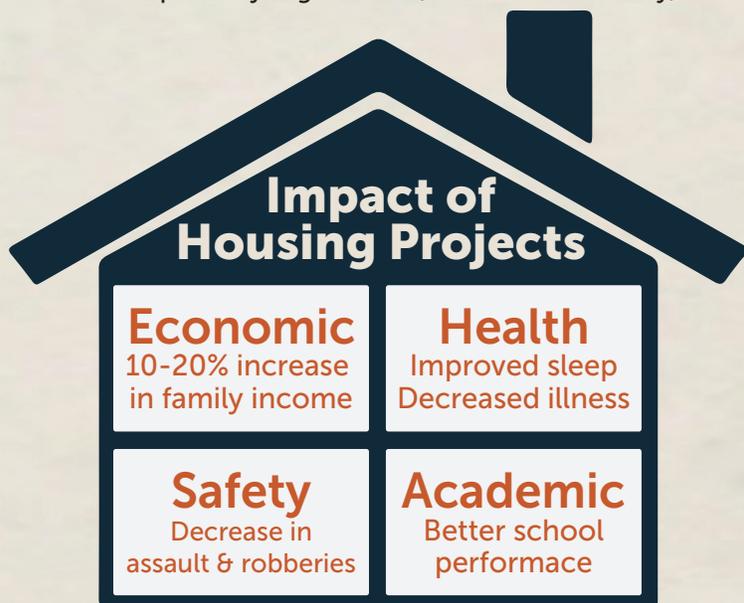


Impact of Housing Projects

Sustainable housing creates hope for a single mother and her family

Justa Fuerte is a single mother who works in the garbage dump in Granada, Nicaragua, where she has lived since she was six years old. Justa and her three sons are beneficiaries of International Samaritan's home-building program in Granada. Before her home was built, Justa was very skeptical of IS's invitation for a better life. Today, Justa and her sons, Reynaldo, Jorge, and Freddie, live in a home that was built with the help of volunteers from St. Charles Preparatory High School, St. Ursula Academy, and

Montini Catholic High School. It has been two years since the construction was finished, and Justa's life has been transformed. Tania Solorzano, in-country coordinator in Nicaragua, reported that Justa could not believe that her family would ever be the recipients of such good fortune. Solorzano further noted that Justa smiles frequently, something she rarely did before moving into her now home. After 30 years in and around the garbage dump, for the first time in her life, Justa is determined to leave the dump. She has already begun to look for courses and jobs, and she hopes that this will be her last year working in the Granada dump.



Source: Mark Brahier, Impact Assessment of International Samaritan (University of Notre Dame)



Justa's three sons, Reynaldo, Jorge and Freddie, standing in front of their house built by International Samaritan.

Justa's typical day in the Garbage Dump in Granada, Nicaragua



"We are grateful to the donors for helping us, and that they acknowledge us as people and are willing to come help us."

- Justa Fuerte, a garbage dump worker

"My studies so far have challenged me in every way possible — intellectually, spiritually, physically, and emotionally; however, I see every challenge as a stepping stone to learn and equip myself with the skills I need to be a nurse."

- Minalush Ejigu, 19 years old

Minalush volunteering as an assistant nurse at a clinic in Kore community, Ethiopia



Step by Step Scholarship Student Highlight

The Story of a Nurse to be...

"The mentoring and support I get from International Samaritan has helped me to grow as a responsible citizen. What I enjoy the most is offering bedside care and helping others to feel better. I want to repay the kindness shown to me by International Samaritan."

Ethiopia has a health workforce of 0.7 per 1000 population, which is low compared to the World Health Organization's recommendation of 2.3 health workers per 1000 population. In rural and remote areas, 83% of the population is underserved by health workers. This is what motivated Minalush Ejigu, 19, to pursue nursing.

In the Kore Garbage Dump Community, Ethiopia, Minalush grew up watching her mother leave early in the morning and come home late with a bag of sellable items. Despite their circumstances, her mother gave Minalush the support needed to attend school. When Minalush passed her National School Exam, she was happy, yet worried, because she knew her mother was not in a position to pay her college tuition. This was when International Samaritan offered a scholarship so she could pursue a nursing degree.

With two and a half years of study remaining, Minalush feels confident that she will make an excellent nurse. Because of her enthusiasm for nursing, she volunteers as an assistant nurse at a local clinic in Kore. She will be the first college graduate from her family, giving her and her family hope for a bright future. International Samaritan works closely with school staff to ensure that students like Minalush have the financial and social support to pursue their dreams through education.

We are proud of Step by Step scholarship students, like Minalush, who work hard to overcome obstacles and continue to dream for themselves, their families, and their communities. International Samaritan increased the number of students by 47% in 2017, and there are still a number of students who are waiting to be sponsored. Your partnership with the Step by Step scholarship program will change lives.

Friends of International Samaritan,

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Mahatma Gandhi

2017 has been another successful year of service in Guatemala and Nicaragua. International Samaritan had more than 430 volunteers build homes, classrooms, and relationships within garbage dump communities, while learning the importance of service. If you are interested in volunteering in 2018, we are in need of volunteers for medical missions and for service immersion experiences.

As we continue to expand our mission, we have exciting news for 2018.

We will be working directly with the Recycled Orchestra in Asunción,

Paraguay in South America and, also, adding a new service site in Esteli, Nicaragua in Central America. Please join us in these opportunities to make a positive impact in people’s lives around the globe.

In addition, my colleague Dan Piaskowski and I will be traveling the United States November through May to meet with new partners and show ways they can assist International Samaritan in alleviating garbage dump poverty. We welcome any suggestions or leads for those who might be interested in partnering with us in 2018.

Blessings,

Sarah Daniel

International Service Coordinator
International Samaritan



Want to make a difference?

Join us for our 2018 Medical Mission trips:

March 22-29, 2018

Nicaragua

May 20-26, 2018

Guatemala

July 15-21, 2018

Nicaragua

For more details, visit intsam.org/medical or email Mateusz Plaza at mateusz@intsam.org

MEDICAL OUTREACH, A FAMILY AFFAIR

Taking a different kind of family summer vacation, two former University of Michigan Hospital residents, Doctors Phillip and Tanya Rodgers with their daughters Maddie and Ellie, went on a medical mission to serve and treat more than 300 medical and dental patients in Guatemala.

“Treating everything from acid reflux to diabetes, we saw scores of patients everyday,” stated Tanya Rodgers, “which sometimes felt overwhelming. Fortunately, International Samaritan was well-organized from start to finish - even providing needed medications - so we really felt like we were able to make a difference for people who are in need. It was good to let them know other people care.”

Though Phil Rodgers had participated in International Samaritan medical missions twice before, the family was nervous about going on one together. But in the end, Maddie and Ellie Rodgers were glad to be involved, helping distribute vitamins, soaps and other necessities, as well as organizing crafts with some of the local children.

Doctor Tanya Rodgers, Maddie, Ellie and Dr. Phillip Tanya during their medical missions in Guatemala





Loyo at the community yard

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

In the Kore community, a group of women have organized to grow vegetables at the women cooperative's community yard, with an emphasis on education, income generation, health, sanitation, and community peace-keeping. They are supported by International Samaritan, and they plant spinach, beets, and potatoes.

Loyo is a member of this group, and she has been growing vegetables in the cooperative since June 2015. She has seen women earn hundreds of dollars from the sale of their vegetables. "I am supporting my family with the income I make," she says. "Our children are recipients of International Samaritan's scholarship program and we, the mothers, are getting income and improving our lives."

Even through her own health struggles -- both Loyo and her husband are lepers -- she never stops working to improve her family's quality of life. "It gives me a great joy to work and support my family. Thank you, International Samaritan."

Updates from Countries

Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua

The library renovation at Nueva Vida school in Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua is complete; it has been transformed into a beautiful space for students to study and learn. We'd like to thank our student volunteers from Marian High School, University of Toledo Honors College, and Walsh Jesuit High School for their hard work completing this reconstruction.



Library at Nueva Vida school



San Pedro Sula, Honduras

During the rainy season in Honduras, two sections of the wall surrounding International Samaritan Primary School collapsed. The first section fell in mid-June, but thanks to the support of our generous donors it was repaired. The second collapsed section, approximately twice as large as the first, still needs to be rebuilt in order to protect the students inside the wall. Please consider making a donation to help ensure the safety and security of all the children at International Samaritan Primary School.



June 18, 2017

A heavy rain destroyed 76 feet of the walls surrounding the school



July 30, 2017

Part of the school was reconstructed throughout June and July



August 2, 2017

Another 150 feet of the school wall collapsed due to rain

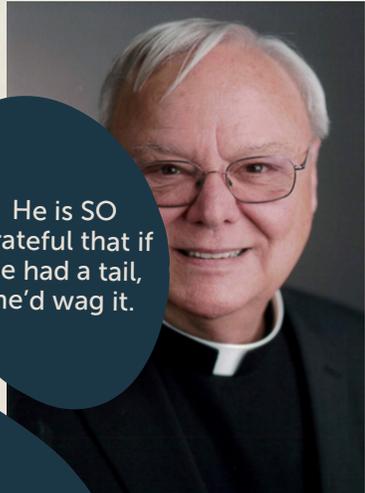
Dear Friends,



Hello, International Samaritan friends! It's Pagan the dog taking over for Fr. Vettese, my human.

Father tells me International Samaritan is lucky to have donors and supporters like you.

He is SO grateful that if he had a tail, he'd wag it.



Because of your generosity, the work Father started in Guatemala City continues and is transforming the garbage dump community for the better!

Please continue your generous support – you all deserve a pat on the head!

Pagan the Dog
Vice President of Marketing and Hospitality

Yours in Christ,
Father Don Vettese, S. J.

Founder
International Samaritan



803 N. Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
P (734) 222-0701
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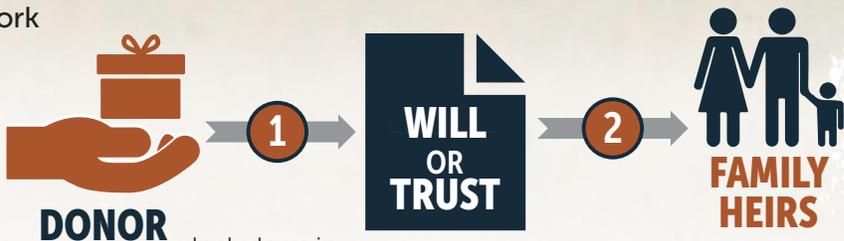
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Is Planned Giving Right for You?

Would you like to see our work continue for years to come? Would you like to donate but don't currently have the budget? Would you like your legacy to include serving the poorest and most marginalized children? **If any of these questions hit home, planned giving is an option to consider.** By adding a provision to your will or trust, a donation is paid after death after beneficiaries are paid. It will cost you nothing during your lifetime. International Samaritan is offering free professional counsel to anyone interested in planned giving. We are happy to discuss how our strategic needs fit your interests.



1 Include us in your will or trust

2 A gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime

3



Please call Fr. Don Vettese at our office at (734) 222-0701 for further information.