

Double the reading, double the fun!

Your support is helping twins Nakato and Wasswa discover the joy of reading - thank you!!

Nakato (in pink) and Wasswa in Uganda are 9-year-old twin siblings who love learning every day at school. Thanks to ongoing support from donors like you, they're part of an exciting new activity - a community reading club!

During the COVID lockdowns, their mother Gertrude worried that they were falling behind at school. Uganda's lockdowns were some of the longest in the world, and the children lost their motivation to keep studying at home. By the time school started again, they had lost some of their confidence.

The reading club changed everything. With the support of teachers like Grace, children had an opportunity to continue learning in engaging ways. She recalls fondly how they read various materials and used techniques like singing, dancing, and roleplay to make reading as fun as possible. And based on the results she saw, it was well worth it.

Grace: *"There has been a great improvement. We have children now who can read better than they were able to before the country was locked down."*

Children like Nakato and Wasswa are now reading for fun at home, their grades are improving, and they have a new sense of pride in their skills. Proud mom Gertrude says:

"I can see that my children's self-esteem has gone so high. They tell me that they feel at ease and free to stand before their peers and read for them."

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Gertrude also tells us that the reading club had another meaningful advantage. It gave Nakato and Wasswa an opportunity to bond with their mother by learning together. Gertrude didn't feel she was particularly strong at reading herself, but Nakato and Wasswa are now helping her to improve her own vocabulary too!

"They would always come back home and read me some stories and explain to me what some of the stories meant and what they had learned out of them. My children may not know, but with them, I am also learning to read."



Reading clubs are more than just stopgaps for when schools are disrupted. They create an environment for children to find joy and connection through the power of reading.



When you give to support education, you're opening up new worlds for children like Nakato and Wasswa - thank you!



June 16 is Day of the African Child, when we come together to support quality education for every African child. Thank you for doing your part to help children in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda go to school and feel the joy of learning. You're truly making a difference!

Little Bites: Highlights from CFTC



Listen to our podcast, *First Comes Food*, to learn how communities are coming together to feed children amidst a global food crisis.



Thank you for helping to provide **50% more meals to children in 2022!** Read more in *Your 2022 Impact Report* enclosed.



Learn more about how your gift of **child sponsorship** is helping in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Uganda.



Your gifts are helping Grayce and her community thrive

As a child, did you ever get the opportunity to plant some seeds and watch them grow? Do you remember the excitement and hopefulness that you felt as they started to sprout and how good the fresh vegetables from your garden tasted? Perhaps, you've shared this experience with a child or grandchild in your life. And maybe you're diligently working now to help your own garden grow and are patiently waiting until you can harvest and enjoy the food.

For 11-year-old Grayce in Natoaganeg (Eel Ground First Nation), harvesting wild food with her family and friends is an important part of her Mi'kmaq heritage. Grayce particularly enjoys assisting with the school garden, and she was excited for you to know that she even learned how to skin a moose!

Having access to home, school and community gardens is so important in Indigenous communities where households are far less likely to eat enough fruits and vegetables. This is true in Eel Ground First Nation, where 40% of households are food insecure, compared to just 15.9% of households in Canada.

Eel Ground is on a mission to supply fresh food to everyone in the community, grown right where they live. A new greenhouse is providing fresh produce for the school meal program, and land-based activities are connecting children like Grayce to traditional food practices. Grayce says:

"I am proud of my Mi'kmaq culture, and how my family and community work together as one to improve our healthy living and relationships with food and each other every day!"

Gardens not only grow healthy vegetables, they also help grow community and hope. And when children get involved, they are more than twice as likely to eat 5 or more servings of vegetables a day!

Your donation in any amount by June 30th will be matched to double your impact, giving other children the gift of a school or community garden like Grayce's.



June is National Indigenous History Month! Join us online June 21 as we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Visit canadianfeedthechildren.ca/indigenous

The Best.Gift.Ever results in a sweet success!



For Zeena in Ghana, educating her children has always been important. While she has never been to school herself, she has hopes for her children to progress to higher levels of education so they can access better opportunities and contribute to their community.

But when the pandemic hit, paying for their education became much more difficult. Fortunately, in 2020, she was able to join a women's beekeeping cooperative where she received training and supplies funded by donations from dedicated supporters like you.

We caught up with her and her son, Aliu, recently, and it's all great news! The cooperative is doing well, and Aliu is thriving in school. Today, in addition to beekeeping, she's raising livestock and improving her farm. She even hopes to open her own store soon. She says this new financial security has brought her peace of mind and is the Best.Gift.Ever! Aliu says:

"If my mother had not joined the program, I and some of my siblings would have dropped out of school, and feeding at home would also have been a challenge for us."

Thank you for helping Aliu and Zeena achieve this sweet success! You can read more about Zeena and her beekeeping and see more pictures at canadianfeedthechildren.ca/bee-engaged.

Keep us updated!

You're there for children every step of the way - and we're here to support your journey!

Visit canadianfeedthechildren.ca/donors to update your personal details, watch bonus videos, and explore new ways of supporting children through Canadian Feed The Children.

Do you have thoughts on how you want to continue supporting children? We'd love to hear from you! Reply to the enclosed survey to share your feedback. Thank you for helping children thrive!



thrive!
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