



## 2023 Gloucester County Public Employees Charitable Campaign

### TESTIMONIALS

TIANNA use to drag herself with her two front legs. Per her surgeon, she was most likely crushed in small quarters with other pups or dog that pushed her kneecaps out of the sockets to the left in her rear legs. She had months of water treadmill physical therapy, surgery and more physical therapy. HAPPY STORY - she is able to walk without pain and has an adopter - her vet tech at PT is adopting her. Tianna's now sparkle with happiness instead of despair from the pain. We take on difficult medical cases, giving those animals new hope and a great new life. Companion animals with leg injuries, eye injuries, shot by guns or pellets. We bring them to very experienced vets and get surgeries for them when necessary. And to see them happy and loved in their adopted homes with their big smiles is the best. Thank you for your past help and future help.

#### **Animal Sanctuary Society**

Three quotes from families who have reached out to **Autism New Jersey**: Quote #1: "Autism New Jersey was helpful beyond any expectations that I might have had. We are at the beginning of a long process, we didn't know where to start, and you have provided elements with which to construct a road map." Quote #2: "In an overwhelming and confusing time, Autism New Jersey showed the kindness and compassion I needed. I am on a quest to help my sister obtain the services she needs for her autistic son."

#### **Autism New Jersey**

Keshawny was a shy high school student who needed not only a job, but a nurturing environment with mentors to teach him new skills. He blossomed in our workforce development program, not only learning new life skills and workplace skills, but also receiving an additional support system as he dealt with the death of his mom.

#### **Boys & Girls Club of Gloucester County**

"Being a recipient of the HOPE scholarship is really a tremendous help for our family," says Razel, a 23-year-old college student in Bicol, Philippines. Razel and his five siblings were orphaned four years ago. Today, he lives with two of his siblings in a government-subsidized house that lacks electricity and water. They use candles for light and fetch water daily at a nearby source.

Without their parents, Razel and his siblings try to make ends meet by offering tutoring lessons or helping with local events. "The financial assistance from **Children International** went a long way, helping me not just in my studies but also for our daily sustenance," he says.

Razel is in his final year of elementary education studies at the local community college. "Without access to a HOPE scholarship, it would have been very hard for me to continue [my education]. Stopping school was a very big possibility, especially when my father died — not only for me but for my siblings as well," he shares.

He is incredibly grateful to Children International supporters like you for helping fund his future. "It's a lifeline to our dreams. My simple dream is to be a professional educator. I dream that someday I could bring my family to a state where we have enough of what we need. To have a decent life. I wish for us to get out of poverty."

#### **Children International (Global Impact)**

Frances and Rose, twins, were just babies when their mother thought she was going to lose them. They were so malnourished. Their mother took the twins to a local clinic, but they were soon sent home. There was nothing more to be done. Frances and Rose's mother was not ready to give up.

A neighbor told her to take the children to **FMSC** partner African Children Today (ACT). The neighbor heard ACT had medicine to treat even critically underweight children. That powerful "medicine": MannaPack® meals.

Several years later, Frances and Rose are thriving. ACT staff shared, “The MannaPack meals didn’t just give them life, but also gave them an opportunity to dream.”

### **Feed My Staring Children (Global Impact)**

We are humbled with gratitude for this community. If not for you, we definitely would not know what to do or where to go. I had to send a huge THANK YOU your way! Yesterday we received your awesome resources and amazing care package for our little Warrior! I can’t tell you how excited she was to see all the wonderful goodies! She immediately put on the mask and cape that you sent, wearing it for the rest of the night and insisted on putting the tattoo on so she could show all her friends at school today. We are so grateful for each and every part of the care package that made her smile! The information sheets on LCH are great and we love the little fact cards! Thank you so much again for all your support. The work you do is just amazing!

### **Histiocytosis Association**

11 months ago I left my country with the idea of the American dream without knowing the consequences and unaware of the differences between my culture and that of the United States. With a difference in language and feeling alone, I went to networks and apps (Grindr) with the dream and the ignorance of finding a boy who offers me support or company and makes me not feel so alone. I met guys but they were all looking for sex and I noticed that each profile highlighted that they were taking a pill that according to them prevented the spread of HIV. I wanted to take care of myself like they did because being undocumented and without health insurance it would give me more peace of mind. I researched many organizations that offered help and I never received an answer. As the days and months went by, I lost hope, I was disappointed and I deleted all the apps, but due to the same feeling of loneliness, I returned until I found Alex from **Hyacinth**. Even with a bit of mistrust and fear, I felt safe talking to Alex. He was Latino and spoke my language. Because of his professionalism and how he responded to every concern and question I asked. While it didn’t take away my fear, I felt that his information was real. When I went to the appointment for an HIV test, it was positive. Everything changed at that moment, and I felt that my life no longer had meaning. Who would accept me? I felt very bad about myself. Alex and the people of Hyacinth made me feel that life was not over and that I could go on. They supported me with help and knowledge. They guided me to get medical insurance and receive the medication I needed, and I even entered programs that I could only dream existed. Now, I have medicines and insurance with 100% coverage. I also have contacts for food aid and even shelter! since I found Hyacinth am calm and I like to say they are my secret family. They took care of me with integrity and professionalism. I created a friendship for life. I share this because not all of us find information easily and Hyacinth has given me a new life and opportunity in this country. Thank you Alex and Hyacinth for receiving me and being there for me. I will never be able to forget what you did and what you became for me in my family here. 😊

### **Hyacinth Aids Foundation**

Since 2015, Ioannis has owned a bicycle-repair shop in a town on northern Evia, in Greece. In the summer, he offered bicycle rental and repairs. The rest of the year, he organized bike tours through northern Greece.

Ioannis dreamed of expanding his business—and was well on his way in summer 2021, when fires completely destroyed his shop. Ioannis, however, refused to give up on his dream.

He rebuilt his workshop as quickly as he could, and now he needed new equipment more than ever. IOCC’s fire-relief program responded, supplying Ioannis with new tools to replace what he’d lost, and a state-of-the-art repair bench.

Ioannis reopened his business in 2022.

“This [equipment] will upgrade my work so much,” Ioannis said. “I will finally be able to expand my market and repair bikes for big retailers in Athens and even from abroad. Now ... my business is reborn from the ashes. Thank you, **IOCC!**” With support from donors like the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the National Philoptochos Society, the Jaharis Family Foundation, and the George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation, as well as many individuals, IOCC is helping people like Ioannis not only recover but also grow their livelihoods and build for the future.

### **International Orthodox Christian Charities (Global Impact)**

In 2023, the **Kingsway Education Foundation** was able to award over \$20,000 in student scholarships to students to successfully prepare them for their unique path in life.

### **Kingsway Foundation**

The **Lawrence Township Education Foundation** (LTEF) was created to be a bridge between our community and our public schools- to encourage private philanthropy to enhance public education for students at all levels. Over the past 32 years, we have done just that, putting \$4.5 million to work in the schools and funding over 1,100 grants. Through grant requests from teachers and school administrators, LTEF funds programs that will have a substantial and lasting impact on Lawrence Township public school students. These programs span the curriculum from math and science to literacy, mindfulness, multiculturalism and physical education.

### **Lawrence Township Education Foundation**

When Deva was a toddler, her father was arrested and sentenced to a decades long prison sentence prison, shattering her family. Overnight, her mother became the sole breadwinner of the family and while she worked multiple jobs, they struggled financially. Where Deva lives in Cambodia, public school is not provided free of charge and her family simply did not have enough money for food, school fees and school materials. Deva was faced with the growing possibility of having to drop out of school to help support her family and leaving behind her dream of becoming a doctor.

In 2014, a staff member from **Prison Fellowship** Cambodia received Deva's information while visiting her father's prison. The caseworker met Deva and her mother to discuss if she wanted to enroll in The Child's Journey®, a sponsorship program for children of prisoners that provides a dedicated caseworker to ensure a safe home, nutritious food, medical care, assistance with school fees and supplies, and access to Scripture resources, mentoring and emotional care to heal trauma.

Deva was overjoyed when she was told that they would provide her with the support to continue her studies. The family also received supplemental food support, health checks and monitoring, a Bible in their heart language of Khmer and encouragement from her sponsor. Last year, Deva was able to graduate from the program and she was able to secure a spot in university, where she is currently studying medicine.

### **Prison Fellowship (Global Impact)**

Despite being a diligent student and a passionate learner, Basma\*, 11, was forced to leave school because of the conflict in Syria. When she was in the second grade, Basma witnessed bombardment during a school day. After that she spent the remainder of the school year in a makeshift school in a basement.

The following year was particularly hard for the family. In the space of 12 months Basma lost her father, her best friend, and her favorite teacher during the conflict, which also caused her brother and sister permanent disabilities due to conflict-caused injuries. The family was forced to leave their home and seek refuge in a displacement camp in North East Syria. This ended Basma's education while she was only in the third grade.

At the camp, and after two years of disruption to her education, Basma was enrolled in **Save the Children's** school at the camp. Basma dreams of becoming a doctor one day to honor her father and help fund the treatment of her sick mother.

(\*Names have been changed to protect identity)

### **Save The Children (Global Impact)**

"This morning I prayed and asked for food for my kids. I was worried about getting home on the bus with no food and facing my children. Now, I'm excited to get home to my son and show him the cereal."— Victoria

### **South Jersey Dream Center**

Liam, with hydrocephalus, epilepsy, infantile spasms, and global delay, finally got to meet his one true love, Mickey Mouse, at Disney World. "What you all gave to Liam and our family with a week in Disney are memories that will last us a lifetime. To watch his face light up when he saw Mickey and the excitement that exuded him when we rode all the roller coasters was everything my husband and I could ask for. Our whole family enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime trip!" – Liam's Mom. Since 1976, **Sunshine Foundation** has spread Sunshine into the lives of more than 41,900 children.

### **Sunshine Foundation**