



# World Forgotten Children's Foundation

## NEWSLETTER

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### Help Us Spread the Word

Please forward a copy of this newsletter to your friends and colleagues and make them aware of the WFCF mission.

To be removed from the WFCF mailing list, please send a message to  
help@world-forgotten-children.org

## Why Do I Serve on the Board of WFCF?

My son Matthew graduated from high school this summer. We had a big party for him. Our relatives, close friends and several of his teachers attended. It was an afternoon of great love and fun. As my wife Kathy and I reflected on the party we both agreed it was very special for us as a family. We'll remember the feelings of support and goodwill the party generated for the rest of our lives. As we look at his graduation and his future, we also agreed that this milestone moment is an especially significant time for Matthew and for us.

That's because Matthew was born with multiple disabilities - autism and severe mental retardation. The care he requires is constant and intense. His school years were not anything like our other sons' or most other children's. His was a very unique and specialized education, filled not with reading, calculus, chemistry or history, where we could see him grow and develop and become a productive, creative young man. Instead his education consisted of toilet training, self-feeding, physical therapy and communication with sign language, pictures and high tech electronic devices. Matthew will not go on to college nor do we have expectations that he will ever be able to have a job. With the mental capacity of someone of two years of age or less, his productive capabilities are extremely limited. At best we can hope the adult day program he enters this summer will keep him safe, keep him from harming himself and keep his limitless energy harnessed from destroying things around him. We hope, ultimately, that keeping him from those things will give him a contented life.

The reason I am on the board of the World Forgotten Children's Foundation is directly because of my son Matthew. Kathy and I know all too intimately what it is like to raise a child with disabilities. Even in the arguably wealthiest nation on earth with the promise of the world's greatest opportunities, it is still very hard to care for a child who has significant physical and mental challenges. Even our nation's resources cannot take many of the hardships away. But as parents our most treasured goal is still to give our son what he needs so that he is as healthy and happy as he can be.

I cannot begin to imagine what it is like for children living in countries that do not have the resources that the United States has. In too many places children with disabilities are often abandoned, orphaned or neglected because of social stigmas and limited social safety nets. It is heart-wrenching to see how little they have, how compromised their health and happiness can be.

So, I serve - because of Matthew - for them. My son cannot speak for himself. He does not have a voice to share his needs and concerns. As his father I have to be his voice. And that's why I serve on the board of WFCF, to be a voice for so many other children whose stories need to be told, whose lives need to be touched. I serve to share hope with them. I serve to give them at least a fraction of the chance my son has to live in health and happiness.

--Rev. Michael D. Gingerich, Cancer Recovery Foundation

[www.world-forgotten-children.org](http://www.world-forgotten-children.org)

Providing Helping Hands to Less Fortunate Children of the World

# Something to Think About

You know those days you're feeling gloomy, you're seeing the glass as half empty rather than half full? Well, read the statistics below and find out how you can make a difference by helping helpless children.

UNICEF has reported there are between **143 million** and **210 million** orphans worldwide. Keep in mind that the current population of the United States is just a little over 300 million... to give you an idea of the enormity of the numbers... (The current population of Russia is 141 million). Every day **5,760** more children become orphans and in Africa alone **2,102,400** more children become orphans every year. It is estimated **14 million** of these orphans are AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa (a number higher than the total of every under-eighteen year old in Canada, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland combined). To make matters worse it is estimated that by 2010, there will be 18 million orphans in Africa alone.

On a brighter note, approximately **250,000** children are adopted annually, and **14,505,000** children who grow up as orphans age out of the system because they have turned sixteen years old. However, along with the good comes the reality that when the orphans age out they have no family to belong to and no place to call home.

In Russia and the Ukraine, studies have shown that **10% - 15%** of these children who have aged out of the orphanage commit suicide before they reach age eighteen and **60%** of the girls become prostitutes and **70%** of the boys become hardened criminals. Another Russian study reported that of the **15,000** orphans aging out of state-run institutions every year, **10%** committed suicide, **5,000** were unemployed, **6,000** were homeless and **3,000** were in prison within three years.

There are many organizations such as WFCF that help support individuals throughout the world. These organizations try to battle this human disaster on an ongoing basis. This is the beauty of human kindness; we all try to help our fellow human beings, particularly children, by providing needed help to the less fortunate.

## The Amani Children's Foundation-Kenya

World Forgotten Children's foundation (WFCF) has funded the amount of US \$1700.00 to The Amani Children's Foundation, located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This foundation supports the work of New Life Homes, a best practice group of infant rescue centers across Kenya. The money will be used to purchase a "Pony Walker" which will be used by seven children who have Cerebral Palsy. Most of these children have been orphaned by AIDS and poverty.



Wycliffe was found abandoned as an infant in Nairobi with cerebral palsy. He is flourishing despite great limitations imposed by his body.



Linah is learning to sing and to speak as well as to deal gracefully with her physical limitations



Kurt is deaf and blind. He suffers from Cerebral Palsy, but is intellectually acute and a quick learner.

**A** few ways that you can help WFCF:

- Let your friends and associates know about WFCF
- Forward a copy of the WFCF Newsletter to friends and associates
- Encourage friends and associates to inform WFCF about appropriate projects to fund
- Consider including WFCF as a beneficiary in personal wills