



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Alaverdi.*

Watch it bloom.

The Seed

Your 2016 sponsorship update
from your sponsored child's community in Armenia.

Thank you for helping to bring hope to your sponsored child's community.

Theresa's newfound confidence is changing her life

Theresa, 16, lives in Alaverdi with her mum, dad and older brother. She helps to look after her father who has a mental health problem. She was shy and kept to herself.

Then, thanks to you, Theresa joined an after-school journalism club. She learned new communication skills such as blogging. "Everyone's opinion is respected here; there's no wrong opinion and I can express myself freely," Theresa says. Her increased self-esteem encouraged her to join in more at school.



ABOVE: Theresa (far left) now leads the Student Council. She organises events where children have fun and learn about their rights.

Theresa's school performance improved. Her new confidence helped her win a place on the Student Council. She learned about her rights and began to speak up for other children.

She no longer worries that her family situation holds her back and even felt able to ask for support for her father. Theresa organises camps and away-days for her school friends. Her enthusiasm has made her a positive influence and leader.

Now, thanks to you, Theresa is using her new skills to pursue her dream of becoming a children's doctor.

“Several years ago I would never think that I can ever appear in such a responsible role, as I was a really shy and self-contained person. Now I know that I have a lot to say to other children,” Theresa says.





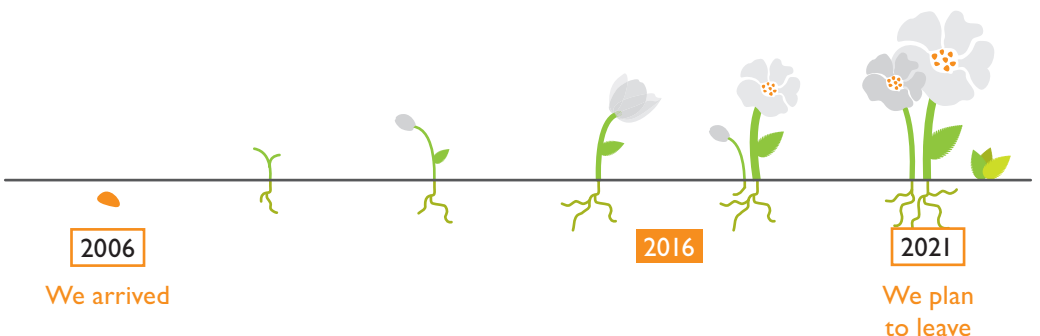
We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Alaverdi since **2006**. Back then, children faced many problems: poor health due to preventable illness; social and emotional isolation; lack of essential health and child protection services; and few safe spaces for children to play.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Children are healthier as parents know the signs of illness and how to treat them; families have learned new farming methods, and earn more to provide for their children; and children do better at school, developing skills they need to succeed as adults.

Despite these improvements, life is still hard for your sponsored child, and we really need your continuing support to ensure all the good we have managed to achieve for them isn't lost.

Thanks to your incredibly generous sponsorship of your sponsored child, we can stay in the area for another five to six years. We plan to leave in **2021**, but we will only go once we are confident that the change you have made, and the hope that you have given, will continue after we have left.



How you have helped this year...

We've picked out a small selection of the ways you have helped to bring hope to your sponsored child and their community. The reality is that you've helped us achieve much, much more.

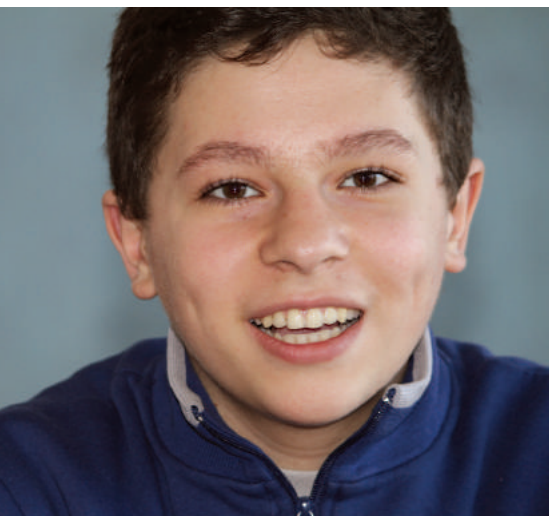
- * Younger children now play with new toys in new nursery playgrounds.
- * Farmers grow more crops like potatoes and earn more for their families; this allows their children to go on to study at university.
- * 5 children's clubs offered 79 children a safe place to play, share ideas and learn skills like teamwork.
- * 20 parents have learned skills such as overcoming stress that help them look after their children better.
- * Children learned new skills at children's groups and helped keep their community clean through environmental awareness days.
- * 825 children enjoyed sports, painting and crafts with their friends in summer camps.
- * 10 newly-trained children's club leaders know how to run their club and attract new members.
- * 55 school children have learned how to stay safe in an emergency.

"Seeing the video is very touching and makes my sponsorship more real to me." Gillian, Newtownabbey.

Have you seen your video from your sponsored child's community showing just how much your support means to them? Watch it today.

Register now at www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship.

See back cover for more details.



TOP LEFT: Training you've provided has helped local farmers make direct links to supermarkets to sell their potatoes and protect their incomes. © 2015 Nune Hayrapetyan/World Vision. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Arthur, 13, is part of a youth advocacy group. They've been teaching others why it's important to keep their community clean. © 2015 Nune Hayrapetyan/World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Lilit, 10, joined 130 vulnerable children at a summer camp, thanks to you. "In the camp I learnt about spiritual values, played interesting games, learnt national songs and made many friends," she says.



How do children like your sponsored child feel when they hear from their sponsor?

We asked sponsored children to share their thoughts with us...

"I keep them in my secret box, so that no one can get them." Elina, 5, Armenia.

"I want to spend Christmas Day at church singing songs for my sponsor so that God can bless her." Bibian, 15, Zambia.

"I am happy to receive a Christmas card from my sponsor in the UK. I've shown it to my friends and I keep it in my bag. I want my sponsor to visit me, and I would love to say hello to them." Sokly, 15, Cambodia.

However you choose to stay in touch with your sponsored child – whether by writing, emailing them on My Sponsorship, sharing photos or just taking a few moments in a busy day to think about or pray for them – thank you for bringing hope to your sponsored child.

Keep an eye out in the post as we'll send a Christmas card for you to send to your sponsored child in a few weeks' time.

ABOVE: Christmas cards add a spark of excitement to a normal day for Gor, 13, from Armenia. © 2014 World Vision.

"I am very happy to see that I am in your thoughts. You are so special to me. I am thankful for all you have done for me."

Gentiana, 12, Albania.

For the long-term, for lasting change, **for ever.**

Thanks to you, and other sponsors who are equally generous, we can work alongside a community for 15 years. That gives us time to help them bring about lasting change themselves, so they can continue to care for children long after we've left. When we do leave, it's because they're strong enough to stand on their own two feet.

Amanda (pictured below) has sponsored six children over 31 years, including Wasim, who she met in person on a trip to Bangladesh. She knows how it feels to say goodbye after so many years...

"It was a wrench... [but it was] so lovely to have that connection with Wasim and to see him grow and progress, and now we're sponsoring Joya. So we have every hope that she will progress as well as Wasim did."

Mary has been a sponsor for 34 years. In this time she's sponsored eight children. She tells us what this was like for her...

"As I never married and haven't had children of my own it's been a blessing knowing that I have helped in some way to improve the lives of children a long way away and let them know that I care about them and love them. I will always be a sponsor and support World Vision even when I'm gone."

How you can improve the lives of children for ever

You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

To find out more about this way of giving, please call our Legacy team on

01908 84 10 60 or email legacies@worldvision.org.uk



Feel closer than ever before



“I love being able to send a message. It’s so easy to do and brings them closer as part of the family.”

Ruth, Billingham.

Go to My Sponsorship today

My Sponsorship is the place on our website where you can find out more about your sponsored child, send messages, see photos and watch videos.

Here’s what sponsors like about it...

“The video is amazing! Brought a tear to my eye.” Joanna, Newtownards.

“It’s great to see more photos of the community where my sponsored child lives (I went through every photo looking out for her).” Hannah, London.

“I love the part where I can send pictures and tell them about a day in my life. Seeing the videos of what’s happening in the communities just makes it so real.” Kathryn, Kings Lynn.

How to register?

Go to www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship to register today.

All you’ll need is your Supporter ID.



This Halloween, join in with other sponsors and carve a **heart** in your pumpkin as a symbol of hope for children living in fear.

For more ideas and to find out how you can get involved visit www.worldvision.org.uk/carveaheart

#carveaheart



CARVE  HEART

World Vision is the world’s largest international children’s charity. Every day we bring real hope to millions of children in the world’s hardest places as a sign of God’s unconditional love.

FRONT COVER: Larisa, 11, and her sister Sirun, 9, from Armenia.

World Vision UK is a registered charity no. 285908, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England no.1675552. Registered office as above. Printed on paper from sustainable sources. All photos unless otherwise stated: © 2015 World Vision C/0000001/1.5

#WorldVisionUK

