



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Sisian.*

*Watch it bloom.*

The Seed

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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.

## One sheep has turned life around for Khoren

Khoren, 14, lives at home with his parents and his four younger brothers, Avetis, 14, Garnos, 12, Gevorg, 10 and Gor, aged one, in a small, run-down house in Sisian.

Life is tough for Khoren and his family. Khoren has epilepsy and one of his younger brothers, Garnos, has a problem with his spine. His mother, Anahit, has to stay at home to look after Garnos, and his father has struggled to find work.



**ABOVE:** Khoren and his brothers with the sheep that have helped to transform their lives, thanks to you. Left to Right: Khoren with his younger brother Gor in his arms, Avetis, 14, Gevorg, 10, and the boys' mother, Anahit. © 2016 World Vision



Thanks to you, vulnerable families like Khoren's have been supported through sheep-rearing. They were given one sheep to begin with, alongside training, and now have an expanding farm with three sheep and three lambs.

After school, the children often run straight home and out into the barn to see how their animals are doing, particularly the lambs. "This is our great achievement. We take care of the sheep together and now we have three more lambs," says Khoren.

Anahit and her husband can now provide for their children's needs and give them the chance of a more hopeful future.

*"We will sell the lambs when they grow up and provide my children with everything. When we enlarge our farm, we can stand on our feet firmly and strongly," says Anahit.*





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

We've been working with the community of Sisian since **2003**. Back then, children faced many problems: they weren't aware of their rights; there was a lack of community spirit; and there were few opportunities after leaving school.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Children's groups have taught children about protecting themselves and standing up for their rights, as well as life-skills; teachers have received training, allowing more children to reach their full potential; and parents have learned how to earn more money by selling more varied produce, so they can give their children the things they need to do well in life.

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 three to four years. We plan to leave in **2019**, 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.

2003

We arrived

2016

2019

We plan  
to leave



# 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.

- \* **3** health centres are giving mothers advice on how to feed their children the best food, to help keep them healthy.
- \* We're teaching **134** families parenting skills, so that they understand their children's rights and how to keep them safe.
- \* Children's camps helped **35** children learn and have fun with their friends by playing sports and games.
- \* We're helping **60** families to earn a better living for their children by growing and selling raspberries and plums.
- \* Young adults took part in a social media event, where they were able to listen to talks on issues that matter to young people, mix with others their age and share ideas together.
- \* Summer camps are bringing **340** children together to learn life skills, take part in competitions and play games.
- \* We've built a science lab, which is helping older children to learn new skills and create work opportunities for them.
- \* We've helped older children start a youth parliament where they are learning about other European cultures and how to hold debates.

*"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](http://www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship).

See back cover for more details.



**TOP LEFT:** A three-day camp has helped children learn about teamwork and resolving conflict as well as other important life skills. "I realised that if the team sets a goal, it can be reached by all our efforts. I gained new skills that I'll use in my daily life and support my peers," says Rafayel. **BOTTOM LEFT:** This playground has new swings, thanks to you. "See how I turn the wheels," says Ani, 5. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** 120 mums joined in "the first 1,000 days of maternity and child care" event. "It is important to know which kind of food is better to give to kids to grow up healthy," says Mary, 23.



## 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.

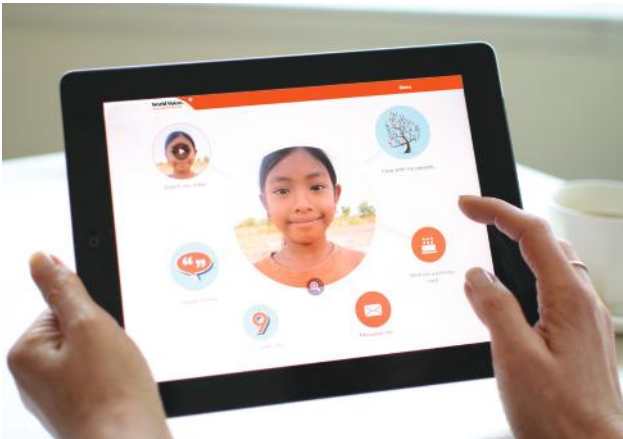
To find out more about this way of giving, please call our Legacy team on

**01908 84 10 60** or email [legacies@worldvision.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

#WorldVisionUK



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