



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Stepanavan.*

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.

Now Vahan and his friends have a safe place to play.

Vahan, 14, lives with his parents, four brothers and sisters, his grandmother and great-grandmother in Stepanavan, Armenia. He helps out with chores like gardening.

Like children everywhere, Vahan and his friends have to amuse themselves after school. In the past they would often end up playing games outside on the street. Vahan's parents were worried about his behaviour. He often looked withdrawn and sometimes refused to answer when they asked him a question.

Springtime was the only real sanctuary for Vahan and his friends. They would spend time picking snowdrops from the rolling hills that surround his village. He would often sit for hours, dreaming of what it might be like to have other things to play with or a camera to take pictures of the sky above his village.

Now, thanks to you, Vahan and his friends have a safe place to play all year round: the children's club in their village. Most Fridays, he and his friends go to learn life skills and play sports and games with proper equipment.



LEFT: At the children's club in his village, Vahan, 14, can play safely, learn new skills and mix with his friends, free from the danger of playing on the street. All thanks to you. **RIGHT:** Vahan is so happy now he's learning to read and write. This page and opposite: © 2015 Marusya Balayan / World Vision

“I play joyful games and gain new knowledge here,” says Vahan.





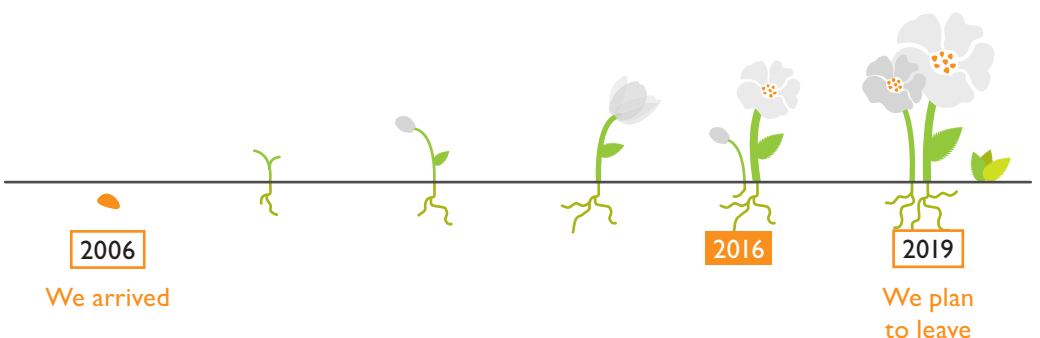
We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Stepanavan since **2006**. Back then, children faced many problems: low household incomes; ill health; vulnerability; a lack of knowledge about their rights; and poor schools.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Kids' clubs are teaching children how to protect themselves so they are less frightened and can stand up for their rights; improved healthcare services have enabled children to grow up free from the fear of illness; and families are growing and selling more crops — the extra income provides the essentials for their children.

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.



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.

- * **14** nurseries and primary schools now have better-trained teachers.
- * **5** children's clubs give children a safe place to play.
- * Parents have learned about their children's rights, and children have learned how to stay safe.
- * **800** children came together at summer camps to play and learn new skills.
- * Parents of children with disabilities now have help to give them more opportunities.
- * **6** health centres have rebuilt mother-and-baby rooms.
- * **279** women learned how to keep themselves and their children healthy.
- * **85** farmers now grow better crops to provide for their families.

"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: David is only eighteen months old. He loves playing with his mum and, here, his grandma. He's a happy boy, thanks to you. © 2015 Nune Hayrapetyan / World Vision. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Lilia and her sons show off the seedlings they're growing in recycled soft drinks bottles. Their newfound skills are all thanks to you. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Despite his sight and hearing problems, Artashes is a positive and happy child, who clearly loves his mum! Thanks to your help he's making great progress. © 2015 Nune Hayrapetyan / World Vision



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

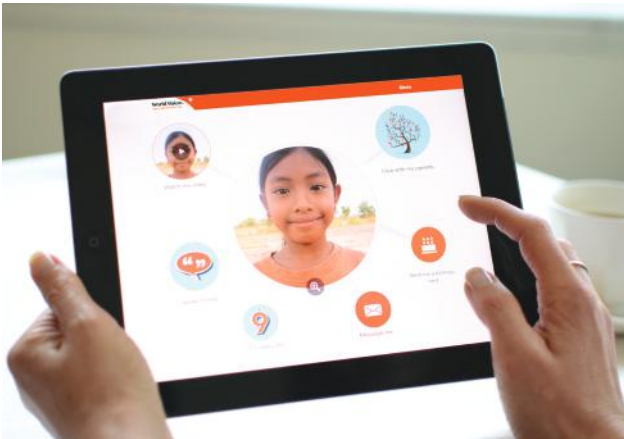
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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.

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