

## HIGHLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S FUND



Every day, thousands of Compassion centers across the developing world provide more than 1.7 million children with nutritious meals, medical checkups and educational support. Most importantly, we show them the love and care they need to believe in themselves and in a brighter future. Your generous support of the Highly Vulnerable Children's (HVC) Fund allows us to do even more for children living in poverty. It means we can meet specific and extraordinary needs so that every Compassion child is empowered to break the chains of extreme poverty for good.

## HONDURAN MOTHER IS GRATEFUL FOR COMPASSION'S HELP

Living in poverty in Honduras, 13-year-old Oscar and his 10-year-old brother, Pedro\*, were in desperate need of help. They attended Compassion's program at their local church, where they received the many benefits of sponsorship, but their home life exposed them to significant dangers.

After years of struggling to make ends meet, their mother, 30-year-old Carmen\*, turned to prostitution in order to feed her six children and keep a roof over their heads. The father of her first four children was murdered, and Oscar and Pedro's father had abandoned them.

Carmen was desperate and felt she had no choice. "I had to figure out how to feed six children on my own," she says. "Job opportunities were scarce and I had no support. I regret it terribly now."

Sensing the family's desperation, staff members at Oscar and Pedro's Compassion child development center stepped in to help. "We witnessed how Carmen was struggling, and she shared with us the drastic decisions she made to feed her children," says the center's director. "We

immediately accessed Compassion's Highly Vulnerable Children's Fund to provide additional assistance to the family. This support made it possible for Carmen to turn her life around and leave prostitution for good.

Compassion's Highly Vulnerable Children's Fund allowed the center to provide Carmen with groceries, repairs to their roof, a stove, and beds for her children so they would not all have to sleep in one bed. Meanwhile, Carmen was learning new skills at the center so she could start her own business selling snacks, orange juice and filtered drinking water. The family finally felt safe.

Carmen was overwhelmed. "God answered my prayers. Words cannot express how blessed I feel to receive help from the fund. Now my children never miss school, and there is always food on the table. I will be forever grateful."

No longer worrying about where their next meal will come from or whether their mother will make it home at the end of the day, Oscar and Pedro can now focus on their studies and lessons at the child development center. "I love to see how they

are becoming men of God," says Carmen happily. "Their artwork is beautiful and they are even teaching Christian songs to their brothers."

Oscar recently shared a powerful lesson he learned at the Compassion center: "We listened to a Bible story about the rich man and Lazarus," he says. "It made me realize that no matter what our situation, God will redeem us."

Carmen continues to find new ways to provide for her family. As well as running her own business, she is working part-time as a cleaning lady. No matter what the future holds, she knows that God loves her and that Compassion will be with her every step of the way.



\*Names have been changed to protect privacy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Worldwide, 79 percent of the richest children under the age of 5 have their births registered but only 51 percent of the poorest enjoy the right to an official identity. And while 80 percent of children living in cities are registered, this is true for only 51 percent of those living in the countryside.

UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2015: Executive Summary (SOWC)



## WHY YOUR GIFTS MATTER

## MAKING PROGRESS



More than  
**700 cases**

of abuse and neglect were identified in the last six months, resulting in emergency shelter for children in need of protection.



**75 cases**

were handled in the last six months where legal assistance was provided and gave children safety and a voice.



**\$2.2 million**

went to support HVC children and their needs in the past six months.

AS REPORTED DEC. 31 2015

When we think of home we most likely envision it as a safe place for us and for children. Sadly, that image is not always the case. For some children home is a place of fear, abuse, neglect or other forms of suffering. Without help, children in such situations may never fully recover.

That's why Compassion's Highly Vulnerable Children Fund exists — to identify and meet the needs of children who find themselves in at-risk situations. Because of your generous support, we can quickly intervene in difficult situations that pose a threat to a child's well-being. If orphan care, income support, counseling or legal assistance are needed, we can offer it and in the process show God's love. Thank you for helping heal the lives of vulnerable children.

**"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life."**

PSALM 138:7 (NIV)

Your generosity changes lives and opens up a brighter future for children living in poverty. Thank you for partnering with Compassion. If you have any questions I would be honored to connect with you.

