



compassion  
**explorer**



**A  
Home  
Run**

**FOR KIDS IN THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**Make a  
picture frame  
FOR YOUR  
SPONSORED CHILD!**



**Kaitlin's wish  
BRINGS CLEAN  
WATER TO KENYA**



# → What's Inside?

Illustration by Josh Lewis



## Hi, Compassion Explorers!

*Are you enjoying your summer? An Explorer summer is about sports, having fun, and helping others! Come with me to check it out.*



## A Wellspring of Giving

📍 **UGANDA**

Read how a girl with cancer gave her "wish" to kids in Uganda.

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## About the Cover

This sponsored boy from the Dominican Republic is having fun with his new baseball equipment.

## Food Around the World

📍 **INDIA & RWANDA**

Check out what kids in India and Rwanda eat.

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Illustration by Luke Flowers



## Welcome to My World!

📍 **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Read about how sponsored kids got the equipment they needed to play baseball.

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## Compassionate Kids



### Gifts That Keep on Giving

The Richards family from Illinois found the true meaning of giving when they started planning to visit their sponsored children in Guatemala.

The family asked friends to give for their trip and held a spaghetti dinner at their church to raise money. The giving poured in, and the family received enough money to go on their trip!

When the Richards got to Guatemala, they spent a week of fun seeing Compassion centers and visiting their sponsored children. Because of their help, their sponsored children attend school, go to Compassion's center to learn about Jesus, and have medicine and food.

When the family left for home, it was sad to say goodbye to their sponsored children, but they took home many great memories, gifts and photographs.

**"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." – Luke 6:38**



#### **GREG, DAD**

Greg had fun sliding with the kids!



#### **TAMMY, MOM**

One child's family made a traditional Guatemalan dress for Tammy!



#### **BETHANY, AGE 15**

"One of the most humbling and amazing things for me was when my little girl took her own watch off

her hand and gave it to me. I knew that she might never have another watch and it really touched me."

#### **EMILY, AGE 10**

"My favorite thing was meeting the kids and just getting to be with them and learning more things that letters can't talk about."





WELCOME TO MY WORLD!

# A Home Run

FOR KIDS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC





# Read how kids in the Dominican Republic got the equipment they needed to play ball.

The Dominican Republic is a beautiful island in the Caribbean. It is famous for its white sand beaches and clear-blue water. Many people vacation here. They play on the beaches, stay in fancy hotels, and shop for expensive jewelry.

But the poorest kids in the Dominican Republic haven't even been to the beach. They live in houses made of rusted tin and scrapped wood. Their dusty neighborhoods are littered with trash, and they have a hard time finding clean places to play. And they love to play!

Baseball is their favorite sport, but they can't afford bats and mitts. So they make mitts out of milk cartons and use sticks for bats.

This is how Compassion-assisted kids used to play in the poor neighborhood of Batey Aleman (Bah-TAY Ahll-ey-MAHN). But last fall the kids were given a dream gift!

They received a new baseball field, new balls, bats, mitts and uniforms — and Albert Pujols, one of the best baseball players in the world, came to give them some pointers!

➤ **TURN PAGE FOR MORE**



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

<b>CAPITAL CITY</b>	Santo Domingo
<b>POPULATION</b>	9,956,648
<b>RELIGIONS</b>	Roman Catholic 95%, other 5%
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	Spanish
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Dominican peso







Take Me Out to the Ball Game ...

A church in Batey Aleman teamed up with the Pujols Family Foundation to bring the first big day of fun to these Compassion-sponsored kids.

Excitedly, the boys took off their torn clothes and put on their crisp new uniforms. They had a parade, prayed, then walked onto their clean new field to play ball!



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

— Jeremiah 29:11



## DOMINICANS CAN HIT IT out of the park!

- Cuban immigrants brought baseball to the Dominican Republic in the mid-1860s. It is most popular in the southeast where there are sugar plantations called *bateys*.
- Today, besides Americans, Dominicans make up the most players in the U.S. major and minor baseball leagues.
- Many top players in baseball, like Pedro Martínez, Albert Pujols, and Robinson Canó, came from this part of the country.



Teaming Up to Pray



Albert Pujols gives fielding pointers.



Most kids use sticks for bats and have no field to play in.



# A Shot at Good Health

Compassion's child development centers provide medical care for kids who need it the most. Kids in Burkina Faso, West Africa, needed meningitis immunizations, so Compassion set up clinics for the kids and vaccinated them.

## What is meningitis?

Meningitis is a disease passed through the air that causes high fevers and swelling in the tissues that surround the brain and spinal cord.

Children who are already malnourished and sick are most at risk of dying if they get meningitis, so it is important that they receive vaccinations. Meningitis is not usually a problem in the United States because most kids are vaccinated against it.





## Crafts, Recipes and Projects



### "Fruit of the Spirit" Cookie Pizzas

Complete the activities on page 15, then see how many "fruits of the Spirit" you can remember while you prepare this "pizza"!

#### Ingredients

- 1 large cookie, cooled (use your favorite dough recipe to make the cookie)
- 6-8 oz. low-fat yogurt
- ½ c. chopped fruit such as bananas or berries

#### Directions

- ① Place a paper towel in a colander nested in a bowl. Dump the yogurt into it; place it in the fridge for about 15-30 minutes, then remove it to spread on the cookie.
- ② Spread the yogurt "pizza sauce" on the cookie.
- ③ Sprinkle your favorite fruits on top and enjoy!

Serves 4

#### Ingredients

- 1 c. plain yogurt
- 1 mango peeled, seeded and chopped, or 1 c. frozen mango pieces
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- 3 c. cold water

#### Directions

Working with your mom or dad, place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.



If you were in India, you would sit on cushions on the floor at mealtime. You also wouldn't use forks or spoons, but would scoop up your food with your hands or with pieces of *roti* (RO-tee), an Indian flatbread. Since food is spicy, Indians eat yogurt dishes to help cool down the heat.



## Fruity Fun Bookmarks

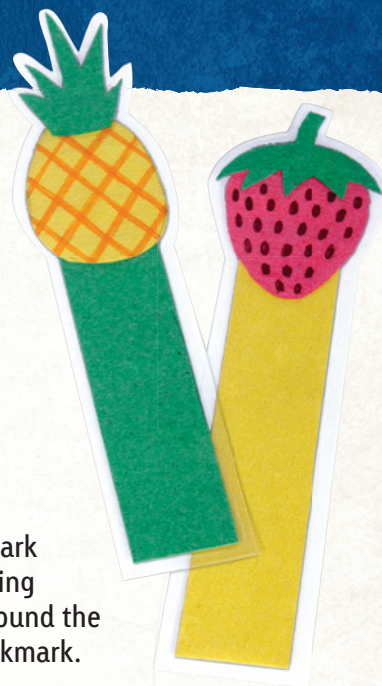
Have you ever shared a piece of fruit from your school lunch with a friend? You can't share a real piece of fruit with your sponsored child, but you can share a fun bookmark with him or her. Here's how!

### Supplies

- colored construction paper
- pencil
- safety scissors
- one laminating sheet or clear contact paper
- colored markers

### Instructions

- 1 Cut out a 6" x 1" rectangle from a sheet of construction paper. This is the base of your bookmark.
- 2 Use another sheet of paper to draw and cut out a 2" x 2" fruit shape.
- 3 Glue the two pieces together and use markers to decorate the bookmark.
- 4 Cover the bookmark with the laminating sheet and cut around the shape of the bookmark.
- 5 Send this to your sponsored child.



## One-of-a-Kind Photo Frame

Every child, including you, is "one-of-a-kind" and loved by God!



### Supplies

- 3" x 5" photo of yourself or your family
- ruler and pencil
- safety scissors
- glue stick
- 4" x 6" piece of white construction paper
- markers

### Instructions

- 1 Glue your picture to the center of your paper. Let dry.
- 2 Cut around the edges so that it looks like a picture frame.
- 3 Decorate your frame.
- 4 Mail your frame to your sponsored child along with the letter attached to this magazine.



# A Wellspring of Giving

→ BY AMBER VAN SCHOONEVELD



Millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water because they don't have clean water near their homes.



# A girl with brain cancer used her special wish to bring clean water to Uganda.



Kaitlin

## If you could have one wish, what would it be?

she could ask for anything she wanted as a special present.

Kaitlin thought about going on a trip with her family or getting a horse. But she decided that she didn't want something for herself. She decided to give it all away!

"It didn't seem right to spend all the money on myself, and I wanted something more, more than myself. I just didn't want stuff," said Kaitlin.

Instead, Kaitlin used her wish to bring clean water to children in Uganda. Compassion is building 21 wells across Uganda to give kids safe, clean water to drink. Kaitlin's wish will build one of these wells so that hundreds of kids have water.

People heard about Kaitlin's wish and started to give too. Her school held a bottle drive, and they raised enough money to build another well! A company had a barbecue and received money to pay for one more well.

So many people were inspired that enough money has been collected to build all 21 wells! Now these kids will have water close to their homes to keep them healthy.

Sadly, Kaitlin passed away this May. Kaitlin said that she was thankful that she could give and wanted to tell other kids, "Don't take any day for granted."

When you get sick, you want someone to take care of you — make you soup, tuck you into bed, and help you feel better. But when Kaitlin got sick, she decided she wanted to help other kids.

Kaitlin had brain cancer. She had two surgeries and had chemotherapy to try to treat her cancer. She felt tired and sick a lot of the time. When the Children's Wish Foundation heard about Kaitlin, they decided to give her one "wish" —

## UGANDA



Compassion is building 21 wells across Uganda to give kids safe, clean water.



Here's one of the wells that Kaitlin helped fund. Now these kids have clean water close to their homes!



God can do so much through just one person! What do you think He might want to do through you today and as you get older?



# Food Around the World

→ BY BRANDY CAMPBELL

What is your favorite snack? Peanut butter and jelly? Grapes? Chocolate chip cookies? Children around the world have probably never even heard of your favorite foods. Look at how your food compares with what children in Rwanda and India eat.

## Breakfast United States



cereal with milk and fruit, toast with butter and jam, and orange juice

## Lunch



ham and cheese sandwich, carrot sticks, apple and juice

## Snack



granola and yogurt

## India



*idli* (ID-lee) or *appam*, a pancake made from rice and lentils, served with *sambar* (curry paste) or sugar and chai (cheye), a black tea with spices and sometimes milk



rice and tomato *rasam* (a southern Indian soup), fish curry and water



bread and chai

## Rwanda



tea, sometimes with milk



potatoes with vegetables and water



half a banana and tea



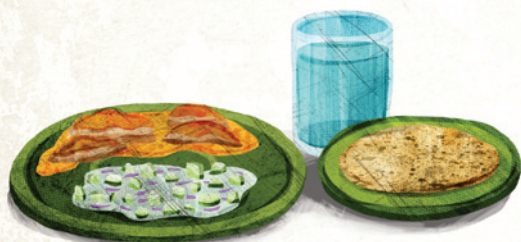


Most people in Rwanda cannot afford to eat meat. When they do, it is usually goat.

## Dinner



spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread with butter, and milk



*paratha* (pah-RA-tah), an Indian flatbread similar to tortillas, chicken curry with potatoes, cucumber *pachadi* (cucumber salad with yogurt sauce) and water



*isombe* (e-SOM-bay), a vegetarian stew with mashed cassava leaves (leafy greens), eggplant, onions and peppers, cooked in a sauce made of palm oil, and water

# Going Bananas

How did that banana get to your kitchen? Do we have a journey for you!



- 1 Your banana started out on a tree in Ecuador or another country in Latin America. For 18 months it grew from a little bud to a big bunch of green bananas. Each stalk of that banana tree will have about 10 bunches — and each bunch has about 12 bananas. That means each branch has 120 bananas!

- 2 The farmer has to take good care of those bananas while they grow. He covers them in big plastic sheets to protect them from weather and animals.



- 3 When the bananas are ready (but still green), the farmer cuts them off with a big knife called a machete. He puts them in boxes, and then he starts growing his next batch of bananas.

- 4 After the bananas are boxed up, the farmer sends them off in big refrigerated ships to a factory. At the factory, the bananas sit for a week to get riper. They're kept in a special room where the temperature is just right — not too hot, and not too cold.



- 5 Next, your banana gets loaded onto a big truck and heads off to the grocery store, where your mom or dad buys it. It's usually still a little green, though, so you want to wait for it to get yellow and sweet.

- 6 What a long journey it took for that banana to get to you. But it's worth it, to have such a yummy, healthy snack!





## At Home



Make greeting cards to take to children in hospitals.



Put a penny, dime or quarter into a jar every time you go to the refrigerator then donate the money to give food to the poor.



Collect books and toys to donate to organizations that need them.

Have a toy garage sale to raise money for kids who don't have toys.



# Help Change the World

## RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!

## At Church

→ BY LORIE W. BARNES AND AMBER VAN SCHOONEVELD

Collect markers, stickers and construction paper, or soap, toothbrushes and other supplies, and make kits to send on mission trips for children.



## In Your Neighborhood

Help out an elderly neighbor with yard work this summer.



Collect used tennis shoes and find a running shoe store in your community that could help send those shoes to poor areas around the world.



Volunteer to read to younger children in Sunday school or at Vacation Bible School.

Put on a skit for your church group about mosquito nets and ask them to donate to help fight malaria in Africa.



Have a lemonade stand. Beside your lemonade, have two pitchers — one with muddy water and one with clean water. Tell people you're raising money to give kids clean water.





## What Does God Say About ...

# Growing?

BY LORIE W. BARNES

Compassion Explorers, let's discover what God says in His Map for Life: the Bible.

Compassion Explorers need to eat good fruit to be healthy. God also wants Explorers to have lots of "fruits of the Spirit" in their lives. This is the evidence of God's work through the Holy Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23 to discover God's healthy "fruits of the Spirit" for your life.

- 1 How many different kinds of "fruits of the Spirit" did you discover? Try to say them all.
- 2 Pretend your life and actions are like a fruit tree. Which "fruits of the Spirit" do you think are growing on your tree when you are doing these things?
  - playing with your friends
  - writing to your sponsored Compassion child
  - helping your parents around the house
- 3 How can Jesus help you grow better fruit?

Draw one "fruit of the Spirit" you think God wants to grow in you this summer.



## PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving me and helping me to grow in healthy ways. You care about me and want me to grow to have lots of juicy "fruits of the Spirit" in my life. Please be with all the poor kids around the world who are trying to grow up to be healthy kids, too. I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ who is sick. Help \_\_\_\_\_ to trust You and have the fruit of "faithfulness."

In Your name,

Amen.



## Just for Grins and Giggles



Compassion-sponsored Maasai kids in southwestern Kenya live near the Masai Mara Nature Reserve. Every year from July to October thousands of zebra, wildebeest and other animals migrate here from the Serengeti in Tanzania.

### Can you write a caption for this picture?

Send it to: Compassion International,  
 Attn: *Compassion Explorer Magazine*  
 Editor, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado  
 Springs, CO 80921. Or email it to  
 compassionkids@us.ci.org.

Remember this picture from the Winter 2011 issue of *Compassion Explorer Magazine*? Here are some of your great captions!

**Um ... this is cold!**

Kenna, 8  
 Portland, Ore.

**Hey, did someone  
 lose a hand,  
 because I found  
 an extra one.**

Andie, 11  
 Everest, Kan.

**Help! There are all  
 these not-so-germy  
 hands around me!**

Hollyann, 9, and Mae, 7  
 Efland, N.C.

**Hurry up, I have some  
 water balloons!**

Inuara, 8  
 Grand Rapids, Minn.

**Group hug!**

Dylan, 11  
 Fort Collins, Colo.



Parents, check out our  
 Bible for kids at  
**COMPASSION.COM/KIDSBIBLE**