

compassion
explorer®

**A
Colorful
Life** 

**KIDS IN POVERTY FIND FUN,
HOPE AND HEALING THROUGH ART.**

Game
FIND YOUR
INNER ARTIST.

Project
MAKE YOUR OWN
PUFFY PAINT!

What's Inside?

Hi, Compassion Explorers!

Do you like to make arts and crafts? Art can help children with difficult lives express feelings, build skills for future jobs, and have fun! In this issue, see how different types of art add color to kids' lives.

DID YOU SAY ARTVARK?

Illustrations by Luke Flowers

Departments

Compassionate Kids **PAGE 3**

What Does God Say About ... ? **PAGE 7**

Crafts, Recipes and Projects **PAGE 8**

Just for Grins and Giggles **PAGE 16**

ABOUT THE COVER

Hector loves painting at his Compassion center.



Works of Heart

A sponsored boy in Mexico gets the chance to express his artistic talent.

PAGE 4

The Art of Survival

See how creative skills can help kids earn money as adults.

PAGE 12



Activity

Find your inner artist with this visual quiz! **PAGE 14**

Compassionate Kids

Stand Against Malaria

These Maryland kids raised money to fight malaria.

Home-schooled students team up to help protect kids in need.

Worldwide, a child dies of a mosquito bite every minute. That sad fact inspired a group of home-schooled students in Maryland to take action.

To brothers Ben, 10, Alex, 8, and Christopher, 4, mosquito bites are annoying but not usually very dangerous. But they learned that in many countries, mosquitoes can give people a disease called malaria by biting them at night. "It's one of those conditions that people in poverty face," says Alex. That's because poor families can't afford bed nets, bug spray or medicine to prevent or treat the sickness.

The brothers care about their family's three sponsored children, who live in Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Tanzania — all countries affected by malaria. Each night, the brothers thank God for the blessings in their lives and pray that Yacouba, Ishak and Hilari would have the same blessings. Having recently read a book called *The Lemonade War*, Christopher, Alex and Ben got together with other caring home-schooled students to plan a friendly competition between boys and girls to

fund bed nets that protect kids from mosquitoes at night. The boys set up a lemonade stand at one library in their town, while the girls ran a stand at another library. "One side of the table was for people to get lemonade, and on the other side we had posters and quiz questions about malaria," Ben says. Correct answers to the questions earned customers Compassion "Bite Back" stickers.

Altogether, the kids raised more than \$300 for Compassion to get nets to children in need. The boys raised more than the girls, but the real winners of the lemonade war were the children who will receive bed nets to keep away mosquitoes at night.



From left, Charis, Mercy, Olivia and Katey



From left, Christopher, Alex and Ben



Read about more compassionate kids at compassion.com/explorermagazine/

compassion explorer

Compassion Explorer Magazine is published four times per year by Compassion International. © Compassion International 2016. All rights reserved. Compassion and Compassion International are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Another version used is the NIRV, the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION®. Copyright © 1996, 1998 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica.

MASS SEGMENTS DIRECTOR
Stacey Baxter

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Leanna Summers

MANAGING EDITOR
Willow Welter

PRINT PRODUCTION
Michelle Dana

WRITERS AND CONTRIBUTORS
Cesiah Magaña, Willow Welter

EDITING AND PROOFREADING
Debbly Weaver

ART DIRECTOR
Mark Kyle

DESIGNER
Callie Wilburn

ILLUSTRATOR
Luke Flowers

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Provashish Dutta, Michael and Karyn Hobson, Ryan Johnson, Serge Ismael Ouedraogo, Nadia Soberanis, Callie Wilburn

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Email us at compassionkids@compassion.com or write to Compassion International, Attn: Compassion Explorer Magazine Editor, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

WELCOME TO MY WORLD!

Works of Heart

Making art can be a fun, healthy way to express feelings. See how a 12-year-old living in a poor area of Mexico uses his talents to create beauty amid the ugliness of poverty.



▶ SAD BEGINNINGS

Hector, in blue, and his brother eat a meal at home with their grandma and aunt. When Hector was little, his dad left their family. His mom struggled to raise him and his brother, so they went to live with their grandma and aunt in a happier home. But at school, Hector was bullied by kids who said he seemed different.



Hector's Compassion center provides him with nutritious meals.

▲ A SAFE PLACE

Thankfully, Hector had a place where he didn't have to worry about bullies — his Compassion center. Since his family doesn't make enough money to meet his needs, he was registered in Compassion's program to receive health checkups, food, clean water (stored in the black tanks on the roof in the photo), Bible lessons and tutoring. He also began talking about his feelings with a psychologist at the center.



EXPLORE ONLINE!

See more artwork by sponsored children and watch a video about Hector at compassion.com/exploreonline/



▲ TOOLS FOR TALENT

With the art supplies and help of teachers at his church-run Compassion center, Hector has built his God-given talents. He is inspired when he sees colors all around him and enjoys using vibrant colors in his own artwork.



▲ ARTISTIC AWARD

Standing in front of his family's concrete home, Hector holds a painting he created at his Compassion center. Last year, Hector traveled from his city of Veracruz to the National Palace in Mexico City to accept an award he won for one of his paintings, which is hanging in a government building!



▲ POWER OF BEAUTY

Although he felt a lot of sadness when he was younger, Hector knows he has the support of Jesus, his family, adults at his Compassion center and his sponsor, Henry, to help him. Now colors fill his life with beauty and joy. "I sometimes feel that what is beautiful must be even more powerful than sadness," he says.

→ What Does God Say About ...

Art?

Exodus 35 describes how God's people began building the tabernacle - a massive tent and courtyard where the Israelites could gather to worship the Lord.

God had given Moses a detailed list of how to build the tabernacle and what items must go inside. After Moses passed along the instructions to the Israelites, they served God by giving whatever they had — metals, jewelry, fabric, lamp oil — to help make the tabernacle.

But building the tabernacle would require more than just stuff — it would also take artistic skills. So God gave wisdom and skills to a man named Bezalel "to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts" (Exodus 35:32-33). God called on another skilled man, Oholiab, to help and to teach others how to embroider, design and weave.

This is good news for kids who don't have a lot of money or possessions. They can serve God with their skills and talents.

- What are some ways you can use your talents or skills to make God happy?
- Did you know that you are God's artwork? Memorize Isaiah 64:8: "Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."
- Turn to page 14 for a fun quiz about finding your inner artist.



PRAYER

DEAR JESUS,

Thank You for the creativity You give people like me and sponsored children around the world. Please help me to use my gifts to serve others in Your name. Please give kids in poverty the tools they need to be creative.

IN YOUR NAME, AMEN.



These recipes are similar to ones made in Mexico, where Hector, the artist on page 4, lives. Before you eat your meal and dessert, pray for kids in impoverished areas of Mexico whose families can't afford enough food.



Sponsored teen Marilyn serves flan she made in a cooking class at her Compassion center.

FLAN (FLAHN)

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 c. sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 [12-oz.] can evaporated milk
- 1 [14-oz.] can sweetened condensed milk
- vanilla beans [optional]

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 325°F. Add sugar to a heavy-duty saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring continuously 4-6 minutes or until melted into a golden-brown caramel. Quickly pour into a deep pie dish before caramel sets, swirling it around to coat the bottom and sides.
- 2 Mix together the evaporated milk, condensed milk, eggs and vanilla in a medium bowl. Pour mixture into the pie dish, and place it in a large roasting pan. Fill the roasting pan with about 1 inch of warm water.
- 3 Bake 45-50 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove flan from the roasting pan and cool. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.
- 4 To serve, run a spatula around the edge of the pie dish. Put a large serving plate upside down over the flan and flip it all over to release the flan onto the plate. Garnish with vanilla beans if desired.

SPINACH MUSHROOM QUESADILLAS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp. cooking oil
- 1/2 red onion, chopped
- 8 oz. white button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 6 oz. baby spinach, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- 2 c. shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 4 medium whole-wheat tortillas
- salsa

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and cook 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add mushrooms and cook, stirring a few times, about 6 minutes or until they start to turn golden. Add spinach and cook until it's wilted, about 3 minutes. Season with salt, pepper and lime juice. Remove from heat.
 - 2 Divide 1 c. of cheese among all 4 tortillas, covering half of each one. Spoon one-fourth of the spinach-mushroom filling
- over the cheese on each tortilla. Divide the remaining cheese over the filling in each tortilla. Fold the empty tortilla halves over the full halves.
- 3 Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Place 1 or 2 quesadillas in the pan, cook about 3 minutes, then flip with a spatula and cook a few minutes more. Let the quesadillas cool for a few minutes before slicing each into three pieces with a pizza cutter or sharp knife. Serve with salsa.



PUFF IT UP



Imagine if your family couldn't afford art supplies like paper, colored pencils or paint. With supplies at their Compassion centers, children can express themselves and build skills while making colorful art like the kind you're about to make!

SUPPLIES

- 1 c. flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 c. water
- food coloring
- 4 squeeze bottles (found at craft stores)*
- cardboard or paper with a waxy finish (such as poster board or paper plates)

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Whisk together the flour, salt and water in a medium bowl until the mixture is a smooth batter with no lumps.
- 2 Divide the batter among 4 cups or small bowls. Add 1-2 drops of a different food coloring to each and mix.
- 3 Spoon each color of the batter into a squeeze bottle.
- 4 Now it's time to make art! Squeeze your puffy paint onto the paper plates or cardboard to create your masterpiece. You could draw a picture or just make designs. The thicker you squeeze it, the puffier it will be.
- 5 Place your artwork in a microwave and heat on high about 30 seconds. Remove and let cool before admiring and hanging up your creation!

* Instead of squeeze bottles, you can use 4 plastic baggies with a corner cut off each, like a piping bag used for icing cakes. Add the mixture, then seal the top of the bag with a rubber band and/or tape to prevent leaks.



These girls in Brazil are working on a craft at their Compassion center.



More crafts at compassion.com/explorermagazine!

CRAYON COMEBACK



To save what little money they have, families in poverty are careful not to waste. Instead of throwing out crayon stubs that are too short to color with, turn them into new crayons in fun shapes and swirly colors.

SUPPLIES

- crayon stubs of many colors
- 1 or more molds (such as a mini-muffin pan, flexible ice cube tray or candy mold)
- cookie sheet

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Heat oven to 175°F. Peel paper off crayons and break the crayon stubs into even smaller pieces if possible so they melt better.

- 2 Slightly overfill each mold with crayon pieces of 2 or 3 colors.
- 3 Place the molds on a cookie sheet and bake 30 minutes or until the wax is melted. Remove from oven and let sit at least 1 hour, until the bottoms of the molds are completely cool. To speed up the process, let the molds sit about 15 minutes before transferring them to a freezer and checking to see if the bottoms are cool after about 30 minutes.
- 4 Once they're cool and firm, push each crayon up and out of the mold. You're ready to color!



Children color pictures at their Compassion center in Togo.

The Art of Survival

Sometimes, making art is about more than expression and fun – it's about earning income.

► In developing countries, many people make arts and crafts to sell in marketplaces to earn money for food, medicine and other needs. Compassion's church partners teach artistic skills to sponsored kids so they can earn money when they grow up. And children's caregivers in Compassion's Child Survival Program learn similar skills to support their families.



INDONESIA

This Indonesian mom sells a craft she learned to make through Compassion's Child Survival Program, which helps babies and their caregivers. She made pretty flowers out of colorful drinking straws.



BURKINA FASO

Kids like this girl in Burkina Faso learn to make dresses and baby clothes at their Compassion center, which has sewing machines for them to use. Many families in poverty cannot afford sewing machines.



INDIA

These moms in eastern India learn embroidery skills so they can earn money for their families. They're part of the Child Survival Program.



BOLIVIA

A boy cooks food to sell at a fair hosted by his Compassion center in Bolivia. As an adult, he could choose to be a culinary artist — someone who prepares, cooks and presents food.



HAITI

A teenage boy in Haiti ties and braids thread into a bracelet to sell. In Haiti, artisans line sidewalks selling their homemade goods to community members and tourists.



INDIA

Girls sit outside their Compassion center in eastern India weaving a plant fiber called jute into toys. The tutors at their center taught them the valuable weaving skills.

Your Inner Artist

In this issue of *Compassion Explorer*, you met sponsored kids who express themselves and build future skills through different types of art. Now it's your turn! Circle your choices below to find your inner artist!

WOULD YOU RATHER ...

... HAVE A BIRTHDAY PARTY AT A:



POTTERY STUDIO



CONCERT



MOVIE THEATER



RESTAURANT

... GET AN ASSIGNMENT TO:



READ A BOOK



BUILD A VOLCANO



ACT IN A PLAY



MAKE A NEW RECIPE

... ENTER A CONTEST FOR:



SINGING



WRITING



BAKING



PHOTOGRAPHY

... MAKE A MESS WITH:



COSTUMES



PAINTS



FOOD



WRITING SUPPLIES

... READ A BOOK ABOUT:



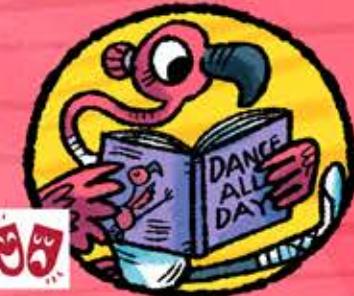
INTERNATIONAL RECIPES



DRAGONS



DRAWING



DANCE

Whichever icon you had the most of is your inner artist below!

VISUAL ARTIST



You're drawn to art you can enjoy with your senses of touch and sight. Build

skills in this area by taking a class in ceramics, drawing, painting or photography.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST



You like to entertain an audience. Consider trying out for a play, taking singing

lessons or joining a dance class to develop your natural talents.

LITERARY ARTIST



Words are your thing, whether you're reading, writing or getting lost

in a good story. Start a book club with your friends or keep a journal of your poems and stories.

CULINARY ARTIST



You love mixing together ingredients to make something delicious.

Get even better in the kitchen by taking a cooking class or making the recipes on pages 8 and 9.

RESULTS



Now look at the choices you made and tally up the icons next to each.



→ Just for Grins and Giggles

Remember this picture from the Winter 2016 *Compassion Explorer Magazine*? These are some of your great captions!



Going to the swimming pool, swimming pool, swimming pool.

Sam, 3
 Omaha, Neb.

Ready to board Titanic ...

Alex, 11
 Rincon, Ga.

He must have a lot of hands!

Andrew, 4
 Boise, Idaho

I can't swim, so I need a lot of floaters!

Kael, 12
 Omaha, Neb.

I have NO idea why you guys keep calling me a pack rat ... it makes no sense!

Reese, 13
 Houston, Texas

Do you think I can swim now?

Eleena, 10
 Omaha, Neb.

More captions at compassion.com/explorermagazine!



KIDS, CAPTION THIS PHOTO FOR THE NEXT *COMPASSION EXPLORER*!

Send your caption to: Compassion International, Attn: *Compassion Explorer Magazine* Editor, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Or email it to compassionkids@compassion.com.

Compassion's Child Survival Program in Indonesia gives food and health care to mothers and toddlers like these.



CALLING ALL EXPLORERS!

For even more adventure, check out our Special Edition free on iPad!

- 1 Parents: Go to App Store.
- 2 Search "Compassion Magazine" and download free app.
- 3 Choose *Compassion Explorer*.

