



## You Gave a Child a Second Chance at Life

**Isaac was born into a world of fear. Delivered prematurely in Liberia during the height of the Ebola epidemic, Isaac was often sick and weak.**

People in the village where Isaac lives say his mother viewed him as a burden. This horrible disease would infect him, she thought. He was not strong enough to survive.

She decided she had to do the unthinkable—she would throw Isaac into the river. At her church, she confided in her pastor. It would be an

act of mercy, she said. An act that would save her baby from the disease.

The pastor warned her against it. He pleaded with her, but to no end. When he went home, he told his sister, Anna, what he'd heard. She knew she had to do something.

As Anna sits outside the clinic with Isaac, now

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5 years old, she recalls what she said to the woman after rushing to her house.

"I said to her, 'This is your son. You can't just throw him away.'"

Anna told the mother that she would take Isaac. She would raise him as her own child. The mother gave her 2-month-old baby to Anna and left the community, never to return.

Raising Isaac wasn't easy. Without breastmilk in his diet, Isaac stayed sickly and small. Sometimes, he was on the verge of death. With worry filling her heart, Anna knew she had to seek help. She took Isaac to the nearest health clinic—one that you help support.

Isaac has made huge steps toward health thanks to the nutritional support provided at the clinic. Anna takes him to the clinic monthly where staff provide food, track his progress and make recommendations about his diet.

Isaac's delayed development also makes him more susceptible to illness. When he's sick, Anna takes him to the clinic where he's always made a full recovery.

Because of his size, there are still things Isaac can't do. School is the activity Isaac looks forward to the most. When asked what he'd like to be when he grows up, Isaac smiles and says, "I want to be a politician." He says he wants to be a leader because they're strong. They use their strength to help people who are weaker.

Anna recognizes that Isaac is a bright child, that his severe malnutrition hasn't affected his brain. She's instilled in Isaac the core belief that he can be a strong leader.

The work taking place at this health clinic in rural Liberia, where Isaac receives loving support, is a testament to the value of life and how your support can make a difference for a child like Isaac. +

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**N**osima had already suffered more than any person should when she fell ill. Two years ago, she was at home in Myanmar celebrating a holiday when she heard shouting from her brother's home next door. She ran outside to see her brother and his two sons being killed by armed men. "Everyone was crying. I never thought that this could happen. Life is very cruel," Nosima said.

That night, under the cover of dark, Nosima and her surviving family members fled. They left with nothing, walking for days to find safety. By the time they reached a refugee camp in Bangladesh, they had spent what little money they had and were starving.

While safe in the camp, life is not easy for Nosima and her family. They don't have money or a steady source of food. They are also afraid that monsoon season will wipe away their flimsy shelter.

Another constant worry is the threat of disease. Crowded, unsanitary conditions allow disease to travel quickly. An illness that could easily be prevented or treated can turn deadly.

Nosima was sick for a month before she got

help. A fever raged in her body, and she had a deep cough.

Thankfully, your support meant a Medical Teams clinic was in the area. Nosima's sister lived closed to the clinic and told her about it. A doctor at the clinic diagnosed Nosima with an infection and gave her antibiotics. Nosima stayed with her sister for a month so she could visit the caring doctors regularly.

Because of you, women like Nosima who have lost everything receive loving and life-saving care every day. +

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## You Healed a Hurting Woman



# With Your Help, Rasha is Empowered to Serve her Neighbors

“Mom, we’re dying—we’re dying, mom!” Rasha recalls her 3-year-old son screaming as bombs rained down near their home.

This was 2014—the year Rasha and her husband decided they had to get their family out of Syria. Now, Rasha’s family lives in an informal settlement in Lebanon.

Settlement life is hard, Rasha says. But she refuses to yield to a broken spirit. Her heart beats for her heartbroken neighbors. Their suffering is hers. To help her neighbors, Rasha works as a Senior Refugee Outreach Volunteer. She educates her neighbors about proper hygiene and health practices and directs them to medical facilities when they’re sick.

Working with Medical Teams, Rasha is the first line of defense against disease outbreaks and the worsening of chronic illnesses. Through her tender



spirit, dedication to service and eagerness to learn, loving care has come to some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

Your support helps ensure that Rasha can continue assisting her neighbors, people who have spent years living in crisis. +



## When You Give Today, Your Gift Will Go Twice As Far

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** John 1:5

When you turn on the TV or step outside your front door, it’s obvious that we live in a broken world. But in the darkness, I see light because of people like you. People who love their neighbors and put their compassion into action. Because you act, the lives of vulnerable people like Isaac, Nosima and Rasha are changed and even saved. That is the power of your generosity.

Can I count on you to act today? Your gift will be doubled—delivering life-saving care to twice as many people. Thank you for being a light that pierces the darkness. You’re changing lives, one precious person at a time.

With gratitude,

Martha Holley Newsome, President & CEO



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