

# SHINE



SPONSOR UPDATE Volume 2 Issue 1



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## Strength for the weakest

As a **cbm** Forgotten Child Sponsor, thank you for helping the most vulnerable children in the world, who face the double disadvantage of poverty and disability. Every month, your generous gifts make a world of difference to children in the poorest places on earth.

In this edition of SHINE, you will meet a new featured child named Esther. Her disability is orthopaedic. She

was born with clubfoot and it has filled her first five years with pain and sadness. Now she has new hope.

**cbm** Forgotten Child Sponsors are helping children with disabilities of every kind – including kids who can't walk. Their bones, muscles and joints may lack the power or ability to run and play. Your support is the strength they need to stand and embrace a better future.

# Changing the world day by day

**Welcome to this edition of SHINE. It is such a pleasure to write to someone who is partnering with us to change the world... one life at a time... one vulnerable, forgotten child at a time.**

And yet, there are half a billion people in our world struggling to survive the double disadvantage of poverty and disability. We need to form partnerships with governments, media and other international development agencies if we're going to improve life for all the forgotten children and families who need our help.

That's why we're excited about our partnership with CIDA (the Canadian government's International Development Agency) in the country of Ethiopia. We're partnering with Habitat for Humanity in

home-building for families with disability in the country of Kenya. We're inviting journalists, like those from BBC, to come and see our wonderful work. (See the BBC's photos on the back page of this update).

And, of course, we are partnering with you. Please accept my humble thanks!

The world is a better place, thanks to you.



Ed Epp  
Executive Director, **cbm** Canada

## Vincent's perfect record



Fred's teacher (right) is proud of the progress Fred is making.

**Vincent has been through so much in his young life. He's watched the little bit of sight he was born with fade. He's lost his mom and dad. He struggles each day for food and health. Then the light of new hope dawned in his life when his sight was restored.**

Even so, the pressures of poverty have brought some very dark days to Vincent's family. Especially with malaria in the rainy season.

The answer has been simple and very effective. "Since you gave us mosquito nets," says Vincent's Aunt Milly, "nobody has been ill!"

Since then, Vincent's attendance record at school has been astonishingly good, with not a day missed in an 87-day term. This is what **cbm** Forgotten Child Sponsorship all about: treating children's disabilities and dealing with the root causes of their poverty too.

## Fred's second surgery

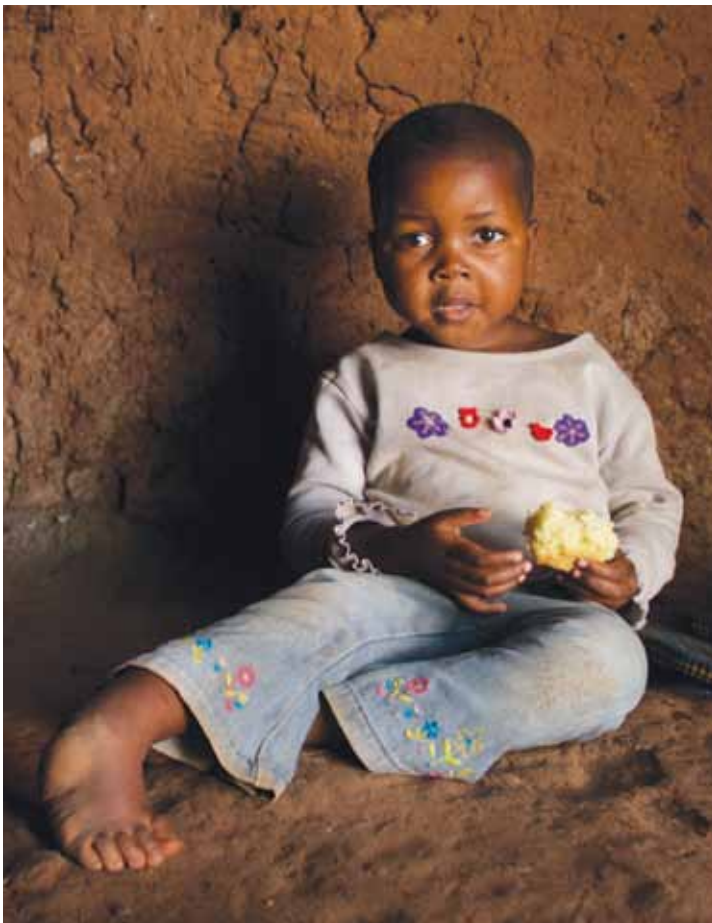
**Fred's first cleft lip surgery certainly changed his outlook on life. No more was his face disfigured. No more did children stare at him in horror. No more was eating such a chore. Our doctors knew, though, that if speech therapy didn't work for Fred he would need a second operation to close the remaining hole at the back of his throat.**

As hard as Fred struggled to correct his speech, it was beyond him. When children began chuckling at his attempts to speak, it brought back lots of very hurtful memories. Fred was becoming shy again. It was clear that Fred needed his second operation. Surgery went very well and we will continue to update you on the progress of his speech.

Only through generosity like yours could Fred have had his operations. Only through your sustained sponsorship can a child like Fred complete an often long and difficult journey out of disability.



## Esther's first steps



**Esther is one of the featured children of cbm Forgotten Child Sponsorship. She has severe clubfoot. Too poor to be treated as a baby, she spent her first five years walking very painfully on her ankle.**

If nothing was done, Esther's leg would wither. Her limp would slowly twist her spine. She would never leave her family plot, living immobile and in great pain and loneliness.

Now she has a new destiny, thanks to **cbm** Forgotten Child Sponsors. The muscles and skin around her ankle have been softened and a cast has prepared her leg for its new shape. The next major step is surgery to rebuild her ankle.

She will need casts and splints for many years, but Esther has taken her first steps towards a better life. Just wait until you see her standing on her straightened, strengthened leg! It could not happen without you.

# The BBC at CCBRT

Many of the children in the **cbm** Forgotten Child Sponsorship program have spent time at a wonderful hospital called CCBRT – Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania. The BBC took these marvelous photographs of the orthopaedic work you generously support.



## More children say, “I CAN!” thanks to cbm and CIDA

Over the next three years, thousands of children will get the chance to learn and to reach their potential thanks to the partnership between **cbm** and CIDA. These are children who too often have spent their early childhood being told they can't. They can't learn. They aren't worth the cost of medical care. They aren't fully human. It's this mix of misunderstanding and fear that keeps children with disabilities from becoming all they can be – even more than their impairment.

Thanks to supporters and sponsors in Canada and thanks to the government of Canada for helping us change lives and community attitudes!

**cbm** Canada  
3844 Stouffville Road, PO Box 800  
Stouffville ON L4A 7Z9 Canada  
1.800.567.2264  
Phone: 905.640.6464 • Fax: 905.640.4332  
Email: [cbm@cbmcanada.org](mailto:cbm@cbmcanada.org)  
[www.cbmcanada.org](http://www.cbmcanada.org)

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