Giving Machines

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

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Water, to me, means health and life.

Imagine carrying 10 buckets of water from a river every day just so you could cook, clean, and bathe. That was reality for Lilian Morales Cabo and her 9-year-old grandson, José, along with the other 603 people in rural Tasba Pain, Nicaragua.

Thanks to Giving Machine donations in 2017, WaterAid gave Tasba Pain their very own aqueduct system to access clean water. "Now I can rest more because I have water in abundance," Lilian said. "My grandson is happier and has more time to study and play with his friends."

You can donate at a Giving Machine today. What you give will help #LightTheWorld.

As a mother, I felt I was completely drowning

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When Jill Hyde's 5-year-old boy began to experience debilitating anxiety, she found help at the Family Support & Treatment center. With the help of therapists, she learned how to respond to her son's anxieties.

"My little guy would sob and shake, and I would fail at attempts to explain away his fears. [They] taught me how to listen with my heart instead of my ears," she said. "Now, I no longer hear about earthquakes. I hear about a little boy who is scared of a big world he cannot predict. My son still worries, but his nightly panic attacks have ceased."

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Nutritious food is important for everything.

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With nothing to fall back on, Natasha and her two kids escaped an abusive relationship. She found work, but housing prices made it impossible for her to be able to afford all of her family's needs. She was soon connected with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, where she was able to get a variety of fruits, vegetables, and canned goods to feed her children.

"Kids don't need expensive toys and entertainment to be happy," Natasha said. "But they do need nutritious food. It's the one thing they can't live without."

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Each one of us carries the solutions to our community's social challenges.

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Stephanie is homeless. As a mother of four, between the ages of 2 through 12, she would walk more than 11 miles every day to pick up her kids from school.

Thanks to Giving Machine donations, A New Leaf bought her a bike with an attaching trailer, making it much easier to transport her children to and from school.

"She is a loving, caring, and selfless mother," said a representative from A New Leaf. "[She] is determined to raise her children in a positive atmosphere."

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Hove giving back instead of receiving.

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Even though they both work full time, Brittany and her husband struggle to make ends meet for their family of four. A typical holiday meal for them consists of grilled cheese or spaghetti.

"I don't think of myself as poor, but sometimes I think about what it would be like to just go to the store and buy something for a recipe," Brittany said.

Last year, the Utah Food Bank's Mobile Pantry gave Brittany and her family a complete Thanksgiving dinner. "The box had a whole turkey in it," Brittany said. "I was so excited because it was enough meat to last us for months. There is something magical about sitting around a turkey and a big pile of mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie."

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Without donations, a lot of families wouldn't be able to make it month to month.

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Five years ago, Cathy and her husband moved back to Phoenix to be closer to family. Then came the challenges. Cathy suffered two back-to-back strokes, leaving her unable to work. Her husband's full time income was spread thin and the cost of medical bills severely ate into their ability to afford food for their family.

Today, Cathy and her family turn to St. Mary's Mobile Pantry when they need assistance. "When we need it, we can get fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, (and) canned goods from St. Mary's. It's such a relief!"

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Clean water in the community would prevent a lot of illnesses.

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Clean water isn't easily accessible in Putumayo, Colombia. People like Poala Magaly Payoguaje and her family depend on collecting rainwater from a nearby river.

"You have to do that very early in the morning because sometimes people go to bathe there, so it's best to get there early," Paola said.

Thanks to previous donations at Giving Machines, WaterAid was able to work with members of the community to rebuild a reliable system that today provides clean water to over 400 people.

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It has taken such a load off me to know that my kids aren't going to bed hungry.

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When Derrick moved to Phoenix to be closer to his parents, he found it difficult to support himself and his three kids.

"My oldest son reached 6 feet when he was just 9 years old," Derrick said. "Kids need nutritional food as they grow. But I was never able to get enough nutritional food for them."

Derrick turned to the United Food Bank's Help Yourself program, a weekly food purchase cooperative for community members with limited resources. He has since become an active advocate for the program, spreading the word to other families in need.

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I was quite astonished because I was not expecting to see so many students.

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When Aaron studied at San Jose State University to become a software engineer, he struggled to cover his bills and have enough left over to buy groceries. Thanks to Second Harvest at Silicon Valley, Aaron was able to eat fresh food while He focused on his education.

Aaron is just one of the stories of thousands of students in Silicon Valley who experience having a shortage of food. "I thought I was the only one who was food insecure, but it turns out there are quite a number of us," he said. "The line was really long. I was at peace because I felt like I was not the only one."

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I take good care of my sheep.

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Through special training, Rosemanie Desulma, a 27-year-old mother of five, learned to breed sheep to better support her family. This was possible thanks to the Church World Service program and previous Giving Machine donations. Today, she's not only able to afford to feed her family, but she also gives back to her community.

"My sheep had lambs," she said. "I reimbursed the leaders one lamb, which they used to pass on the gift to someone else. Now the mother sheep is mine. I am very happy."

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Latter-day Saint Charities

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