

A Change for Children Publication

2025 BUILDING BRIDGES

DECEMBER



SHINE ON



ILLUMINATING
POSSIBILITY,
TOGETHER.

Solar power fuels safe water, quality
education, and sustainable livelihoods.

MESSAGE FROM OUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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TOGETHER, THE BRIGHTEST
DAYS ARE STILL AHEAD.



Every year brings its own challenges — and its own light. This year, I’ve seen the glow of courage in the faces of community leaders who keep showing up. I’ve seen the light of learning in the eyes of children who now read in their mother tongue and the spark of innovation in youth learning to use new technology. And I’ve seen the quiet, collective radiance of supporters like you — people who continue to believe that a better and brighter world is worth building.

Light doesn’t always burst forth in brilliance. Sometimes it’s a slow dawn — a gentle brightening that reveals what’s possible. That’s what your partnership does. You help communities rise, shine, and thrive.

The call to action, **Shine On**, is both a reflection and an invitation. It’s a celebration of the communities whose resilience and hope continue to illuminate paths forward. And it’s a call to each of us to keep that light moving — to continue sharing knowledge, lifting voices, and lighting the way toward equity and justice.

It is at once a metaphor and a challenge to step forward. Our focus on solar power brings light, learning, and life-fueling solutions — pumping safe water and powering homes. Clean, reliable solutions reduce costs, protect the environment, and strengthen resilience against climate challenges. Solar energy sparks transformation, turning vulnerable communities into vibrant ones.

Together, we are illuminating paths toward a brighter, more equitable future.

From all of us at Change for Children — thank you for helping the light shine farther. **Together, the brightest days are still ahead.**


Lorraine Swift

FAMILIES SHINE

LIGHT IS CLEAN WATER THAT SUSTAINS.



**SAFE WATER
PROVIDES A LIFELINE**

HEALTH, LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

Clean water + sanitation + hygiene (WASH) provides a pathway to opportunity. For families in rural Central America, water is more than a necessity—it's a foundation for dignity and growth. When access to safe water sources is achieved or restored through new wells, rehabilitation projects, or water filters, families can depend on safe drinking water each day. From a reliable community pump to the simple comfort of a glass of water at home, these solutions transform daily life.

HELPING FAMILIES SHINE BRIGHTER

- Water filter distribution improves community health in remote areas.
- Water wells bring clean water within reach.
- Rainwater storage tanks increase productivity.
- Hand washing stations and latrines reduce student illness and absenteeism.
- When communities govern their water systems, leadership grows and hope expands.

“

I am overjoyed and grateful to finally have access to water in my house. We use it for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing my daughters, and feeding our household animals. For years, we endured the hardships of water scarcity. I truly feel that a great burden has been lifted off my shoulders.

– Digna Solomon

COMMUNITIES SHINE

WHEN INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY, ENTIRE COMMUNITIES SHINE.

**THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS
ARE COMMUNITY-OWNED AND
LOCALLY MAINTAINED.**

**MORE THAN POWER —
IT'S POSSIBILITY**



For decades, distance from the electrical grid has meant dark evenings, diesel fumes, and high costs for rural communities. Today, the sun itself is closing that distance — bridging the divide with clean, quiet, renewable power. Solar energy isn't just an energy option. It's a tool for dignity, health, learning, and livelihoods.



**SOLAR MEANS CONNECTION,
OPPORTUNITY, AND TIME —
ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.**



WITH SOLAR:

- Schools run digital libraries and tablets.
- Clinics keep lights on and vaccines cold.
- Water systems pump clean water to tanks without diesel.
- Women's cooperatives power tools, sewing machines, and food dehydrators.

WHEN THE LIGHTS COME ON.

In a village school, children read after sunset and teachers teach with confidence. In a health post, births happen safely under steady light. In a home, evening becomes productive — time for study, work, or rest. Every solar panel installed becomes a small sun of its own — radiating progress.

LIGHT IS RESILIENCE THAT ENDURES.

TRAINING. GOVERNANCE. OWNERSHIP.

Solar's success isn't measured in kilowatts — it's measured in capacity. Local technicians learn to maintain systems. Community committees collect fees and manage repairs. Energy becomes a shared resource, not a charity gift. That's the true power of partnership.

HELPING COMMUNITIES SHINE BRIGHTER

- We start where energy changes lives fastest: clinics, schools, and water systems.
- We invest in people as much as panels: train local technicians (women and men) and build strong operations systems.
- We prioritize productive use: refrigeration, charging, connectivity, and tools that strengthen local livelihoods.

STUDENTS SHINE > TOOLS TO LEARN AND THE CHANCE TO DREAM.



THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Students shine brightest when they have the tools to learn and the chance to dream. When children step into a classroom armed with curiosity, their world changes. We bring light and learning together by equipping schools with resources, solar-powered technology, and opportunities that help students succeed. Rural schools are becoming places where young minds rise, voices grow, and futures brighten.

LANGUAGE IS IDENTITY

When instruction begins in a child's mother tongue, learning deepens, confidence builds, and culture thrives. For Indigenous children, being taught in their language is more than fair—it's foundational. Every new resource, every classroom empowered, every child who taps into stories and songs in their own language is a spark. Technology becomes more than a tool—it becomes transformation.



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages





A SINGLE BULB CAN BRIGHTEN A CLASSROOM.

A DIGITAL LIBRARY CAN OPEN A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE.

A LAPTOP CAN TRANSPORT A STUDENT.

HELPING STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHTER

- **Teach:** We support teacher training, classroom resources, and learning environments.
- **Tech:** We introduce offline digital libraries, mother-tongue media, and solar-powered learning centres.
- **Tongue:** We partner with communities to develop culturally relevant curricula and preserve Indigenous languages.

When this trio aligns, children don't just learn—they shine.

OUR PARTNERS:





**SHINE ON.
AND ON.**



2nd Floor, 10808-124 Street
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From solar-powered rooftops to safe water systems and vibrant classrooms, your support keeps communities shining. As we look toward our 50th year, we invite you to continue sharing the light — through partnership, generosity, and belief in brighter futures.

Together, we shine on.

*Happy Holidays from the
Change for Children team!*



For nearly 50 years, Change for Children has stood for dignity, health, and hope — a legacy built through partnership and purpose. As our golden milestone approaches in 2026, we invite you to join us in celebration of reflection and renewal. Watch for opportunities to reconnect with our roots, honor the past, and illuminate the path forward that guides our next fifty years. Together, we'll mark this milestone not just by looking back — but by shining forward.



Thank you for your support this season!



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change4children.org/donate



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2nd Floor, 10808-124 Street
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