Family Matters

December 2018

The faces of Family

From our board members to the children we protect, meet the people making change possible.
2018 has been a year of harrowing headlines, the United Nations predicts humanity only has 12 years to stop a climate change disaster, and massive migrations are sweeping the globe at the same time as the Guardian estimates anti-immigration rhetoric is at its strongest since the end of the Second World War. Most recently, the world stood helpless as a photo of a seven year-old girl, Amal Hussain, skin and bones, a victim of the severe hunger crisis in Yemen, made its way across the Internet. The New York Times reports Hussain died at a refugee camp not long after the photo was taken.

In this edition we share with you stories from our members and the children they work with. These stories come from South Africa, El Salvador, the United States and one of our newest members in New Zealand. Thank you for your continued kindness and support to protect and safeguard children near and far - we could not do our work without you.

Your support matters now more than ever. At Family for Every Child, we believe in the power of ideas to change the world, and with your help, we can bring them to life. In this issue, I hope you’ll find some hope and encouragement, as you witness the locally-grown ideas that will help every child to have a family from Africa to Latin America and beyond. You’ll see how our members Muhammadiyah and Voice of Children have responded to humanitarian disasters in Indonesia and Nepal, saving lives and keeping families together. Taller de Vida, our member in Colombia, is using art to help children and adolescents affected by armed conflict, and the RISE Learning Network is helping them spread this popular methodology with our other member organisations. We are also pleased to welcome Zefie, a new member in Germany, that works with at-risk youth in a migration-sensitive way.

Thank you for your support of Family and our members. Together, we are stronger in our mission to make the world safer for children everywhere.

Rita Panicker
Acting Chair of Board of Trustees, Family for Every Child.
Director, Butterflies (Family member, India)
Members of Family for Every Child from across the globe gathered in Istanbul in September for our Annual General Meeting and Forum. The event was an opportunity for all 34 members to share learning and plan joint work that will improve the lives of children and families around the world.

The members working on the issues of sexual violence against children prepared and released a statement on caring for children affected by sexual violence through integrated, targeted services, including special protections to prevent boys from being stigmatised or criminalised when they experience sexual violence. There was also a particular focus on understanding the experience of children on the move, both migrants and refugees. Members shared experiences and reflected on how to use children’s feedback to address complex needs, at a time when the movement of children (either alone or with relatives, and often fleeing violence) is becoming increasingly prevalent and concerning.

The event was also an opportunity for members to support Hayat Sende, our member in Turkey, in their work to promote family-based care in the country. They led a workshop (that included government representatives, foster care associations and academics) to consider what work is still needed to develop a high-quality system of foster care in the country. They were also joined by Family for Every Child members from four other Muslim-majority countries (Indonesia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Jordan) who shared learning from their own contexts, and discussed how to strengthen joint work in this area, to prevent children from being placed in large institutions or ending up on the streets if they lose the care of their original families.

The best thing about being a member of Family for Every Child?
The way the approaches and strategies are influenced by the feedback from members — a ‘bottom-up’ approach. And the buddy visits/peer groups. They help organisations share, learn and contextualise learning in their own settings.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I spend my time at church or going out with my wife and kids.

Tell us an interesting fact about Zimbabwe.
Zimbabwe is a country of people with resilient characters. The economic situation in Zimbabwe has declined to a state that people outside the country think that Zimbabwe has come to a standstill and that people are dying, which is not true on the ground. People here always find the means to earn a living despite all the unimaginable challenges they face.

Tell us about some of the challenges facing the children and families that you work with.
Domestic violence and economic challenges are the most problematic issues that families and children experience. There are families who want to keep and protect their children but, due to poverty, they can’t, and there are children who suffer from neglect and violence who try to satisfy their emotional needs by living on the street.

Tell us something about your own family.
I am a wife, a mother to one daughter, Sara, and a grandmother to one boy, Ismail. I am proud of my family.

What are you most looking forward to over the next year as a member of Family?
To learn more and gain experiences, and to participate with other board members to make Family even more valuable and effective.

For more information on Farm Orphans Support Trust visit: bit.ly/FarmOST

For more information on Hope Village Society visit: bit.ly/HopeVillageSociety

MEET OUR

Introducing Blessing Mutama and Dr. Abla El-Badry, who will join Family’s board in March 2019.

Blessing Mutama,
National Coordinator, FOST - Farm Orphans Support Trust, ZIMBABWE

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HEALING FROM CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

It takes a village

Sexual exploitation affects children’s physical, mental and reproductive health — and it’s a global problem.

Research shows that children who are victims of child sexual exploitation often lack confidence and self-esteem, find it hard to trust others, and can have difficulty controlling their emotions. Exploitation can leave children stigmatised, ostracised, alone without support and vulnerable to re-victimisation.

We don’t believe in top-down approaches. Instead we harness local expertise to inspire global change for children, because the people on the front-line know what needs to be done differently. One way we do this is through the RISE Learning Network, which facilitates learning on recovery and reintegration from child sexual exploitation. For the past three years, RISE Learning Network has worked to eliminate the relative isolation of the area of child sexual exploitation, which is often considered its own specialized thematic area and frequently cut off from the rest of the work being done on sexual violence and child protection. To this end, RISE has connected and engaged various Family members and other organisations (non-members of Family) through regional working groups, learning projects and online learning hubs.

RISE is now moving into its second phase. A key feature of this second phase is that it will focus on the participation of children and adolescents affected by sexual exploitation. Using safe and ethical approaches to child and survivor participation, these young people will be empowered to lead advocacy initiatives that will inform policymakers and practitioners in a wide range of contexts. Family, through RISE, will also focus on enriching organisations’ psychosocial support services, especially through creative and arts-based methods. Organisations will be trained, mentored and supported as they apply these methods and measure their effects.

RISE in its first phase was co-funded by Family for Every Child, Oak Foundation and Terre des Netherlands, and implemented by Family for Every Child, Retrak and the International Centre for Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking at the University of Bedfordshire.

More information can be found at: bit.ly/RISE-LN or www.riselearningnetwork.org

HUMANITARIAN WORK

How our members respond to crisis

During disasters and in their wake, Family’s members are there to protect children — even in the midst of chaos.

Muhammadiyah: Disaster Management In Indonesia

Since July 2018, a series of earthquakes have hit Indonesia, displacing over 400,000 people. Family member Muhammadiyah has provided medical services, rescue efforts and psychosocial support for traumatised children since the first earthquake. As part of their psychosocial program, children do outdoor activities like games and drawing that teach them about disaster awareness and the importance of avoiding dangerous materials and debris.

In September, another huge quake and tsunami hit Indonesia’s Central Sulawesi province. Muhammadiyah responded immediately, sending medical teams to the site and setting up an emergency operational centre. Its teams set up camps for displaced people, and provided food, medicine, water, sanitation services, emergency shelter, temporary shelter and psychosocial care.

Responding to the 2015 Nepal Earthquake: Rani’s story

Like Muhammadiyah, many of our members, including Voice of Children in Nepal, Butterflies in India, and JUCONI in Mexico are already on the ground. If the need arises, they’re equipped to respond to disaster situations.

Rani, 15, lives in Nepal. After a massive earthquake in 2015 that killed over 9,000 people, her family had to move from their home to a city near Kathmandu, which brought a stop to the children’s studies. Rani’s father was an alcoholic and unstable at work, while her mother worked long hours as a dishwasher. No one was caring for the children, so Rani’s mother sent them back to the village to live with her parents, who were also very poor, and not able to afford the expenses of caring for the children.

The local people referred Rani’s case to Voice of Children (VOC), who supported Rani and her brother’s schooling. Today, they attend school regularly. Rani is a very good student, and wants to continue her studies to eventually provide support for her mother.

To date, VOC has provided disaster relief support to around 9,300 children and families affected by earthquakes, floods and fires.

Read more about Voice of Children: bit.ly/VoiceofChildren
Meet Sultana Erbas, networks and platforms unit coordinator at Hayat Sende, Turkey.

These are just some of the positive outcomes a few of our members achieved in 2018.

Taller de Vida, Colombia
With the help of a micro-grant from Family for Every Child, Taller de Vida developed an arts-based methodology for group work with survivors of sexual violence. Taller de Vida works with young people who have experienced abuse, trauma and exploitation as a result of the armed conflict in Colombia, and arts-based methods have proved more effective than other approaches to help them recover and develop resilience. The methodology has since been shared with and adopted by the Colombian government and 4 other civil society organisations working with similar cases.

Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
Muhammadiyah’s family-based care alliance (ASUH SIAGA), which Family earlier helped set up, in partnership with Save the Children and Unicef, successfully advocated for a change in legislation on childcare in 2017. Now, the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs together with Save the Children, Unicef and ASUH SIAGA are also preparing proposed changes to foster care regulations. A formal foster care project is being implemented by Muhammadiyah in four provinces in partnership with SOS Children Village.

ChildLinK, Guyana
The Ministry of Education in Guyana collaborated with a ChildLinK-led advocacy network to fold an inclusive education mandate into the country’s education policy, which emphasises the care and protection needs of children with disabilities. ChildLinK is also setting up reintegration systems in Guyana, which will bring 120 children back into family-based care over the next two years. In addition, ChildLinK is collaborating with the Ministry of Education and two partner organisations to improve the knowledge and skills of caregivers to provide improved psychosocial care to 60 children in the primary school system.

An Interview with Hayat Sende, Turkey

What are the main challenges facing the children and young people you work with?
Children and young people who have been raised in care are stigmatised against in different areas of their lives, including the language people use about them and the general approach of society towards them.

What are you most looking forward to in the next year as a member of Family for Every Child?
I am personally looking forward to having more active dialogue with all members of Family, to learn more about their work and to become involved in more joint projects.

Tell us something we don’t know about Turkey.
Turkey is the birthplace of many historical figures: the biblical Abraham, the poet Homer, St. Paul the Apostle, the storyteller Aesop, and the father of history, Herodotus.

How do you like to spend your spare time?
I am a big fan of world cinema and film festivals so I mostly watch movies in different languages and from different countries. I also like juggling!

What is your vision for children and families in Turkey?
It is pretty much the same as Hayat Sende’s and Family for Every Child’s: I imagine a world where all children can grow up in a safe and loving family environment.

For more on Hayat Sende, visit: bit.ly/HayatSende
Zefie is based in the Baden-Württemberg region of southwest Germany. They work on a full range of care interventions, including small group homes, assisted independent living, foster care, family strengthening and family reintegration. They have developed a unique methodology called Nothing Is Impossible for working with children and adolescents with the most complex needs. They are leaders in migration-sensitive pedagogy and have one facility that incorporates therapy animals into practice.

Zefie brings a wealth of knowledge to Family for Every Child in working with children who have arrived in Germany without adult supervision, from regions such as Africa and the Middle East. They will be a great asset to those members who are already working on the issue of children on the move. We are extremely proud to have Zefie as our new member, and look forward to working closely with the team.

For more on Zefie, visit: http://zefie.de/
Give a gift that will last forever this Christmas

This year, Muhammadiyah, our member in Indonesia, helped thousands of children and families in need of immediate medical care and shelter following a devastating series of earthquakes and tsunamis.

The communities are still trying to get back on their feet, and Muhammadiyah is helping them to look to the future by training survivors to build small-scale businesses that can provide alternative livelihoods and help them recover more quickly after disasters like these.

This training costs just $50, and the effects of this knowledge can last a lifetime.

A $50 donation to Muhammadiyah would provide invaluable training to survivors. And this Christmas, Muhammadiyah will match donations from Family supporters by granting micro-finance opportunities to 100 women.

**PLEASE DON’T WAIT, DONATE NOW**

We would love to hear from you! Let us know why you support Family For Every Child and what interests you about our work, or get in touch with us with any questions on the following details.

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