

# IMPACT

**CUSO**  
International

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

FALL • 2017



## Transforming young lives through training and trust

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opened the minds and  
hearts of Jamaican youth **P2**

An Enchanted Farm that's reducing poverty,  
thanks to you. **P3**

How you helped Jefferson, an emerging entrepreneur in Colombia. **P3**



## JAMAICA:

# Your support is giving at-risk boys the chance to thrive



Omarion and Daniel



Lavante and Shevaun at robotics camp



Students from Miss Masters' class

When Romane started school at the YMCA in Kingston, Jamaica, he approached Christine every day with the same question: "Do you have any food?"

"He hadn't eaten anything at home," recalled Christine French, a B.C. native who spent a year volunteering at the YMCA through Cuso International.

Romane's mother had just started a new job, but she wasn't making enough to afford both rent and food. While she covered the rent, the staff at the YMCA and Christine figured out a way to fill Romane's empty belly at school. They even convinced a local grocery store to let Romane and his mom take leftover food whenever they could.

"I'll never forget Romane," Christine said. "His mom still texts me every once in a while and lets me know how they're doing."

Christine's role was to develop a strategic plan for the YMCA's programs, which included a remedial school for at-risk teenaged boys. But ultimately, she felt she had the most impact through her work and relationships with boys like Romane. She even organized a week-long camp for them to learn about renewable energy and robotics.

***"It was amazing to watch these boys thrive once they had individual attention from their teachers, food in their bellies and fresh, cold water when they were thirsty," she said. "In just five days, they were completely different young people."***

***– Christine French***

Christine remembers one student who enjoyed the camp so much, he spontaneously stood up and thanked the people who ran it.

"When you have kids who have gone through really difficult things and they are at an age where they're learning to withhold their emotions, it was such a pleasure to earn their trust, and spend time with them, and see them blossom when they've had just a little bit of care given to them."

"The support that I received from Cuso International made it so easy for me to give every other part of my life to the YMCA," she said. "They're making a difference in a way that no other organization is."

**Christine developed these unforgettable connections because of your generosity. Your gifts enable volunteers like Christine to share their skills and help transform the lives of vulnerable children and families around the world.**

## PHILIPPINES:

# A farm that's changing lives



***"I am a strong believer and advocate of social entrepreneurship, and of education towards it, as key drivers to overcome poverty."***

***- Shona Taner***

Nestled within the mountainous landscape of Bulacan, a central province in the Philippines, there is a place they call the "Enchanted Farm." It's not magical in the traditional sense – no whimsical creatures or talking trees. Rather, its magic lies in its ability to transform the lives of families living in extreme poverty.

The farm is run by Gawad Kalinga, one of the Philippines' most respected development organizations, and a partner of Cuso International. Traditionally their work involved building houses for the poor, but recently their focus shifted to the farm, where Shona Taner, a two-time Cuso International volunteer, is changing lives.

"I used to help company owners make more money but I decided I wanted to help poor people make money," Shona said.

Often referred to as "The Silicon Valley of Social Enterprise", the farm has a unique model that focuses on a "triple bottom line": enhancing profits, people and the planet. Fifty families who were once homeless now live in homes on the farm, and the products they create are sold to invest back into the farm.

Shona has been mentoring students in the farm's Social Entrepreneurship Experiential Development Program. She has also been helping farmers improve their processes and skills so they can increase profits and become more financially secure.

## COLOMBIA:

# From weapons to websites

Jefferson Ángulo felt the pressure immediately after he finished serving in the Colombian army. Young men like him, who know how to handle weapons, were often approached by gangs and armed groups to fight in Colombia's decades-long civil war. But Jefferson refused to be steered towards a life of endless violence and volatility.

Instead, he channeled his energy towards starting his own peaceful business that fosters learning and communication: an internet café.

After the café had been open for over a year, Jefferson realized he needed formal skills to run the business properly. That's when he registered for the Management Course for Small Businesses offered by Cuso International.

Thanks to support from people like you, Jefferson has the knowledge and confidence to continue building his thriving business. In the future, he hopes to hire staff and help others follow in his footsteps towards gainful employment, prosperity and peace.



***"Before starting the training, I had no schedule, I just opened the business whenever I could. Now I organize everything the night before to start the work day on time."***

***- Jefferson Ángulo***



## CANADA: Canada 150

Just like Canada, Cuso International has a rich history of connections and service in countries around the world:

**56**  
YEARS

**80**  
COUNTRIES

**16,000**  
PLACEMENTS

**13,000**  
ALUMNI

## Meet our new CEO



Glenn Mifflin

At an important time of growth and opportunity for Cuso International, Glenn Mifflin brings a solid background in organizational management, finance and governance.

"From the moment I joined Cuso International, I have been impressed with the dedication of its staff, volunteers, donors and partners in reaching the world's vulnerable," he said.

Glenn is particularly proud of Cuso's volunteer-driven approach, and loves hearing about volunteers' motivations for going overseas, and what they've learned from their placements.

*"This is no ordinary volunteer experience. This is a life-changing choice that will make a profound difference." – Glenn Mifflin*

**EVERY \$1  
HAS THE POWER  
OF \$10**

**Every dollar you give has the power of \$10** – through the work of our volunteers, partners and funders, that dollar is leveraged 10 times. That means your gift will do even more for vulnerable women, men and children. **Give now and watch your generosity do 10X the good!**

## We'd love to hear from you



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