

# IMPACT



YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION  
SPRING/SUMMER 2017

## The promise of prosperity and pride in Palmira

See how your support helped Jennifer lay the foundation for change **P2**

A hospital in Ethiopia transformed, thanks to you. **P3**

You are helping to strengthen Indigenous leaders and communities in Canada. **P4**



## NICARAGUA:

# How your support is making room for sustainable eco-tourism

The first families who settled in the remote, forested area of San José de Palmira had almost nothing. They built simple shacks made of plastic sheets and survived off the limited crops they could grow in the region's dry, tropical climate. That was almost ten years ago. Today, Palmira is home to about 250 people who live in sturdier homes after receiving construction materials and assistance from a local non-governmental organization. Each home was built with an extra room for locals to host tourists and generate income. But the residents of Palmira needed help getting their eco-tourism industry off the ground. Thanks to your gift, that help arrived at the end of 2015.

Your support brought Jennifer Ford to Palmira as a Cuso International volunteer. With a degree in eco-tourism, she could share her knowledge with community leaders, and offer training on topics like responsible tourism, customer service, and basic accounting.

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***"In order to build sustainable livelihoods, change must be initiated by the community, for the community."***

***– Jennifer Ford***

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After building close relationships with the community members and listening to their own ideas and goals, Jennifer developed an eco-tourism strategy and marketing plan. She hopes her work has laid a foundation for the community that they can build on with the support of Cuso International volunteers.

By earning an income through tourism, women and men in Palmira will no longer have to rely on deliveries of rice and beans from the government each month. They can become self-sufficient, and build better lives for themselves and future generations.

Supporters like you will help send more volunteers to Palmira to finish the eco-tourism initiative that Jennifer began, opening doors to opportunity, prosperity and lasting change.



Yesenia making tortillas



Sonia in her garden



Xiomara baking

**Your gifts will help send more volunteers to Palmira to finish the eco-tourism initiative that Jennifer began – paving the way to self-sufficiency for families in this remote community.**

## ETHIOPIA:

# Thanks to you, moms and babies are getting the health care they need



***“My goal as a Cuso International volunteer is to see the women of this community receiving high quality, respectful and compassionate maternity care.”***

***- Agatha Wambugu***

When Agatha Wambugu arrived at Assosa General Hospital in western Ethiopia, she didn't know where to begin. “There were so many things I felt I needed to do instantly,” she recalled.

But before Agatha started to build better systems, she knew the first step was to build strong relationships with the local hospital staff. She recognized that change was only possible if everyone was identifying challenges and working on solutions together.

“All I could say to them was: ‘Agatha is not the change, we are the change.’”

With a degree in nursing and public health, Agatha wanted to use her medical skills in a community with a shortage of health professionals and infrastructure. That very opportunity presented itself through Cuso International.

Donors like you helped Agatha work side-by-side with the health staff of Assosa General Hospital to improve the quality of services – especially for mothers and their babies.



## GUYANA:

# You are helping youth shape their own future

Each student in Bevon Austin's class takes a turn answering the same question: “What is your dream job?”

“A doctor, miss,” one boy says. “A banker, miss,” another girl answers.

While most young people have dreams for their future, many don't get the chance to make their dreams come true. This is especially true in developing countries like Guyana. In fact, Guyana has had one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the Caribbean for more than 15 years.

Thanks to support from donors like you, Cuso International is helping youth in Guyana prepare for the careers they want. In partnership with Volunteer Youth Corps, we are offering career guidance classes in 11 high schools.



***“Now that they're doing this programme, I think that it's boosted their self-esteem”***

***- Bevon Austin, Cuso International volunteer***





### Did you know?

In recent years, Canada as a whole, has ranked between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> on the United Nations Human Development Index, while First Nations communities in Canada fall between 63<sup>rd</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup>.

## CANADA:

# Together, we are ensuring no one is left behind in our country

Alastair Henry was an ideal candidate to become Cuso International's very first volunteer in our new Indigenous programming. After all, his experience working with the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation in the Northwest Territories is what inspired him to seek out volunteer opportunities after retiring.

"Helping others gave me the personal satisfaction and fulfillment that I was seeking my whole life," he said.

By the time Alastair began his volunteer placement in Alert Bay, British Columbia, he was a Cuso International veteran. He had already volunteered in Bangladesh and Jamaica, and could apply the lessons he learned about cultural exchange and community development to his work in B.C. As an Entrepreneurship Advisor for Reconciliation Canada, he drew on his past experience in business to help Indigenous residents of Cormorant Island develop their own small enterprises.

"You've spent a lifetime developing skills and knowledge," he said. "When you retire, you can use your experience to make a real difference in less-fortunate communities."

This year, your gifts will help send more committed volunteers like Alastair to support Indigenous communities across Canada – because we can't ignore the poverty and inequality that exists within our own borders.

## 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!**

YOUR GIFT	YOUR IMPACT
\$25	<b>\$250</b>
\$100	<b>\$1000</b>
\$250	<b>\$2500</b>

## We'd love to hear from you



200-44 Eccles Street, Ottawa ON, Canada K1R 6S4  
1.888.434.2876 ext.222  
[support@cusointernational.org](mailto:support@cusointernational.org) [cusointernational.org](http://cusointernational.org)



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