



*Have A Joyous Holiday Season*

*A Special Christmas Matching Challenge Doubles Your Gift Today!*

December 1, 2018

Dear Friend,

Everyone wants to feel that they belong — that they have a special place where they fit in, where they are loved and accepted for who they are. This is especially true at Christmas. Our hearts go out to those who must spend the holiday alone. It just doesn't seem right.

This need for belongingness makes the plight of orphan children so desperate. An orphan child is set adrift on the stormy sea of life with

no sail                      no rudder                      no anchor.

The orphan child needs help from outside. But will that help come? And will that help come from you?

During the last 40 years, many of you have joined ICC in providing children like Sarita (see story on second page) and thousands of other children like her with not only the basics of life, like food and shelter, but, just as important, we have been providing orphan children with “**a place to belong!**” Of all the important elements of effective orphan care, this is one of the most important. And it is making a difference in the lives of orphan children like Sarita. Here's her story.



This Christmas your gift will be matched to help twice as many children!

Sarita's mother died when she was very little. She was left in the care of her older sisters and her father. When her father disappeared, the sisters turned her over to an orphanage for girls run by Catholic nuns. Sarita stayed there until one Christmas when one of her sisters came and picked her up for the holiday. Sarita never returned to that orphanage. Her two sisters then took turns caring for her and sometimes had others taking care of her. But she would be given back to them because her sisters didn't pay what they promised.

Passed around                      neglected                      abused.

Sarita desperately needed a loving place to belong! Fortunately God intervened, and she was brought to the Los Pinos Children's Village in Guatemala where she found a home within the ICC family. Here is how Sarita described what happened.

"[The authorities] took me to this place because I ran away from the house where I was living. One of my sisters left me in the house of a lady that she was going to pay to take care of me. My sister started making the payments, but, little by little, she stopped paying, until one day she never returned. The lady started to mistreat me."

This Christmas, Sarita has a place to belong within her loving and nurturing family at Los Pinos. Generous ICC family members like you make her belongingness possible.

Sarita still has many challenges ahead as she learns to trust those who provide for her care. That is why it is very important this Christmas that her ICC family continues to provide for the support that she and other children like her need.

[And right now, you can participate in a special Christmas Matching Challenge. These funds will help children like Sarita to have the one thing they need the most this Christmas — "a place to belong!"](#)

That's right. Because every child needs "a place to belong" one of our loyal donors has stepped forward to challenge you to match their gift. **You can now double any donation you give until December 31** or until a total amount of \$50,000 is reached. The reality is that this Christmas, we depend upon the generosity of ICC family members. About 22% of funds needed to support ICC's mission for children is given in December.



Sarita is living at the Los Pinos Children's Village.

If that doesn't happen, it restricts our ability to provide a place to belong for children like Sarita. And there are so many more children who need the nurturing care in which ICC specializes. At this time of year, budgets are stretched taking care of children who have already found their place to belong. So, wherever the need is greatest, your gift brings help — and hope!

The world tells orphans, "You don't belong!" But your gift will tell them

**"I care"**

**"I want you to belong"**

**"I will help you."**

It was because God loved the world so much that he sent His Son to earth so that we could experience a sense of belonging as part of His eternal family. I pray that because of your support, orphan children will come to know and experience their Heavenly Father's love as well. For Sarita, and for all the children, this will be the ultimate experience in belonging!

Please, while you have this letter in your hand, fill out your reply form and mail it back with your gift.

On behalf of the children, thank you for blessing them this Christmas!

In His Service,



Rick Fleck  
President

***P.S.* To take advantage of year-end-tax benefits please respond before December 31. And to make sure your gift is matched, helping twice as many children in need, please respond as quickly as possible! Thank you!**