# Voices for CHANGE

>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> SPRING 2019 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>



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### Message from Julie

I am always inspired to join our fundraising teams in the community, speaking with donors and sharing stories from around the world that show the impact of your support.

We couldn't do the work we do without you.

Oxfam supporters are truly unique. You are humanitarians and advocates who combine deep compassion with a sophisticated understanding of development issues.

You know that poverty is created by injustice and inequality.

And you also know that we will never be able to eradicate poverty until we've ended those two things.

Oxfam doesn't swoop in with band aid solutions and then swoop out again when the world's attention has ended. We stick around to help people back onto their feet. To rebuild. To realize their rights.

And to tackle the inequality and injustice that hurts the most.

I call it "aid that listens." Aid that listens knows that local people are the real experts on what their communities need – especially women.



Julie and her team.

They know where latrines should be built in refugee camps. They know the issues at the heart of peace negotiations. And they know what will create real change in their families and their countries.

I'm proud to have so many Canadians that are committed to aid that listens. You are helping us create a powerful movement for change.

Thank you for believing in the Oxfam solution to global poverty. For being a champion of equality and of human rights. And for believing that long-term, lasting change **is** possible.

Julie Delahanty

Thank you for your continued support of Oxfam Canada's work.

## Meet Dolly - a Champion who Fights for Her Rights

Dolly Chhib is 14 years old and lives with her family in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Dolly has two dreams she is passionately pursuing. The first is her education. The second is kick-boxing.

In the village where Dolly lives, both of these dreams are hard to achieve when you're a young woman.

Dolly has already battled enormous prejudice. As she says,

"In our village, people do not accept girls or daughters. They do not give them a chance to continue their studies. They do not allow them to go out of the village to study in a better school. They look down on women."

But Dolly is just as courageous a fighter in her life as she is in the ring. And she has some passionate supporters in her corner.

Three of them are her family – especially her parents and her brother, Amit.

The others are Oxfam Canada supporters like you.

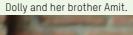
In the past, Dolly was enrolled in the village school. But the education there was poor, as teachers were often absent. As Dolly says, she wasn't able to calculate the simplest sums. After two years, she left because of financial problems.

But one day her brother put her name forward for a different school away from the village where Dolly lived. And her parents supported her with this move.

At the new school a man named Manoj taught Martial Arts to all the students. Dolly joined them, and after only a few months she took part in district and state tournaments and became a champion.

"My mother wants me to continue my studies. She says 'You shine your name, you shine our village's name and our country's name. If you leave the village and do something in life you will build a

Dolly, a true role model.







Dolly with her proud family.

path for other girls in the village who want to study and join sports. Other parents will support their daughters."

Dolly and her brother are equally passionate about Dolly's opportunity to be a role model for other girls and their families. Amit is only 22 years old himself, but he works 14 hours a day to support his sister's goal to become a kick-boxing champion.

Amit knew that most families will only send their sons to receive a good education. After joining Oxfam's Creating Spaces community group and learning about gender equality, Amit became a strong advocate for his sister and her right to an education.

Amit has become a public advocate for girls' education and works to encourage other families to invest in their sisters, daughters and wives.

"There are lots of problems with mindsets around social issues," says Amit. "But women are the most important in creation, and they should be respected." Dolly herself attended meetings funded by Oxfam donors through our local partner, Astitwa. In fact, Amit would take her from their own village to attend the meetings – telling her this was how she'd learn how to fight for her rights.

"Before attending the meetings, I had no idea about girls' rights. Today, I have self-confidence. I felt as if someone was with me."

Dolly feels like she's already seen change in her village, with more girls attending meetings with Astitwa.

"We are now supporting each other and standing as strength for each other. If we unite and fight for justice, we will definitely get through!"

#### Creating Laughter in Unlikely Places

Oxfam supporters like you have responded generously and compassionately to help the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Latest figures tell us that there are more than 900,000 Rohingya refugees – with over 40% of those who flee under the age of 12. Many of these children are often unaccompanied, whose parents were killed or lost on the treacherous journey to safety.

In your name, we have been working hard to safeguard these children from another deadly predator – disease.

Arrived sick from drinking contaminated water on the journey, now the camps are full of diarrhea, respiratory infections and skin disease.

We know that these diseases are all related to poor sanitation and hygiene.

With your support, we have built specialized BioFill latrines, which use worms to digest the fecal matter. This may sound gruesome, but it means that they won't fill up and become unusable. And they don't need to be manually emptied.

You've also helped us ensure that there are separate toilets for men and women, which increases safety and dignity for women and girls.

And we are teaching kids how to keep themselves healthy through hand washing and proper hygiene – including through some lighthearted plays which Oxfam supporters like you have funded.

As Melissa Eveleigh, Director of Arts for Action in partnership with Oxfam reports from one of the camps,

"Most children living in these camps saw or experienced horrific acts of violence. They have very little entertainment. Laughter and play are so important for children's growth, development and healing, especially here. It was uplifting to see kids laughing!"





Aisha and her baby Oxfam.

#### Introducing... Baby Oxfam!

We know how interested our supporters are to hear updates about the people you support with your donations.

That's why we're pleased to tell you about Aisha, and a little baby in Ethiopia named .... Oxfam!

Back in 2017 the southern parts of Ethiopia experienced a devastating drought. By August of that year, more than 8 million people were in urgent need of support.

Oxfam Canada donors swiftly responded with gifts that delivered supplies to the people who needed it the most. We trucked in water, repaired boreholes, and made sure schools and health facilities had the water they needed.

We also worked with people who had been displaced or suffered through the drought, to give them tools for rebuilding their lives – and securing their future income no matter what the weather brings.

One of those people was Aisha.

As part of our drought emergency response, we provided Aisha a cash transfer. Aisha used that money to set up a camel milk business.

Now she has sustainable milk for her own family of five children, and she sells the excess milk to the local community.

Aisha says her whole family is healthier and happier. She herself has become a supervisor at the Oxfam cash transfer.

Aisha felt so strongly about the support she received from compassionate people like you - she named her new baby Oxfam!

"My life has changed completely, and it has made me hopeful for the future!"

## **ROWENA'S** CORNER

#### Samantha's Story

"My job as a nutritional therapist gives me the opportunity to help people. It reminds me that there are people in the world that don't have enough food to eat.

I thought about having a Will after I had my daughter. I wanted to leave a legacy not just for her, but for other people, and children was the first thing that came to mind. I like the work that Oxfam does to support children.

Setting up a Will through Oxfam wasn't a difficult process at all. It was very straightforward.

I hope that my daughter grows up with a compassionate perspective on the world and that



Samantha, Oxfam supporter.

she can pass that on to other people as well. That's very important to me.

Leaving something to Oxfam is my way of giving back to the world."

For more information on leaving a gift in your own Will, please contact Rowena at rowena.griffiths@oxfam.org or +1-613-627-8634.

#### Where We Work



AROUND THE WORLD, OXFAM MOBILIZES THE POWER OF PEOPLE AGAINST POVERTY

OXFAM HEADQUARTER COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES WHERE WE WORK