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Dear Friends of CBB,

Welcome to Global Pearls! Although this may be the first time you are hearing about us, we have been managing CBB's non-Kenya projects since 2017. I was on the CBB board for 7 years and board chair for 6 of those years, but in 2016, when Lawrence no longer had the time nor energy to manage the projects outside of Kenya, I stepped away from CBB to start Global Pearls with the goal of supporting CBB's non-Kenya projects. We quickly expanded both in depth and breadth, and we now operate in Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Morocco, Cameroon, Kenya, Southern India, Northern India, Nepal, and Ukraine.

On the surface we may look like other international nonprofits, but under the surface we have fun breaking all the rules. My father was an entrepreneur, dubbed a "Serial Innovator Extraordinaire" by the Stanford Business Review, and I was imbued with the **entrepreneurial culture** from a young age. In elementary school, for example, we often headed to Squaw Valley on weekends for skiing, and I loved to venture out on the ski slopes alone. One day when I returned from skiing, my father asked how many times I had fallen down that day. I proudly told him, "None, daddy!" He stepped back, a hand clutching his chest, and exclaimed with mock horror, "Oh! Then you didn't learn *anything!*" The lesson wasn't lost on me. I quickly understood that "playing it safe" will only yield mediocre results, so with Global Pearls we experiment, take risks, constantly learn and modify our programs, and aim for nothing less than excellence. As my father loved to say, "If I knew I could do it, it wouldn't be any fun!" We have a lot of fun at Global Pearls.

One of the things we have learned is that lasting change requires **local ownership** from the beginning. That's why we don't start with a program – we start with a partner. An outstanding partner is the single most important factor determining the impactfulness and success of a program, so we select local partners who are passionate about bringing positive change to their communities, are resourceful and capable of getting things done, and are well-connected in their communities so they understand the local needs and how best to address them. Once we select a partner, we let the partners tell us what issue they want to tackle, and we work with them to develop an action plan to achieve their goals – THEIR goals. We play a support role rather than a leadership role. As a result, our projects are very diverse, ranging from education to healthcare, gender-based violence to agriculture. The common thread among our projects is we always target the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the communities, we empower participants and avoid long-term dependency, and we strive to be cost-effective and impactful.

We call our partners "changemakers" because that is what they are – people who want to bring positive change into the world and are capable of turning innovative ideas into action. But why stop with empowering our changemaker partners? Why not take it a step further and also **raise up the next generation of changemakers**?? With all our projects we try to include such an element. In India, for example, when schools were shut down during the Covid pandemic, a group of girls in CBB's after school program eagerly helped our nursing teams distribute masks and information to all the households in 100 villages. Rather than just hand out a flyer, they insisted on sitting down with each family to explain what Covid was and how to stay protected. They helped the nurses test villagers and relocate Covid-positive villagers to regional Covid centers. They helped organize vaccination campaigns so

100% of the villagers got vaccinated as soon as vaccines became available. Thanks to this small army of volunteers, not a single person in our 100 villages, as far as our partner Martin is aware, died of Covid – even when bodies were piling up on the streets in other parts of India. The students loved feeling significant – doing something important for their communities – so Martin continued this by starting “Children’s Clubs”. Each after-school center now has such a club.

The primary goals of the clubs are to build the self-confidence of the students, help the kids identify problems in their communities they want to tackle, strategize how they might accomplish their goals, and implement their strategies. They are developing problem-solving and leadership skills in the process. The students are taught how to write up proposals and submit them to local and regional officials. If their proposals are ignored at first, they persevere until officials, impressed with the dedication and passion of the children, finally relent. The students have managed to get wells drilled and water tanks put in for access to clean drinking water, roads built, and toilets installed at their school. Here comes the next generation of changemakers!

Another aspect of our work that we find vitally important is a **wholistic approach**. Giving a child a scholarship is good, but if a child must choose between attending school or working to have something to eat that day, it is difficult for a child to make educational progress. Poor health is another issue hampering academic success. Finally, emotional trauma is very common among the desperate children we target, so emotional wellbeing must also be addressed.

The children CBB educates in Cameroon, for example, are orphans and/or displaced children who used to sob during school because of their hunger. Although CBB donations go strictly to girls’ education, Global Pearls adds funds so the children receive one nutritious meal each day at school – often the only meal the children get. Our partner Etuge also drilled a well and the entire community accesses clean drinking water from this well. When a cholera epidemic swept through the area last year, not a single student at Etuge’s school became sick. Students do, however, suffer from intestinal worms. We recently learned that about half of the children suffer cramping, diarrhea and malnutrition from intestinal worms, so this year we are implementing a program to eliminate the worms and monitor the general health of the children. Finally, the children still deal with the trauma of war and the separation from or loss of their parents. They are not only displaced geographically, having come from the jungle areas of western Cameroon that are now under rebel control, they are also displaced culturally since they have lost ties to their local cultures. To bring some psychosocial healing to these young students, we celebrate the indigenous cultures these children come from with a dance program that is keeping their traditional dances alive.

Another important belief we hold is that Global Pearls’ **benefits should flow in two-directions**.

Communities abroad benefit from our programs, of course, but we are constantly looking for ways to use our projects to benefit Americans, as well, through exposure to global cultures and issues plus opportunities to connect more directly with children and families around the world. We once held a Christmas party for our former street children in Guatemala, for example – the first time they had ever participated in Christmas festivities. Over 100 people in the United States helped by buying Christmas gifts, making home-made Christmas ornaments, and creating home-made Christmas cards. The Christmas cards were particularly touching to us because they were made by patients in a residential home who suffered from severe schizophrenia. These young people were always the *recipients* of care because of their condition, but when they learned a bit about our street kids and had an opportunity to make cards for the children, they were in a position, for the first time in their lives, to help *others*! It was an incredibly meaningful activity for them. And, of course, we created a video showing the Guatemalan children enjoying the festivities so the Americans could vicariously celebrate with the children they helped. [https://youtu.be/C8Mw-Ft\\_vi8](https://youtu.be/C8Mw-Ft_vi8)



or search YouTube for “Street Children of Xela”.

Thinking up creative ways to connect people here with children in our project areas is the most challenging aspect of our work but also one of the most fun and rewarding. We helped school children in Albuquerque who were studying the war in Ukraine connect indirectly with the refugees we work with there. We are hoping to create a virtual dance-off between our students in Cameroon and a dance program here in New Mexico, including an educational component about what life is like in Cameroon. We are exploring the possibility of taking small groups of deaf students to Morocco to have cross-cultural experiences with a deaf school we support in Marrakech.

We love being creative, we love having fun, and we love bringing hope and joy and love into the lives of the children and families around the world that we work with. We invite you to join us in making impactful change around the world!

Sincerely,



Lisa Robinson-Spader  
President, Global Pearls

P.S. 99% of our donors designate specific projects, so we have a strong system ensuring donations go to their designated purpose. Donations from CBB donors will always be used to support girls' education unless specified otherwise. The Global Pearls board covers all administrative costs, so 100% of your donations go directly to the projects.

### **Recent recognition for Global Pearls:**

Visa (as in Visa credit cards and financial services) has a large intern program each summer. The interns can choose from various sub-programs that interest them, and one is the “Consult for Change” program working with nonprofits. Three U.S. nonprofits are invited to participate each summer, and they present the interns with a business case. The interns are divided into teams and compete to come up with the best solutions for the nonprofits. Global Pearls was selected to be one of the three nonprofits for the 2023 program, and we will be challenging the interns to come up with creative ways to connect Americans in educational ways with our project areas. We are excited to see what ideas the teams come up with!

In 1981, Dartmouth President John Kemeny gave his last commencement address to the Class of '81 before retiring. In the address, President Kemeny challenged the class to “make a truly significant impact on our society... Live with respect for the rights and dignity of all human beings, and use your talents, your very, very considerable talents, to make this a better world, a more compassionate world, for all of us. For men and women of Dartmouth, all mankind is your brother, and you are your brother's keeper.” Recently, the Dartmouth Class of '81 decided to create the Class of '81 John G. Kemeny Award to honor those classmates who exemplify President Kemeny's exhortation. The award will be given for the first time in 2023, and Global Pearls was chosen to receive this award.

## HOW HAVE CBB PROJECTS CHANGED UNDER THE CARE OF GLOBAL PEARLS?

GUATEMALA	When we took over management of the Estudia Con Amor program in 2017, CBB was supporting the education of 20 girls. In 2022 Global Pearls had grown this number to 78 girls and 41 boys – 119 children altogether. Most of the new children were child laborers, especially those from the mining community and street children, and to make school possible for these children we started giving a monthly supply of basic food staples, like rice, beans, pasta, oatmeal, and cooking oil to offset their loss in income caused by attending school. In 2022, 84 of our students received monthly food staples.
INDIA	When we took over the management of the JONG program in 2017, CBB was supporting 489 girls in 50 villages. In 2022, Global Pearls had grown this number to 607 girls and 539 boys for a total of 1,146 students. We also funded desperately needed health programs. Maternal and infant mortality used to be extremely high among the 50 JONG villages, but since we began funding a maternal and infant health program in 2017 there has been only one maternal death. In 2020 we also expanded the program to address high anemia rates (70% of the women in the villages suffered from anemia) and intestinal cramping and diarrhea from intestinal worms (64% of the women had intestinal worms). After one year, the incidence of anemia dropped to 1% and that of intestinal worms dropped to 0%. The health programs were expanded to 100 villages in 2021 and 200 villages in 2022.
CAMEROON	CBB supported the education of 50 orphaned and/or displaced children in 2021 and 2022. In addition to these scholarships, in 2022 Global Pearls provided a hot, nutritious meal daily to 152 children in the first half of the year and 181 children in the second half. We also created a computer literacy program, funded a traditional dance program and playground equipment, and began construction of a secondary school so these children do not have to end their schooling with just a primary education. We also funded the acquisition of birth certificates for 500 displaced children – a difficult endeavor which requires traveling to each of the divisions where these displaced children were born and establishing court declarations. Without these certificates, children would not be able to graduate from primary school or attend secondary school, get jobs, have access to health services, travel freely, get a driver’s license and/or identity card, or vote.
PERU	In 2022, CBB supported 167 girls with school supplies. With additional funding from Global Pearls, a total of 353 children received school supplies. We also funded numerous income-generating projects to help families replace lost tourist income. As these projects bear fruit, families should once again be able to buy school supplies for their children. Projects included the construction of 12 new hostels to serve trekkers, 15 greenhouses to grow vegetables, and the development of cuy businesses for 23 families.
UKRAINE	CBB is new to Ukraine in 2023, and they helped fund equipment to run a school for war orphans. With the addition of Global Pearls funding, we are providing equipment for three school locations plus the required daily snacks (milk and a roll). We are also feeding over 400 war orphans, widows, and elderly each week to bring people together for socialization and community building, and we are expanding our agriculture program to add refugees from Kherson and Bakhmut.





# THE GLOBAL PEARLS U.S. TEAM



**LeeMin Chong, Vice-President,  
Southern India Project Lead**

LeeMin wants to leverage her MBA and program management experience to help others break free of poverty and reach their dreams. LeeMin grew up in Malaysia.

**Lisa Robinson-Spader, President**  
Lisa is a dreamer and visionary who is passionate about making a direct impact. She studied Economic Development at Harvard and thrills to see it take shape in real communities.



**Arlene Say Soto, Secretary,  
Honduras Project Lead**

Growing up in Manila, Arlene was exposed to the harsh realities of extreme poverty. She now enjoys a global career with Intel and raising her American daughter with her Costa Rican husband.



**Daniel Higbie, Board Member,  
Peru Project Lead**

Daniel has a Masters in International Relations and founded and runs an award-winning business in Albuquerque. He is committed to world-class excellence and pragmatism.



**Christina Palastanga Gardiner,  
Board Member**

Christina was born and raised in Europe, started and ran a successful business in Santa Fe, and has worked with non-profits for 3 decades.



**Kylie Palacios, Social Media Director,  
Guatemala Project Lead**

Kylie, a former Dartmouth student, loves using social media as a tool to help others. After an internship in Guatemala with Global Pearls, she decided to join our team.



**Katharina Root, Treasurer**

Katharina grew up an Anglo minority on the Navajo and Sioux Reservations, and she still values a diversity of cultures. For the past 3 decades she has specialized in non-profit accounting.



**Lynda Myers, Editor**

With a PhD in Philosophy, Lynda taught at St. John's College for 39 years fostering critical thinking skills and shared problem-solving. Her career took her to China where she taught as a senior visiting scholar.



**Patricia Erdmann,  
Girls' Club Project Lead**

Patricia had a successful career in education and now, each fall, teaches Educational Leadership & Management to university students in Malawi.



**John Carlson, Cameroon Project Lead**

John Carlson has worked at multiple Fortune 500 companies, most recently at Meta Inc (Facebook) as a program manager. He has travelled extensively through his professional career and has a passion for operational efficiency.

**Henry Huang,  
Kenya Project Lead**

Henry holds a M.A. in Social Policy & Social Research. He worked 19 years in inner city community development and 20 years in bible translation & minority-language community development. He oversaw a team of 70 people who managed 1,000 projects.



**Mary Joy, North India Project Lead**

Mary was born in India where she still has numerous relatives. She garnered many impressive awards as a student at Dartmouth College and now does industry research for software engineering organizations.





## MEET OUR LOCAL CHANGEMAKERS

### Sandra Alonzo Pac - Guatemala



Driven by her passion to help women, children, and those suffering from great poverty in Guatemala, Sandra works tirelessly to help others. She doesn't just provide scholarships, but creates a true community for participants – teaching them that they are valuable, monitoring their progress,

providing emotional support and love, even planning dance lessons and pizza parties to bring joy into their lives. She is greatly loved by project participants.

### Juan Covarrubias Ccaihuari – Peru



This gentle Quechua man with a great love for his community is a born leader with a keen business sense. He values Quechua traditions and the communal nature of his culture, which he is trying to preserve through this project. He is greatly trusted by his community and all

those who have trekked with him through his beloved Andes, and that has allowed him to bring people together to achieve a path forward.

### Etuge Sumbede Elvis – Cameroon



Etuge was born to a mother who was forced as a child to marry an old man. Due to poverty, 3 of his 6 siblings died. Fortunately, Etuge was sponsored for school and university studies. Having experienced both the suffering of abject poverty as well as the great benefits resulting from educational

sponsorship, he has committed his life to helping others as a tangible demonstration of his gratitude.

### Javier Diaz - Honduras



Javier worked by Sor Marta's side for over 30 years to build IHER into a world-class alternative education system for tens of thousands of students across Honduras. He is constantly working to bring innovative changes to their program, and he loves to motivate the many impoverished students they

serve to work hard and achieve their goals. He considers the work both a blessing and a great responsibility, and he pursues it with passion.

### Nora Fitzgerald – Morocco



To sum up Nora in one word, I would say "compassionate." She has a deep and tender love for the marginalized women of Marrakech. When you combine that love with her business acumen and the support of dedicated staff and friends, that compassion creates

amazing results. Always seeking new ways to reach more women, she loves to dream forth new entrepreneurial ventures.

### Nakinti Nofuru – Cameroon



Bold and fearless, Nakinti is creating a path for other women in Cameroon. Using her love of journalism, she is bringing attention to their plight and fighting for change. She has won numerous awards for her work improving conditions and opportunities for women and girls in

Cameroon, and she is extending her impact by training and mentoring others.

Changemaker: A person who wants to bring positive change to the world and is capable of turning innovative ideas into action

### **Etang Mbeng – Cameroon**



Having grown up an orphan in an impoverished forest community of Western Cameroon, Etang knows first-hand the suffering that the people of his project area endure. With help from a distant relative, he was able to pursue an education and escape the poverty of his youth. Now he is using his education to help others. As he says, “Someone needs to sacrifice to help others achieve their dreams. I choose to be that person.”

### **Alice Gituru – Kenya**



Girls are not valued in the communities where Alice lives and works, and that has given her a soft spot for girls. She devotes her life to counseling, encouraging, teaching life-skills, and providing a formal education to girls because that empowers them, which, in turn, inspires others. She loves to see them happy and confident and is filled with joy when she sees them succeed in life.

### **Martin Richard Raju - India**



An outstanding administrator, Martin makes development success look easy. He pursues his projects with a quiet and measured determination, planning each step with great care. From education to healthcare to economic empowerment, he pursues a holistic approach with a talented team, and everything he touches turns to gold.

### **Sonam Dorje – India**



Sonam is full of energy, is incredibly hard-working, and is adept at mobilizing others. Desperate for an education, Sonam ran away from home at age 11, making a hazardous 4-day journey through the Himalaya to reach Leh where he secured a scholarship to study. He now devotes his life to helping other children receive a quality education while also striving to preserve traditional culture.

### **Jwalant Gurung – Nepal**



Jwalant is an incredibly generous man. He is very community driven, and he expends his time, energy and personal finances to help others in need. He is a strong athlete who is most at home in his majestic Himalayas and among their remote mountain villages. His passion is helping those village children receive an education.

### **Alessia - Ukraine**



Alessia is a woman with enormous compassion and love for those who are suffering around her. She constantly endangers her life to get aid to areas too difficult for others to reach. What we love most, however, is her sensitivity to emotional needs as she works to alleviate fear and foster hope among the orphans and families in her care.

**Our partners do not receive a salary from Global Pearls. They work out of love for their communities and earn a living through other means. We are honored to support and empower their efforts.**